



# The Olive Brancher

89 Years of Brotherhood

April 2014



## From the East

By Christopher Morgan  
Worshipful Master

April marks the beginning of the second quarter of the year, and with any luck more rain and less snow showers. As you swap out that snow brush for an umbrella, don't worry about packing an apron. We'll have one ready and waiting for you. We can't wait to greet you in what will prove to be a very educational month.

### Improve Yourself in Masonry

Illustrious Worshipful Brother Donald E. Buxton has assisted me in breaking down the second section of the Entered Apprentice Degree. There are a total of thirty-four (34) possible parts in that degree ranging from good beginner bit parts consisting of a few lines, to extensive dialogue that should prove to be a challenge to even a veteran of our Craft. All members of the Craft being desirous of taking a part in the Degree should contact me. With practice and commitment we can work together to be ready for the May 30th Entered Apprentice Degree.

With all the focus on Lodge Social Events, Membership, and finances, you

might wonder if we have placed a lower emphasis on the Ritual. I can assure you that this not the case – the Officers pride themselves on performing the very best in keeping with high Olive Branch standards. In my Masonic studies, I have seen time and again reasons for highlighting the importance of the ritual. It is the foundation of our Fraternity. Imagine if you will, a traveler to a foreign land. If one simply passes through that country with disregard for learning the language or understanding the customs, then that person has truly missed a unique opportunity to learn and grow as an individual. Learning the Ritual permits each Brother more than an emblem on their car or jacket. It teaches us the language of Masonry by which each of us should ever strive to live our lives.

### Thirty Years at Mason - Reminder

On Friday May 9th we will celebrate a milestone in our beloved Fraternity. The month of May marks the 30th year of our Craft meeting at 1170 Mason Street. The Past Masters under the leadership of Walter Mark Lazar II will assemble to put on a Degree (Masons only!). Afterwards we will adjourn to the Hall to commemorate the occasion with food and fellowship. The dinner portion of the evening is open to all.

Numerous people were involved in preparing our current home, and we want to hear your stories! If you have stories or pictures that you wish to share with the Brothers and Officers of Olive Branch Lodge #542, please send them to:

**Attn: Thirty Years at Mason**  
**1170 Mason Street**  
**Dearborn, MI 48124**

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## Trestle Board

### April 2014

**Apr 1st @ 6:30pm**  
School of Instruction  
(Master Masons ONLY)

**Apr 3rd @ 7:00pm**  
Temple Board Meeting

**Apr 4th @ 7:30pm**  
Regular Communication

**Apr 5th @ 10:00am**  
Deacon's Day (Alma, MI)

**Apr 11th @ 6:30pm**  
Fellow Craft Degree

**Apr 13th @ 1:00pm**  
Spaghetti Dinner

**Apr 15th @ 6:30pm**  
Officer & Committee Meeting

**Apr 18th @ 6:30pm**  
Good Friday - No Meeting

**Apr 25th @ 6:30pm**  
Master Mason Degree

### May 2014

**May 1st @ 7:00pm**  
Temple Board Meeting

**May 2nd @ 7:30pm**  
Regular Communication

**May 3rd @ 9:00am**  
Temple Clean-Up Day

**May 9th @ 6:30pm**  
Fellow Craft Degree  
(Past Masters Night)

**May 11th (Mother's Day)**  
NO SPAGHETTI DINNER

**May 13th @ 6:00pm**  
Officer & Committee Meeting

**May 16th @ 6:30pm**  
Social Event - Casino Trip

**May 19 - 21**  
Grand Lodge - Grand Rapids

**May 23rd Memorial Weekend**  
NO MEETING

**May 30th @ 6:30pm**  
Entered Apprentice Degree

**Retirees Luncheon**  
**Second and Fourth Monday**  
**11:00am**

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You can also send pictures and stories electronically to: **OBL542-Olive-Brancher@GoogleGroups.com**.

Note: If you mail pictures and wish to have them back, please be sure to include a self-address stamped envelope.

