



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume X, Issue 2

September / October 2013



ROBERT BURNS TABLE LODGE

On January 24th, Brother Mike Clinnon and myself represented Damascus by attending the 11th annual Robert Burn Table Lodge hosted by Lake Lodge No. 189. The night was well done as usual. We feasted on "Roast Beast" and the traditional Haggis! The Lake Lodge officers did a great job putting on the event including PM of Lake Lodge and also current Senior Grand Deacon Donald W. Hensiak who ran the event. I have to say a huge thank you to Lake Lodges WM Brad Bingheim who was everywhere working his tail off to make this fine event happen. We enjoyed Brother Brads commitment and passionate talk to the group about our Masonic Youth. There was also a talk from our Grand Master Daniel L. Slavik talking about "What will be your Masonic Legacy?". So, who is this Robert Burns anyways? Robert Burns was a lyricist, a poet, and a Scotsman. Robert Burns is often seen and remembered as the National poet of Scotland. Brother Burns was also a Mason and published many Masonic Poems and Lyrics including; The Master's Apron, Masonic Song: Ye Sons of Old Killie, Presentation of the Pillars, and many more. During the night we had many toasts with cannons (a glass made specially for these ceremonies). All in all we had a fine time with good Brothers!

Fun was had by all!!

Submitted by PM Curt Angelo Campagna

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Halloween Party*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *From the West*
-  *Damascus 290 Race*
-  *Scholarship Winners*
-  *Passing of a Brother*



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9/24 - DL290 Racing - See page 5
10/8 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner / 7pm Lodge
10/10 - Damascus Lodge Visitation of Lake Lodge (Suit&Tie) 6pm Dinner / 7 pm
10/20 - Halloween Party - See page 6
10/ 22 - Damascus Lodge -- ??
11/12 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner / 7pm Lodge - Elections
-

FROM THE WEST

Travelling into foreign countries... In my opinion one of the greatest benefits of being a Master Mason is the ability to travel anywhere on this planet and be able to call a lodge "home". Brother Tom Lang told me, back when I was inquiring about masonry, that a mason can go anywhere there is a lodge and be welcomed. I have found this on many occasions to be true.

I haven't done any international travel, my "travels" have been rather limited to District 12 and nearby surrounding districts, but stories and reports that I've heard from Bro. Suga lead me to believe that Masonic Hospitality is alive and well in Ireland. I have told many brothers about my first experience in travelling, where I went to West Allis Lodge as a newly raised master, and met Bro. Will Krohn, who didn't know me from Adam, but greeted me and treated me like a long time friend and brother. This impressed upon me the true meaning of fellowship within this great fraternity of ours.

Since then I have enjoyed visiting many of the lodges in Districts 10, 11, 12 and 6. I now have added a lodge from District 8 to my list of Lodges visited. As some of you may know, I was out of town on business working in Prairie du Chien. While there, I came across Prairie du Chien Lodge #8. The first person I met was Marc Steiber, member of PDC #8 and District Deputy of District 8. When I introduced myself as the Senior Warden from Damascus Lodge in Milwaukee, he asked "Is that the lodge where 290 is not just a number, but a goal?" Yes Brothers, our reputation has made it all the way out to the west coast of Wisconsin. I also met Bro. Bob, a mason of 61 years, who was "retiring" from the lodge and moving north a bit to be closer to family. As of this writing, I still have a week or two of work left in Prairie du Chien and intend on travelling with my brothers from Prairie du Chien Lodge to assist another nearby lodge with degree work. All the brothers I met at PDC #8 welcomed me and treated me as if I sat with them for years in their lodge. Their hospitality is incredible and it was great to find a Masonic home while I was away and unable to sit in lodge with my Damascus brothers.

So brothers, I encourage all of you to get out there and visit other lodges and get to know our brothers from these lodges. You can be assured that you will be welcomed with open arms and perhaps with a bowl of home-made chili. The fellowship that this fraternity provides should not be overlooked. It is truly one of its greatest benefits.

See you in Lodge, Brothers.

Tom Stachowiak
Senior Warden - Submitted 03/2013.

