

Birmingham Masonic News

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

Subscriptions are renewed December 1st

BIRMINGHAM 44

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BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5003



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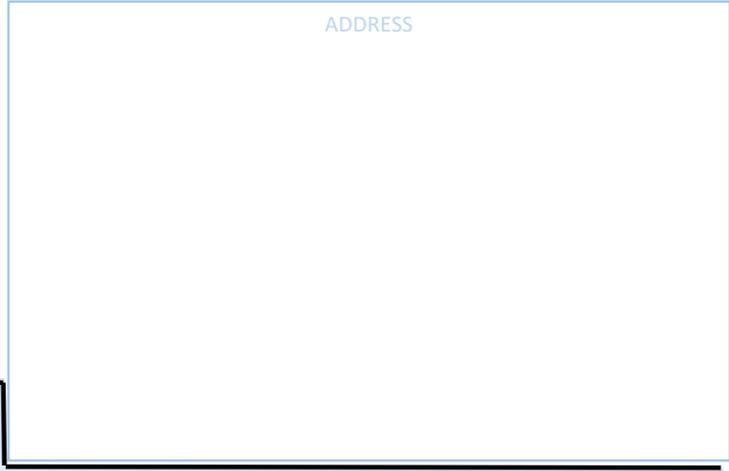
TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

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

WM Matt Wilde, JW Jack Palmer, and distinguished Brother Harold Lanning at Ella Cain Blonksy's Charity Spaghetti Dinner.

We're trying a new format. The printer allows us to use 11X20" sheets for the same price as 11X17". I'm playing with the design, and it will continue to evolve. This is in the print format. This is page 4; page 1 is to the right; page 2 below left; page 3 below right.



ADDRESS

The Secretary's Pen



Brethren — Please send in your dues if you have not done so yet. Your dues cards will then be sent out to you immediately. Thanks. All All Life Members should have their cards by now. If you do not have yours, please notify me.

Please let me know if you are not getting your email from "Birmingham44". I send out an email blast every Monday morning (sometimes Sunday) regarding the upcoming week. If you are not getting these, send me an email to secretary@birmingham44.com@gmail.com (Yes, two "@" symbols and two ".com" — it's the format of a commercial gmail account.). Check your spam folder first — the email says "Mailchimp" somewhere on the bottom. It's the service we use. We also send out the newsletter electronically this way. As we've stated before, it is very expensive to mail out the newsletter. If you would be satisfied with just an electronic copy, please let me know. We have collected names before, in the past, for this, but I'm having difficulty finding that list. Send the response to the email above. We will continue to send out a printed newsletter to our Brethren who prefer a hard copy.

If anyone is interested in going to the Pistons game on March 30, please let me know as soon as you can. We need to order tickets, and the longer we wait the harder it will be to get a block of seating. We would prefer to have everyone sit together.

We are trying to keep the Birmingham 44 phone app up to date so Brothers can quickly find out what's going on. We do have impromptu get-togethers once in a while. The app can be downloaded from iTunes or Google Apps. You then have to notify WB Carl Censoni (text him at (248) 765-7862) to get your account activated. You can also pay dues with the app.

Our web page has been a little neglected lately, and we're working on a plan to get it updated. We will let you know, but it may be a work in progress for a while. Our goal is to at least have it up-to-date, informative, and useful. The fancy stuff will have to come later.

We have two Fellowcrafts on February 16. Please come out to support your Brethren and your Lodge!

Fraternally,

Steve Skrzycki, PM
Secretary

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

FEBRUARY 2017	
FEB 2	— BUSINESS MEETING
FEB 7	— TEMPLE BOARD
FEB 9	— FC PRACTICE AND FELLOWSHIP
FEB 16	— FC DEGREE
FEB 23	— DARK/FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

MARCH 2017	
MAR 2	— BUSINESS MEETING
MAR 7	— TEMPLE BOARD
MAR 9	— FC DEGREE
MAR 16	— MM PRACTICE
MAR 23	— MM DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30PM
MAR 30	— PISTONS GAME AT THE PALACE — CONTACT SECRETARY FOR INTEREST ASAP

