



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VII, Issue 9

October 2010



REV UP YOUR ENGINES !

September 28th found us back at Lucky Bob's Raceway for the third annual DL 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! This has become one of our favorite events, even if Bro. Sean does cheat!

Brethren, we are racing through the rest of this year at break neck speeds! This year has been a blur! All summer we have been racing to keep up with the degree work and having fun. Thank you to all who participated in the degrees for your dedication and hard work. It was an amazing effort.

The good news is: the year is drawing to a close! The better news is: this is just one more lap and there are plenty more races to go. We're already revving up our engines for next year. More degrees, more candidates, more fellowship and a whole lot more fun! Damascus Lodge is racing along and it's a white knuckle ride! Come out and be a part of the crew!!

LODGE ELECTIONS

At our November 12th meeting we will be holding elections for the 2011 Lodge Officers. Come out to cast your vote for next year's leadership. Who knows, you may be elected!.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Brethren,

This month I've got a couple of things on my mind, so...my apologies for being long winded.

Leadership Material

In November Masonic Lodges throughout the state and country will be electing their leadership for the ensuing Masonic year. This is a tradition as old as our fraternity itself. Since before the United States was born, Masons have been electing their leaders with each Mason getting one, equal vote. What a concept!

If you think about leaders, there are basically two kinds. Those who collect titles and sit back while others do the work, and men who lead by example. Men who lead 'from the front', working as hard or harder than their subordinates, giving their all to serve their Lodge.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *From the Stewards Table*
-  *By the Plumb*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Christmas Feast*
-  *Past Master's Dinner*
-  *Three Ruffians*
-  *Perpetual Memberships*

OCTOBER 2010

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						

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 10/12 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 10/17 - Past Master's Dinner
- 10/26 - Movie Night - Dinner and a Movie 6pm
- 11/07 - Benefit for James Buege Family - See Page 3
- 11/09 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge -
Lodge Elections.
- 11/11 - 11/13 - Scottish Rite Reunion - Ill. Joseph B.
Harker Class - Valley of Milwaukee

COUNSELOR'S CORNER CONTINUED...

Masonry points to its great leaders as examples for all men. Bro. George Washington who left the comforts of his home to lead an army, while many other 'Revolutionary Leaders' remained at home. Bro. Harry S. 'The Buck Stops Here!' Truman... enough said. Men who made difficult choices to serve others to the best of their ability.

Our Lodge has been blessed with many new members these past few years. Men who soon will be the leaders of our Lodge. I have watched with pride as many have seen jobs that needed to be done and then have taken it upon themselves to step up and do them. Men willing to wash dishes, set up the lodge room, or plan events, volunteering without having to be asked. Being valuable team members and exhibiting leadership qualities.

Soon we must ask the questions: What direction do we want our Lodge to take? What kind of leaders will take us there? Who are those leaders we can rely on to get us there? Are you ready to lead?

Nooorrrrm !!

There once was a TV show with a theme song that said "...you want to go where everybody knows your name." Well, I've been to many places where nobody knows anybody. But never in Masonry!

Masonry is one, huge family. We get to know each other by attending the numerous functions and meetings. And like all families, we get to know our favorites...and our not so favorites. But, just like a family, we grow to love them all.

As we 'travel', or visit we become even more widely known to others. Two recent events caught my attention as to how true this is. At the recent Grand Lodge Session, Damascus Lodge was called as receiving the Lodge Excellence Award. After hearing "Damascus 290", the Grand Master commented, "It's not just a Lodge number, it's a goal!" At a recent Jobie Installation our Master was introduced and after the Honored Queen read from her notes his name and our Lodge number, she looked up, smiled and said, "It's not just a Lodge number, it's a goal!"

We've become lax in our visitations. We've gotten caught up in other things and aren't getting out to mix with our Brethren as we once did. I loved one night, walking in to visit a Lodge and hearing the Grand Master say, "I was wondering when you guys were going to get here." Brethren, let's get out there and support our sister Lodges. Let's spread the cement of Brotherly Love. Let's go VISIT!!

See you in Lodge!

Mick

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master
Larry Chadderdon



Brethern,

This month I will again be pulling my material from the "Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols". This month I will be presenting 2 entries which are tied together "mathematically". Read on, you'll see what I mean.

Fellowship, Five Points of. Symbol of building; of completion. Ancient builders laid out the position of any structure with square corners from a center; thus the building was "erected upon five points." The pentalpha, or five-pointed star, symbol of the five points, is a diagrammatic representation of a man-two arms, two legs, a head.

A symbol may be of something different from what the symbol teaches; thus the Five Points, symbolizing completion of a building (a "making"), teach the essentials of brotherhood; the forty-seventh problem, a symbol of geometry and exact science, teaches a love for learning.