### **Setting the Craft at Work**

With the new schedule for 2014, I wanted to make everyone aware of a few key events in the upcoming months that you should plan to attend. Please take note:

### **April 18th - Social Event – CANCELLED**

In lieu of our busy March, coupled with an observed Holiday (Good Friday), many members participating in Valley of Detroit practice, and a School of Instruction in early April, it

is my will and pleasure that each of you take Friday April 18th as a day to spend however you see fit. There will be no special communication that evening and no event at the Lodge.

### **May 3rd – Lodge Clean-up Day**

On behalf of WB Lance and the Temple Association, the Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge #542 have been requested to assemble on Saturday May 3rd for the purpose of a Lodge Clean-up Day. This function enables us to maintain the facility and keep emergency maintenance costs low with an ounce of prevention. If you are able to lend a hand, we will most certainly require your assistance.

### **May 9th – Past Masters Night + 30 Years at 1170 Mason**

Worshipful Brother Mark Lazar II (PM, 2011) will be presiding over a team of Past Masters as they

assemble to perform the Fellow Craft Degree. Join the Brothers, officers, and Past Masters afterwards for food and refreshment. RSVP's are required by Monday May 5th. Cost will be \$15.00 for RSVPs; \$20.00 at the door. PM's participating in the degree conferral will be \$5.00.

### **May 11th – Spaghetti Sunday Fundraiser**

The 2nd Sunday in May falls on Mother's Day. We will **NOT** host a spaghetti Sunday in May. Please take this opportunity to thank your mother for everything she's done! And maybe consider treating her to a spaghetti dinner when they return Sunday June 8th.



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## **Pay the Craft Their Wages**

**By Dave Thomas, Senior Warden**

### **Euchre Tournament held on Friday February 21st, 2014.**

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to Brother Wade Tabor and Angel Raices for their hard work leading this event. Thanks go out to the Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, and Angel's wife, Denise, for their help. WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for preparing the food. Brother Larry Patch for set-up and clean up. Euchre Professionals MWB Dean Barr and WB Don Buxton, for hosting Euchre instruction after our Friday meetings weeks in advance of this tournament. Twenty players had a wonderful time.

### **George Washington Colonial Attire Master Mason Degree held on Friday February 28th, 2014.**

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to Worshipful Master Chris Morgan for leading all of the efforts organizing this event. Thanks to Worshipful Brother Eugene Abbaticchio, presenter, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden William Finkel, presenter, and Worshipful Brother Marty Levine, Grand Lodge committee head to the GWMNM, for all of their work making this night a success. WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for their tireless efforts preparing the delicious dinner for this evening. Thank you Brother Larry Patch for set-up and clean-up.

### **Second and Third Spaghetti Fundraiser Held February 9th, and March 9th, 2014.**

Congratulations and a hearty thank you go out to Worshipful Dad Walt Lazar who again was Chef in Charge and again the Sauce was terrific. Thank you Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for making this ongoing

fundraiser a success. Thanks to all of the Brothers and Visitors who attended and made monetary contributions for dinner.

### **Fellow Craft Degree – Mar 14th, 2014**

A very special thank you to Most Worshipful Dean Barr, PGM for his special education lecture and presentation. His insights into a portion of the ritual were enlightening. I know that many of us walked away with much to ponder, including how to convince the missus that Parian marble is needed in the kitchen.

### **St. Patrick's Day Party March 15th.**

Congratulations and a hearty Thank you go out to Worshipful Brother Todd Harper, Worshipful Master Chris Morgan and his Lady Chelsea Butera, WB Doug Simpson and Darlene, for their organizational efforts, and preparing the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner that made

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this night a huge success. Thanks to all of the Brothers and Visitors who attended and made monetary contributions for the party. We had 79 people attend the party. Specific thanks go out to Tom Radford, Jr. and his girlfriend, Lydia Paterni for being everywhere (kitchen, bar, door, clean-up). Thank you as well to Tom Radford, Sr. and his wife Susan, for helping with clean-up. WB Paul Johnson and his wife Kathy, Brothers Angel Raices, Tyrone O'Neal, and Marcus Allen for jumping in where ever and when ever needed. Many thanks to our Junior Warden Marv Anderson, his wife Tracey, and his dad Paul for their help with set-up and other assistance. Thank you, of course, Brother Larry Patch for set-up and clean-up. Thanks to Br. Marv and his lady Tracey for their generous donation of refreshments to enhance the overall festivities.

