



**BIRMINGHAM** 44

BIRMINGHAM LODGE NO. 44 F&AM  
 500 TEMPLE STREET  
 DETROIT, MI 48201



WM Jack Palmer and WB Bob Hall, enjoying fellowship during a Lodge outing at Griffin Claw Brewing Co.

**PILLARS OF PATRONAGE**  
 (I will continue these 5 for a few months since they were paid for thru 2019)

In Loving Memory of Layson White Voorhees  
 — from Bob Voorhees

In Dedication to Jack and Marilyn Milroy  
 — from Ray Husk, PM

In Memory of Richard Pippin  
 — from Joseph Wilson

In Memory of PM's Tom, George, and Tom Jr Paterson and Jim Grant— from Gerald Quinn, PM

In Memory of Allen Parrish  
 — from Walter Ebling

Please send your check for \$30.00 payable to Birmingham #44 Lodge marked "Pillars of Patronage". This is an opportunity to make a contribution "In Honor Of" or "In Loving Memory of". Please let us know how you would like your name to appear. These subscriptions help to offset the cost of mailing the monthly Trestle Board. If you wish to make a larger donation, Birmingham #44 Charity Fund would welcome your contribution

See our website where you can check the calendar of upcoming events, read past trestle boards, and make online payments

[www.birmingham44.net](http://www.birmingham44.net)

# BIRMINGHAM #44 LODGE TRESTLEBOARD

## A MAN REMEMBERED

Old Dan heard the birds outside his window first, as he slowly came awake. The acoustic competition from the 1970-era furnace clanking also reached his ears -- the house creaking and groaning with age and expansion, as the house warmed from the late spring morning chill. Old Dan knew how it felt. He also knew better than to get out of bed too early, and decided to let the furnace do its job. No need to be cold first thing in the morning. The old, but still trusty furnace -- along with the May morning sunshine -- would make the house at least moderately comfortable, despite having to turn the thermostat down so low at night to save on gas. Gas and electricity were expensive -- more expensive every year -- and his pension and social security checks barely covered the bills, medicine, and food.

Old Dan laid there, under his bed comforter, which badly needed washing. He wasn't sure if it would even fit in his old clothes washer. Dust bunnies almost the size of real bunnies were under the bed. With no wife or housemate, and Dan's worsening arthritis, it was hard to keep up the housework. Frankly, living alone, with few visitors, it was hard to get motivated to do any cleaning. Friends have grown old and died -- or, if still alive, were struggling to get out of their own homes. With little family, and with Dan having to give up driving a few years back, he saw few people. So many years of living in this house alone -- no wife, no kids. As much as he depended on others to shop for him, he wished even more for someone to take him to lodge once in a while. Even though he was out of the loop with current events, he could have someone to chat with -- maybe stand up and give an opinion, or just second a motion on the floor. Maybe just be there, listening, around his Brethren. A man needs to be a part of something -- to feel useful -- maybe to feel important, even if it's just for a few fleeting moments.

With age and time comes long contemplation, but damn the cold floor, nature was calling. Dan had to get up. Not so fast any more. What seemed to be an eternal struggle with his screaming, aching joints, and his equally vocal bladder, Dan hobbled out of bed to the bathroom.

On the way into the kitchen, he looked out the window at the backyard, overgrown with weeds, trees overhanging low, bushes out of control and threatening to overcome the house. The previous fall's leaves still packed in the crevasses of the yard; the lawn overgrown and neglected. The yard was not big, and used to be easy to take care of himself. Now, nearing eighty, to Old Dan, the yard seemed like vast parkland. Insurmountable. The neighbors would complain. He hated that. Not that they didn't have a right to complain -- he just hated the way it made him feel about himself and his once great pride. With a heavy sigh, he shook his head and let the curtain fall back into place.

*(Continued on next page)*

### The Secretary's Pen

As this dues years comes to a close I'd like to take the opportunity to thank several individuals for their assistance and mentorship. Those individuals are Tom Baranowski, Randy Ravary, Steve Skrzycki, Carl Censoni, and of course, our Worshipful Master Jack Palmer. One of the most interesting things about my Officer experience is there has been a lot of helpful tips and valuable insights along the way. I'm excited to switch gears from having nothing but dues to work on each and every day on my lunch break (along with the rest your secretary work) and focusing more on activity within the Lodge and New membership. This is truly where I excelled within the Secretary Position(s) thus far and I look forward to bringing that to the table at Birmingham.



