



Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master
Mike Cornell

Senior Warden
Dom Cavalco

Junior Warden
Nolen Swendrowski

Senior Deacon
Winston Hermann

Junior Deacon
Eric Vesel

Senior Steward
Greg Neal

Junior Steward
Kelly Clingaman

Secretary
Michael B. Meyer PM

Treasurer
Jake Harycki PM

Chaplain
Byron Borck PM

Counselor
Nate Butts PM

Tiler
Larry Chadderdon PM



April 1st, 2026

Master's Message

Greetings from the East! There are great things happening in our lodge right now. We have had lots of visits from brothers from other lodges. We also have had multiple visits from MANY perspectives and THREE petitions. If we're not careful, we going to churn out a whole bunch of brothers; new to the craft this year. Our degree team will be up to the challenge! Later this month we will be having a dinner to honor our Past Masters and their contributions to the leadership of our great lodge. (see the flyer on pg. 2) If you have now or ever taken a role as an officer in Damascus, thank you. Your dedication is appreciated and needed. If you have ever thought you might like to take a more active role, please speak up. We'd love to "use" you. Our lodge is only as successful as we make it. If you haven't visited in a while...stop on by. We'd love to see you.

Till then my brother....

WM Mike



Damascus had some first time visiting brethren on March 10th. As with all first timers, WM carried on the tradition of presenting a lodge challenge coin. Pictured left to right: **WM Mike Cornell**, **WBro. Barry Hersh**, **Bro. Harry Deme-tropoulos**, **Bro. Randy Bern** and **Bro. Steve Schaapveld**. Thanks for the visit!

Past Masters Dinner

When: Tuesday, April 28th • 7:00 PM
Where: The Steakout
6300 Industrial Loop, Greendale

Cost: Past Masters FREE
Members are \$30



RSVP: Dominic Cavalco
414-477-0860 (call or text)

Reservations close on April 20th

Damascus DC Trip



Pre-trip Meeting

April 21st
7:00pm



At Lake Masonic Center

For those who are attending the DC Trip in May. Come meet our travel agent and trip director

Dawn Makowski from Throttle Travel.



She will go over trip information, cover the itinerary as well as answer questions you may have pertaining to the trip.

If there is a balance owed for the trip, it will be due this meeting.

(make checks payable to Damascus No 290)



Edelweiss
BRUNCH CRUISE
Sunday, June 28
10:30 - 1:00
Meet at 10:30 at 205 N Highland Ave



Coffee and water included, cash bar
Menu to Follow
\$25 per person
RSVP and payment to Matt Schmidt
262-498-7109



The following article was submitted by WB Mike Fairbanks. It was shared to him by WB Bill Shelly. Original author is unknown

GREETINGS MY WORTHY FRIENDS AND BROTHERS.
I hope this message finds you safe and well. I read this paper this morning and thought I'd share it with you. I hope you'll enjoy it.
B-BILL

Why Freemasonry Uses Architecture Instead of Nature

Most traditions reach for nature when they want to explain big ideas. They point to trees, rivers, mountains, the movement of the stars. Growth, flow, elevation, cycles. The natural world becomes the teaching ground. Freemasonry does something different. Instead of forests and oceans, it gives us columns and pavements. Instead of rivers, we receive lines and levels. Instead of mountains, we are handed stones to shape. Part of this is historical.

The symbolic language of the Craft came from operative stonemasons. Medieval builders who raised cathedrals and castles thought in terms of weight, proportion, and load. Their tools were practical before they were philosophical. Over time, the vocabulary of the builder became the vocabulary of the Lodge. So we know where it came from. But that does not fully explain why architecture remains the dominant backdrop. Nature grows without instruction. Architecture requires intention. A tree leans where wind and soil allow. A column stands where it is deliberately set. A river curves freely. A wall runs straight because someone measured it.

By choosing architecture, the Craft places emphasis on structure, proportion, alignment, and design. It assumes that order is something to be understood and constructed, not merely observed. Geometry becomes the framework. Measurement becomes language. Yet the lessons do not belong to stone alone. The plumb can be seen in the vertical line of a cedar. The level appears in a calm horizon. The square is suggested where land meets sky. Patterns of proportion exist in shells, pinecones, and galaxies as surely as they do in tracing boards and floor designs. The early masons preserved their knowledge through the medium they knew best: stone and structure.

But the principles themselves are not confined to buildings. They describe patterns that appear everywhere. Freemasonry speaks in architecture. Its ideas, however, are older than walls.

Damascus was the high donation for James M Hays Lodge #331 "Toys for Tots" drive last year. Top prize was possession of the traveling award and a gift of a permanent award as well as the brothers from Hays serving dinner. Lets keep up the charity and help as many as possible! The picture on the left is WM Mike receiving the travelling award and Bro. Karl Cleppe from Hays Lodge with the permanent award.



WB. John Pettigrew, WB Napoleon Schneed-Janczak, WB Jim McGuigan, WM Mike, Bro. Steve Schappveld, Bro Karl Cleppe

WM Mike Cornell and Bro. Karl Cleppe

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



"290 is not just our lodge number.....its our goal!"

Lodge Birthdays

April

Winston Hermann 4/3, Carey McIntyre and Echard
Tetzlaff 4/6, Josh Ellett 4/18, Brian Bertram 4/27,
Dakota Wells 4/28

May

Kelly Clingaman & Curt Campagna 5/2, Mike Fair-
banks & Jeff Froderman 5/4, Rich Cummings 5/19, Luis
Castillo 5/27.



Upcoming Dates

April 14th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gav-
el drops at 7pm

April 21st DC trip meeting (see flyer on pg 2)

May 1-4 Washington D.C. trip

May 12th Stated Meeting Dinner at 6pm and Gavel
drops at 7pm

May 26th EA degree practice



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

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

Damascus Lodge No. 290 F. &A.M. 1235 East Howard Ave.