



DAMASCUS
290
F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

Volume XII, Issue XII
December 2015



Special Sections

| | |
|--|---|
| Did Someone Say Halloween Party?! | 1 |
| The Master's Message | 3 |
| Honored Masonic Bodies Night | 5 |
| Is Your Masonic Elevator Speech Ready? | 6 |
| "Master Chefs" Cooking Team | 7 |
| Sweethearts Brunch | 7 |

Did Someone Say Halloween Party?!

by Bro. Brian Bertram, Sr. Deacon

On Oct. 25th, Damascus Lodge hosted our annual Halloween party. This year we accomplished a major feat by providing almost 100 ghosts, goblins, and numerous other nightmarish sights – an evening of spooky fun.

Attendees included our own Lodge members and their families, some Job's Daughters Bethel 6 members and their families, some DeMolay Doric Chapter members,

and up to four prospective Lodge members and their families.

The evening started with our dinner of ghoulish punch, desserts and salad prepared by Brother Matt Hanchek. After all the attendees received their fill of devilish treats, the evening continued with costume judging for kids 12 and under, teenagers from 12-17 and adults costume judging. This year's judging was

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

5th – Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Pick 'n Save – Whitnall Ave,
9 am - 4 pm

RSVP to Bro. Nathan Butts

8th – Stated Meeting

Bring your Toys for Tots!

19th – Installation

Lake Lodge, 2pm

February

14th – Sweethearts Brunch

Halloween Party (cont'd)



especially difficult because of the quantity and quality of the kids' costumes. We had 28 children 12 and under, but none the less, none of the kids went away without a prize!

As the bumps in the night continued, there were games for the kids, a couple of mystery pictures in the Lodge to be located, arts and crafts, lucky seat-sitter prizes, and eerie music and lights to boot. But as the evening drew darker, the epic scavenger hunt began.

The scavenger hunt consisted of a themed "hunt" throughout the Lodge to look for clues to the final answer, which was relayed via a text message by the famous voice of Bugs Bunny, Mel Blanc, who was a mason. The answer was Jack Warner of Warner Bros. Studios, which does the "Looney Tunes" cartoons. Oh yeah, did I mention Jack Warner was a mason also?!

An event of this magnitude cannot be accomplished without a lot of planning and help. So a special thanks goes out to Heather Williams and Brita Hanchek for helping out with the kids games; Sean Schult and Heather Loewe for providing the awesome light and sound effects; our excellent cook, Matt Hanchek and his kitchen assistant Angel Nazario (who is Meagan's boyfriend and possible future Damascus member); Sheryl and Meagan Bertram, who always look forward to helping out with this party and planning the scavenger hunt. One more shoutout to EVERYONE who helped clean up after the party!

I'm not sure we can top this next year, but we will for sure give it a go! SO. If you want to kick start your Halloween next year with some fun, plan to attend ... it's a haunting good time.

The Master's Message

by Bro. Curt Campagna, Worshipful Master

Greetings Brethren:

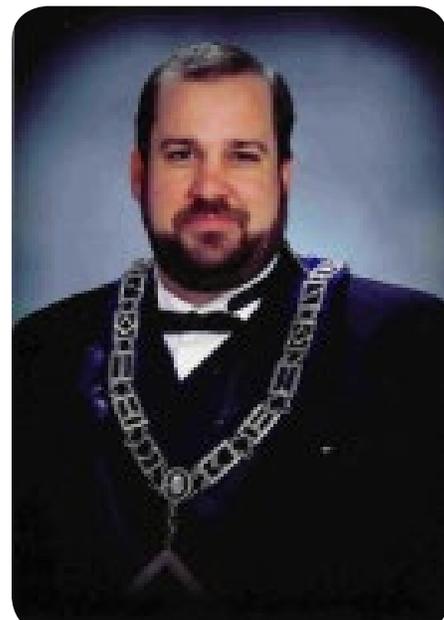
First, I would like to congratulate all the elected officers for the 2016 year! (see page 4) I know they will serve this Lodge with the expectations that we ask of all our officers. They have earned the respect of this Lodge, and now desire to carry the Lodge to the next level. There is a real energy flowing in Damascus, and we see the growth just starting. This year we celebrated our 110th anniversary full of memories and pride, but we have also seen the future in the eyes of our youngest members.

Second, I would like to thank all the current officers who made this year possible. When Brother Mick and I offered to jump back into the line to help stabilize the line two years ago, we had no idea how much our lives would change and go in directions that we did not foresee. I had no idea that I would be jumped up in the Scottish Rite line like I did. I also did not expect the Worshipful Grand Master elect asking me if I would serve the craft as Grand Chaplain for the state for the 2015-16 year. The only way I have been able to step up to this challenge is

with the help and support of many Brothers. My officer line has taken up the slack when I have asked, and served with dignity and as a team. My past Masters have been a support and given good counsel to me when needed. Frankly, I am not surprised, for I know the hearts and dedication of all our Damascus membership.