—Dennis Martin, Secretary. [secretary@birmingham44.com](mailto:secretary@birmingham44.com)

BIRMINGHAM F&AM LODGE #44 PRESENTS:

## BURGER NIGHT

FRESH (NOT FROZEN) 100% ANGUS BURGERS COOKED TO PERFECTION!!! ALL THE TRIMMINGS!!!

**THURSDAY  
JUNE 30 @ 7:00PM**

ALL BROTHERS AND MALE GUESTS WELCOME

LOCATION  
WB TOM BARANOWSKI'S HOUSE  
3430 NEWGATE DR. TROY

PLEASE EMAIL THE SECRETARY FOR RESERVATIONS SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO ORDER: [secretary@birmingham44.com](mailto:secretary@birmingham44.com)

### MONTHLY CALENDER

— All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless otherwise stated

**JUNE 2022**

JUNE 2	— REGULAR (BUSINESS MEETING)
JUNE 9	— FC PRACTICE
JUNE 11	— DINNER AT BRO. RAVARY'S — 4PM
JUNE 16	— FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE
JUNE 23	— FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
JUNE 30	— BURGER NIGHT!!! — 7PM

**JULY/AUGUST 2022**

DARK — BUT WATCH FOR EVENTS GOING ON THIS SUMMER, SUCH AS GOLF, PICNICS, FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS, ETC.

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### 2022 CALENDAR

**Burger Night! — June 30**  
**Family Picnic Day — Summer (TBD)**  
**Corn Roast — Fall (TBD)**  
 Nov 3 — Annual Meeting  
 Dec — 2023 Installation of Officers — Multi-Lodge Installation

[See www.birmingham44.net/calendar for schedule](http://www.birmingham44.net/calendar)

**NOTE TO BRETHERN of #44:**  
 This Lodge is yours — if you have an idea for an event, please recommend it to the WM or bring it up in open Lodge. We love volunteers!  
**All Lodge events start at 7:30, unless noted**

# A MAN REMEMBERED

As he walked into the living room, he spotted the dusty old pictures on the wall -- family and friends -- Brothers from his lodge. Now, most of them have "Dropped the Working Tools of Life", as they say. He thought, somewhat dispassionately, that he, too, would soon get to the end of his own toilsome journey. There was the picture of himself in his top hat, proudly worn, as the Worshipful Master, with all his young and eager officers. Great memories -- so long ago. It is a disconsolate feeling to slowly lose your friends. Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty, Mother Theresa said. Yet worse than loneliness is the terrifying fear of being forgotten. Who would remember Old Dan? He would fade from memory like an aged photograph in the sun. It caused him to pause in his tracks, listening to the timeworn house mock him with silence. Then he heard another noise. Not silence at all. Voices -- outside -- gasoline motors starting up.

He looked out the front window. There were men -- young and old -- on his lawn! He rushed to the door, opened it and stumbled out onto the front stoop. He was confused at first -- these men were cutting his lawn, trimming his trees and bushes, picking up leaves, and sweeping his driveway. Then he started to recognize them: Tom, Carl, Jack, Bob...Brothers from his Lodge. There must be 15 or 20 of them. One of them said, "Hi Worshipful Brother Dan. We're here to help you out. Pretty overgrown..." Dan could only mumble something about, yes, the yard was bad -- he was speechless. He watched in wonder as they groomed his forlorn property into something beautiful. Old Dan stood on his porch, a tear in his eye, and realized he was not forgotten. His Brothers cared for him. Past Master Dan stood proudly on his porch --

A Man Remembered.

*Charity is one of our central tenets as Masons, and this fictionalized story -- based on a real event -- was written to show that sometimes the most important charity starts at home. Let us remember our other central tenet when we discuss charity for others, and that is to support a Brother in need.*

*Next month, I hope to begin a series on charity, starting with a collection of interviews that I conducted with three of our Past Masters regarding their feelings on charity, and where they think we should focus our future charitable efforts.*

