



DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290 F. & A.M.

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue IX

September 2014



A FAIRE-Y GOOD TIME !

On an almost perfect day, August 9, 2014 the members and families of Damascus Lodge gathered at the Bristol Renaissance Faire for a day of food, fun, food, fellowship, food, and good lo' people watching. Neither too hot nor too cold, we enjoyed the mostly sunny day walking among the Knights, Ladies, Jesters, Nymphs, Fairies, Lords, Barbarians, Barbettes, Steam Punks, and sundry other characters that always intrigue the imagination at the Faire. Can you imagine a visiting spaceship choosing this as a landing site...

We wandered about the many displays, shops and shows, meeting here and there to enjoy a show together; then heading off in small groups to explore and enjoy each other's company. Confections and Turkey Legs pleased the palate, washed down with assorted beverages to cool and refresh. There is truly something for everyone, adult and child alike, making this an excellent opportunity to mingle and enjoy each other. All present had a wonderful time and we thank Brothers Scott Fairbanks and Pat Militzer for organizing a great outing for DL290. Thanks, boyz! Well done.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Ren Faire*
-  *Master's Meesage*
-  *Halloween*
-  *Past Masters Dinner*
-  *DL 290 Racing*

UPCOMING EVENTS

On September 12th we are taking ice cream to Bethel No. 6. We'll go for the meeting (7:30 pm) and then have sundaes with the girls and their families. September 23rd is our DL290 Slot Car Race at Lucky Bobs! Don't come to Lodge 'cuz we won't be there. We have two events on tap for October: The Past Master's Dinner on the 12th and the Halloween Party on the 19th. Flyers for the events are in this Trestleboard. Make sure to get your reservations in for these events. You don't want to miss all the fun!

GETTING READY FOR HALLOWEEN?!

As our lodge is planning our spook-tacular annual Halloween party on October 19th, (get your RSVP's into Bro Bert!), I thought I would start to set the stage with a quick History of one of our more mysterious Masonic Brothers. I tripped across this article by Mill Valley lodge 356 in California, and a few other web sources. A few other extracts are from Biography.com.

In the world of professional stage magic, few names resonate with such acclaim as Harry Keller, Howard Thurston, Harry Houdini, Charles Carter, and Harry Blackstone, Sr. In addition to being brothers in the fraternity of American magicians; each was also an active Freemason. Nearly amazing as the magic acts these great illusionists are famous for is the fact that all of the great magicians made time in their busy lives for Freemasonry: Despite the extensive travel entailed in their careers and all the allurements to the vices of the world, each recognized the value of the Masonic brotherhood.



Harry Houdini was initiated in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, N.Y., July 17, 1923, Passed July 31, and Raised August 21. In 1924 he entered the Consistory. Houdini gave back to the Masonic fraternity of which he was so proud, including giving a benefit performance for the Valley of New York which filled the 4,000 seat Scottish Rite Cathedral and raised thousands of dollars. In October 1926, just weeks prior to his untimely death on that Halloween, he became a Shriner in Mecca Temple.

Last rites for Bro. Houdini were held November 4, 1926 at the Elks Clubhouse in New York. Services were conducted by Rabbi Tintner who joined in the Elks "Hour of Remembrance," a tribute was delivered by Rabbi Bernard Drachman and eulogies by Loney Haskell of the Jewish Theatrical Guild and Henry Chesterfield of the National Vaudeville Artists, followed by a service by the Society of American Magicians, and concluded, as by tradition of the fraternity, with Masonic Rites.

Famed magician/entertainer Harry Houdini was born Erich Weisz on March 24, 1874, in Budapest, Hungary. One of seven children born to a Jewish rabbi and his wife, Erich moved with his family as a child to Appleton, Wisconsin, where he later claimed he was born. When he was 13, Erich moved with his father to New York City, taking on odd jobs and living in a boarding house before the rest of the family joined them. It was there that he became interested in trapeze arts.

