

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 Edward B. 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 welcome your contribution

BIRMINGHAM44

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



WB BILL PTASHNIK AND JW JACK PALMER
AT LAST YEARS CORN ROAST

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:

Please note that we had to postpone the Pancake Breakfast that was scheduled for June 11. June is just too busy of a month, with kids getting out of school, graduation parties, Father’s Day, etc. We will look at rescheduling for Fall.

Also — please get in your reservations for Tigers tickets as soon as possible. The game is only two weeks away.



There is usually something going on at the Lodge during the summer — even when we are Dark. We are thinking about booking a standing tee time at a local golf course for Thursdays at 6pm. We need to book this ASAP, so let us know if you are interested, also ASAP.

Steve Skrzycki, PM

Secretary — (248) 647-4229

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

JUNE 2017

- JUNE 1 — BUSINESS MEETING
- JUNE 6 — TEMPLE BOARD
- JUNE 8 — FC DEGREE
- JUNE 15 — DETROIT TIGER GAME AT COMERICA PARK—7PM
- JUNE 22 — EA DEGREE
- JUNE 29 — BURGER NIGHT — 7 PM

JULY/AUGUST 2017

DARK

(BUT THINGS GOING ON ALL SUMMER – WATCH YOUR EMAIL)

2017 CALENDAR

- 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 BRETHREN of #44:

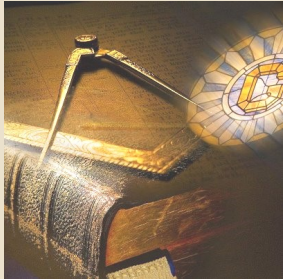
This Lodge is yours — if you have an idea for an event, please recommend it to the WM or bring it up in open Lodge. We love volunteers!

All Lodge events start at 7:30, unless noted

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — June 2017



Brethren, another month of labors has come and gone with much success. We Initiated two fine men as Entered Apprentices, and Raised two more Brothers to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. We had a successful fellowship night in downtown Birmingham and had a speedy Business Meeting. I am pleased with what we accomplished and it was nice to see some of our “snowbird” Brethren return from Florida.

On May 22nd, I traveled to the Henry Hotel in Dearborn for the 191st Grand Lodge of Michigan. I was the voting delegate on behalf of Birmingham #44, and it was quite the experience. The event was two days long and there must have been over 500 Masons in attendance from nearly every lodge in the state along with Grand Lodge officers from Lodges throughout the United States. It was a great experience and wonderful to see all the Grand Lodge Officers and meet fellow Brothers throughout our state.

Further onward we labor. This month we will hold our Regular on June 1st, a Fellowcraft for two Brothers, an outing to the Detroit Tigers game on June 15th, an Entered Apprentice on June 22nd, and our last formal event before we go Dark for the summer will be Burger Night at Lodge on June 29th, which has always been a very popular event. In regard to both the Tigers game and the Burger Night please RSVP to secretary@birmingham44.com as we need to prepare food and purchase tickets.

Lastly, I encourage all our Brethren to come join us at your Lodge. I am grateful for the praise I have received this year and would like to share the energy and excitement we have generated in the Lodge this year with all our Brothers. Let us forge ahead into June.

Fraternally yours,

Matt M. Wilde, WM

Pinocchio and Freemasonry

(A multi-part series — Part 3 of 3)

The Initiation

Pinocchio returns home to unite with his father but the house is empty. He learns that Geppetto has been swallowed by a giant whale. The puppet then jumps into water himself and gets swallowed by the whale in order to find his Creator. This is his final initiation, where he has to escape the darkness of the ignorant life (symbolized by the womb of the giant whale) and gain spiritual light.



Once again, Carlo Collodi was heavily inspired by a classic story of spiritual Initiation: the Book of Jonah. Found in Christianity, Islam and Judaism, Jonah and the Whale is also read in Mystery schools.

“Jonah is also the central character in the Book of Jonah. Ordered by God to go to the city of Nineveh to prophesy against it “for their great wickedness is come up before me” Jonah seeks instead to flee from “the presence of the Lord” by going to Jaffa and sailing to Tarshish. A huge storm arises and the sailors, realizing this is no ordinary storm, cast lots and learn that Jonah is to blame. Jonah admits this and states that if he is thrown overboard the storm will cease. The sailors try to get the ship to the shore but in failing feel forced to throw him overboard, at which point the sea calms. Jonah is miraculously saved by being swallowed by a large fish specially prepared by God where he spent three days and three nights (Jonah 1:17). In chapter two, while in the great fish, Jonah prays to God in his affliction and commits to thanksgiving and to paying what he has vowed. God commands the fish to vomit Jonah out.” — Source

Jonah after his spiritual initiation

Manly P. Hall explains here the occult meaning of the Jonah and the Whale.