2017 CALENDAR

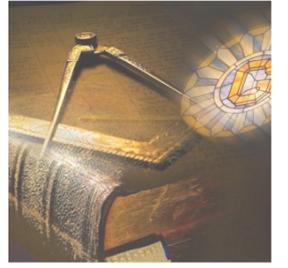
March 30 — Detroit Pistons Game at the Palace of Auburn Hills — RSVP to Lodge for tickets
April 20 — Degree Downtown at Masonic Temple
June 11 — Pancake Breakfast — 9-11am
June 15 — Detroit Tiger Game at Comerica Park
Burger Night! — day to be determined
Sept 9 — Corn Roast — 4pm
Oct 6-8 — Visitation from Guelph Speed Lodge
Nov 2 — Annual Election of Officers
Dec 5 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board
Dec 9 — 2018 Installation of Officers

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!

Greetings from the East — February 2017

Brethren,

This past January has been a great month for Birmingham 44! We have already initiated two new Brothers as Entered Apprentices. The Ritual Work was fantastic all around and I could not be more proud of the Officers learning their lines, despite not having a recent EA practice session. We also have had several transfers completed this month. My goal for 2017 is to increase these numbers by many times, and have a long list of new Brothers sign our rolls.



Personally, sitting in the East is quite an experience. Being responsible for leading the Lodge is quite a responsibility and privilege. I have really enjoyed it thus far, and thanks to the help of the Past Masters who are aiding me along the way.

Further, I am very proud to say our Lodge did a wonderful act of charity this month. A 6th grader, Ella Cain Blonksy, who attends Derby Middle was diagnosed with stage IV Synovial Sarcoma, a rare form of soft tissue cancer. The treatment center she is at is in Ohio, and due to insurance issues, Ella's medical bills are not completely covered. We were made aware of this situation and presented the matter to Lodge. I was hoping for maybe a few hundred dollars, but thanks to our Brethren's generosity we had the honor of handing a check to Ella's father on behalf of Birmingham 44 in the amount of \$2,545! We should all feel very proud of this. The family was beyond thankful. This is a response I just received.

"The Derby community wants to thank the Birmingham Masonic Lodge for your support in making the Spaghetti Dinner for Ella a huge success! Helping us clean up after the event was very much appreciated. Moreover, the money that you raised to help Ella and her family was awesome. Many of the people had tears in their eyes when I told them about your donation." — Lisa Hart (Spaghetti Dinner Organizer)

Brothers, this showed me what we are capable of. We fulfilled our obligations and we spread LIGHT. I am excited for what the future brings for us, and forever proud of what we did. See pictures on following pages.

This month we will have our Regular on Feb. 2nd, a practice Fellowcraft Degree on Feb. 9th (dress casual, officers required); then on Feb 16th we will have a Fellowcraft Degree for two Brothers. If you find yourselves only able to attend once in February, please attend the 16th and help us pass these newly made Brethren. On the 23rd, there will be a fellowship night/Dark.

March 30th we are making an outing to the Pistons game in Auburn Hills, Ticket prices are reasonable and should be under \$35/each for good seats. Please let Worship Brother Steve Skrzycki know if you plan on attending as a headcount will be necessary for the planning.

Fraternally yours,
 Matt Wilde, Worshipful Master

Brethren and Friends. It is with heavy heart we Some were reported this month by family, and Brethren. Regardless, we want to make sure their



report this month many Brothers that have passed, some we discovered by researching long-missing names are dutifully reported and memorialized.

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

Chalmers R. Bailey	Raised: May 26, 1953	Deceased: November 16, 2016
William C. Dean	Raised: February 21, 1957	Deceased: May 13, 2016
Harry R. Field	Raised: January 28, 1960	Deceased: August 20, 2016
Norman M. James Jr	Raised: April 30, 1953	Deceased: October 1, 2015
James Edward Johnson	Raised: September 23, 1952	Deceased: April 20, 2015
Allan F. Lesage	Raised: October 22, 1953	Deceased: February 18, 2009
David Markowitz	Raised: May 23, 1980	Deceased: December 1, 2014
W. Jack E. Morningstar	Raised: November 23, 1954	Deceased: December 2, 2015
George Robertson	Raised: January 21, 1925	Deceased: December 1, 2016*
William R. Slocum	Raised: August 28, 1945	Deceased: November 19, 2012
Lawrence A. Smith	Raised: May 13, 1954	Deceased: October 2, 2016

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."

