



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XII, Issue III

March 2015



YOUR STORY

So, what's your story? When did you first discover what a Mason was?

I'm sure you didn't just get up one day and say; "I want to be a Mason".

My story started with my Grandpa Bud. My Grandpa never talked about the Fraternity very much but he did bring us to the Lodge pancake breakfasts, Shrine Circuses, and we were treated with memories of parades with Shriners and their fezzes in various units. Grandpa was an example of a good man who walked the walk and had the heart of a Mason. By the way he lived his life and how he treated others he taught me what a Mason is, without ever saying a word. Grandpa Bud taught me that if you are ever going to do something in life, do it to the best of your ability, with hard work and a little fun. I had the honor of being his Grandson and just as important, his Brother. He was in the Lodge during my Raising, and I was there to drape his coffin. There isn't a day that something doesn't remind me of him. If I could have one wish, it would be that one day I should be half the man he was.



So, what is your story?

We each have an interesting story.

I ask you to submit your story for our publication.

LOUIS WILLIAMS

Many writers and thinkers have tried to define Freemasonry but it really defeats definition. It is too complex, too profound in conception to easily express in words. Perhaps the simplest and best definition of all is the phrase "the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God." Our Masonic forefathers had an understanding of human needs and human aspirations. They may never have dreamed of the mindless computer which governs our lives, or the fission of matter which threatens our lives, but they understood human nature and what motivates the spirit of man. Thus from a simple process of using stone and mortar for building, they progressed to the most important of life's functions, the building of character. Louis L. Williams

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *DL290 Racing*
-  *Master's Meesage*
-  *Secretary's Desk*
-  *Knife and Fork*
-  *I've Learned*
-  *Ten Master Masons*
-  *Honor Mason's Night*

BETHEL # 6 - HONOR MASONS NIGHT

I would like to see as many Brothers as we can muster for this event! We will be making a special presentation of a check for the Cross Ceremony the Bethel 6 girls did at our Installation. The girls really appreciate when we come and support them at their Honor Masonic Bodies Night. I am anticipating many other Lodges this night and I would like us to have the most amount of members. We also have the dessert auction after and this is one of the Bethel's fundraisers that they rely on these funds to help the girls in their programs. So, let's show our Damascus spirit and have a great time at their meeting.



FROM THE SECRETARY DESK

Your Dues for 2015 went out in November and there are some who have not yet paid. Remember, your dues were due last December 31st, and prompt payment assures the Lodge has the funds it needs to function during the year.

If you are in a difficult financial situation and are unable to pay your dues, please contact the Worshipful Master:

Worshipful Master Curt Campagna, PM 414-698-8874

Anyone interested in a Perpetual Membership, please contact me Secretary@dl290.org

Pat Militzer, PM
Lodge Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2015

March 2015

- Mar. 10th - Stated Meeting
- Mar. 24th - EA Degree Practice
- Mar. 27th - Jobie Bethel #6 Honor Mason's Night
- Mar. 31 - DL290 Slot Car Racing

April 2015

- Apr. 14th - Stated Meeting
- Apr. 28th - Movie Night
- Apr. 29th - Knife & Fork

Stay tuned for more upcoming events!!

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!!



The 24th of February was the date of our Lodge Officer Training night. I am very impressed by the devotion and quality of our officer team this year. I can truly say the Lodge is in good hands and I look forward with working with the team to make this a memorable year. We have a lot on our plate (yes, an eating reference) and we are all looking forward to the challenges. We have many new petitions flowing down the pike and with our exceptional degree work I have faith that these new candidates will receive top notch degrees. If you are interested in working on a new part or want to revisit a past part please contact us. I have even heard that three of our new petitioners this year might be under 20 years of age.

We also are celebrating our 110th year as a Lodge. This celebration will take place in September and will be filled with a lot of fun and a trip down memory lane. We will also be continuing traditions such as family mini golfing, a family picnic in July, slot car racing, bowling, and many more activities this year. We are also excited about starting up a food competition team and sponsoring a Lodge trap team. We will be conferring our legendary Knife and Fork Degree (see the attached flyer) in April with the “Not Ready For Prime Rib Players”.

