



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

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



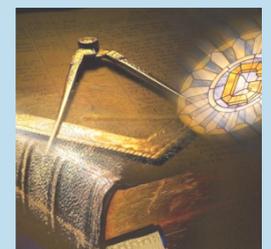
Fellowship event at The Dow Beer Exchange on November 16th. Great turn-out — at least 25 guys — which included several potential candidates.

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



*Greetings from the East — December 2017*



**Farewell from the East**

Brethren,

I cannot believe it is already December, and this Masonic year is coming to the end. Yet, we were busy with our labors throughout November and still have work to be done. Last month, we had our Regular on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, where we also held out annual Installation of Officers. Most notably, Brother Tom Baranowski was elected and accepted to be Worshipful Master of our Lodge for 2018. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we passed two Brothers on to receive their Fellowcraft Degrees. On November, 16th we enjoyed a fellowship night at Dick O' Dows in Birmingham which we had a remarkable turnout. Finally, on November 30<sup>th</sup> we did our final Degree of the year.

This month, we have three dates to note. First is December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3-5:30pm at lodge we have Santa Clause coming to Birmingham #44 to visit the children and take pictures. If any of you have a child or grandchild who would like to see a wonderful Santa Clause and Christmas Carol, we would love to have you. Please let Brother Jack Palmer know of your attendance. On December 7<sup>th</sup> is our final business meeting, and practice for Installation. Lastly, our annual Installation of Officers will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please RSVP for a night with a great catered meal and fellowship.

I would be remiss not to say how much of an honor it was to serve you as your Worshipful Master. It was challenging, rewarding, overwhelming, joyous, exhausting, and stressful at times. As I searched for sound rhetoric to explain what I learned as Worshipful Master this struck a chord with me.

*"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason" -Brother Benjamin Franklin*

It was not the Ritual, wearing the top hat, the gavel, or even pursuing the Masters "further will and pleasure." What I have received and get to carry on throughout my life in wages from the interactions I had with all of you. Whether they were positive, or sometimes not so positive. They were experiences where I learned to do my best to bring fellowship and harmony among us.

I thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Worshipful Master this year. I take great pride that I will represent Birmingham #44 as a Past Master for the rest of my Masonic Travels. I hope and expect all of us to support Worshipful Master— elect Tom Baranowski throughout 2018 as everyone has supported me.

Fraternally yours,

Matt M. Wilde, WM Birmingham Lodge #44 F&AM

*The Secretary's Pen*

Brethren — Please RSVP to Jack Palmer for the Christmas party and to me for Installation, if you haven't already done so. Tom has to give the caterer final numbers very soon. It looks like we are having a great turn-out and it should be a great night.

Also — please send in your dues for 2018 (\$127.50), again if you haven't already. I will get out dues cards in the next several weeks. For our snowbirds, make sure I have an updated address and when you plan on leaving so I don't send your card to a dormant MI address. No one sees this information, by the way, other than me (for our security conscious members).



Our Temple Board Annual meeting is next Tuesday. Lots of things going on with the building and property.

After Installation we will be officially dark, but we may have last minute/ impromptu fellowship events so watch your email. I send out at least one, usually two, emails a week. If you haven't been getting any, email me ASAP at my address below.

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

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

- DECEMBER 2017**
- DECEMBER 2 — KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY — 3 PM
- DECEMBER 5 — TEMPLE BOARD—ANNUAL MEETING
- DECEMBER 7 — BUSINESS MEETING — INSTALLATION PRACTICE
- DECEMBER 9 — 2018 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND PARTY

DARK FOR THE REST OF DECEMBER. WATCH EMAIL FOR LAST MINUTE FELLOWSHIP EVENTS.  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

- JANUARY 2018**
- JANUARY 2 — TEMPLE BOARD
- JANUARY 4 — BUSINESS MEETING
- JANUARY 11 — FELLOWCRAFT
- JANUARY 18 — FELLOWSHIP NIGHT — PLACE TBD
- JANUARY 25 — MASTER MASON DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30PM

