

Birmingham Masonic News

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

Subscriptions are renewed December 1st

In Memory of Joseph M. Briggs, Sr — from Steven R. Briggs

In Honor of Robert E. Meshew, PM — from E B. and Jean Ray

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

In Loving Memory of A. Ray Swartz, PM — from Walter J and Ruby A. Thome

In Memory of Robbie Kilpatrick, PM — from Dave, Ray, and Donna Husk

In Memory of my Grandfather and Member Gordon Percy Deneau — from WM Matt Wilde

In Loving Memory of John H. Milroy, PM

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

BIRMINGHAM

44

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



BROTHER HAROLD LANNING CROONING TO THE CROWD AT MT CHALET ON 9/21/17

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.

STAMP

The Secretary's Pen

Brethren: We had a great time at Mt. Chalet in Royal Oak on September 21st. There was a great turn-out, and our distinguished Brother, Harold Lanning, sang a few songs to the Brethren and the crowd in general and to a rather comely young waitress in particular. We even had two Candidates come out for the festivities (who are scheduled to receive their EA's in October). 2017 has been a great year, and we've brought in many new faces, as well as had the return of many more. Don't forget to come out to the Lodge the weekend of October 6-8 to see and spend time



With our great friends from Speed Lodge #180 for our 69th Annual Visitation (here this year). Also, if you haven't gotten tickets yet, don't forget to order them for the Masonic Festive Board on October 21st. I've got mine, and I hear they are going fast.

Steve Skrzycki, PM
Secretary — (248) 647-4229
secretary@birmingham44.com

MONTHLY CALENDER — All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless otherwise stated		
OCTOBER 2017		
OCTOBER 3	—	TEMPLE BOARD
OCTOBER 5	—	BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
OCTOBER 6-8	—	VISITATION FROM SPEED LODGE (TIME TBD)
OCTOBER 12	—	EA DEGREE
OCTOBER 19	—	EA DEGREE
OCTOBER 21	—	MASONIC FESTIVE BOARD DINNER—6PM
OCTOBER 26	—	MM DEGREE + DINNER (6:30 PM)
NOVEMBER 2017		
NOVEMBER 2	—	BUSINESS MEETING—ANNUAL ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 7	—	TEMPLE BOARD
NOVEMBER 9	—	FC DEGREE
NOVEMBER 16	—	TBD
NOVEMBER 23	—	DARK — THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 30	—	MM DEGREE + DINNER (6:30 PM)

2017 CALENDAR

Nov 2 — Annual Election of Officers
Dec 5 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board
Dec 2 — Kids Christmas Party
Dec 9 — 2018 Installation of Officers

NOTE TO BRETHREN 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!

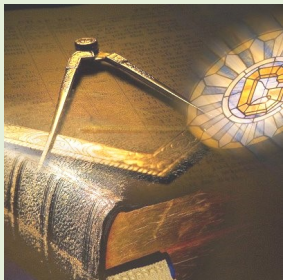
All Lodge events start at 7:30, unless noted

Contact Matt Shelton, PM, Pontiac #21 for Masonic Festive Board tickets (\$50). Masons only (248) 431-4807

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — October 2017



Brethren,

It is officially autumn, and nothing brings in a Michigan Fall more than 93 degrees days. Even in the heat, we continued to work at Birmingham #44. In September, we kicked off the month with our business meeting and then a Fellowcraft Degree the following Thursday. We had a very enjoyable fellowship outing the following week at Mt. Chalet in Royal Oak. The evening was full of laughs good food, refreshing libations, and entertainment by way of Brother Harold Lanning singing away to the crowd and the nice hostesses of Mt. Chalet who were noticeably delighted by his wonderful voice. Finally, on September 28th we Raised two Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Many new Brothers have been brought in this year. Further, we have new Petitions that keep rolling in, which will keep our Thursday evenings full well into 2018. We need help now more than ever to maintain this growth and positivity surrounding Birmingham #44. I ask that everyone who reads this and still lives in the area to attend at least one Degree this year regardless of how long it has been. I hope to see new faces at many of our Degrees or regular communications.

Onward, this October the Temple Board is meeting on October 3rd, our Regular is on October 5th, and on the weekend of Oct 6-8 we have the 69th Annual Speed Lodge #180/Birmingham #44 Visitation here in Birmingham. On the 12th and 19th we will be having Entered Apprentice Degrees. Saturday October 21st is the Masonic Festive Board, and finally, on the 26th we will have our final Master Mason Degree of 2017. A very busy month!