This year we will be bringing music back into the Lodge. We will be installing an Organist for the first time since I have been a member. Brother Jason Williams has taken on this challenge. He is just in the learning stage and I am very proud of him. I will also be asking others with musical talent to “guest perform” on occasion during our meetings. This Lodge has a long history of musicians: In 1946, Damascus Lodge had its own concert band composed entirely of members who were professional musicians. Their concerts were augmented at intermissions by the ‘Damascus Hotshots’, a four-man ensemble consisting of clarinet, bull-fiddle, guitar and washboard, played by Walter Grebe, Robert Lorenz, William Lorenz and George Schwartz.

Please stop by your Lodge for a meeting and/or an event that interest you. The 2015 Officers are proud to serve you.

Curt A. Campagna, P.M
Worshipful Master 2015



TEN MASTER MASONS

I am a big fan of movies and the one that I think almost all Masons watched was Dan Brown's movie "The Da Vinci Code". His fictitious work has been all over the news for years inspiring articles and books written on the very subject. Like in the past, the mysteries of the craft used in books and movies have sometimes given us an almost humorous portrayal like in "Sons of the Desert".



The film opens at a meeting of Oasis 13, "the oldest lodge of the great Order of the Sons of the Desert", where members, dressed in tassled fezzes and sashes, are singing "Auld Lang Syne". There are many movies and books that portray us in a less positive light, hinting of conspiracies and misrepresenting the work we do such as the movie "From Hell".



This is the balcony scene during a fictionalized, and misleading, Masonic initiation from the movie "From Hell", linking Jack the Ripper as a Lodge member. Among all the movie references there are a few that make you think that some writers "get it"

about our craft.

'Professor Langdon,' called a young man with curly hair in the back row, 'if Masonry is not a secret society, not a corporation, and not a religion, then what is it?'

'Well, if you were to ask a Mason, he would offer the following definition: Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.'

'Sounds to me like a euphemism for "freaky cult."'

'Freaky, you say?'

'Hell yes!' the kid said, standing up. 'I heard what they do inside those secret buildings! Weird candlelight rituals with coffins, and nooses, and drinking wine out of skulls. Now that's freaky!'

Langdon scanned the class. 'Does that sound freaky to anyone else?'

'Yes!' they all chimed in.

Langdon feigned a sad sigh. 'Too bad. If that's too freaky for you, then I know you'll never want to join my cult.'

Silence settled over the room. The student from the Women's Center looked uneasy. 'You're in a cult?'

Langdon nodded and lowered his voice to a conspiratorial whisper. 'Don't tell anyone, but on the pagan day of the sun god Ra, I kneel at the foot of an ancient instrument of torture and consume ritualistic symbols of blood and flesh.'

The class looked horrified.

Langdon shrugged. 'And if any of you care to join me, come to the Harvard chapel on Sunday, kneel beneath the crucifix, and take Holy Communion.'

The classroom remained silent.

Langdon winked. 'Open your minds, my friends. We all fear what we do not understand.'

-- Dan Brown, The Lost Symbol

Hollywood will continue to use our symbols and references to our craft in books and movies in the future; all we can hope for is that in real life the public can see us as we truly are. Just a group of good men who strive to do good works and help others while holding strong to traditions and faith.

‘I’VE LEARNED’ BY ANDY ROONEY

The following were written by Andy Rooney, a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.....

I’ve learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I’ve learned.... That when you’re in love, it shows.

I’ve learned.... That just one person saying to me, ‘You’ve made my day!’ makes my day.

I’ve learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I’ve learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I’ve learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I’ve learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don’t have the strength to help him in some other way.

I’ve learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I’ve learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I’ve learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I’ve learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I’ve learned.... That we should be glad God doesn’t give us everything we ask for.

I’ve learned.... That money doesn’t buy class.

I’ve learned.... That it’s those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular .

