



**PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
PILLARS OF PATRONAGE**
(I have let some of these go
these go for 2 years.)
It is \$30 per year.
Thank You!

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, the Birmingham Masonic Temple Endowment Fund would welcome your contribution

The Secretary's Pen

Brethren — Please don't miss our upcoming Installation of Officers ceremony and party on December 15th. It's a great time that has been known to go to 4am! Your wives/significant others will have a great time also. See other side margin for details.

Also, if you have younger kids/grandkids, this Saturday will be fun for all — see page 2 for the annual Kids Christmas party.

Please send in your dues for 2019, if you haven't already. Life members should have received their dues cards by now as well as a request for donations to your worthy Lodge. If you have not received these mailings, please contact me immediately.

Grand Lodge has approved our new By-Laws already, which as mentioned last month, primarily address dues and Degree fee increases (it has been many years since they have been changed). The Degree fees will go into effect for petitioners in 2019, and the dues will go into effect in 2020. The Degree fees have gone from \$250 to \$400. Dues will be increased from \$127.50 to \$250. We hope to be able to cover more fellowship and MM dinners with the increased fees, as well as our increasing expenses.

Fraternally,

Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary
secretary@birmingham44.com

BIRMINGHAM

44

BIRMINGHAM LODGE NO. 44 F&AM
37357 WOODWARD AVE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5003



In case you live out of town or haven't been to lodge recently, we have a new sign on the front of our building, which also credits our two renters.

MONTHLY CALENDAR — All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless otherwise stated

DECEMBER 2018

- DEC 4 — TEMPLE BOARD ANNUAL MEETING
- DEC 6 — BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
- DEC 8 — KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY — 2 PM
- DEC 13 — INSTALLATION PRACTICE AND FELLOWSHIP
- DEC 15 — INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019 — 6 PM
- DEC 20 — CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY TO FAMILY — THEN FELLOWSHIP AFTERWARDS

JANUARY 2019

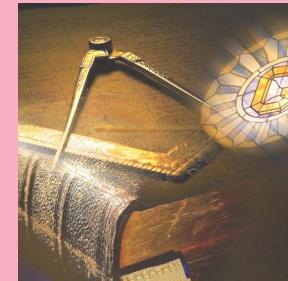
- JAN 3 — BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
- JAN 8 — TEMPLE BOARD
- JAN 10 — ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE
- JAN 17 — FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (TBD)
- JAN 24 — MASTER MASON DEGREE AND DINNER — 6:30 PM
- JAN 31 — ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE



TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — December 2018



Dear Brothers;

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together. As my year as Master of Birmingham #44 is coming to a close, I would like to extend a sincere thanks and appreciation to the Brothers of Birmingham #44 for the honor and privilege of serving as Master of our Lodge.

I have much to be thankful for as my seven-year journey through the Officer Line is now complete. The journey has given me more than I have given, and the things that I have learned about myself are incalculable and I have accomplished things I thought I might not be capable of. So grateful am I to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, who brought me to Birmingham #44 in 2012 when I knew not a soul nor much about Masonry. It was a leap of faith that I took and one that fills my soul and humbles me.

Thank you to each of my officers for making our Degree work this year successful. A special thank you to Jack Palmer, my Senior Warden, for extending himself beyond his normally accepted responsibilities to assist me in making 2018 a success.

I would like to leave this final sentiment written by Dr. Joseph Fort Newton.

"Let us give thanks for the fellowship of man in spiritual faith, moral endeavor and the quest of Truth; for our gentle Craft which unites us in the warmth of companionship and the joy of doing good; for the dream that love will one day everywhere prevail to the confounding of all unkindness, all uncleanness; for God the Father of all, who is the meaning of life, the home of the soul and the hope that love can never lose its own."

Fraternally yours;

Thomas C. Baranowski W.M.





