

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 and Jim Grant— 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

The Secretary's Pen

Brethren — You should be getting your dues notices for 2019 in a week or so. They will still be \$127.50, but as you have read and heard, we want to raise them for 2020 (pending Grand Lodge approval). As WM Tom stated, we will be having the official vote at our November Regular. In addition to our last two Degrees for the Fall (both EA's), we have several fun events coming up before we wrap up the year: We will be having a fellowship night at The Dow in Birmingham on Nov 15, the Children's Christmas party on Dec 8th, and of course the Installation of Officers ceremony and celebration on Dec 15th. This last event is open to everyone (family, friends) and gives non-Masons a chance to get a peek behind closed doors as to what we do on Thursdays. After the ceremony, we have our big bash of the year, with catered food, open bar, and great fellowship. Our wives also have a chance to meet and get to know each other. Please put this on your calendar because you won't want to miss it.

On page 3, read about the Christmas party. We are doing something different this year and having the kids wrap presents for a needy family that the gifts will be given to. It will be a great experience for all.

Fraternally,
Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary
secretary@birmingham44.com

BIRMINGHAM 44

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



CORN ROAST 2018
Future Masons of B'Ham #44

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.

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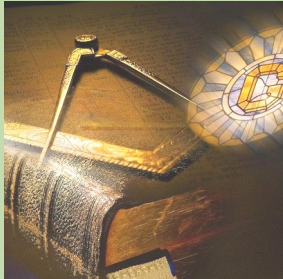
TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — November 2018

Dear Brothers;

To paraphrase a few familiar words, “Behold how swiftly the sands of time run”, and how rapidly this year is drawing to a close. It hardly seems possible that summer has passed and much of the year now nearly complete. As October has now been laid to the archives of Birmingham #44, we have seen four more outstanding brothers raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason and who have now signed the rolls of membership at Birmingham #44.



During the month of November our Regular will be on November 1st and it will include an important vote pertaining to changes to Birmingham #44's By-Laws, including changes to our yearly dues as well as Degree fees. Immediately following the November regular we will be holding our Annual Meeting to elect lodge officers for 2019. Please try to attend.

On Thursday November 8th, we have an Entered Apprentice Degree for two worthy men desirous of joining our ranks. On Thursday November 15th we will hold a Fellowship evening at 7:30 PM at The Dow/Dick O'Dowd's in downtown Birmingham for Fellowship and Refreshment, and then on November 29th we will hold our final Degree work of the year (another EA).

We will be dark on Thanksgiving, November 22. I suggest that in addition to our daily thanks to the Supreme Architect that we may reflect upon and give thanks to the Brothers of Birmingham #44 whose hands have dropped the working tools of life and in whose footsteps we follow. As Masons who were true to the principals of the Craft, let us remember that what we do for ourselves dies with us, but what we do for others lingers long after we are gone.

Happy Thanksgiving and Fraternal Regards;
Thomas C. Baranowski, WM

WHAT ARE THE GOLDEN FLEECE, ROMAN EAGLE, STAR AND GARTER?

- The Order of the Golden Fleece was founded by Philip Duke of Burgundy, in 1429.
- The Roman Eagle was Rome's symbol and ensign of power and might a hundred years before Christ.
- The Order of the Star was created by John II of France in the middle of the Fourteenth Century.
- The Order of the Garter was founded by Edward III of England in 1349 for himself and twenty-five Knights of the Garter.

That the use of the apron as a badge is more ancient than these is a provable fact. In averring that it is more honorable, the premise “when worthily worn” is understood. The apron is “more honorable than the Star and Garter” when all that it teaches is exemplified in the life of the wearer.

THE LEVEL AND THE SQUARE

by Rob Morris

Famous poem, written in 1854

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We meet upon the level and we part upon the square
These words have precious meaning and are practiced everywhere
Come let us contemplate them, they are worthy of a thought
From the ancient times of Masonry these symbols have been taught
We meet upon the level, every country, sect and creed
The rich man from his mansion, the poor man from the field
For wealth is not considered within our outer door
And we all meet on the level upon the checkered floor.