Fraternally,

Steve Skrzycki, PM



## CHARITY, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Charity is a very important part of Masonry, I'm sure you will all agree. Just before our last Regular, a planning meeting was held by four of our Lodge Brethren. They discussed Lodge activities, communication, advancement and charity. One Brother made a comment about a particular charity that rang a bell, more pointedly a gong which resounded in every head when discussed at our May Regular. That Bell was helping the Shrine with their crippled childcare efforts. Much discussion followed and a vote was taken to pursue this effort. The vote for the effort was established that each Brother, of his own free will, would donate \$20 per month and be matched by the Lodge Treasury. The effort of our Brethren would be pursued for a period of three months to see how the contributions and efforts of our Brethren progressed. The funds collected would go to the Shrine Transportation fund locally or the Shrine International Child Care Fund in Tampa, Florida. Then a bell rang in my head. That bell reminded me of the primary reason I joined Masonry. In 1984 my family attended a movie showing the marvelous efforts of Shriners helping children down at the Masonic Temple in Detroit. After it was over, I asked my father, who was Potentate of Moslem Temple in 1981, if I could become a Mason? His response was quite direct and emphatic: "What took you so long to ask?" So in 1985 it was my pleasure to join Birmingham #44. I also joined Scottish Rite and the Shrine. Finding the Lodge much more to my liking and following the line of officer progression starting at the age of 41, it became a great passion and pleasure. 37 years later, it's still fascinating and rewarding being a Mason and following the tenets and lessons offered to all that care. These thoughts sounded that old gong in my head! CHARITY! So often discussed, so often confused, just what charity should we offer for our efforts? Hearing of the injured children of Ukraine that the Shriners are helping and caring for, and reminded of all of the serious efforts offered to the children of the world and our own country, what better charitable effort can be offered than Masons helping Masons helping children! I hope every Brother who is able will join us in this worthy and loving effort!

Sincerely and Masonically,  
Robert C Hall, Jr., P. M

*Brethren -- Please make out checks to "Birmingham Lodge #44". In memo, write "Shriners fund raiser". We will donate money as one sum.*

### GREETINGS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Thomas Baranowski is my name, and I am the current Senior Warden of Birmingham Lodge #44. I have been a Mason and member of Birmingham Lodge #44 for 10 years. In that time, I worked my way through the officer line from Steward in 2011 and have sat in every chair of the Officer Line until my service as Worshipful Master in 2018. After taking a year off, I returned to service in the officer line as Secretary in 2020 and 2021. This year I stepped in as Senior Warden, and I'm looking forward to leading Birmingham #44 as Worshipful Master in 2023.

In my personal life, I met my wife Susie in 1997 after being set-up by my real estate agent on my one and only blind date. Susie and I hit it off and married in 2001. We have one son, George, who will be attending Orchard Lake St. Mary's next fall for high school.

You may ask what brought me to Masonry.... It is a long a winding story, but being adopted had often left me searching as a young man -- for what I did not always know. As I grew older it became evident: I need a place for me with other men of substance. I was also a fan of history, and over the years, reading about our country's founding and its founding fathers' "Masonry" was often a part of the story line. This tweaked my interest in Masonry, which led me to read about Masonry at length. My interest in Masonry came and went over a five year period, until finally I decided to stop at a Lodge and talk to someone. That Lodge was Birmingham Lodge #44. Hilariously, the Lodge at the time was less than a mile from where I grew up and yet I never knew it existed. Twice I went to the Lodge and found nobody there and left. Finally on the third stop I met WB John Groves who discussed Masonry with me, and that day I filled out an application. Shortly after, my wife and I were visited by Birmingham Lodge #44 members Charlie Anderson and Matt Wilde to do my investigation.

I cannot tell you how much of a positive influence Masonry and Birmingham #44 has had on my life. I have made many friendships and have experienced personal growth since joining the lodge. I have learned that if you put in the work, the rewards you receive in return are countless.

— Tom Baranowski, PM, SW



### SATURDAY — JUNE 11 COUPLES GET-TOGETHER

All brothers and significant others are cordially invited to Randy and Tracy Ravary's residence June 11th after 4pm for food, drink and good times.

Address is:  
1010 Longfellow Ave  
Royal Oak  
Please respond only if you intend to come by -- thanks!

Please RSVP to: [r-3tile@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r-3tile@sbcglobal.net)

**TIME TO GET FIRED UP!! IT'S BACK!!**

### BURGER NIGHT!!!

**THURSDAY JUNE 30  
@ 7pm**

**ALL BROTHERS AND MALE  
GUESTS WELCOME**

*LOCATION:*

**WB BARANOWSKI'S HOUSE  
3430 NEWGATE DR. TROY**

