



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VI, Issue 9

October 2009



RACING ALONG!!

September was a blur as Damascus Lodge came racing through the summer and into the fall! Our first stated meeting after the summer was step up night. Everyone did a great job and now realize just how big the shoes are that they will be filling next year. The anxiety is over and everyone realizes they can handle the job! Damascus will continue it's race into the future!

The 22nd saw us back at Lucky Bob's Raceway for the second annual Damascus Lodge 290 Slot Car Race. As last year, the event was very well attended and everyone had a great time racing and eating pizza. Great fun and great food, in the truest Damascus tradition!

The 29th saw us doing more degree work! Congratulations to Bro. Steve Manthey on a great EA examination and being passed to Fellowcraft. It was a great night!

Brethren, we are racing through the rest of this year at break neck speeds! This year has been a blur and we have all been racing to keep up with the degree work and having fun. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

The good news is: the end is in sight! The better news is: this is just another lap and there are plenty more to go. More degrees, more candidates, more fellowship and a lot more fun! Damascus Lodge is racing along and it's a real thrill ride!

A NEW FELLOWCRAFT



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Past Master's Dinner*
-  *Lodge Calendar*
-  *Fredericksburg Visit*
-  *At The Right Hand*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Lodge Photos*
-  *A Feast to Remember*

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OCTOBER 2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 10/13 - Stated Meeting - Dinner 6pm, Lodge 7pm
- 10/18 - Past Master's Dinner 6:pm
- 10/27 - Degree Work - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Degree
- 11/10 - Stated Meeting - Dinner 6pm, Lodge 7pm - Lodge Elections
- 11/14 - Scottish Rite Day - Valley of Milwaukee - 9am
- 11/24 - Master Mason Degree - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Degree
- 12/6 - Ye Olde Christmas Feast - See page 5.

2009 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Charles "Mick" Olson (Jewel)
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Treasurer

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Secretary

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Chaplain Donald O'Kray

Junior Deacon Sean Schult

Junior Steward Dennis McNulty

Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Michael Fairbanks

Senior Steward Jon Syverson

Counselor Curt Campagna, P.M.

Degree Director Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

A Toast to Traveling Men



Worshipful Master
Mick Olson

Brethren,

I just got back from a great vacation! I took a week and rode my motorcycle through the Great Smokey Mountains with a friend. We had a great time and saw some of the most beautiful scenery ever. We avoided the freeways and rode along America's byways, stopping in many small towns and crossroads, many displaying a square and compass sign at the city limits.

On the way home Brother Pat met me in Fredericksburg, Virginia and we had the pleasure to attend a table lodge at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, the Mother Lodge of our great Brother, George Washington.



The evening started with a tour of the building, originally built by the Lodge to serve as a school for the community, with the Lodge Room situated on the second floor. Though the building was built after Brother George was raised, there is documentation that Brother Lafayette did attend a meeting in the original lodge room.

Many of the lodge records were destroyed during the civil war, but the Master of the Lodge was able to convince the 'Yankee' commander to allow him to remove many artifacts and documents from the building for safe keeping. There is likely a 'Brother' story there, but nobody will ever know for sure.

The original lodge room is quite small, but steeped in history. My imagination found it easy to picture Lafayette and other Brethren enjoying each others fellowship and doing the work of the craft. What a time and place this must have been to be a member of our fraternity.

We then enjoyed a wonderful meal of Roast Beef and the trimmings. Brother Pat and I did our best to uphold the Damascus tradition and cleaned our plates without complaint. Worshipful Master Jeffery St. Onge and all the Brethren welcomed us and made us feel right at home. They were quite pleased we had traveled so far to attend. Many of our Prince Hall Brethren were also present. Pat and I thoroughly enjoyed the conversation and fellowship.

We also thought of our Brethren back home, wishing you were all with us. In your honor we actually found a custard stand and enjoyed a traditional second dessert. Only Damascus men could find a custard stand in Virginia by simply following their nose!

The next day Brother Pat and I parted ways as we began our journey home. As I enjoyed one last day riding through the beautiful mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, my mind wandered to our early Brethren who would often travel for hours on horseback or in carriages, to attend a lodge meeting. The country is so beautiful, and very rugged. I have no doubt that they often wondered why they were making the tedious and tiresome journey. Right up until the time they met their Brethren and sat down for fellowship and a hot meal.

I'm sure at that moment it became as clear to them as it did to me. America: What a country! Freemasonry: What a fraternity!
See you in Lodge!

AT THE RIGHT HAND.....

“Well my Brother, you are poor indeed”

I remember well that fall night during my Entered Apprentice Degree when I stood in front of Brother Dale with his hand extended. The disappointed look on his face said it all and it was saying: “you are so poor that I wonder why we even let you through the doors”. It was not an unfamiliar position for me, but I did find myself somewhat puzzled at the request until he explained the reason behind it.

We have all been, at some point in our lives, in the unenviable position where feeding and sheltering our family was a major concern for one reason or another. Perhaps the loss of a job, the loss of a loved one who supported us, or the inability to work due to illness or injury all being reasons for finding ourselves in that position. The most powerful question in one’s life at that particular moment in time is: “How am I going to feed my family next week?”

While we live in economically challenging times, charity is still one aspect of Masonry that we, as Masons are committed to supporting. In each and every degree, we commit to: “help a friend, more especially a Brother Mason in like destitute circumstances”. Are these words that we have become so accustomed to saying that we just repeat them to get through our degree, or are we really committed to “aid and assist” anyone in a bad situation?

What about the person standing on the street corner at a stop light with a sign begging for help? Do we stop and contribute a couple of dollars? Do we simply ignore their plea for help because they are not receiving their aid through a larger organization but instead choose to stand on that street corner? Do we ignore their pleas because we have already judged them in our minds to be unworthy of our aid knowing they are going to buy illegal drugs? Do we ignore them because there is no one around to notice and acknowledge our good deed should we stop and give a couple of dollars?

The questions to really ask oneself is: Is that person a Veteran who has fought for my freedom, is that person a friend or acquaintance that I don’t recognize, or is it possible that he might even be a Brother Mason? I now ask you, what does it hurt to hand a couple of dollars to that person holding a sign, begging for your help?

Two years ago almost to the week as I write this article, my cousin and I were walking on the street in front of Queens University in Belfast, he suddenly stopped, rattled a few coins around in his pocket and pulled out enough to pay double for a publication from an unkempt and somewhat dirty man. My cousin went on to explain later, that while he didn’t know the man personally, he knew his story and knew the man to be honorable and as such he always stopped a bought a paper. I recall thinking that my cousin is a pretty nice guy to do that. It was later during my trip in July 2007 that I began my Masonic journey when I asked my cousin about Masonry.

As I stood before the Worshipful Master on the night of my Entered Apprentice Degree without anything to give, I thought back to that unkempt and somewhat dirty man. That day; there was no nice guy, there was only a Mason keeping his obligation, “without any hesitation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind; whatever”.

Michael Fairbanks
Senior Deacon

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love.

He who seeks to draw masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed.

The wages of a mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a mason. “

Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)



Join Damascus Lodge as we celebrate a
Renaissance Holiday at



De Olde Christmas Feast



Sunday December 6, 2009
5:00 P.M.



South Milwaukee High School



Please save this date!!



Further details soon!

THE MASTER'S TRAVELS





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WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY
-
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

Lloyd A. Wilson (2009)	414-315-0136
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2009)	414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2010)	414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Larry Chadderdon	414-421-9624
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MASTER'S BOARD

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

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

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

FREDERICKSBURG LODGE

