



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VII, Issue 10

December 2010



## CONGRATULATIONS !

At our November 9th meeting Bro. Michael Fairbanks was elected to serve Damascus Lodge as our Worshipful Master for 2011. Bro. Matthew Wright was elected Senior Warden and Bro. Sean Schult, Junior Warden. We are pleased to have such fine men leading us next year.

Also elected were: Bro. Dale A. Graeven, Treasurer; Bro. Mike Meyer, Secretary; and Bros. Dale A. Graeven and Mick Olson as Trustees. Appointed officers are: Bro. Nathan Butts, Senior Deacon; Bro. Tom Stachowiak, Junior Deacon; Bro. Steve Manthey, Senior Steward; Bro. Pete Czechorski, Junior Steward; Bro. Brian Bertram, Chaplain; Bro. Dale R. Graeven, Tiler; and Bro. Mick Olson, Counselor.

Congratulations to all of the new officers! We're looking forward to a great year!!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW BRETHREN!

On November 23rd Damascus Lodge initiated three new Entered Apprentices. Congratulations Bro. Paul Peacock, Bro. Jason Williams and Bro. Derrick Zolinski and welcome to Damascus Lodge! Once again the Damascus Lodge Degree Team did an excellent job in giving our new Brethren a degree to be remembered. Even more exceptional was that everyone 'stepped up' to their new offices to confer the degree. Well Done! Thank you to all who participated and attended. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## RINGY-DINGY!

Damascus Lodge is looking for a few ding-a-lings as we 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 Nate Butts, 414-405-6383 to sign up. We may be outside this year, so dress appropriately. Please join us in supporting this most worthy cause.

## INSTALLATION

The Installation of Damascus Lodge Officers for 2011 will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 3:00 pm. This is an open installation, family and guests are welcome. There will be a light meal served following the installation. Please come and support next years Officers and get them started off on the right foot.

### *SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:*

-  *Lodge Elections*
-  *By the Plumb*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Lodge Installation*
-  *New Members*
-  *Bell Ringing*

December 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

- 12/5 - Ye Olde Christmas Feast
- 12/14 - Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge - Donations for Toys for Tots.
- 12/28 - Lodge Meeting- 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 1/11 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 1/23 - Lodge Installation - 3-pm

### REMINDER: 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. Tickets are sold out! We're going to have a big group and have a great time!

Be sure to arrive before 5:00 or you will miss the grand entrance! You can find a map and other information at <http://smmusic.org/Feaste.htm>. We're looking to have a Jolly Good Time!! See you there!!

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER: REFLECTIONS

December. The last page of the calendar. The end of one Masonic year, and the beginning of another. A time for both reflection and anticipation.

Where has this year gone? As I look back, I remember the many fun outings with great friends, the movie nights, and even the business meetings that somehow we make fun. I cherish the joy and camaraderie that makes our Lodge so great.

We are lucky to have received many new members this past year. Good men who will help to build our Lodge with their strong character and dedication. Men I am proud to call 'Brother'.

We thank our Officer's for their hard work and dedication to the Lodge. So many of them are new and we have watched them mature into fine Officers. They are the future leaders of our Lodge. We are in good hands.

We have elected our Officers for the ensuing year, and I am confident they will bring Damascus to new heights. Their vigor and enthusiasm will be contagious as they lead us into the future. And what a great future that will be! I already sense the anticipation.

Christmas is a time of giving. A time to celebrate the birth of our Blessed Savior and the bountiful gifts he and his Father have given to us all. It is a time to give of ourselves, to show our appreciation for all those gifts we have been blessed to receive.

One of our greatest gifts is our Lodge. It is a unique gift that we can give as well as receive. And the more you give to Damascus, the more you will receive from it. It is a gift you can share with all your best friends.

Enjoy this blessed Christmas Season with your family and friends. May you feel the warmth of their love, as well as the brotherly love of your Brethren at Damascus Lodge. May that love bring you joy and happiness.

Merry Christmas!!

Mick Olson, PM

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master  
Larry Chadderdon

Brethern,

I would like to wish everyone a happy and joyous holiday season, along with my wishes for a happy and productive New Year. I would also like to welcome and congratulate our three new Entered Apprentices. To them I dedicate this entry from the "Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols".