### **Cat Blanket Making Social Event March 21st.**

Thank you Marv and Tracey for making the social night, on March 21st, such a huge success helping

out within the community by hosting OBL'S Second Annual cat blanket-making party to benefit the kitties at the Dearborn Animal shelter. While a movie played on the big screen and folks enjoyed light refreshments, their efforts resulted in providing many assembled cat blankets. Thank You WB Doug Simpson and Darlene for your tireless efforts in preparation for this evening. Please plan to attend this event the next time it is offered, as this event is open to family and friends of all ages.

### **Senior Warden's Plea to the Brothers:**

My request continues for Brother's that participated on a degree team in the past, or Brother's that would like to join the degree teams now, to attend Lodge and take part in the conferring of the degrees. The Fellowcraft degree team has a few openings, and the Master Mason degree team has multiple openings, and is in need of a Director of the work for this degree. We are starting an Entered Apprentice Degree team this year as well, so we will need to fill several parts on that team. Check the posted dates and times as listed

in the Olive Brancher as this masonic year marks a change to the days of degree conferrals and their start times.

If you would like to take a part on any of the degree teams, contact the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden, or Junior Warden.

### **Need your Help**

The request for help from the membership to staff and assist the lodge fundraising spaghetti dinners continues at this time too. Please take notice of these dates and times listed in the Olive Brancher and please help out any way you can. The proceeds from these events will be used to pay for operating expenses. Money must be removed from savings to pay for the operation of the lodge. Donations from the members are another way to shore up the operating account of the lodge. If a member cannot assist at the fund raising dinners, please find it in your hearts to make a donation to the Lodge Operating Fund.

**Thank you EVERYONE for all you do to support Olive Branch #542**

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## **From Labor to Refreshment**

**By Marvin Anderson,  
Junior Warden**

Olive Branch has hosted several events already this year with much success. It is great to see long lost Brothers coming back out to enjoy some fellowship with the familiar faces we see all the time. We even see new faces as visitors join our members and prospective Masons stop by the festivities. Our monthly social events are growing in attendance, as are the special

celebrations we host. These are exciting times to be an OBL Boy.

The rise in attendance does present some challenges, however. Challenges that I am all too happy to face. There are definitely worse things to deal with than a packed event. What we face is a need for more staff helping out at the events. The reason our events are well-attended is the standard to which we hold ourselves. Olive Branch puts on top-notch gatherings. Everyone knows that. In order to keep our excellent reputation, we must continue to provide five-star service at our events. The way we do that is by working together.

WB Doug Simpson and his saintly wife, Darlene, can always be counted on to layout a magnificent spread of food and refreshments. Walt "Worshipful Dad" Lazar has also jumped in to provide delicious meals at some of our social events and at the spaghetti dinners. They lay a solid foundation. What we need now are the other stones with which to build successful events. That is where the rest of us come in. As the events at Olive Branch grow, the planners and coordinators need to know that they can count on the membership to step up and assist in making our events fun and organized.

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These events should be a chance for all members and guest to enjoy the fellowship. What happens too often, though, is that a small group of workers spend the entire time running the party and very little time enjoying the festivities. I think we can all agree that this is not fair. There is a simple solution, though. If more of us volunteer to help out, then the work can be divided up, affording more time for everyone to enjoy the parties.

I ask all who enjoy celebrating at our events to lend a hand as well. We can plan a schedule of shifts for working the event. That way each person only needs to spend an hour or two assisting and the rest of the time enjoying the party.