In 1893, he married fellow performer Wilhelmina Beatrice Rahner, who would serve as Houdini's lifelong stage assistant under the name Beatrice "Bess" Houdini. Not to be overlooked is the fact that Houdini's Wife held séance's every Halloween to make Contact with her husband starting in 1927 until 1936. Séances still continue to this day on all Hallows Eve. At the last séance his wife attended, one woman rose from the table and announced to the others - and to a listening radio audience - "Houdini did not come through," she said. "My last hope is gone. I do not believe that Houdini can come back to me, or to anyone... The Houdini Shrine has burned for ten years. I now, reverently... turn out the light. It is finished. Good night, Harry!"

The tradition of Mason Magicians represented by these great vaudeville era illusionists has been perpetuated by the "Invisible Lodge" founded in 1953 by Bro. Brewerton H. Clarke who performed under the stage name Sir Felix Korim (1905-1986). The "Invisible Lodge" was not actually a Lodge, but rather a club for Masonic Magicians which convenes its sessions at major Magic Conventions. The club follows its own ritual, which encompasses elements from both Masonry and the world of illusion: The preferred time for the Invisible Lodge's sessions has been midnight. Members of the Invisible Lodge have included, Blackstone (born Henri Bouton, 1885-1965), Okito (born Theo Bamberg, 1875-1963), Ballantine (born Meyer Kessler who, as an actor played Lester Gruber on McHale's Navy with his fellow Mason, Bro. Ernest Borgnine), and Jack Gwynne (1895-1969).

Bro. Bert.



Sometimes, no matter how hard you try, things just don't go right and you get frustrated. Life can throw you curves, situations you don't expect. People can let you down. You let other people down. Plans go awry. You shake your head and say to yourself, 'What's the use?'

One of my biggest faults, and there are so many others, is I tend to expect too much. In case you haven't noticed, I'm kind of an all or nothing kind of guy. Go big or go home. If I get involved in something I give it 150 percent. Too often I focus too much energy and too much time on situations, and when things don't go according to plan and fall short, I easily get frustrated.

When I was first approached about taking another swat at Master this year, I knew that whoever took on the task had their work cut out for them. There was much to be done and we started forming a plan to take the Lodge to where we thought it should go. We had some clear goals in mind and thought we had a pretty good idea of how to get there. Then reality stepped in. There is an old adage in war that if you do your research and consider all your options, your plan will hold... right up until the first shot of the battle is fired. That's when the 'curves' start flying and you feel like you simply wasted your time trying to make any plan at all.

While applying this to our Lodge this year is a dramatic overstatement, there have been a lot of frustrating curves this year. Starting just days before Installation, we've spent a lot of time handling situations we never anticipated, as well as handling situations that no matter how hard we try, just won't be resolved. We've poured hours of time into situations, and in reality, not always seen a reward.

I've spent many hours talking with our Principal Officers and Past Masters, seeking opinions, advice and guidance. And every time I talk to them, they are quick to point out how much we have achieved this year. Our Officer Corps is full of guys who are shining stars and I have no doubt are the leaders we need in our future. They are absorbing all the training we are throwing at them and using it to form their own ideas about where they want to take the Lodge when it is their turn to lead. Our attendance at meetings is strong and our events have been very well received and attended. They remind me our plan is a process that takes time. We knew this going in, so it should come as no surprise.

So... while I've been frustrated on occasion, and have no doubt I have frustrated others, in the big picture of our Lodge, we are on track to continue to build our Lodge. Things aren't always perfect; people aren't always perfect. What really counts is that we have some really great guys working very hard to improve our Lodge. What can be better? What more can we ask for?

We are saddened by the passing of our long time Brother, Alex Mavros . Our sympathies also go out to Brother Chris Mihas on the passing of his beloved wife, Evangeline. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

I'd like to invite everyone to Lodge. For those who have been regulars, thank you for your support. For those who are unable to attend for the myriad reasons life throws at us, we miss you and thank you for your kind thoughts. For those who just haven't attended for a while, why not come and see why we are so excited about our future. Join us for dinner and fellowship, then sit back and enjoy the greatest fraternity the world has ever known. It all happens right here at Damascus Lodge.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson
Worshipful Master

**As in days of long ago, when Lodges met in
Public Houses and Breweries...
Join Damascus No. 290 as we
Honor our Past Masters at...**



*St. Francis Brewing Company
3825 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., St. Francis*

**Sunday October 12, 2014
Social hour; 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm**

Cost: \$24.00

All Damascus Lodge Past Masters are our guests.

