



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XII, Issue I

January 2015



HONORS NIGHT

On January 13th we will hold our Honors Night. Several Brethren who have achieved Masonic Milestones have been invited to join us as we honor them for their service to our craft. This is a night we set aside to say 'thank you' to the outstanding men who help to make our fraternity great. Please join us and add your thanks on this special occasion.

INSTALLATION

The installation of officers who will serve Damascus Lodge for 2015 will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2015 at the Lake Masonic Center, 7:00 pm. Desserts will be served following the installation ceremony. Please come and support your new Corps of Officers.

'STEP UP' FOR 'TOYS FOR TOTS'

At our December 9th meeting a very nice donation was received for 'Toys for Tots'. Thank you to all the Brethren who brought toys and cash to support this most worthy cause. Bro. Nate volunteered to deliver the goods to the Marines, who were pleased by the donation of \$240.00 and many great toys and saw to it that everything got to Santa in time for the big delivery. Thank you for bringing Christmas joy to some great kids!

The night was also a 'step up night' as all the officers advanced one chair for the evening. Like a dress rehearsal for next year, everyone did a great job. Next year is looking to be great!

BELLS WITHOUT BELLS!

Damascus Lodge continued our Christmas tradition 'ringing bells' at the Pick-n-Save store on Whitnall Avenue in St. Francis on December 6th. As I arrived shortly after the starting time, to what should my wondering eyes appear, but three of Santa's helpers shaking their smart phones, making a joyful peel. It seems someone 'helped themselves to' (read: stole) the traditional bells that were left with the red kettle, and when our Brethren arrived there was no ringing to be had. Not about to let a Grinch steal this Christmas, our nerd herd quickly jumped into action, downloading the Salvation Army Bell Ringing App onto their phones. Thus armed, they swung into action, ringing their hi-tech bells for all to hear and enjoy, raising \$298.00 for the Salvation Army.

A huge DL Thank You to Brothers Bert, Kirby, Chris, Matt W., Scott, Matt H., Mike C., Suga, Kevin, Eric, (and anyone I may have missed) for ringing the bells; and of course Bro. Nate for setting it all up for us. Way to start off Christmas, my Brothers!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Elections*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Xmas Party*
-  *Installation*
-  *Demolay*
-  *Just Passing Through*
-  *Lodge Pictures*
-  *Sweetheart's Brunch*

DEMOLAY ... AND ICE CREAM

On December 4th, after the mandatory dinner briefing session, we visited Doric Chapter, DeMolay. The night began at Senor Sol's, after which we caravanned to West Allis Lodge and joined the boys for their December meeting. While there we enjoyed a great meeting and dropped off a check to help the boys with their work. After the meeting we enjoyed ice cream sundaes and warm fellowship with the boys.

Thanks to Doric Chapter for a wonderful night and letting a few old guys crash their party. We look forward to visiting again.

JUST PASSING THROUGH

They say they can save me; cure it; I'll live!
So as the sun falls on these dark valley walls
I take root in the hopes that such promises give
Oh black valley of shadows, I'm too young to see you
Tis my great consolation that I'm just passing through.

This place is real, not a metaphorical realm
If you're here to stay, you're colored pale gray
But no one as pale as the lord at the helm.
"A passerby, huh? One of the lucky few..."
With a rasp he mocks me, "...enjoy the view."

Death all around me, and sorrows abound
What the preachers preach, their ears can't reach
It's too late for all of these lost souls to be found.
As I trudge through the darkness where time stood still
"Just passing through" determined my will.

Then walked beside me, an old man with a sword
A shrouded, known face, I couldn't quite place
Not a word from his lips, he just kept marching forward.
Then a shadow danced and briefly revealed,
An old painful wound that I thought had healed.

"My God man! Why you? What are you doing here??"
Not a word through the shroud, with silence so loud,
He ignored my inquest and his march persevered.
"How can you stand it? How can you breathe?
You're such a good man, why can't you leave??"

He walked in silence, as my lament out-poured
Till after a while, through a crooked smile
He stopped me with just a few simple words
"This valley may seem dark and lonely to you...
But my silly young brother, I'm just passing through"

That's when I saw it, as his path diverged
Without a sound, the sword fell to the ground
And as if piercing the darkness, through the valley did surge
With his arms raised in praise, the brightest white yet,
Only one shadow remained: his cross-shaped silhouette.

The sun rose again, not as bright as I recall
The day was new, my passage was through,
And now it was turn for the shadows to fall.
There met me at dawn, Bitter, the lord of the helm
"I'll see you again, you'll be back in my realm".

He now wasn't so scary, so shrewd, so stark.
His darkness disgraced, with grimacing face,
His weak weapon he cast, threats of future days dark.
My response was simple, pointed and true:
"I'll see you then, but I'll be just passing through."

Bro. Scott Fairbanks

LIKE US !

Just a reminder for all you techies on facebook...so are we!! DL290 has our very own facebook page. Check in to find out the latest Lodge news, see what's for dinner, or just see some pics of our latest escapades. Whatever you need to know about Damascus Lodge, you'll find it on our page. Just search for our group page, Damascus Lodge #290 F&AM and request to join. One of our administrators will grant you access, and you're in! Simply knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Just don't break your monitor screen....

Also, if you are not receiving the TrestleBoard via Email and would like to, contact Bro. Secretary, and have him update your lodge contact information, including your new email address! Then you will receive the TrestleBoard via email!!

