



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VII, Issue 9

October 2010



YE OLDE CHRISTMAS FEAST

Damascus Lodge will once again be celebrating Christmas together at the South Milwaukee High School Music Department's 'Ye Olde Christmas Feast' on December 5, 2010 at 5:00 pm. This event was very well attended last year and everyone had such a great time they wanted to go back this year.

The event is a seven course meal set in the Renaissance period. During dinner you will be served by wenches and entertained by jesters, minstrels, vocalists, ensembles and more. All set in a medieval castle, also known as South Milwaukee High School.

For more information you can check their web site <http://smmusic.org/Feaste.htm> where you can find a map, menu and other information. There are some dining rules you may wish to be aware of. Be sure to arrive before 5:00 or you will miss the grand entrance!

To make your reservations, or if you have any questions call Brother Sean Schult. (See the flyer in this issue) We're looking to have a Jolly Good Time!! See you there!!

LODGE ELECTIONS

At our November 9th 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!.

PETITIONS

At our October Stated Meeting we received three petitions. Interviews are being conducted and we look forward to adding some fine men to our ranks. We will be conferring EA Degrees on November 23rd. Please come out and support our new Brothers and watch or degree team as they perform their usual outstanding work.

VIVA ITALIANA!!

October 28th saw the Damascus Boys eating pasta! Continuing our movie night tradition we enjoyed a night of great food and a great movie, The Italian Job. It was a great opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy the Brotherhood that is Damascus Lodge.

Was that Brother Curt in that little car?

Thank you all for coming!!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Lodge Elections*
-  *By the Plumb*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *A Thanksgiving Prayer*
-  *Christmas Feast*
-  *Perpetual Memberships*

NOVEMBER 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				

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 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
- 11/23 - Special Communication - EA Degree, 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge Opens
- 12/5 - Ye Olde Christmas Feast

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lord, at this time of Thanksgiving, I have so very much to be thankful for.

Thank you for my family and my friends. Please continue to watch over them and let them know how much I, and you love them, Lord. Keep them in your care.

Thank you for our fraternity. For giving us the opportunity to meet as Free Masons, as Brothers, and do the work which we hope is well pleasing unto you. For the fellowship and camaraderie that has brought us so close to each other. Help us to continue to do your work. Help us to grow and be better men.

Thank you for my Lodge Brothers, the 'old' Brethren with their knowledge and understanding. Without their years of work and dedication we would not have a Lodge. Help them pass on their knowledge and share their love of our craft.

Thank you for my new Lodge Brothers, for their youth and enthusiasm. They reignite our passion for our fraternity. They are a true blessing to our Lodge and are our future. Guide them as they learn our mysteries. Help them understand, that they may teach.

Thank you for our Lodge. For giving us such a wonderful place to meet, to play, and to pray. Help us serve our Lodge that we may strengthen it, so it will last far beyond the time when we are called to join your Lodge above. May it be here for future Brethren to enjoy as much as we enjoy it today.

And Lord, as a true Damascus Man... Thank you for Brother Cookie... And Custard.

Brethren, as you enjoy this holiday with your family and friends, as we count our many blessings, know that as I count my blessings on this wonderful day, YOU will be on that list of my most cherished blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Brother Mick Olson, P.M.

RING-A-DING-A-LING!!!

Damascus Lodge is continuing our tradition of Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at the Whitnall Pick N' Save. Check you calendar for Saturday, December 18th. We have time slots available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please contact Brother Mike Meyer, 414-821-4495 to sign up.

We'll be outside again this year, so dress appropriately. Please join us in supporting this most worthy cause.

BY THE PLUMB

Knock, Knock, Knock

My Granddad used to say to me: "Michael, you get through life's journey through open doors. They are opened and closed throughout life, and the doors that you choose to go through are the doors that dictate your life's path. Someday you will understand". Indeed, that someday came when I walked through the doors of Damascus Lodge for the first time.

That day, in September 2007 the Doors of Freemasonry opened for me as I found myself standing in Lake Masonic Center surrounded by my future Lodge Brothers from Damascus No. 290. Bro. Mike Meyer was the first to greet and welcome me and not too far behind, mere seconds actually, were Bros. Mick, Curt, Dale, and Worshipful Master Pat. I didn't know it then, but the doors of Masonic friendship had opened and with it true friendship with a large sprinkling of brotherly love.

As the next year flew by the door of Masonic Education opened with my initiation as an Entered Apprentice, then my passing to Fellowcraft, and finally being raised to Master Mason. I was so impressed with the degree work that once I had been raised as a Master, I asked about perhaps taking a small part in future degree work. I thought I heard Bro. Degree Director order a ritual book through clenched teeth and a huge smile plastered on his face as he brought it to me from the supply cabinet. I believe his words were "Ritual book, warp factor 10.....NOW!".

Learning the ritual work was a challenge. Stepping through the door of Brotherly Love, Bros. Mike Meyer, Mick Olson, Tom Lange, Curt Campagna, Dale ARRgggghhhh, and Dale A. Graven, along with many more Brothers, gently encouraged, instructed, praised, and prodded all who were learning the work. One could see the skills and self confidence blossom as some of us came to realize for the first time that we really could be productive members of the Lodge, and that productivity would soon carry over into our active lives.

