



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

PLEASE
 RENEW YOUR
 PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

In Loving Memory of Layson White Voorhees
 In Dedication to Jack and Marilyn Milroy

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



Brothers (and Jack's son) at the Child ID program we helped run on April 27

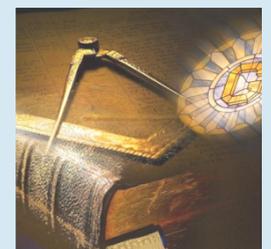
See our website where you can check the calendar of upcoming events, read past trestle boards, and make online payments

www.birmingham44.net

STAMP



Greetings from the East — May 2019



Brethren;

I hope the April showers have lead to May flowers for everyone. It has been a soggy start to spring but our gardens will be looking good come summer.

I am very happy to say that our Child ID program at the Touch- A-Truck event in Royal Oak was a great success. I was thinking about the role we play as Masons play in our community and what charity is. I came across this article by Bro. Hamill that summed up charity and Masonry.

Freemasonry, we say, is founded upon three Grand Principles--Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is with the second of these Grand Principles--Relief. In simple terms our early brethren understood Relief to mean the alleviating of the suffering of a brother, or the dependents of a deceased brother, by giving money or sustenance until circumstances improved. In modern terms we see Relief in its wider context of Charity, that is not simply providing money to relieve distress but actually caring and giving of our time and talents in the service of our communities as a whole and not just to our brethren and their dependents. Bro. Hamill

What particularly struck me is the idea that it is not simply providing money as relieve but more importantly and more valuably is our time. It is also the giving of time and talents selflessly in service of the community that distinguishes us as Masons. I was joined at the Child ID program by my son and 7 other brothers who donated there very valuable time on a Saturday morning in a cold tent to give back to the community they live in. We were able to register 43 children in the Child ID program. I was asked several times how much was the service and I was happy to say: Nothing.

As we were helping pack up the tent I took a moment to think about all the families in our community that we were able to help. I understand why Relief is one of the Three Grand Principles in Masonry.

Thank you and peace be with you,

Fraternally,

Jack Palmer, WM

The Secretary's Pen

Thanks to all the Brothers who helped out with the Child ID Program on April 27th — it was a big success. It's activities like this that get us noticed in the community, not to mention it just being a good charitable thing to do.

Keep Saturday, June 1st on your calendar. We are hosting the 71st Annual Visitation with our Brethren from Guelph Speed Lodge #180. A tour is planned of the Masonic Temple downtown, followed by a BBQ at the Lodge. This will be a family event. Even though we just did a tour of TMT last year, this gives our wives an opportunity to see the magnificent facility. The architecture alone will amaze them. I will have to check on the Masonic's rules for bringing children to see if there is an age limit for the tour.

Our Burger Night is also coming up at the end of June, but we have plenty of time to discuss that.

It has been several years since we had an awards night. We are looking at possibly the first Saturday in October — we'll let you know as it gets closer.

Hope to see you in Lodge!

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



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

MAY 2019	
MAY 2	— BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
MAY 7	— TEMPLE BOARD
MAY 9	— FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
MAY 16	— EDUCATION NIGHT AND FELLOWSHIP
MAY 23	— MASTER MASON DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30 PM
MAY 30	— TBD
JUNE 2019	
JUNE 1	— 71ST ANNUAL VISITATION — HERE
JUNE 4	— TEMPLE BOARD
JUNE 6	— BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
JUNE 13	— TBD
JUNE 20	— MASTER MASON DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30 PM
JUNE 27	— BURGER NIGHT — 7 PM
JULY/AUGUST	— DARK (SUMMER GOLF LEAGUE)

2019 CALENDAR

June 1st — 71st Annual Visitation — Here
June 27 — Burger Night—7 pm
Corn Roast — TBD
Awards Night — TBD (Possibly Oct 5th)
Nov 7 — Annual Election of Officers
Dec 3 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board
Dec 7 — Kids Christmas Party
Dec 14 — 2020 Installation of Officers

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

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!



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

Leo Operti, PM	Raised: (Argentina)	Deceased: April 12, 2019
Rae S. Hanks	Raised: January 29, 1959	Deceased: April 21, 2019

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."



An Amazing Neighbor... and a call for Charity.

With all the bad stories that hit us every day in our newsfeed, sometimes there are things in life that gives one an affirmation of the human race. We find out that there are still wonderful, selfless people out there willing to go way beyond just being a "good neighbor". Mary Ann Fodor is such a person.