I’ve learned... That under everyone’s hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I’ve learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I’ve learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I’ve learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I’ve learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I’ve learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I’ve learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I’ve learned... That life is tough, but I’m tougher.

I’ve learned.... That opportunities are never lost, someone will take the ones you miss.

I’ve learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I’ve learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom and Dad that I loved them one more time before they passed away.

I’ve learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I’ve learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I’ve learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you’re hooked for life.

I’ve learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you’re climbing it.

I’ve learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

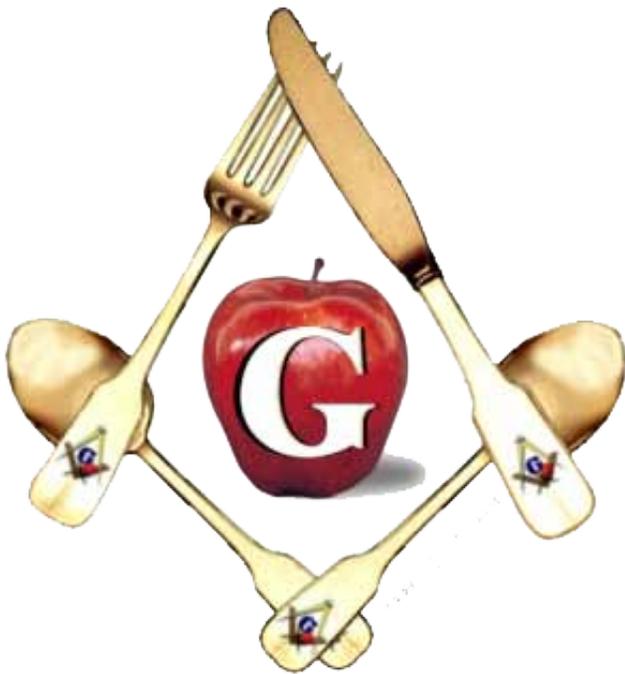
I would like to introduce your Senior Warden Nathan Butts. As Senior Warden I have put him in charge of sickness and distress. I hate finding out after the fact that we had one of our family members that were ill or in the hospital. We really do want to hear from you if you aren’t doing well or just need to talk. Masonry is a lifelong experience and that entails going through many stages of life and many “speedbumps” along the way. Your Lodge is here for you and its Members are your family. If it is easier to get a hold of another member feel free, but our Senior Warden Brother Nate is a direct contact to your Officer Corps. You can contact him at senior.warden@dl290.org



Damascus Lodge No. 290

(Being Uniquely Qualified)

Announces the Conferral of The Knife and Fork Degree



7:00pm April 29, 2015
Lake Masonic Center
1235 E Howard Ave. Milwaukee

\$30.00 - First Timers
(including a Pin and Card)

\$25.00 - Alumni

Le' Menu

Ze Bacon Wrapped Filet vis all de trimmin's,
Dezzerts, und beverages (including a fine 'Bovine Wine').

For more information and to get your seat at the table
Goto: <http://dl290knifeandfork.brownpapertickets.com>

Seating is limited, so reserve your seat today!!

Proceeds go to the WI Masonic Foundation - Service and Assistance Fund



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



Our meeting on March 31 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 Bro. Mike Fairbanks, 414.397.0330 or
mfairbanks@wi.rr.com**

to reserve your car! Bring a prospective member!!



BE THERE AND BE SQUARE





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

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Website: www.dl290.org
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

Matthew Wright, P.M. (2015)	414-254-5677
Nathan Butts (2016)	414-727-9772
Dale A. Graeven (2017)	414-852-4838

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Nathan Butts	414-405-6383
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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.

2015 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Curt A. Campagna, P.M.

worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden
Nathan Butts

senior.warden@dl290.org

Junior Warden
Michael L. Fairbanks, P.M.

junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer
Dale A. Graeven, P.M.

treasurer@dl290.org

Secretary
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.

secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Kirby Timm
Junior Deacon Brian Bertram
Junior Steward Don O'Kray

Senior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Senior Steward Matthew Hanchek
Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.