While the occasion admonishes us to consider the uncertainty of human life and the unremittable certainty of death, with equal urgency it graciously invites us to regard death as the open door, through which man passes from his labors on earth to the nobler service of life in the world to come

Edward Burkett Ray

Raised: October 27, 1966

Deceased: May 11, 2018

And when at last their weary feet shall have reached the end of their toilsome journey and from their nerveless grasp shall forever drop the working tools of life, may it be their lot to hear from Him who sitteth there as Judge Supreme the welcome words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord."



Ella Cain Blonsky

August 11, 2005— November 20, 2018

It is with heavy heart that we report that Ella Cain Blonsky has lost her battle with cancer and has passed away this month. Ella, who we had a charity for in early 2017, was 13 years old and diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma -- a very rare cancer -- in October 2016. Despite daily medications and treatments that took her out of state, Ella remained positive and provided words of comfort to those around her. She was dearly loved and will be deeply missed. She is survived by her parents and four siblings. A public memorial will be planned by the family.



BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

PRESENTS OUR

CHRISTMAS PARTY
for
TIDS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

2 PM

*Arts & Crafts *Songs & Dance
*A Night Before Christmas Story
*and a visit with Santa and Mrs Claus

Bring the kids, bring the grand-kids, bring the great grandkids! Santa's coming!!!

This year we have adopted a family in need and through generous donations, we have collected gifts for them. The gifts will be wrapped by the kids and the presents will be delivered on December 20th to the family. This way we all share the true meaning of Christmas and Masonry.

Contact SW Jack Palmer so he can make sure he has enough gift bags. doc1969@aol.com (248) 842-3381

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THE CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH

THAT TIME OF YEAR

Sometimes, we who are a little older scratch our heads and say; "where did the year go?" It seems that someone is pushing the calendar at a phenomenal rate. But as Installation nears and Thanksgiving passes, Christmas speeds our way. Gifts to buy, cards to send, telephone calls to make and receive and goodies to consume makes it an anticipated time of year even though it seems to come a little quicker each year! I'm often reminded of the best gifts ever. My Smokey Joe cowboy suit at nine years of age, the stallion 45 cap gun the same year along with real leather holsters from Texas! My first Timex watch and go to church suit stand out in my mind because I was getting so old? Grandma and cousins, Uncles and aunts all getting together for the festivities with laughter, good food and tons of familial love and anticipation of that special visit from the guy in the red suit all of which added anticipation and great wonderment! But now that so many years have passed by, I think of all the wonderful gifts received and family events celebrated as well as the marvelous experiences of Masonry that have created so many roads to travel. Where else can you witness the extent of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth that we share as Brethren? Where else are the experiences of offering new challenges for the benefit of all mankind so apparent? To me, a great opportunity was presented the day I knocked three times at the outer door of this Lodge, and was brought forth by all of my Brethren. That was a gift of immense value and one that will always be treasured. An inestimable gift many never have the pleasure of sharing or witnessing and we my Brethren share it!

So as we proceed into this Holiday time of year, may you all share the traditions of your faith and families. May our fraternity add to the wonderment, anticipation of better things and enjoyment of all your beliefs and our shared treasure of Masonic Brotherhood. I count my many blessings this year, and you all are one of them!

Merry Christmas and the happiest of Holidays! Here's hoping that Santa has something nice for your stocking!

See you all soon,
Robert C. Hall, Jr., P. M. Chaplain



BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44
THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



2019

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS CEREMONY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

6 PM

Please join us For our annual Installation of Officers ceremony. This is an event to bring your spouse or significant other, as they will enjoy getting a glimpse into what we do on Thursday's in Lodge and also will give them the opportunity to meet other Brother's spouses. After the ceremony we throw our big party for the year, which will have a catered dinner and open bar. Kids and friends are welcome also, but the ceremony may push the patience of small children. The party is more of an adult affair.

This is an open event and candidates of Birmingham #44 are also encouraged to attend. It will be a great opportunity to meet and talk to the guys and get a feel for the Lodge you are about to join. Attire for members should be business (suit or sport coat and tie). The officers will be in tuxes or dark suits.

While not necessary to attend, please RSVP to me -- especially if you are bringing several friends -- just so we have a better idea on ordering food. Thanks!