Forty-seventh Problem of Euclid. Symbol of geometry; of exact science. Passed over with but a few words of ritual, it is Masonically most interesting. It appears on the frontispiece of Anderson's Constitutions, published in 1723; Street says it is the earliest example of a printed symbol of Freemasonry. It was apparently known to ancient mathematicians long before Pythagoras (Masonically credited as its discoverer) or Euclid, who made of the properties of a right-angled triangle his forty-seventh problem. It is the root of all mathematics used to determine an unknown from two knowns. Given the distance of a mountain and the angle of sight to it's top, mathematics may determine it's height. Tunnels are driven through mountains from both sides to meet exactly by means

of measurements made by the forty-seventh problem. Navigation of the seas depends on it. In non-Euclidian language, a right angled triangle of 3 feet base and 4 feet height, has a line 5 feet long joining the free ends of the two legs. The square of 3 is 9; the square of 4 is 16; the sum of 9 and 16 is 25; the square root of 25 is 5.

All right-angled triangles, regardless of the base and upright, follow this law; that the line joining the free ends (the hypotenuse) is the square root of the sum of the squares of the two sides. Therefore, if any two of the three are known, the third may be calculated.

According to the ritual "it teaches Masons to be general lovers of the arts and sciences". This short description encompasses the study of geometry.

The ritual is here not factual. Pythagoras was poor and could hardly have possessed a hecatomb (hundred head of cattle). He was a vegetarian, and revered animal life; he would not have killed a cow, let alone a hundred, to "celebrate" his discovery. He may have cried Eureka, but could hardly have been "raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason," which did not take even an ancient and simple form until centuries after he died.

That's all for this month.

Until next month Brothers,

Larry Chadderdon WM

BENEFIT FOR JAMES BUEGE FAMILY

A benefit is being held for the James Buege family at the Rubicon Ranch in Rubicon. It was his daughter that was attacked and killed by a neighbors family pet dog and the family has come under distress.

Excerpt: "The Benefit will be held on Nov. 7th at the Rubicon Ranch in Rubicon WI. Its located about 5 miles west of Hartford at the intersection of Hwy 60 and Hwy P..... Can't miss it and it has always been a great biker stop. The Benefit will begin at 12:00pm starting off with a 3 man band. We will have Free Beer And Soda from 12:00 - 2:00 and also we will be conducting a silent auction, raffles, door prizes and more to be announced. Then at 2:00pm Geoff Landon will take the stage and rock the house until 6:00pm. I hope to fill the hall to the gills. The entry fees will go straight to the Becker family. Its a \$10.00 entry fee, Children 10 and under get in free. Come and enjoy!"

BY THE PLUMB

Within Due Bounds

October brings us into the second month back from our summer recess. We have begun to settle into our normal routines at work, having had the long summer days to relax and enjoy ourselves. Our school kids are fully settled into their routines in school, at home, and in their extra-curricular activities.

Computers have become an often used tool for us and for our children. We have discovered that it is much quicker to research a topic on the internet than to put on our shoes and drive to the library. Our children use computers in ways we never dreamed possible, included taking a break from homework and “surfing the net”.

As much as the computer is a tool to aid in work and school, the computer can also be the catalyst for our children to see, say, and do things that we as parents would not approve, and in fact would cause most of us to blush from embarrassment or cringe with horror. Parents must always be on their guard and lookout for questionable internet practices to protect their children from the vices and superfluities of life.

We must also keep in mind that as parents and as Masons, we are role models for our children as well as our children’s friends. Like it or not, we are highly visible role models for the future leaders of America. They look to us to discern right from wrong, for words of wisdom, and for guidance as they journey through life. You might say they are listening with an attentive ear.

What are we teaching our children when we use harsh language when someone cuts us off on the freeway or when we hint at another persons age by showing them ‘the finger’? What are we teaching them when we write and post our thoughts on an internet blog, or when we post comments on Facebook that are, at best, questionable or even sexually suggestive?

When a Brother Mason becomes upset and proclaims that another Brother does not have the right to discuss Masonic behavior or “tell me what I can and can’t write”, that Brother has obviously forgotten his Fellowcraft lessons wherein he is instructed to listen with an attentive ear to the instructive tongue. Our Master Mason obligation and lessons are clear that we have an obligation to whisper good council in the ear of a Brother.

Writing blogs and posting thoughts or opinions on the internet can be fun. Many of us enjoy that kind of activity, however, we as Masons must be especially cognizant of what we say and how we say it. Remember, we must be ever vigilant in our speech and actions so as not to shine a bad light on ourselves as parents and Masons.