*Dinner choices: Kolsch Sirlain, BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Salmon, or
Chicken Fettucine Alfredo*

*RSVP to Bro. Dan O'Kray at 414-379-1079
Deadline: October 3, 2014*



Tuesday, Tuesday, Tuesday!
Meet all your favorite drivers at the
“Damascus 290”



Our meeting on Sept. 23rd will be held at:

Lucky BOBs 
RACEWAY

5822 West Forest Home Ave.

Join us for a night of Racing and Fellowship!

Exciting racing from 6-8 p.m.!!
Enjoy PIZZA after the Main Event!!

Entry fee is only \$10.00!!

**Call Bro. Paul Peacock, 617-5341 or imnphx2@yahoo.com to
reserve your car! Bring a prospective member!!**



BE THERE!!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"My Brother's Keeper"

Everyday I become more amazed at my fraternity. My amazement does not stem from our long traditions, the countless great men who have been a part of it, or the wonderful philanthropic endeavors and achievements that this gentle craft has helped accomplish. Don't get me wrong . . . these are all great things that I am extremely proud to be a part of. However, what continues to surprise me everyday is the sincerity with which we try to embody the teachings that Freemasonry is founded upon, particularly friendship and brotherly love.

I am not sure why this still surprises me. When I first met the brothers of Damascus 290, one of the first things said to me was that there wasn't a member in the lodge who wouldn't drop whatever they were doing at a moments notice to aid a brother in need. While I thought it admirable, deep down I met the comment with skepticism. Yet that same day, I had no less than ten people who I had barely met offer to help me move (a task universally hated by all). Not long after that, I witnessed a number of brothers climbing ladders to repair a brother's roof (a task equally despised). These are just a couple examples.

Every time I've seen a brother going through a difficult time, I've also seen a brother at his side with an attentive ear listening patiently, an instructive tongue sharing his best advice, and a faithful breast to hold his brother's concerns close to heart. It's not unusual to see a Damascus man flying to the relief of a brother in distress, whether it is an impromptu trip to help a brother out around the house, or to cheer him and his family up during a difficult time. We reach out to each other with the genuine care and concern of a close family member.

We should be proud of our fraternity's great history, noble teachings, and countless great accomplishments, but in my opinion, we should be most proud of the quality of men in our lodge and way we seek to live up to our values and core principles, particularly friendship and brotherly love. We truly are our brothers' keepers.

Bro. Matt Hanchek
Lodge Chaplain



Save The Date!

Damascus Lodge
Family Christmas Party
December 14, 2014

***Join us for a Christmas Feast,
Games and Family Fun.***

DAMASCUS LODGE 290 FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

4 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

AT LAKE LODGE



Bring the whole family for

**Dinner: "Ghoul-ash" (elbow mac and spaghetti meat sauce)
Assorted goulish and creepy dinner treats**

in lodge trick or treat

**The LEGENDARY scavenger hunt
games for young goblins and older ones too
halloween arts and crafts
Plenty of photo ops**

**Family Appropriate Costumes optional but encouraged
for all, you may even win a prize!**

**Cost is \$5 per person, \$10 per family,
Under 12-free**

Contact Brother Brian Bertram at 414-486-0806 or bsbert290@att.net

to rsvp

by October 12, 2014

Hope to see you all there for a howling good time!



DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290 F. & A.M.

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Email: worshipful.master@dl290.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
[HTTP://WWW.DL290.ORG](http://www.dl290.org)

THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804
Matthew Wright, P.M. (2015) 414-254-5677
Nathan Butts (2016) 414-727-9772

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Curt Campagna 414-698-8874

MASTER'S BOARD

Keep those petitions coming in. The Master's Board Chairman and Master's Board Secretary would like to remind you to keep an eye out for new candidates for the Lodge.

Remember to carry a petition with you in your travels because you never know who you will meet.

If you do not have a petition or you need more, please contact any lodge officer and they will make sure you receive a couple.

2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M.

worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden
Curt Campagna, P.M.
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Junior Warden
Nathan Butts

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Treasurer
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Secretary
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secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Matthew Hanchek
Junior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Junior Steward Don O'Kray

Senior Deacon Paul E. Peacock
Senior Steward Brian Bertram
Tiler Louis Montgomery, P.M.