Regarding Saturday October 21st. Pontiac Lodge is hosting a Masonic Festive board at our Temple, and all Masons from Birmingham are invited (other Lodges are invited also). Masonic Festive Boards are a great experience. For the evening, each Brother will get a prime rib dinner and a "canon" (shot glass) for the charges (toasting). It will be a great night and something we can learn from going forward and maybe host ourselves someday at Birmingham #44. The cost is \$50, payable to Pontiac Lodge #21. You can send the check to Pontiac Lodge #21 2181 Willot Rd. Auburn Hills, MI 48326, contact Matt Shelton, PM at (248) 431-4807 to pay by credit card, or register online and pay with a credit card at form.jotform.us/71405905385155. RSVP soon to ensure your seat for this wonderful night of Masonry and fellowship.

Please note our 2018 Installation of Officers will be on Saturday, December 9th, so plan on a great evening with your Brothers and their wives, and to welcome our new Master, Tom Baranowski.

Mark your calendars now with our busy fall schedule for Birmingham #44, along with an exciting Big10 football season. Go Blue!

Fraternally yours,
Matt M. Wilde, WM

Freemasonry, Totalitarianism, and the Unusual Case of the Cuban Craft

I was curious to see if Freemasonry exists or thrives in what are considered totalitarian governments and how it has been dealt with through the centuries by these countries. Some web searches led to a fascinating history:



Throughout the centuries, a number of governments have treated Freemasonry as a potential source of opposition due to its secret nature and international connections. After the founding of modern speculative Masonry in England in 1717, many countries restricted or banned Masonic lodges over the following 300 years. Even the US was not spared Anti-Masonic activity and legislation.

Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, and Austria suppressed or banned Masonry in the 18th century. Russia followed in 1819. Even the UK had issues and suspicions with Masonry throughout the centuries, and as recent as 2004, in Wales, there were efforts to block a politician’s appointment to general council on the Welsh Assembly because of his membership in Freemasonry. In the United States, after the William Morgan Affair in 1826, Anti-Masonic legislation was passed in several States.

Most of these countries later rescinded their restrictions, and Freemasonry was accepted; however, in the 20th century, with the rise of fascism in Europe, Freemasonry was considered a political threat, and it was banned in Italy, Hungary, Spain, and Germany through WWII. Masons were actually imprisoned and killed in several of these countries, notably in Spain in 1936 and Nazi Germany during the war. Japan also perceived it as threat to their sovereignty, and banned it.

While Freemasonry has existed in many Middle East countries through the years, it is currently illegal in Arab countries, with the exception of Lebanon and Morocco.

Freemasonry was persecuted in all the communist countries — despite unsubstantiated rumors of KBG agents and himself joining Masonry, Vladimir Putin currently is said to not look favorably on the Craft — but the organization has strangely survived and even thrived in Cuba.

Cuban Freemasonry is unique in the world for operating openly under a communist or Marxist government. There are at least 318 active Masonic Lodges with about 30,000 members on the island. They operate openly with tolerance and without harassment by the government. How can this be?

Cuba is a relatively small country – 42,803 square miles (Michigan is almost 97,000 sq miles) – but has over eleven million people, consisting of ethnicities of African, Caribbean, and South American, as well as European. Freemasonry first emerged in 1763 from English and Irish military lodges during their brief occupation of the island. When the British left, the French arrived by the thousands fleeing from the revolution in Haiti in 1791. The first lodge was founded in Havana in 1804 by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the famous French-Haitian Freemason Joseph Cerneau.

What makes the presence of Freemasonry in Cuba uniquely respected is the role it played during the three decades of struggle it played for independence from Spanish rule between 1865 and 1895. The three great revolutionary leaders – José Martí, Antonio Maceo, and “father of the nation” Carlos Manuel de Céspedes were all Masons. Historians say today that it was the communist revolutionaries that recognized and honored the Masonic affiliation of these three national heroes, but the truth is little to no effort was made to repress Freemasonry. The vast majority of Cuban presidents, beginning with Carlos Manuel de Céspedes were Masons. It is suspected – but not corroborated – that Fidel and Raul Castro were Masons. Their father, Angel Castro, was affiliated with the Masons and the former Chilean president Salvador Allende, friend and ally of the Cuban Revolution, was a committed Mason. A small lodge in the Sierra Maestras is credited as having hidden Fidel Castro in 1956 after his return and landing on Cuban shores, aboard the ship Granma.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Cuban government has further facilitated things for Masonry, permitting it to participate in public ceremonies and open new lodges.