**Entered Apprentice Degree.** A symbol of youth. The word apprentice comes through the French *prendre* from the Latin *praehendere*, to take, to hold, to seize. An apprentice is one "taken to learn," also one who "seizes an opportunity to take."



Originally an Apprentice was not part of the Masonic Craft, even after being entered on the books of the lodge; not until he had passed his apprenticeship and been accepted as a Fellow was he a Craftsman. This gradually gave way to the modern idea and after 1717, Apprentices initiated in lodge formed the bulk of the Craft.

Ritual teaches that the Apprentice is a symbol of youth; a Fellowcraft, of manhood; and a Master, of old age. Probably this is most easily derived from the fact that learners, beginners, are young; experts and the skilled are men; and the wise and learned, the elder group.

Until next month Brothers,  
Larry Chadderdon WM

## BY THE PLUMB

What makes a great generation? Nearly every generation in every period of time has some aspect that makes it a great generation. Some sort of invention, discovery, or accomplishment that in some way changes the course of history for the good of humanity. Looking back through the annals of history and into the early years of the 20th century, we see the progress and advancement of society as a whole, despite the ever ongoing wars, troubles, and assorted plagues and deadly diseases.

One generation stands out for all its accomplishments. As World War I was winding down and coming to an end, the emergence of 'The Greatest Generation' began. This would be the generation that would dance to the roaring 20's, endure the ravages and suffering of the worst depression the world has ever known, and then fight a second World War. It was the generation that traveled into foreign countries, but not to work and receive Master's wages, rather it was to ensure our freedoms and our way of life as Americans. It was the generation that not only ushered in 'The Atomic Age', but landed men on the moon. It was the generation that made it all happen.

They wrought the invention of television, penicillin, the first computer, Nylon, the transistor, the first successful kidney transplant, and the list goes on and on. It can even be argued that the evolution of the first computer into the Personal Computer in 1975 can be attributed to them. In fact, this generation was responsible for the most societal advancements the world had ever known.

If the sheer number of achievements were the only test for being 'The Greatest Generation', then certainly this generation of Americans qualifies. If the improvement to the quality of life because of the inventions and discoveries were the measure by which we were to declare them 'The Greatest Generation', then they certainly again qualify.

But their inventions, successes, discoveries, and patriotism are only a portion of why they are 'The Greatest Generation' of all time. As my Dad and Granddad would tell you, the inventions, discoveries, and patriotism were life itself and they only met life head on. They did what had to be done. Now, add teaching and instilling morals and values into their children and you have all of the ingredients of 'The Greatest Generation'.



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

1235 EAST HOWARD  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

Phone: 414-297-9193  
Website: [www.dl290.org](http://www.dl290.org)  
Email: [worshipful.master@dl290.org](mailto: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.

---

## TOYS-FOR-TOTS DRIVE

Continuing a new, and 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 14th 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 14th!!

## BY THE PLUMB CONTINUED.....

Asked once if she thought the hardest thing she did in life was to leave Ireland, cross an ocean to be with her husband, and raise a family, my Mother informed the inquisitor that the hardest thing she ever did was to instill in her children the same values, ethics, and morals that she and my father had learned from their parents. To which my Dad added an enthusiastic "AMEN".

Oh, we fought it hard, the learning of ethics and values, as all our friends resisted their parents. I lost track of the hours I spent in solitary confinement (grounded to my room), or the hours of community service imposed by my Dad for stupidly throwing rocks through a neighbors window and other such egregious crimes. But time moved on and the moral, value, and ethical lessons soaked in. Eventually, we made our way out into the real world and have all become successful, instilled with a full set of morals, values, and ethics.

'The Greatest Generation' has earned their place in history for all of their visible and known accomplishments, achievements, and discoveries. More importantly, however, is how they silently instilled their moral and ethical lessons, so that their children could then take their place in the world and continue that inventing, discovering, and progressing. They are the perfect example of whispering good council. We were not always listening with the attentive ear, but they were always whispering.

Looking back at those lessons we can easily see the parallels between the values of 'The Greatest Generation' and Freemasonry. 'Freemasonry exists to promote personal development by reinforcing moral principles', the very same principles originally taught by our parents, and other members of 'The Greatest Generation'.

Bro. Michael Fairbanks, Junior Warden