Opportunity is best described not as "a" door, rather opportunity is a gigantic portal through which many doors exist and we are successful in life because of how we choose to meet those opportunities, whether or not Freemasonry plays a part. Masonry, however, serves to enhance and expand the opportunities we are given.

One of the many, many things Masonry has done for me is to build a self-confidence that had never before existed. It has helped convince me that I can succeed, whether learning something that I have always wanted to learn or accomplishing a new goal I have set for myself. From as early as I can remember I have always wanted to learn to play the Great Scottish Highland Bagpipe. Having never before played any instrument, and not knowing how to read music, I knew the task would be daunting. In fact, the people who told me it would be an impossible task would number in the hundreds. In years past I would have started to learn anyway, and then would have given up when it became too difficult.

The 'Doors of Freemasonry' led me to the Tripoli Highlanders, and it was there that I met the Brothers willing to display the brotherly love and patience required to teach me how to play. It was there that I had the opportunity to apply the lessons learned in Lodge and engage my newly found confidence to learn to play the Great Scottish Highland Bagpipe. And yes, while I consider my tooting on the bagpipe making organized noise and not necessarily music, I have learned to play the notes, march in parades while playing them, and have happily participated in several performances with the Highlander Band.

Through these wonderful 'Doors of Freemasonry', many of us have improved our lives in that we have become confident in ourselves while improving in all aspects of our lives, and more especially improving ourselves in Masonry. We no longer turn green from fear, nor hesitate when asked to help another Lodge in whatever their laudable undertaking may be. Instead of holding back when asked to participate with a fundraiser or helping another charity, the race is on to see whose hand goes up quickest.

See Next Page.....

Lords and Ladies of Damascus Lodge,
Join us as we celebrate



**De Olde
Christmas Feast**

Sunday December 5, 2010

5:00 P.M.



**South Milwaukee High School
801 15th Avenue, South Milwaukee**



Just \$15.00 per Person

For Damascus members and their immediate family.

**Enjoy a delicious seven course meal !!
Be entertained by Minstrels and Jesters !!**

**Reserve your tickets with Brother Sean Schult at
414-469-0305**



Before November 22, 2010 !!

Limited tickets available!



THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master
Larry Chadderdon



Brethern,
This month brothers I have three items for your contemplation. See if you can pick out the overall theme.

Three Steps on the Master's Carpet. Symbols of youth, manhood, old age. Some symbolists have read into these collectively a rather forced symbol of government, since the youth is governed by the parents, men of the body politic are usually governed by the elder statesmen. The Master's Carpet was originally the drawing on the lodge floor, erased after every meeting. When for greater convenience the symbols and emblems were repainted or painted upon cloth, it was first laid on the floor and hence called a carpet. Now the Master's Carpet or Tracing Board is usually on a wall or easel, or its place is taken by lantern slides with images thrown on a wall or a screen.

Three Grand Columns. Wisdom, Strength and Beauty are themselves symbols of natural law, nature, creation, since without them nothing of worth comes into existence. "Wisdom to contrive and strength to support" is obviously as true of the universe as it is of a temple. "Beauty to adorn" is often misunderstood, because of a too limited thought of the fundamentals of beauty. In any final analysis, what is beautiful becomes so in men's thoughts because of its fitness for its purpose. It is in this sense "beauty to adorn" is used Masonically. The plainest of the five orders of architecture is as beautiful as the most ornate, because it is as equally useful as the most ornamented. A streamlined airplane or locomotive is beautiful because of the man-

ner in which its form adds to its speed, not because of any ornamentation.

Triangle. Wherever expressed in Freemasonry, whether by reference to the number three, or the positions of any three objects, the symbol is of Deity

Throughout the Craft emphasis is put upon the number three; three Lights, greater and lesser; three steps on the Master's Carpet; three steps at the start of the Winding Stairs; three principle officers; three degrees; three due guards; etc., etc. The number three is but another way of expressing the idea of a triangle, earliest symbol for Deity, inasmuch as it is the simplest closed figure (signifying endless) which can be formed of straight lines.

The emphasis upon three, or the triangle, is Freemasonry's symbol of Deity-- being without beginning or ending.

As before I pulled these entries from Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols. Have figured out the theme?

That's all for this month.

Until next month Brothers,

Larry Chadderdon WM

BY THE PLUMB CONTINUED.....

The Entered Apprentice Charge is given to a newly initiated Brother at the conclusion of his first degree. I have the honor of issuing that charge, at the end of which I will spread my thumb and forefinger apart approximately 1/16 of an inch and say "If you put just this much effort into Freemasonry, you will receive this much back.", as I then stand on my tip toes and raise my right hand as far off the floor as I can reach. Mason's that are active in the Lodge take great satisfaction in telling you how wrong I am. They will tell you that the space shuttle cannot fly high enough to demonstrate how much Freemasonry has given them.

The 'Doors of Freemasonry' are always open, always waiting for the next, future Brother to walk through and begin their Masonic Journey. The doors are always open to our long time Brethren, and if you haven't been to Lodge in awhile why not come back for a visit? Why not once again walk through the 'Doors of Freemasonry' to rekindle old friendships and cultivate new ones? Remember: "Your regular appearance at our meetings is earnestly solicited".

Be there AND be square,

Bro. Michael Fairbanks
Junior Warded



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. (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.

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:

Age	Factor	x	Dues	=	Total Cost
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



A BIT OF THE IRISH AT THE
LAST MOVIE NIGHT