We will have volunteer sign-up sheets out in the weeks leading up to each event. If you plan to attend the event, please put your name as a volunteer to work for a bit as well.

As added incentive, if you do work at an event, your entrance fee will be reduced commensurate with the level of assistance you provide. The more you work, the less you pay.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address reservations. We ask that reservations be made for the vast majority of our events. This is so we can judge how much food and refreshment to have available and it helps in the general planning of the event. Problems arise when we do not have an accurate count. We may end up with too much food which hurts us fiscally. On the other end, we could wind up with too little food, resulting in an embarrassing situation for the Lodge, not to mention a terrible experience for our guests.

These situations can be avoided if we all make our reservations when required and make them in a timely manner. We typically start asking for reservation several weeks in advance of an event and stop taking them a week before. That should allow plenty of time for everyone to consult their schedules, make plans, and RSVP. Equally as important as making the reservation is keeping it. We can run into the same problems otherwise. Now, I understand that things come up and you may not be able to attend an event after making reservations. That is completely understandable. Just contact the Lodge and/or the event coordinator and let us know.

Thank you for your cooperation with these matters, Brothers. We want to continue providing fun fellowship events for our members, their families, and friends. If we all pitch in, I know we can do just that.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **April 5th - Deacons' Day**

Our Junior Deacon, Tom Radford, Jr. is taking reservations from those Brothers who wish to attend Deacons' Day hosted by Grand Lodge at the Masonic Home in Alma, MI. If you have never visited the Masonic Home, which is the crown jewel of Michigan Masonry as far as many are concerned, I highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity. There is no cost for the event other than travel to the facility. Brother Tom is organizing carpools, so contact him ASAP.

#### **April 13th - Spaghetti Dinner**

Spaghetti Sundays continue! Bring your family and friends out to enjoy a delicious meal on the second Sunday of each month. The cost is \$8.00 per person and includes all-you-can-eat spaghetti, rolls, salad,

and beverages. Plus you get to enjoy great fellowship with your Olive Branch Brothers. You can't beat that!

#### **May 16th – Social Event, Casino Night**

Br. Larry Patch, Senior Steward of Olive Branch Lodge will be leading the May Social Event. More details will be published in the May Edition of this newsletter. However, it will focus on a trip to either a Detroit or Toledo casino. It will be open to adults (21+). Mark your calendars now for a fun evening.

#### **June 20th – Social Event, Awards Night**

The annual awards night returns this year as our June social Event. Br. Dave Thomas is heading up the Awards Committee as we present the annual scholarship to a Dearborn public high school student, and commend our own in what should be a fun-filled evening. Reservations will be required for this event. Details will be provided in the May Olive Brancher.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Lodge and at some of our events. In my opinion, great fellowship is the true treasure of Masonry. Nicolas Cage can run all over the world looking for it. All he needs to do is stop by Olive Branch and see us throw a party!

### **Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?**

**2014 dues payments were due on January 1, 2014 Unless you have done so already, please send in your payment.**

**If you are experiencing a hardship, please contact the Lodge.**

**We are here to help.**

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# **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**



**On the second Sunday of every month  
From 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

**The next one is on April 13th!**

**All you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, and dessert**

**Bring your family and friends to this open event**

**\$8 per person (Kids under 12 are \$5)**

**1170 Mason St. Dearborn, MI 48124**

**Don't forget:**

**Public parking is free on Sundays if our driveway is full!**

**Olive Branch Lodge #542**

**(313)565-2838**

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# Share Your Knowledge

**Giving our Brothers a solid Masonic education is critical. We are looking for knowledgeable Brothers, like you, to sit down with new Brothers as they go through their degrees and review lectures, practice proficiency, teach Lodge etiquette, and much more.**

**Contact Brother Marv Anderson or Brother Wade Tabor if you are interested in joining the Education Team**

## Past Master's Corner

By MWB Dean A. Barr

Being a Past Master is a sign of many things; leadership, accomplishment, fellowship and much more. The Master of the Lodge sets the stage for all of this to happen, as well as control debate topics and keep the negative aspects to a minimum. He should always try to admonish in private and praise in public. I have always felt that when you are an officer, especially the Master, you need to hold yourself to a higher standard. This goes even more so for the Past Masters, because once you are a Past Master, you are forever a role model for the rest of the craft.