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren,

Summer has come and gone once again, leaving us stunned at the persistence of time and yet filled with another season of cherished memories. These memories are a gift, and I'm ever grateful to be blessed with the brotherly love offered by this Lodge. This year has been one of the busiest ever – not necessarily just for the Lodge – but everywhere. More family needs, more vacations, more job changes, and overall just more “stuff” has happened as a whole this year than in any in my (admittedly short) experience. As Masons, our priorities always first lie with our creator, then our families, then our work. The combination has sometimes made it difficult to make time for Lodge – and as a result we've shuffled duties around, done things we've never done before, and still managed to come together as a family. I sincerely appreciate those of you that have been able to take time out of your Summer to attend Lodge functions, and even more so those of you who took on roles above and beyond.

Since the last mailed communication was several months ago, I thought it appropriate to summarize our season so far. I hope those of you who have been unable to come to Lodge will appreciate knowing what we've been doing, and now that the season is winding down, may be able to make it to one of our upcoming events. Degrees: Our best duty as Masons is to make more Masons. I've had the honor of conferring seven degrees this year so far. Our degree team has done their usual impeccable work under the direction of Degree Director Bro. Mike Meyer, PM and coaching by Bro. Mick Olson, PM. We've had additional potential candidates come to us through the Grand Lodge, through reference by other Brothers, and even by other candidates! I'm proud to say that our degree work this year is far from over, and we currently stand to schedule most of the way through 2014. Please enjoy the photos on the next page of some of our recently initiated and raised Masons.

Fellowship: So far this year, we've: Gathered for a movie, Recognized our significant others with a sweetheart's brunch, Honored our Past Masters with a dinner, Brought a little Hawaii to Wisconsin with a Luau, Put on a Knife & Fork degree, Took our families mini-golfing, Joined the Scottish Rite for a trip back in time at the Renaissance Faire with several hundred Masons present, and joined our Brothers at Nathan Hale Lodge for an afternoon picnic. Not bad for an otherwise busy summer!

Charity: Upon recognizing our slow recovery from the beginning the recent recession, the 2013 finance committee has responded by increasing our charitable contributions by 46%. This year's designated charity, selected by myself, is the Wisconsin Masonic Home – which will receive \$500 in addition to the profit from the Knife & Fork dinner. Other recipients include Job's Daughters, Demolay, Tripoli Shrine, the Hunger Task Force, The Pediatric Stroke Network, and of course our three scholarship recipients.

Brethren, it's easy to see that we've managed to have a fun, productive, and memorable summer. There is much more planned yet in the coming months – please join me in finishing the year strong!

Sean Schult
Worshipful Master

ON THE USE OF “ARCHAIC TOOLS”

Putting aside my personal nauseating tendencies to want to be inspired by even the simplest of occurrences, these words should really hit home for all of us. We often hear about Masonic tradition from our brothers (sometimes without asking to hear about it, cough cough Bro. Suga Lump...) and reflect upon how Masonic tradition has been passed down from generation to generation for thousands of years. Many marvel in awe that they have received the same degree that George Washington received, or other great men hundreds and thousands of years before him. But why haven't these traditions drastically changed? Why don't we have new, fancier tools? Why do we still give our brothers “archaic tools” from the Temple-building days as they earn their degrees? The answer is simple: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. These tools work. For thousands of years, Masons have been becoming better men by learning to walk upright by the plumb. The plumb, like all of our other Masonic tools, is time-tested and never fails to serve its purpose.

In my first year as a Mason, I have learned that like any family, community, or country, a Lodge can experience its own ups and downs. I won't go diving into the importance of each of the other tools (the first that comes to mind is the square, and the importance of TRULY “parting upon the square” at the close of a Lodge), but I will say that I think the most important thing I have learned in my first year of my Masonic journey is that in good times or in bad, we are, after all, workmen. We need to therefore constantly go back to the basics, utilizing our “archaic” Masonic tools. Why? They are time-tested and never fail. It is the proper implementation of these tools that have kept our craft fully in tact as Masonic tradition has been handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years. Likewise, it is our implementation of these tools that will uplift our Lodge through the tough times as well as guide us in the great ones. Let's get those trowels dirty guys!!

