

Date May 1st, 2025

Master's Message

Silly Suit Night was at the stated meeting; congrats to Sean taking 1st place, myself 2nd, and Nate 3rd place. Thank you to all that participated. There were 2 petitions turned in, and voted to give 2 FST's to the Mount Pleasant Police department at the last meeting. Plan is to vote on petitions at the stated meeting in May. Bowling with Dad was a great event for those that missed it. Matt's family

Upcoming dates: UPDATED - Cigar Night 5/27, Mini golf \$5.00/person- 5/31 RSVP due 5/17 to Winston, Hawaiian Shirt Night stated meeting 6/10, 120th anniversary Dinner 6/14 - \$20.00/person RSVP due to Brian 5/30, 6/24 degree?

See you in Lodge,

Jake Harycki



Meet your Officers

This Month is JD Winston Hermann



I am Winston Hermann. I am your Junior Deacon for 2025. For those that don't know, I have exactly two hobbies, fantasy football and Dungeons and Dragons. If you are interested in either, let me know. My only other activity outside of work being freemasonry at Damascus lodge; which is convenient because I live right across parking lot in the apartment building on clement avenue. I initially liked Damascus lodge and chose to continue to attend the Tuesday dinners because of the camaraderie and the bacon wrapped steak we had on my first night there. It was a strong sell along with watching the new(er) version of "The Italian Job". Since then, I continue to

slowly get more involved and contribute more to the lodge and the brotherhood. I look forward to the rest of this Masonic year and want to create more great memories for myself and others.

2025 Lodge Officers

- Worshipful Master
Jake Harycki PM
- Senior Warden
Mike Cornell
- Junior Warden
Brian Bertram PM
- Treasurer
Matt Schmidt
- Secretary
Mike Myers PM
- Senior Deacon
Nolan Swendrowski
- Junior Deacon
Winston Herman
- Senior Steward
Greg Neal
- Junior Steward
Eric Vesel
- Tiler
Larry Chadderdon PM
- Chaplain
Byron Borck PM
- Councilor
Butts PM

Nate

MEET YOUR DAMASCUS 290

HIRAM'S HOTSHOTS TRAP SHOOTING TEAM

Our humble beginnings began around 2012 as the "Stone Cutters" trap team, shooting at the now, long gone Cudahy Sportsman's Club. we started as a bunch of guys from lodge just getting together on a league, we have evolved to the Hiram's Hotshots!

We started our summer league on April 12th, which goes for 20 weeks at Boxhorn Gun Club in Muskego.

I am the only original member from when we started. We have been going strong from the beginning, with only a hiatus during the covid years.

Yup, we compete on league, but most of all, having a good time while promoting Freemasonry!

Submitted by Bro. Brian Bertram





DAMASCUS LODGE 290 F.&A.M.
120TH ANNIVERSARY
DINNER

Limited to Lodge members, their spouses,
or significant others

RSVP to Brother Brian Bertram

No later than May 30, 2025

bsbert290@att.net or 414-491-0805

————— 14th —————
JUNE 2025 5:00PM
—————

St. Francis Brewery

3825 S. Kinnickinnic Av, St. Francis WI

Limited to 50 Attendees!!

RSVP Early!

\$20.00 per person/ payable day of event

hand selected menu

cash bar available

"Sideline Scribbles"

Michael Fairbanks
Damascus Lodge #290

"The Lodge Experience" Pt 1.

Earlier this year, I received an email from W.B. Bill Shelley sharing a well written paper explaining "The Lodge Experience". Written by Bro.Daniel D. Hrisko, this paper describes an educational point of view of Freemasonry from one who has many years under his belt as a Mason, and it sums up the basics of what to expect during Lodge meetings and Degrees.

Due to the length of the paper, it will be presented in two parts. A huge "Thank you" to W.B. Shelley in passing this along.

And now, "The Lodge Experience" part one.

Freemasonry presents itself to the world as an order that assists men in the process of pursuing enlightenment. The commonly stated goal of the Fraternity is to make good men better. This involves a process with many steps. The first and most basic step is where we follow specific rituals to move a man through his preparation, initiation, passing, and raising as a Mason.