I have had the opportunity to travel to many Lodges in Michigan and other States and I can honestly

say that Olive Branch Lodge is one of the best, because of the wonderful men and brothers that are a part of this Lodge. I don't know if we have just been lucky to attract men of good character or if we do something that helps to develop good character. I do know that being a Mason is more than what happens in the Lodge room. It is what happens before and after lodge that bring men together. I'm not saying that ritual isn't important, because I believe it is, but the strong bonds of friendship are built upon more than just what happens when the Lodge is tiled. You can learn more about a man's character in a relaxed setting than during the rigid confines of the tiled Lodge. That may be why the brothers at Olive Branch get along so well, because of the many social aspects of being an active member of the Lodge, or perhaps there is just something in the water.

Many years ago Worshipful Brother Todd Harper asked me why didn't I run for Grand Lodge and I think my response was something like, "I don't have the time or the money". Well I was wrong, it really is about desire and priorities. Don't misunderstand, it does take time and money, but if you have the desire and you set your priorities, you can find the time and the money. I will add that you need the support of your family and a great Lodge. It certainly helps to travel to other Lodges and also get involved with some of the appendant organizations. This will broaden your circle of friends beyond your local area.

One of the main differences between a Worshipful Master and a Grand Master is that the Worshipful Master is doing the best he can for his Lodge, while a Grand Master is doing the best he can for the whole fraternity.

Do you have an announcement you would like made or an article you would like to contribute in the Olive Brancher?

Send an email to : [obl542-olive-brancher@googlegroups.com](mailto:obl542-olive-brancher@googlegroups.com)

Submissions are due on the 10th of the month prior to the issue's release

(e.g. articles for the May issue are due April 10th)

All submissions are subject to approval and editing by the Olive Brancher Editors.

# Mystery Trip 2014

It's on the bus we go! To Where?

Only Hope & Don know.

The dates are October 11 & 12, 2014.

The cost is \$376.00 Per Couple

or \$188.00 Per Person.

## Reservation due by September 1, 2014

Double occupancy is required unless you pay more for the bus & room.

What does this include?

The Bus & Room, Two breakfasts & Two Dinners,  
Three Side events.

What will cost extra?

You will be on your own for Two Lunches.

A \$200 deposit per couple or \$100 deposit per person is required at the time of reservation.

Make CHECKS payable to Donald E. Buxton

***No refunds unless we can sell your trip.***

The Olive Brancher is a monthly news magazine for the members, families, and friends of Olive Branch Lodge #542 Free and Accepted Masons

### 2014 Olive Branch Officers

**Worshipful Master**  
Christopher Morgan

**Senior Warden**  
David Thomas

**Junior Warden**  
Marvin Anderson

**Treasurer**  
Douglas Simpson

**Secretary**  
Gilbert Strachan, PM

**Assistant Secretary**  
Paul Johnson, PM

**Olive Branch Lodge # 542**  
1170 Mason Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124-2801  
Phone: 313-565-2538  
Email: olivebranch542@sbcglobal.net  
www.olivebranchlodge542.com

### OLIVE BRANCH TEMPLE ASSOCIATION

**President**  
Lance Eicher, PM

**Vice-President**  
Douglas Simpson, PM

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Donald Buxton, PM

**Hall Manager**  
Larry Patch

**Editors and Publishers**  
Gilbert H. Strachan, PM  
Doug Simpson, PM  
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# THE OLIVE BRANCHER

April  
2014

The Olive Brancher

C/O Olive Branch Lodge #542

1170 Mason St.

Dearborn, MI 48124-2801

Olive Branch Lodge #542