Always keep the working tools of our degrees in mind, before you cuss and swear at the driver cutting you off on the highway, or before you post a suggestive joke. Ever bear in mind that the Compasses remind us to keep our behavior circumscribed and within due bounds with all mankind. Any behavior that could put you, as Mason, or our Fraternity, or more especially our apron, an emblem of innocence and our badge, in a bad light must be avoided at all cost. Remember what you say and do should never leave a sour taste and lend more fuel to anti-Masonic sentiment. We must live the example of Freemasonry.

Bro. Michael L. Fairbanks
Junior Warden

FROM THE STEWARD'S TABLE

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Greetings Brethren,

When I was asked to write an article I thought to myself; a year ago I was wondering what Masonry was all about, and now my brothers want me to talk about it. So here I am, looking back at the last year and thinking to myself; WOW, I never would have thought I would be where I am today. But that's what drew me into Masonry, the friendship and brotherly love that has guided me to where I am now. Life is a difficult journey, and traveling the road alone makes the journey even more challenging. I look back at my past and think; how did I ever get on that path, and how do I get off of it now? Well, since I have become a Mason, that path has begun to merge into the path I wanted to be on, but didn't know how to get to. That came from the strength of the brethren in this organization who helped me see the errors of my ways and helped lead me back in the direction I needed, and wanted to go.

Masonry has been the light for me, to kick me in the behind to do something better than I was. So as I grow in this fraternity, with this great bunch of guys, I can clearly see myself doing GREAT things, whereas before I could see only average and good things ahead. Nothing stands clearer in my mind than the day that now Past Master Mick reminded me I had a rough a rugged journey ahead of me and I had best be prepared. That, and the obligations we hold dear have pushed me to do better every day and cast aside any doubts I have in myself and my fellow man.

I have always held true to the laws of our country, and of God. I lived by the pledge of allegiance and our National Anthem. When I was at Lodge for the first time as an Entered Apprentice it warmed my heart to hear the pledge lead by our Worshipful Master as part of the opening of every lodge meeting. Then at Grand Lodge, reciting the pledge with all those brethren...it was just awe-some and heartwarming to know so many are like myself. Another great and grand memory I will never forget!

These little things pick me up every day and remind me of the choice I have made. My brothers have accepted me and called me forth. You have made my life great, and for that I cannot thank you all enough. Every man in this organization has his own 'most meaningful moment', something that calls out and reminds us of that which we strive for most. For me it came as a Fellowcraft, learning by listening with an attentive ear, keeping a faithful breast, and teaching others with an instructive tongue. Those ideas really struck home and carried me forth to strive to do more. So I now challenge each of you to think about your own journey and what defines you. Cherish it, then pass it along and share it with your brothers the next time you see them. Further enlighten us all.

Thanks,
 Brother Nathan Butts
 Junior Steward

LET'S TALK PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Lodge dues notices will soon be in the mail. Perhaps it is time to consider a Perpetual Membership Plan. The benefits of the PMP are numerous, including pre-paying your dues now so if your personal finances grow tight in the future, your lodge membership remains secure. Never worry about dues increases because you're already paid up. One check today pays your dues for life. The money you pay now helps the lodge both now and in the future. Every year the Lodge will receive your dues payment, even after you have been called by the Supreme Architect. If you are interested, please ask the Secretary for a PMP form.

Sign up before December first to avoid this year's Grand Lodge per capita increase! This year's per capita is going up \$6.00.

Here is the chart of the estimated cost by age:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Factor</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Dues</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
19-33	20		\$46		\$920
34-41	19		\$46		\$874
42-48	18		\$46		\$828
49-54	17		\$46		\$782
55-60	16		\$46		\$736
61 +	15		\$46		\$690



FROM THE FAIRE TO A FEAST

Join Damascus Lodge as we celebrate a
Renaissance Holiday at

The Olde Christmas Feast

Sunday December 5, 2010
5:00 P.M.

South Milwaukee High School

Please save this date!!

Details in the next Trestleboard!

Damascus Lodge No. 290
Past Masters' Dinner

*Please join us as we honor those who have served
our Lodge as Worshipful Master.*

Sunday, October 24, 2010
6:00 P.M.



That's Amore'

5080 So. 108th St.
Hales Corners, Wisconsin



Past Masters are the guests of the lodge.
The cost for all others is \$20.00.

Entrée Selections:
Lasagna
Chicken Parmesan
Shrimp Fettuccini
Prime Rib of Beef

Please make your reservations by October 10th!

Call Brother Mick Olson at 414-397-3076.



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

Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2010) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2011) 414-469-9804
Jon Syverson (2012)

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Lloyd Wilson 414-315-0136

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.

THREE RUFFIANS