We act upon the Plumb the Junior Warden states
We walk upright throughout our lives, we seek the pearly gates
The All-seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true
That we shall try to honor God and give each man his due
We part upon the square as all good Masons do
We mingle with the multitude a faithful band and true
So the brotherhood of Masonry from every corner come
To meet upon the level and act upon the plumb.

There's a world where all are equal we're coming to it fast
We shall meet upon the level there when the days on earth are past
We shall stand before the altar and our Master will be there
To try the blocks we offer with his own unerring square
We shall meet upon the level there but never thence depart
There's a Mansion---'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart
There's a Mansion and a welcome and a multitude is there
Who have met upon the level and been tried upon the square.

Let us meet upon the level then while these earthly ties we share
And just hope we're there to answer when the roll is called up there
As we travel through our lifespan time aids us prepare
To gather up our working tools and part upon the square
So remember all our teachings, that bright fraternal chain
We part upon the square below to meet in heaven again
These words have precious meaning and are practiced everywhere
We meet upon the level and we part upon the square.

CORN ROAST

2018



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THE CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH

SCARY TO PLENTIFUL, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

As we venture from our Halloween to Thanksgiving Holiday, I'm wondering if we have enough Brethren in our midst to be amply thankful. Then it hits me like an on rushing freight train: have our Brethren that have been active with us for so long been amply thanked and congratulated? SW Jack Palmer who has provided tremendous leadership and created much interest in things like the Children's Christmas party, wowed our Lodge with his handling of the Jr. Wardens fund last year and his ongoing concern with Brethren who have been ill or disabled. Or how about our current WM Tom Baranowski who has worked tirelessly on ALL matters of the Temple and on pure, old fashioned Brotherhood? Then there is WB Matt Wide who encouraged many of his old school chums to become members of the Craft and who still serves in many capacities when needed and asked. He also has the verve and positive leadership he has always shown! How about Randy Ravary who served us as Secretary, after only serving as a Steward for a short time! He helped many a new member, encouraged and counseled as well as being a true Brother to many. Then there's WB Steve Skrzycki who jumped into the thankless task of Secretary to flourish with our Trestleboard, notifications, records of all types, ritual work and a general instigator of Masonic Brotherhood. We also have Brother Harold Lanning who at 92 years of age offers us songs of majesty and patriotism in our Degree work that would be hard to find or duplicate elsewhere! He also comes to every meeting, every event and is always cordial and upbeat with all of his Brethren! And then there is WB Carl Censoni who is always a smiling helpful Brother! He not only does many unrewarded tasks for the Lodge, he extends his many good hearted efforts to Brethren of this Lodge and their personal intimate needs. He whispers good council and is there for all who truly need him!

Just a few of the newer Masons of our Lodge have been mentioned above, not that they are new in a demeaning manner but new in the portals of all the Masons of this Lodge who have served it and the community for well over one hundred and fifty years. Many men just like them can be named and still serve us and the community. Its men like these who give us hope for the future and fond remembrances of our Masonic experiences.

So as we pass this SCARY time of year and head into a Thanksgiving, let's stop and remember our Brothers and how they have enriched our lives. We are so lucky to meet, act and live in moments of Brotherhood.

Happy Holidays and rewarding memories,

Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
NOVEMBER 15TH
AT
THE DOW/DICK O' DOW'S
BIRMINGHAM
7:30 PM



CHRISTMAS PARTY
FOR THE KIDS
AT
BIRMINGHAM #44
Saturday, December 8
2-5 pm

Santa and Mrs. Clause will arrive at 3 and stay until 4:30. We are requesting that each family bring an unwrapped give to donate to a needy family. There will be arts and crafts for the kids and they will be decorating the Christmas tree with the ornaments they make. WB Bob Hall will be reading "Twas the Night before Christmas" right before Santa arrives. Contact SW Jack Palmer so he can make sure he has enough gift bags.

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