



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume IX, Issue 10

November 2012



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our newest Entered Apprentice Paul Gunn. Paul was initiated on October 23rd, by his good friend, our own Brother Junior Warden – Tom Stachowiak. Tom and the Damascus degree team did a great job and we couldn't be happier to have Paul an official member of Damascus. Congratulations are also in order for our newest Fellowcraft's – Brothers Jon Lomen-dolla and Matthew Hanchek. These Brothers have made outstanding progression through their Masonic journey already and we couldn't be prouder of their dedication.

BARKING AT THE MOON

On October 21st, Damascus held a family Halloween Party and great times were had by all. It was wonderful to everyone in their costumes and having a wonderful time. Brother Dale Graeven won the 1st runner costume prize while dressed up as Fred Flintstone and Sheryl Bertram, wife of our beloved Chaplain - Brian Bertram, won the prize for Best Costume over all. Team Olson, Meyer and Stach – consisting of Br. and Mrs. Mick Olson, Br. Mike Meyer and Br. Tom Stachowiak won the challenging treasure hunt. The spookghetti and eyeballs, along with all the other assorted dinner treats to eat were outstanding and everyone seemed to get their fill. Many thanks go out Bro. Brian Bertram and his entire family, Br. Steve Manthey and his entire family and everyone involved for all the hard work that was put into this wonderful event.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Not only does it count, but it's extremely important. Do not forget to perform your patriotic duty and cast your vote during the Presidential, Senatorial and local elections on November 6th. Duly important are the elections that will be held during the Stated Meeting on November 13th. Yes, it's that time already where the members of the Lodge will be voting for those who will be serving as Lodge Officers next year. Some may think it's inappropriate to compare the Presidential election to our Lodge elections, but we believe they are just as important. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, please come out November 13th and make your vote count. If you need a ride, please do not hesitate to call a Lodge Officer to make arrangements - numbers are that end of the Trestleboard.

A NIGHT TO HONORS OTHERS

On November 11th, the Lodge will be honoring all its members who are Veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as, those who have reached admirable milestones in Masonry. In addition to that, we'll be announcing the Damascus Lodge Mason of the Year. The evening will start at 6pm sharp with a flag presentation by the 128th Air Refueling Wing, with the Honoring ceremonies following our delicious meal. Please come out and join us in honoring our members who have proudly served the Lodge, served Masonry and served our country.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Toys for Tots*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Bell Ringing*
-  *To Honor Others*
-  *Lodge Elections*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November 3rd – Junior Warden Chili Cook Off. Judging starts at 3pm.
 November 11th - Recognition Dinner, dinner starts at 6pm.
 November 13th – Stated Meeting, dinner starts at 6pm, (Lodge Elections)
 November 27th – Social Meeting, dinner starts at 6pm.
 December 8th -
 December 11th - Stated Meeting, Dinner starts at 6pm, (Toys for Tots)

MASONIC MILESTONES

WARREN J. KRUEGER – 63 years	CHRIST. MIHAS – 62 years
ARNOLD H. LUHM – 58 years	CHRIS J. MIHAS – 39 years
DALE R. GRAEVEN – 32 years	ROGER L. BLOOMFIELD – 26 years
STEVEN R. MANTHEY – 3 years	

Congratulations Brothers!!!!

BE A DING-A-LING!

Damascus Lodge is continuing our tradition of Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army at the Whittall Pick N' Save. Check your calendar for Saturday, December 8th. We have time slots available from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please contact Brother Nathan Butts, 414-727-9772 to sign up.

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

TOYS-FOR-TOTS DRIVE

Continuing a very worthwhile Damascus Lodge tradition, please bring an unwrapped toy or a cash donation for the Marine Corps' Toys-for-Tots drive to our December 13th meeting. Considering the present economy, this may be a year of great demand. Please remember those less fortunate than ourselves during this Holiday Season. The joy of Christmas is in the giving! We hope to see you on December 13th!!