During these rituals, the candidate receives specific instructions which revolve around symbolism and allegory and contain essential elements of universal morality. The intent is that the man participating in the ritual as well as those observing the ritual will glean important lessons about universal morality and integrate these lessons into their daily lives to achieve this goal of making good men better.

A second step in this process is the formal education of the candidates and members about the symbols, lessons, history, and meanings associated with the ritual and allegory. These lessons are often presented in a didactic manner with one learned brother sharing what he knows with the others in a lecture or class format. This often includes a review and memorization of some element of the ritual, through questions and answers, historical information about the past experiences of Freemasonry, or some author's thoughts on the subject found in a journal, pamphlet, or other publication. These first two steps, the experience of the ritual and the sharing of educational material, are intellectual in their character and are a necessary foundation for the complete experience of Freemasonry.

However, these and other steps can involve the emotional aspects of the human – and Masonic - experience which allows us to bring a richness and quality to the Masonic experience which defies being understood in a simple, intellectual description.

An essential component of the memorable Masonic experience is the formation of relationships. As we pledge our fidelity to one another and invest our time in the study of Freemasonry, we begin to build upon our common bond as Freemasons and forge relationships that can contribute to our quality of life. As these relationships form, we begin to look forward to the time we spend together where we can share those events in our lives and include our brothers in our day to day existence. This can be a powerful connection filled with emotions that defy description or explanation, yet add a quality to our lives that is unobtainable in any other manner.

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lift the ordinary to the extraordinary; the mundane to the exquisite. Though often uncomfortable to some, emotions bring color and quality to numerous experiences in our lives. Music, foods, smells, places, and other trivial things can rise to a level of importance where they take a special place in our hearts and minds.

No one who has ever been duly prepared and conducted through the door of the Lodge for the first time can claim, with any honesty, that it was an unemotional experience. It may be beyond words and difficult to explain, however, the power of emotions in this circumstance is undeniable. Through due attention to emotions, the ritual of initiation and the manner in which our ritual is performed can greatly enhance the experience of all involved. But, when poorly executed, it can create an embarrassing event which conveys little if anything of the true light available through Freemasonry.

Most lodges take great care to present the ritual in a moving and accurate manner, clearly recognizing that this experience is important to the new member's understanding of the Fraternity and its lessons. Such efforts are to be applauded. Some say that observing a candidate or brother experience a degree gives us a chance to vicariously experience that degree as well as we recall our own degree. This is clearly a heart-warming experience. Some of us look for these opportunities and choose to serve the lodge by becoming officers and taking an active role in the ritual work, an experience that has its own emotional rewards.

But what about the rest of the meetings when the ritual is not being performed? What about the time the rest of us spend in lodge long after our first reception? Should we not also attend to the needs of our Brothers and make use of the power of emotions to enhance our experience in Freemasonry? Can we make emotional experiences occur during those other meetings to keep the Masonic experience a fresh and vibrant as those first and early experiences?

When we review the ancient charges and the early writings of the Fraternity in its current form, we see clear references to our responsibility to spend our time in lodge wisely attending to important tasks. Our charters tell us that we should be making Masons. We should also be improving ourselves in the arts and sciences associated with the craft. Reviews of various versions of the ritual almost universally state that we come to learn and to improve ourselves in Masonry. This idea has been a central element in the responsibilities of a lodge from its early days. Given that these are essential and important tasks, we should pursue them with the same intensity of passion and emotion as is exhibited to our rituals of initiation, passing, and raising.

The ceremony of opening a lodge has been described as a transformative process whereby an ordinary room is transformed into a sacred space, one where we are to separate ourselves from the profane world and practice the "Royal Art." In all lodges we start, symbolically, in darkness bringing light into the room in preparation of the work of the evening. When properly performed, the opening ceremony provides us with an opportunity to leave the distractions of the day-to-day world outside the door and focus our attention to the reasons we gather and the tasks at hand. It has been said that in the opening ceremony, we symbolically build a representation of King Solomon's Temple and use that space to work on our own ashlar as we keep the designs on our own trestle board in the forefront of our minds. Given that this is such a critical event, as no lodge can work without properly opening, should we not then also attend to the order of business and the consideration for the emotional consequences of our actions as the meeting progresses?