Be It Resolved

Brethren,

Thank you for the honor and privilege you have given me in allowing me to serve you as Master for the past year. It has been both exciting and challenging. I extend my sincerest thanks to all who helped me, whether planning one of our MANY successful and fun filled events, or being an ear to listen, or a shoulder to lean on when I needed one. Perhaps you attended one of our events, or joined us for a few meetings. All of you have made this year the success we share. A Master can do nothing without the support of the Brethren.

Together we overcame some trying times. Nothing is ever all roses and caviar. But when you look back at all the fun we had, it is easy to see we are on a roll. We had so much fun together and accomplished so many goals. Perhaps not all we had hoped, but then again, we never do. We set the bar high and can be proud of our accomplishments.



We have several new, young Officers who have stepped up and soon will be shaping the future of our Lodge. Our main goal has been to give them the tools they need to lead us into the future, and I think... and hope we have accomplished that.

I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. As you read this we are embarking on yet another year. Snow cover offers the hope of yet another opportunity of nature's renewal. Many of us have made resolutions to improve our lives in some manner. Whether to lose weight (which is assuredly NOT required for Damascus Lodge) or improve some other aspect of ourselves, these resolutions usually aim to make ourselves healthier, or just to make us better persons.

Sadly, in time we will discard many of those resolutions as too difficult to maintain. We find a 'workout buddy' to try and keep on task, but that too, often fails. So... let's all make a resolution that is easy to keep and fun to do. Let's all resolve to get active in Lodge!

The purpose of Masonry is to make good men better. So let's get better... TOGETHER! When I look at people leaving the gym, they look tired and exhausted. When I see our brethren leaving lodge they look happy and refreshed. People at the gym look thin and frail. Our members are "sturdy" and "jolly". Need I say more??

Okay, maybe we could all better ourselves with a visit to the gym, but all men better themselves by building their character. And that is what our craft is all about. Spending time with brethren, helping each other to grow and strengthen our 'inner selves', our Masonic edifice. Being good friends and aiding those less fortunate than ourselves. Following the designs drawn on the trestle board by our Supreme Grand Master.

The wonderfully hectic times of the holidays are now behind us. So let's take some time to fulfill a resolution that will strengthen our inner selves and bring happiness to those around us. Let's go to Lodge!

Come and honor those Brethren celebrating Masonic milestones at our Honors Night on January 13th. Installation is January 27th. Our Sweetheart Brunch is right around the corner so get your reservations made now. Best of luck to W.M. Curt and his corps of officers as they lead us into what I know will be a banner year for our Lodge. Take a look at our calendar full of upcoming great events and "Let's 'workout' together... at Lodge!"

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson,
Worshipful Master

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On December 14th the Damascus Family got together to celebrate Christmas. We all gathered for a traditional feast of Ham with all the trimmings, including 'decorate your own cookies' for the kids. The meal was delicious!

After dinner the kids received presents from the Lodge, and judging by the looks on the kid's faces I'm pretty sure Santa's elves picked some good stuff. Even the big kids got gifts. And of course, we could not forget our beautiful ladies. Then it was time for the Yankee gift swap, where somehow 'stealing' someone else's present is okay?? It surely made for a lot of laughter.

It was a great start to the holidays and everyone had a great time. We even ate the last can of Who Hash! Big thanks to the Bertrams and Hancheks for all the planning and hard work to make this night a huge success. And thank you to all who attended and shared the joy of the season.

SPREADING CHRISTMAS JOY



YOUR LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2015

Damascus Lodge Officers for 2015
Worshipful Master - Curt A. Campagna, P.M.
Senior Warden - Nathan Butts
Junior Warden - Michael Fairbanks, P.M.
Treasurer - Dale A. Graeven, P.M.
Secretary - Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.
Senior Deacon - Scott Fairbanks
Junior Deacon - Brian Bertram

Senior Steward - Matthew Hanchek
Junior Steward - Don O'Kray
Chaplain - Kirby Timm
Counselor - Mick Olson, P.M.
Organist - Jason Williams
Tiler - Larry Chadderdon, P.M.
Trustee - Dale A. Graeven, P.M.
Degree Director - Michael Meyer, P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2015

January 2015

Jan. 13th - Stated Meeting - Award Night
Jan. 27th - Installation of Officers
Jan. 28th - District 12 School of Instruction

February 2015

Feb. 8th - Sweethearts Brunch
Feb 10th - Stated Meeting
Feb. 24th - Officer Training

March 2015

Mar. 10th - Stated Meeting
Mar. 31 - DL290 Slot Car Racing

Stay tuned for more upcoming events!!

SPREADING MORE CHRISTMAS CHEER



VISITING THE DEMOLAY



TOYS FOR TOTS





You're Invited!!

*Damascus Lodge's Annual
Sweetheart's Brunch*

Sunday, February 8, 2015

11:00 A.M.

*Silver Spring Country Club
7156 W21318 Silver Spring Drive
Menomonee Falls*



*Ladies of the Lodge will be our guests. The cost
for all others is \$25.00.*



R.S.V.P. Note before January 31st.



*Happy
Valentine's
Day!*



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

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804
Matthew Wright, P.M. (2015) 414-254-5677
Nathan Butts (2016) 414-727-9772

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Curt Campagna 414-698-8874

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.

2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M.

worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden
Curt Campagna, P.M.

senior.warden@dl290.org

Junior Warden
Nathan Butts

junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer
Dale A. Graeven, P.M.

treasurer@dl290.org

Secretary
Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Matthew Hanchek
Junior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Junior Steward Don O'Kray

Senior Deacon Paul E. Peacock
Senior Steward Brian Bertram
Tiler Louis Montgomery, P.M.