I will now be stepping back again to the sidelines of this wonderful Lodge. As we say in our Installations: some must lead and some must follow. I am happy to support and follow our upcoming leaders in the programing and direction that they will lead us to.

As all who have ever served in the past, I too wish I had done some things better, and I have made mistakes as part of my journey. I am grateful to all of you for allowing me to be imperfect, but striving to do the right thing in all that I do. Life as a Mason is an ever-learning process that starts as we petition the Lodge, and ends as we are called home by our God. Our mission is to make good men better.



An Italian Blessing:

May your days be many and your troubles be few.

May God's blessings descend upon you.

May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.

May you find what you are seeking wherever you roam.

Curt Campagna, P.M.
Worshipful Master
worshipful.master@dl290.org



You are cordially invited.

Open Installation of Officers for
DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290
for the 2016 year.

Saturday, December 19th
Installation to begin at 2pm;
light meal & refreshments to follow

Lake Masonic Center
1235 E. Howard Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207



Honored Masonic Bodies Night

How wonderful to see so much support from our Lodge and others who attended Bethel 6's Honored Masonic Bodies night on Nov. 13. These girls enjoy their ties to this Lodge, and it is wonderful seeing them grow up to be amazing young ladies. The dessert auction was well attended and many good sweets were gobbled up.



Is Your Masonic Elevator Speech Ready?

by Bro. Matthew Hanchek, Senior Steward

Ever have that uncomfortable moment when someone asks “What is Freemasonry?” or “What does your Lodge do?” For me, that moment is usually followed by awkward fumbling for the right words. It’s not that I can’t describe it, or that I don’t know what my own Fraternity is. It’s just too big and too many different things to distill down to a sentence or two.

We’ve all heard the responses: “It is a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols,” and “We make good men better.” These answers are spot on, concise, and technically perfect, but perhaps a bit too cryptic. If the person asking is curious enough to ask the question, this might not be enough information to build from

that initial interest. On the other hand, it can be hard to give a little more substance without getting too specific.

This is one of those instances where a little plagiarism isn’t necessarily a bad thing. If you’ve seen or heard a really good answer, there’s no need to reinvent the wheel. Borrow the parts that resonate with you and make them your own. I’ve tried to paraphrase or use pieces from our EA degree, and answers that I’ve heard others use, and it has worked pretty well.

Example:

"Masonry is a fraternity built on the principles of friendship and brotherly love, the relief of those suffering through

unfortunate circumstances, and personal growth through the reinforcement of moral principles. It’s a group of men who work together to make their community a better place through charitable contributions to good causes, supporting each other as an extension of family, and by providing a framework to gain the insights and tools to better understand and fulfill the requirements that your chosen faith asks of you. If you’d like to know more, stop by for dinner before any of our meetings, get to know some of the guys, and see for yourself."

Worshipful Master Curt Campagna had the pleasure of presenting Brother John L. Immel with his 65th year of membership with Damascus Lodge.



"Master Chefs" Cooking Team

by Bro. Curt Campagna, Worshipful Master

The Damascus Lodge cooking team, "Master Chefs," took 1st place at the Palmer chili cook-off held at the Tripoli Shrine on Oct. 30th. I overheard a comment that the Damascus guys really know how to cook!



Sweethearts Brunch

February 14th

11am • Silver Spring Country Club

Cost is \$25. Ladies free.

RSVP to Bro. Nathan Butts • 414-405-6383 • nb290@wi.rr.com





Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. & A. M.

1235 East Howard
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Phone:
414-297-9193

Website:
www.dl290.org

Email:
worshipful.master@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, P.M. (2017)
414-852-4838

Sick And Visitation Chairperson

Nathan Butts
414-727-9772

Master's Board

Keep those petitions coming in.
The Master's Board President
Mick Olson and Master's
Board Secretary Brian Bertram
would like to remind you
to keep an eye out for new
candidates for the Lodge.

2015 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Curt A. Campagna, P. M.
worshipful.master@dl290.org

Treasurer

Dale A. Graeven, P. M.
treasurer@dl290.org

Senior Warden

Nathan Butts
senior.warden@dl290.org

Secretary

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M.
secretary@dl290.org

Junior Warden

Michael L. Fairbanks, P.M.
junior.warden@dl290.org

Chaplain Kirby Timm

Senior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Junior Deacon Brian Bertram
Senior Steward Matthew Hanchek
Junior Steward Don O'Kray
Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.