Brother Rae S. Hanks, Lifetime Member of Birmingham Lodge #44, passed away on April 21. Rae ("Ray") was 85 years old and lived in Wyandotte. Due to age, poor health, and distance, Bro Rae had not been to #44 for many years, but had been previously very active in the Craft, belonging to Scottish Rite and the Shrine. A few years ago, Rae had gotten to the point where he no longer could take care of himself. He had no family left and didn't have the means to support himself in nursing care. His neighbor – Mary Ann Fodor, who had been helping Rae and watching out for him for many years – made the astounding decision to move Rae into her home and take care of him.

Whether it was due to her Christian faith or just a sense of human decency, Mary Ann made an amazingly selfless and charitable decision. She cared for our Brother as if he were her own brother. She fed him and took him to medical appointments. She even took him on trips and bought him a puppy.

Rae was a Veteran, and Mary Ann did receive some help from a local Veterans group. We were able to raise some funds last year and send them to her, but all of this did not come close to reimbursing her for her added expenses in helping Rae. Amazingly, she has not asked for any more support – she's just that kind of person. While the Veteran's administration set up Rae's funeral and helped financially with some of it, Mary Ann had to personally spend close to \$1700 for funeral home expenses.

We would like to at least reimburse Mary Ann for the funeral and possibly more. Her incredible spirit of Charity and Brotherly Love is the very embodiment of Masonry. All donations for the next month will go to Mary Ann. If you would like to help, please send a check made out to Birmingham #44 Lodge, and put "for Mary Ann" in the memo section. You can also donate online on our webpage: www.birmingham44.net/make-payment Click on the yellow Donate box below the big blue Donate emblem. Thank you in advance for your generosity, for supporting a wonderful neighbor, and for helping to encourage Charity, Relief, and Brotherly Love.

— Steve Skrzycki, PM



THE CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH

NEWS OF THE DAY

MURDER, CHAOS, SCANDAL, VIOLENCE, ROBBERY, TREACHERY, LIBEL and GRIEF all seem to perpetuate all of our news sources today. Is it a wonder so many are depressed and despondent over our current state of affairs? How often do we see positive stories or hear of happy occurrences and adventures of people we care about or contrivances important to all who are decently concerned with the welfare of our Nation and the world as a whole? How often is mankind stimulated by the wonderful attacks on our society and all of the vices and superfluities so prevalent in today's headlines? Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love take on a whole new aura when living in today's constant harangue, bicker and discourse. It's rather refreshing to have a source so acclimated to man's better side. It's also stimulating to find an organization of men who promote each other's welfare as well as the welfare of the world as a whole!

With all of the above emotional blather as a whole and reference to the preponderance of woeful news it's easy to see why the importance of Masonry is so critical in these not so modern times. Every time we create a new Brother of the Craft or greet a fellow Lodge member or Brethren from anywhere in the world, we cement our bonds as Masons and verify those travels we have chosen to pursue. Each time we Initiate, Pass or Raise another Brother, we justify our Fraternity and confirm in our own being the justice and joy of being an ancient Craftsman. These are some of the reasons it is hoped that more of you will come forward to welcome and accommodate our newly made Brethren. Every single time we step forward for a Brother, we reconfirm our commitment as a Mason and our belief that there are still enough good and wholesome purposes to lift up all of our attention to the parts of life and civilization really worth living and enjoying. With this effort, we just might be able to put a more positive light on our society.

We hope to see more of you at our next Degree or function. It never gets tiresome to visit and WORK with a Brother!

Blessings to you all and hopes for soon again meeting YOU on the Level,

Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



WORSHIPFUL BROTHER LEO OPERTI

August 6, 1932 – April 12, 2019

Leo was born August 6, 1932, in Southampton, England, and had lived many places in the world: Europe, South and North America, and last in Farmington, MI, where his primary Lodge (#151) was located. WB Leo had attended Birmingham #44 so often however, and had been such an important and beloved Brother that we were surprised when we found out he was not a member of our Lodge. Leo was a mentor to many young Masons in both Farmington and Birmingham. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of all things related to Freemasonry, and was a wonderful storyteller. Most important, Leo was an outstanding Brother and friend to all. He will be greatly missed. At his service on May 5th, 40 Masons stood in honor for him. Truly a fitting tribute to our beloved Brother.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

**71st
ANNUAL
VISITATION**

AT BIRMINGHAM #44