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 Saturday December 1st, 2012 at 5pm. This event has been very well attended in the past and everyone always has such a great time.

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.

There are some dining rules you may wish to be aware of. Be sure to arrive before the grand entrance!

To make your reservations, or if you have any questions call Brother Sean Schult. Or come to Lodge as more details are forthcoming. We're looking to have a Jolly Good Time!! See you there!!

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



I don't know about you, but personally, I'm looking forward to Wednesday, November 7th. My elation will not stem from having a new President or the re-election of our current President; my happiness will come from the fact that I will no longer be bombarded with political attack ads on the television, I can answer my telephone without receiving some recording slandering one of the candidates and I can open my email and Facebook page without having to delete numerous messages vilifying our current leaders. Don't get me wrong, I love the freedom's our country gives its citizens, especially the freedom of speech, but I can honestly say... I am sick of politics for a while!

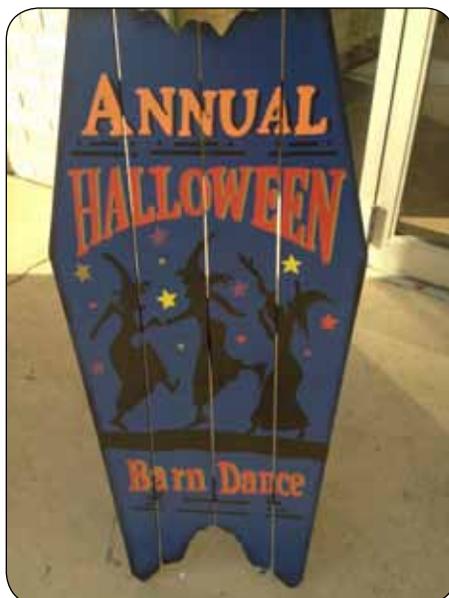
While I'm on the subject of politics and voting, during the Stated meeting on November 13th the Lodge will be voting for members to fill the elected stations of the Lodge for next year. Though voting for new Lodge Officers may not be celebrated like voting for the President of the United States, I think it's just as important; and thank goodness, unlike the elections of this nation, the Lodge elections are supposed to be void of all politics. A great way a Lodge can avoid all politics is to practice the traditional "progressive line". For our new members, a "progressive line" means an Officer advances from station to station, year-by-year, in a natural progression to the East with the goal of reaching the honored position of Worshipful Master. The Officers of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin follow a progressive line and during the last Annual Communication I remember having a few discussions with different Brothers the night we all voted for the next Grand Master. The reason these discussions were memorable is due to the fact they all centered around one question "What's the big deal about voting for the next Grand Master?" and interestingly enough, each discussion brought some valid points. One intriguing point that was brought up was "Since it's a progressive line, instead of voting on the next Grand Master, we should be voting for the next Grand Junior Steward and be done with the whole thing" Another point I found interesting was "If we all voted for the Grand Junior Steward, the Brother filling that position would be the true pick of all the Masons in the entire state; and since it's only one position, you'd only have to tally the votes for that single position." Following this point was "If the next Grand Junior Steward was decided by the most votes, there would definitely be many more brothers attending the Annual Communication, because the district with most votes will get their brother elected." Again, all very interesting points, but I believe the forefathers of Masonry were very wise to have kept the prerequisite of voting for specific offices every year. Either they had the foresight to see the validity of keeping certain offices open for all members interested (except for Worshipful Master – a brother must have held the office of Warden beforehand or be a Past Master); or they learned the hard way during the early days of Masonry, and the "Lodge that started it all" experienced the same thing every Lodge experiences – an Officer who cannot commit to his station. Whether the absence of the brother is due to family, work or other reasons; of course the greatest consequence felt by the Lodge is the distressing sense of loss. That said, the Lodge as a whole must continue to move forward. In this case, for the next Masonic year the Lodge can elect the next person in the line or anyone else they see fit. This type of backup plan (if you want to call it that) has even been given a phrase, which is called "For the good of the Lodge". Critics of the "For the good of the Lodge" backup plan believe that, depending on how many Brothers fall out of the Officer line and whether the Lodge has willing Past Masters who will fill in where needed, Brothers in the Officer line may pass through the stations too quickly without gaining essential experience,. Other critics say the "For the good of the Lodge" plan breeds political intensions.