* We were not able to find a precise date of death for Brother Robertson — date chosen by Grand Lodge

The Moving Waters

As the waters pass over the stones in the river, where King Solomon's soldiers guard the passages; so to the pebbles that constitute it's bottom roll and tumble to form new shapes and appearances. The only other changes to those stones and pebbles can only occur when the horses in support of the soldiers on their backs move their mighty hooves! As those hooves move to various gaits in pursuit of those who mispronounce a word, rocks and pebbles gyrate, tumble, crack and sometimes break because the natural turbulence of rushing water is violently disturbed. Beautiful polished stones and sometimes gems, are disturbed, cracked and even broken because of the acts of common men. The moving waters are disturbed and a natural act or occurrence is altered all because there are those who would interfere in the rightful passage of men seeking more light in Masonry! All of the Officers and Brethren of Birmingham # 44 are hoping that you will hasten to the call of King Solomon and be a part in "the rights and benefits of this Worshipful Lodge" in bringing two additional Brothers "More Light in Masonry" this month. We are all sure that you will enjoy this journey as much as the new Brothers will. Besides, isn't it great to see ALL conflicts righted and set aside as men and Brothers pursue the right?

Hiram

Into February we travel and hope that your Holiday season was joyous and memorable! The new officers of Birmingham # 44 are working hard to assure all of you another great Masonic experience and hope that you ALL will want to join in to assure that success. Degrees, fun nights, travel plans and a number of experiences await you in this New Year of 2017. Please avail yourselves of the efforts of Worshipful Master Matt Wilde and his very capable line of officers in assuring YOUR Lodge of a very successful and profitable Masonic experience! The spirit and effort is vibrantly being offered, YOU will only make it more memorable. We hope to see YOU soon!

May His blessings lift YOU up,
Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



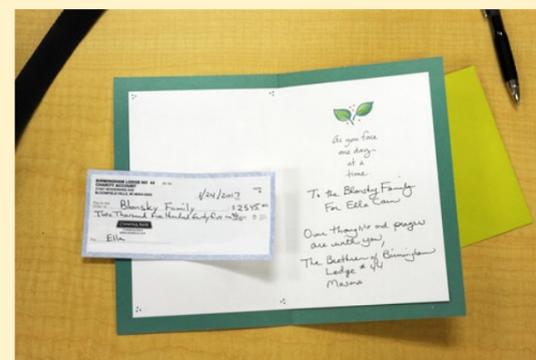
We had a great night out at Rojo Mexican Bistro on Thursday, January 26th. We had over 20 Brothers, friends, and potential candidates show up for food and libations (under the careful watch of our Junior Warden, of course). It was a great night. We received one complete petition and handed out two more..

We hope to continue these kind of outings, so please keep an eye out on the calendar and the Monday morning email blasts.

If you would like to plan an event yourself, or would like more information on these events, please contact me or the Worshipful Master.

— Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary
Steve.skrzycki@gmail.com

ELLA CAIN BLONSKY'S CHARITY SPAGHETTI DINNER



The check from your generous donations to Ella Cain Blonsky



WM Matt Wilde presents the check to Ella's dad

Part of the Blonsky Family (Ella was with her mother in Ohio getting treatment)



A Word from the South

As the first month of 2017 comes to a close, our new Officers are becoming more comfortable in their new chairs. As the new Junior Warden and having started the Officers line as a Junior Steward, I have had the opportunity to follow in the footsteps and learn from the brothers who came before me. One of the most valuable resources any Lodge has is its members and the experiences that they have had. I personally have not only learned the ritual work from my brothers but also what it means to be a Mason and an active member of our Lodge. As I have looked to some of our brothers for guidance, more and more I see the need to help guide those brothers that are following me. As we are all brothers, I have learned to cherish the wisdom given to me and I hope to provide good council for those who see