**2018 CALENDAR**

- Awards Night — TBD
- Burger Night — TBD
- Pancake Breakfast — TBD
- 75th Annual Visitation w/Speed Lodge — in Guelph
- Corn Roast — TBD
- Nov 1 — Annual Election of Officers
- Dec 4 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board
- Dec — Kids Christmas Party
- Dec 8 — 2019 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**



*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*

James Emery, PM	Raised: March 15, 1977	Deceased: March 21, 2017*
David K. Falvay	Raised: March 27, 1947	Deceased: March 18, 2017*
Luther Gale Huddle, Jr	Raised: May 24, 1954	Deceased: October 27, 2017
Billie Donovan Phillips	Raised: May 23, 1952	Deceased: September 27, 2017
Charles F. Rush	Raised: June 27, 1947	Deceased: November 10, 2017

*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 are not always notified when a Brother passes on, so some we have had to discover online or by other investigations.

### 2018 OFFICER LINE

- Worshipful Master .....Thomas Baranowski
- Senior Warden .....Jack Palmer
- Junior Warden ..... J. Scott Licavoli
- Treasurer .....Carl Censoni, PM
- Secretary .....Steve Skrzycki, PM
- Chaplain..... Robert C. Hall, PM
- Senior Deacon ..... Patrick Connelly
- Junior Deacon ..... Chris Dargin
- Senior Steward ..... Raymond Hamama
- Junior Steward .....Tony Gagnon
- Associate Stewards.....TBD
- Marshal .....David Husk, PM
- Tiler .....Matthew M. Wilde, PM



### LODGE TIDINGS AND WISHES

Another successful year at Birmingham # 44. Worshipful Master Matt Wilde has done a great job in conducting the business of the Lodge, creating good feelings with brotherhood to all and doing a Masterful job in all of our degree work. His officers performed well and seemed to enjoy the year with excellent performance and willing contributions. Credit is also due to our Secretary Steve Skrzycki, who did a masterful job in coordinating activities for the Master and the rest of us, answering Grand Lodge when needed and generally running interference for all those menial and major difficulties that pop up. Record keeping, letter writing, smoothing hiccups, and keeping a grasp on the pulse of an active Lodge is no small feat! Congratulations to all of the officers and Brethren who attempted to be True Masons and assist the Worshipful Master in accomplishing the task and and the successful accomplishment of a blue ribbon Masonic Lodge success story!

As we look forward to another successful year, it is hope that each of you will become more involved in assisting our Worshipful Master elect in carrying on this fine tradition. I'm sure Tom will welcome you with open arms and an excited air of anticipation as we travel down the road in 2018. Even though we may incur slight bumps in the road, with everyone cooperating we should succeed again!

Worshipful Master Matt Wilde gave his stellar performance in the E. A, Degree on November 30, 2017. The new Brother became our youngest Entered Apprentice and a Brother to Worshipful son. It was a night to remember and experience not frequently seen. What a feeling it must have been, to give back to someone who gave so much!

We hope this holiday season finds you healthy and secure and that you truly enjoy ALL of your loved ones! We, as Masons are truly fortunate to have an extended family with each of you and your families. I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and hope that the New Year brings us closer together and more aware of our great fraternity. Brothers of all faiths stand together as one and respect the religion of each Brother. It is hoped that you will interpret this wish and greeting to your own particular faith!

God bless you all and bring you to us in Brotherhood,  
Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



**CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**  
**3 TO 5:30 PM**

**SANTA WILL BE THERE!!!**

**CONTACT Jack Palmer (248) 842-3381**  
**To RSVP and to make arrangements for Santa**

**2018 INSTALLATION**  
**OF OFFICERS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**

**PLEASE RSVP TO THE SECRETARY SO WE CAN NOTIFY THE CATERER.**