Both methods of progression – the traditional "progressive line" or the sometimes necessary "For the good of the Lodge" plan – have both positive and negative points and undoubtedly years of proof to validate each method; but I charge you to remember this, regardless of who wins a majority of the votes, we need to support every station of our Lodge - together.

I encourage your attendance at our next Stated meetings Brothers, because you're not only casting your vote, you're helping to shape the future of the Lodge.

Matthew Wright
Worshipful Master

HAUNTINGLY GOOD PHOTOS



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

“Patience and Perseverance will accomplish all tasks”

Quick quiz. Who is “Hiroo Onoda”? Here is a hint for those who are scratching your head and thinking to yourself “That name is familiar” and for those of you who are thinking “I have no bloody clue”.

Mr. Onoda was born on March 19, 1922, is 90 years old, and the epitome of patience, perseverance, loyalty, and dedication. He was relieved of duty from the Japanese Imperial Army during the Philippine occupation on December 18, 1974. “Wait” you say... “Gotcha on this one Brother Councilor because the Japanese didn’t have an army occupying the Philippines in 1974 and in fact, the Japanese didn’t even have an Imperial Army at that time because it was dismantled as part of the surrender treaty at the end of World War II.”

Not believing World War II was over, Onoda and three other Japanese intelligence officers refused to surrender or come out of hiding. For 29 years, Mr. Onoda waged war, collected intelligence, created insurgence and disruption. Over the years, several communications were sent to Mr. Onoda stating specifically that the war had ended and he was to surrender. Given the Japanese culture at the time and believing these communications were to lure him out of the jungle to surrender, he never believed World War II actually ended. It took his former Commanding Officer to go into the jungle and relieve him of his duty.

Let’s imagine that the same type of dedication shown by Mr. Onoda were to be given to Freemasonry as a whole. What might happen? Our Lodges would be full, Brothers would volunteer for events and tasks, many great things could be accomplished. As it is, our Masonic Organizations are active in our communities and active with a limited number of Brothers involved. Imagine how much more involved we can be just by coming to Lodge and volunteering. My dad used a phrase that I still hear today, “Many hands make small work”. Funny though, I have only heard this come from my dad and my Brother Masons.

Keep in mind that our most basic tenants of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are what Masonry is about. We are all Masons because we chose to become Masons. So then, should we choose to attend meetings regularly and become more involved. We could have, at any time during our degrees backed out if had we disagreed with any part of our obligations. But with each degree and obligation we understood what it meant to advance to the next level of Masonry.

As Masons, we would like to think that the only motivation we need to drive us forward are the life long bonds and friendships we form as we journey through our Masonic lives. We build loyalty and dedication to one another with every meeting we attend. Disagreement and discussion as well agreement are a vital part of building loyalty and dedication within the Lodge and to one another. We go into Lodge and regardless of the discussions or disagreements we always come out of Lodge untied with firm and steadfast resolutions to accomplish any task. This Brethren, is loyalty and most certainly – dedication.

What ever happened to Mr. Onoda? Mr. Onoda was widely recognized and presented with several medals and awards for his loyalty and dedication to his country. He has toured throughout the world to speak on his experiences and written a book about his service to his country. Although at the time, he was an enemy of the United States of America one must admire his loyalty and dedication as it is an example that everyone could learn from.

See you at the next meeting.

Be there and be square.

Michael Fairbanks, P.M.
Lodge Counselor



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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

Mick Olson, P.M. (2012) 414-397-3076
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Sean Schult 414-469-0305

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.

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

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Junior Steward Paul Peacock
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Steve Manthey
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