



DAMASCUS
290
 F. & A.M.

The TrestleBoard

Making Good Men Better

Volume XIII, Issue VIII
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Fellowcraft Degree

On July 26th, the members of Damascus Lodge conferred a Fellowcraft degree on Brian Waszak. The degree was excellent and the team did a wonderful job. Brian is looking forward to more learning and growing with the group.

Special thanks to Dale Graeven for stepping in as a steward. Thanks to all who helped out setting up, cleaning up, and being there for our Brother on his degree night.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August

9th – Stated Meeting

21st – Past Masters Dinner

23rd – Degree

September

13th – Stated Meeting

October

23rd – Halloween Party

Lake Lodge, 4 p.m.

Meet One of Our Scholarship Recipients

by Bro. Brian Bertram, Junior Warden



Meet Julia Brunson, one of Damascus' 2016 Scholarship Recipients. Julia attended Ronald Reagan International Baccalaureate High School in Milwaukee, and is planning to attend UW-Madison in the fall to study history. She received two diplomas from high school: one for general high school and one full IB diploma for the International Baccalaureate program.

The full IB diploma is an extended study program which goes well above and beyond basic high school study courses. If a candidate scores high enough on the IB testing process, it will get them advance standing in their college credits.

Because Julia earned a full IB diploma, she will only need about three years of college to achieve her bachelor's degree.

Because Reagan High School did not have an awards program for Damascus to present Julia with her scholarship, she and her father were invited to Damascus Lodge for dinner, and to meet our members. Junior Warden Brian Bertram introduced Julia and her father, and presented her with the scholarship certificate.

It appears that Julia has a bright future ahead, and the members of Damascus wish her the best in all of her endeavors.

The Master's Message

by Worshipful Master Nathan Butts

Greetings Brethren,

This month I would like to talk about education, and how improving yourself in Masonic knowledge and understanding will: help you on your Masonic journey, improve you as a person, and affect the world around you. We all join Freemasonry for different reasons, but the premise is the same: to make good men better, and to improve society as a result. Looking around each day we can see the world is in need of help, but thinking we can't make a difference as individuals only puts you at a disadvantage. How you act, talk, and listen does rub off on others. Even if you do not see it immediately, it does happen, and it does pay it forward even if you do not know it.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in Masonic knowledge, learn the history, learn the ritual, take part, and grow as a Mason. By doing these things you will spread the good around you, helping your brothers, helping your families, helping society. Every small positive change puts us in the right direction and closer to the enlightenment we all hope to attain when our journeys reach the peak in our lives. Sign up on the Grand Lodge website and

access all the documents there for education and any other topic you wish to learn more about: roles of the Lodge, requirements, committees, etc. It is all just a few mouse clicks away.

If the Internet is not your thing, check the Masonic library at your Lodge for further light. You can also visit Half Price Books or your public library. While these locations have fewer choices and can have misinformation, they also can show you things you know are wrong that others may think are right. Use them as a teaching opportunity to help bring others out of the misinformation stream.

But the single best place to get Masonic education is from the brothers in your Lodge. The years of knowledge, experience, and friendship can be matched by no other. The learning, growing, assistance, friendship, and family you will get from your brothers is simply the best thing you can do to improve yourself and those around you. It's the point, it's the goal. A Past Master I know has said repeatedly, you get out of Masonry what you put into it at a bare minimum. But with any effort at all, the return is tenfold, so attend regularly and see.



Nathan Butts
Worshipful Master
worshipful.master@dl290.org

For the rest of the year, we will be doing some Masonic education in our meetings. The education will be two parts: one read in Lodge, and the other for you to take home, think about, and bring back at the next stated for discussion. We will have learning discussions and learn more about each other as a result. We had our first reading in July, and the discussion will take place in August. Contact me if you missed July's meeting and want to read over the presented education and discussion questions.

See you Lodge!

The Annual Damascus Lodge #290

Past Master Dinner

will be on

August 21st, 2016

at St. Francis Brewery

Social hour begins at 4:30 p.m.

Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: Past Masters included

Widows included

All others are \$25.00



MENU CHOICES:

Sliced Prime Rib with Au Jus

Sliced Roasted Pork Loin

Baked Chicken in Stout BBQ Sauce



Includes:

Garden salad with dressing

Pasta salad

Vegetable

Baked potato

Warm dinner rolls with butter

Coffee, tea or milk

R.S.V.P. to Michael Fairbanks
mfairbanks@wi.rr.com • 414-397-0330

Lodge Picnic Makes a Splash

On July 17th, members of Lake Lodge No. 189 and Damascus Lodge No. 290 gathered at Wilson Park for a joint family picnic. Damascus provided the meats and buns, Lake added the beverages and accessories, and all members were asked to bring

a dish to pass. Grillmaster Pete Czechorski did his usual best and cooked up some awesome viddles. There was ladderball, jarts, board games, and a water balloon toss. Brad Bingham and his wife Diane won the toss as Jewel splashed one in on the last toss to Brother

Fairbanks. It was a bit windy, but everyone had a great time. Thanks to all who came and for all the wonderful food we all shared. We had more than 50 people in attendance, and even our DDGM Todd Krohn paid us a visit.

(Additional pictures on next page)



Lodge Picnic Makes a Splash (cont'd)



DAMASCUS LODGE 290

FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY



4 P.M.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

AT LAKE LODGE



Bring the whole family for

**Dinner: "Ghoul-ash" (elbow mac and spaghetti meat sauce)
Assorted goulish and creepy dinner treats**

in lodge trick or treat

**The LEGENDARY scavenger hunt
games for young goblins and older ones too
halloween arts and crafts
Plenty of photo ops**

**Family Appropriate Costumes optional but encouraged
for all, you may even win a prize!**

**Cost is \$5 per person, \$10 per family,
Under 12-free**

Contact Brother Brian Bertram at 414-486-0806 or bsbert290@att.net

Please rsvp no later than October 16, 2016

Hope to see you all there for a howling good time!

2016 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

Nathan Butts
worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden

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

Junior Warden

Brian Bertram
junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Chaplain Michael Meyer, P.M.

Senior Deacon Matt Hanchek

Junior Deacon (Vacant)

Senior Steward Don O'Kray

Junior Steward Chris Balke

Counselor Sean Schult, P.M.

Tiler Larry Chadderdon, P.M.

Degree Director Mick Olson, P.M.

Lodge Trustees

Matthew Wright, P.M. (2016)
414-254-5677

Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2017)
414-852-4838

Matt Hanchek (2018)
414-418-8229

Sick and Visitation Chairperson

Michael Fairbanks, P.M.
414-397-0330
senior.warden@dl290.org

Master's Board

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



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*The Real Secret of Freemasonry –
Making Good Men Better*