(Taken and adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suppression_of_Freemasonry and <http://hedgemason.blogspot.com/2013/03/another-look-at-freemasonry-in-cuba.html>)

- S Skrzycki, PM, Secretary



TREASURES OF SOLOMON'S MINE

Many of us are drawn to the stories of King Solomon's mine and its vast rumored treasures. King Solomon plays such a large part in the allegories of Masonry, that its so easy to become fascinated with these old stories and rumors and it is so easy to overlook the treasures and real wealth that permeates our current condition. I'd like to take a moment to notice one treasure that most of us have enjoyed for several years now. As we have recently witnessed the Fellowcraft Degree and its lectures on the senses that add such richness to our lives, it brings to mind the sense of hearing. In hearing, we can hear the Word, follow commands and orders. We can also enjoy the subtle nuance of music and song. Music and song, such a beautiful addition to ritual, entertainment and enjoyment. We enjoy music during our Installations, meetings and during social interludes at dinners and gatherings. What a treasure, the presence of music to sooth the soul, entertain the senses! And what of the purveyor of music? Ah, the additional treasure of one skilled at rendering this art to our sense of hearing and enjoyment.

You have all probably guessed where this is going, to one of our true Lodge treasures, Brother Harold Lanning. The other evening Brother Lanning not only entertained about twenty of his Brethren, but also an entire restaurant in singing some delightful songs in behalf of one of our younger Brothers and to a charming young waitress. This was received with great appreciation and a joyous response. His performance has created a fond remembrance and lasting memories for many. The truly wonderful part however, is that this enjoyable experience is only one of many. From singing to honor our National Heroes at memorials, to singing the National Anthem at Tiger Stadium (Comerica), to singing Sundays at 1st Methodist in Birmingham, our treasure, Brother Harold Lanning goes about his life sharing his gift and establishing himself as a unique treasure in our presence!

At 91 years young, Brother Harold goes about every day working to make someone else's day more pleasant and more meaningful through the joys of music and the sense of hearing. We are so fortunate in having this beloved Brother among us and to help us witness the Treasures of Life! Do we tend to overlook our life treasures by trying to capture those tangible material gains? It's possible, but not when Brother Harold is singing one of his inspirational renditions of those songs we sometimes take for granted. Keep singing Brother Harold and helping us realize there is sure a lot more to TREASURE than treasure!



We hope that ALL of our Brethren will make an attempt to join us soon to explore the possibilities of true TREASURE in Masonry.

Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain

SPEED LODGE #180

69th

ANNUAL VISITATION

OCTOBER 6-8

AT BIRMINGHAM #44

PLEASE JOIN US IN FUN AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR GOOD FRIENDS AND BROTHERS AND THEIR WIVES FROM GUELPH, ONTARIO.

MASONIC FESTIVE BOARD!!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

CONTACT MATT SHELTON FOR RESERVATIONS (MASONS ONLY — \$50)

(248) 431-4807



Birmingham Masonic Temple

37357 Woodward Ave.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Phone: (248) 647-4229

Pontiac Lodge No. 21, F. & A. M.

Date: Saturday October 21, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM Seated Hour 7:00 PM Dinner

Cost: \$50 per person

Reservations Required: Masons Only

Enjoy a Masonic Feast complete with the traditional Masonic Toasts and Fellowship

- Plump Serviced & Leisurely Prime Rib Feast
- Masonic Firing Glass
- Social Hour

Saturday, October 21, 2017

\$50.00 per person



Prepaid reservations due no later than October 14th

Make checks payable to: Pontiac Lodge No. 21

2181 Willot Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326

To pay by Credit Card, contact - Matt Shelton (248) 431-4807

Or use the secure online form at

<https://forms.gform.us/71460962365135>

Contact: PM Matt Shelton (248) 431-4807

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<https://forms.gform.us/71460962365135>

Please make Reservations no later than October 14th.

Pontiac Lodge No. 21, F. & A. M.

Name: _____

Lodge: _____

Office/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

This event is open to Masons Only (including EA/FC)

If purchasing more than one ticket, please include the name and Lodge information for all Brothers attending.