Bro. Scott M. Fairbanks
Senior Steward

CONGRADULATION TO OUR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARD WINNERS

As is a Damascus Lodge tradition, each year, our lodge sponsors three scholarships to area High School Seniors. The schools are chosen by the top three officers each year, and the students are selected by the schools scholarship committees. This years winners are Desara Saffold of Racine Horlick High School, Colin Philos of Oak Creek High School and Nathan Keup of Heritage Christian High School. The scholarships were presented at the respective schools during their awards ceremonies. On behalf of all the Brother of Damascus Lodge, Congradulations and we wish you success in your future edicational endeavors.

PASSING OF A BROTHER

It is with heartfelt sorrow that we announce to the passing of our Brother Harold Lewitzke. He passed on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at the age 96 years. Harold was a proud U.S. Army veteran of WWII, a retiree of Allis-Chalmers Co. He was initiated an Entered Apprentice on 1/21/1938, Passed to the degree of Fellow-craft on 03/25/1938 and was raise to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on 6/17/1938 and was a 75 year member of Damascus Lodge No. 290 F&AM.

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



Our meeting on Sept. 24th will be held at:

Lucky BOBs 
RACEWAY

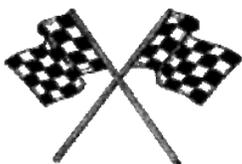
5822 West Forest Home Ave.

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 W.Bro. Dale Graeven, 414-852-4838 to reserve your car!
Bring a prospective member!!



BE THERE!!



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
DAMASCUS LODGE 290

FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY



4 P.M.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013

AT LAKE LODGE

Bring the whole family for
Dinner "spookghetti and eyeballs" (spaghetti and meatballs)
Assorted goulish and creepy dinner treats
in lodge trick or treat
scavenger hunts for young and old alike
games for young goblins and older ones too
Plenty of photo ops

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

Cost is free for all Damascus members &
their immediate family ,
Jobie Bethel 6, and Doric Demolay members

Contact Brother Brian Bertram at 414-486-0806 to rsvp

by October 10, 2013

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

OUR REAL GOALS

We Brethren of Damascus Lodge #290 are legendary for our culinary skills (Cookie that is) and subsequent eating habits. It's been said in other Lodges "Damascus is here, is there enough food?" invariably followed by "290, not just a Lodge number – but a GOOOOOAL". Grandmasters have yelled our motto as we entered the room at Grand Lodge Annual Communications. Nervous and sweating Junior Wardens announce that refreshments are available after the meeting – and the word "FOOD????, FOOOD ????" echo's around the Lodge from every Damascus Brother while repeating our motto. But, our real goal is Friendship.

As a Lodge, we are very fortunate to have Brethren who know and understand the meaning of being a Mason. They are there at nearly every meeting or event. Many of us show up for traveling to other Lodges for the goal of visiting, helping with a degree, or capturing that ever elusive gavel and poke fun at our rivals of Henry L. Palmer who gives it out as good as we give it to them. Our real goal is Brotherly Love.

Masons, as a whole are generous. Whenever a brother is in need of aid or help, our goal is to be there to lend the support our brother needs. On many, many occasions Brothers have been spotted reaching into their own pocket and give relief to a person standing on a corner, homeless and holding a sign begging for some form of help, regardless of how small. At any given time it's not unusual or out of the ordinary for a Mason to find a friend or Brother in bad or "Destitute" circumstances and contribute to his relief. Our real goal is Relief.

Children can be challenging, especially when you watch them break something and then listen to them deny it. How many times have you caught them blaming a sibling, pet, or neighbor for a misdeed? Their goal of course, is to not have to face the consequences of their actions. Your goal as a parent is to teach them not to lie, but to be truthful. Our real goal is Truth.

The goal of this article is really rather simple and as you read through, you very likely noticed a pattern. As a Lodge of Masons, as individual Masons our goals have been and should be – "Friendship, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth". In short our real goal is Masonry.

See you in Lodge.
Be there and be square

Michael L. Fairbanks
Past Master

PICTURES FROM LODGE



PICTURES FROM LODGE





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

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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. (2013) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804
Matthew Wright, P.M. (2015) 414-254-5677

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Tom Stachowiak 414-321-0092

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.

2013 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Sean Schult

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Senior Warden
Tom Stachowiak

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Junior Warden
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Treasurer
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Secretary
Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Brian Bertram
Junior Deacon Paul E. Peacock
Junior Steward Derrick A. Zolinski

Senior Deacon Mick Olson, PM
Senior Steward Scott M. Fairbanks
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.