End of Part 1.

Damascus Lodge meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M., dinner served at 6:00. If you have not been to Lodge in a while, come back and "experience" the fellowship and workings of Lodge.

Be there AND be square.



Bowling with Dad event

On Saturday, April 13 a dozen people got together and had a wonderful afternoon bowling at JB's on 41. Even though the Harycki's were such poor bowlers that they broke their lane, they still had fun. In true Damascus fashion several pizzas were consumed. As far as this reporter is concerned, all three dads had a great time with their families.

Submitted by Bro. Matt Schmidt.

Lodge Birthdays

May

Kelly Clingaman & Curt Campagna 5/2, Mike Fairbanks &

Jeff Froderman 5/4, Rich Cummings 5/19, Luis Castillo 5/27.

June

Richard Feest 6/12, Gerald Arnholt 6/18, Larry Chadderdon 6/21,

Davie Gonzalez and Craig Leonhardt 6/29.



Upcoming Dates

May 13 Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm

May 27 Cigar night 6pm (bring your stogies and lawn chairs to Lake Masonic Center)

May 30 RSVP due for 120th Anniversary Dinner. \$20/per. Give to Brian Bertram. (See pg. 3 for info)

May 31 Lodge mini golf outing (see flyer pg 8). RSVP by 5/17 to Winston Herman

June 10 Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6pm and Gavel drops at 7pm. (Hawaiian shirt night! cut off for RSVPs for Baseball game.)

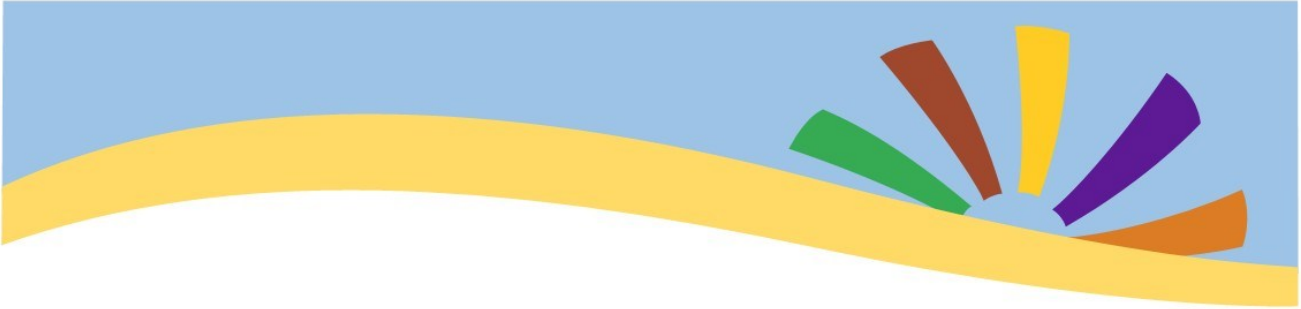
June 24 Degree?



If you have any questions, edits and or suggestions for this newsletter, please contact Bro. Mike Cornell .

If you have an article that you would like to see published, please have them into the WM by the 15th of the month .

Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. &A.M. 1235 East Howard Ave. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207



Baseball with Damascus



* Come join your brothers for a evening of baseball, hotdogs and fellowship. Open to all members, their families and prospective candidates. Cost is **\$15/ticket** (prospectives are free) which includes admission, souvenir gift and all you can eat and drink (non alcoholic). Seats are in the HOP YARD.

**July 12th 2025. Ticket Pickup at 5pm.
Game at 6pm.**



**Franklin Field
7035 S. Ballpark Dr. Franklin, WI 53132 (76th and
Rawson Avenue)**

RSVP to Bro. Mike Cornell @ kilteddad17@yahoo.com or
text 414-231-1224 by June 10th.



BIG PUTTS MINI GOLF

MAY 31 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

\$5 per person (food included)

RSVP to Winston Hermann by May 17

Golf

4251 S. 27th Street

Greenfield, WI 53221

Food - Oscar's

7041 South 27th St.

Franklin, WI 53132

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