“When used as a symbol of evil, the fish represented the earth (man’s lower nature) and the tomb (the sepulcher of the Mysteries). Thus was Jonah three days in the belly of the “great fish,” as Christ was three days in the tomb. Several early church fathers believed that the “whale” which swallowed Jonah was the symbol of God the Father, who, when the hapless prophet was thrown overboard, accepted Jonah into His own nature until a place of safety was reached. The story of Jonah is really a legend of initiation into the Mysteries, and the “great fish” represents the darkness of ignorance which engulfs man when he is thrown over the side of the ship (is born) into the sea (life).”

– Manly P. Hall, The Secret Teachings of All Ages

Jonah emerging from the whale with the word of God

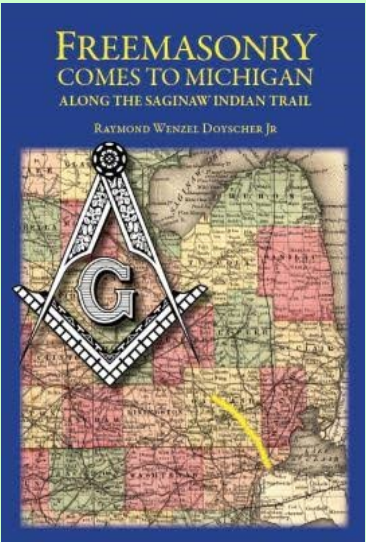
Pinocchio went through the hardships of initiation and came out of the darkness of ignorance. He emerges from tomb resurrected, like Jesus Christ. He is now a “real boy”, an illuminated man who broke the shackles of material life to embrace his higher self. Jiminy Cricket receives a solid gold badge from the Fairy, representing the success of the alchemical process of transforming Pinocchio’s conscience from a crude metal to gold. The “Great Work” has been accomplished. What is there left to do? A crazy accordion party, of course!

In Conclusion

Seen through the eyes of an initiate, Pinocchio’s story, instead of being a series of random adventures, becomes a deeply symbolic spiritual allegory. Details in the movie that are seemingly meaningless suddenly reveal an esoteric truth or at least a brutally honest social commentary. Inspired by metaphysical classics such as The Metamorphoses and Jonah and the Whale, the story’s author, Carlo Collodi, wrote a modern day tale of initiation, which is the most important aspect of Masonic life. Although Walt Disney’s allegiance to Freemasonry has always been disputed, the choice of this story as the second animated movie ever created by the studio is very telling. Many symbolic details added into the movie manifest a great understanding of the underlying occult meaning of Collodi’s book. Considering the numerous re-releases of Pinocchio and its world-wide success one can say that the entire world has witnessed his path to illumination, but very few fully understood it.

The story of Pinocchio is an example of the nobler side of occult teachings. Striving to achieve a higher level of spirituality through self-improvement is a universal theme found in most religions. Of course, the story of Pinocchio also reflects on Masonic teachings, and contains many allegories we find familiar in the Ritual.

Adapted from “The Esoteric Interpretation of Pinocchio” — David Icke



FREE MASONRY COMES TO MICHIGAN ALONG THE SAGINAW INDIAN TRAIL BY P. M. Raymond Doyscher, Jr.

We often hear requests from Brethren on what books we should read to learn more about Masonry. One I've found recently is W. B. Ray Doyscher's book on Freemasonry in our own neighborhood! It prominently features our own Lodge, Birmingham #44, and many of our closest neighbors. It is full of many interesting names and events that can bring a great deal of pride and reinforcement to ALL of us. He does a masterful job in relating historical fact with local points of interest. It reaffirms and clarifies many of the stories we have heard over the years regarding our predecessors in this Lodge! Sometimes history can be hazy, unfocused or just incomprehensible because of the passage of time or current technology. W. B. Ray's book relates, ties and clarifies many of those "stories" we've heard into meaningful and realistic explanations of our past. For students of Masonry, what better way of more meaningful understanding and relating this outstanding fraternity to our current existence and experiences? If you get my drift, I highly recommend this book for your Masonic reading and library. To order your copy, call or contact:

Raymond W. Doyscher, Jr.
2422 Yale Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Ph: (248) 545-7443
rwdoyscher@sbcglobal.net

W. B. Ray has often attended meetings at our Lodge in the past and is well remembered for his Bible presentations at Master Mason Degrees. It seems as though he has many other wonderful insights and abilities to be shared with all of us.

Our Masonic year is zooming by at an incredible rate! We have been sharing some most incredible experiences and examples of Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love. There is much more to come and many plans and activities are in the works. The officers and Brethren of your Lodge are hoping that all of you will want to share in these experiences and good times with each of them. I hope that when YOU think of the E. A. degree, that the 133 rd Psalm will immediately come to mind!



Yours in the Craft,
Robert C. Hall, Jr., P. M., Chaplain



DETROIT TIGERS VS TAMPA BAY RAYS

THURSDAY JUNE 15 7:00 PM
COMERICA PARK

CONTACT SECRETARY FOR
TICKETS AND DETAILS



BURGER NIGHT!!!

THURSDAY JUNE 29TH 7:00 PM
ALL FRESH ANGUS BEEF!
OVER A HALF POUND BURGERS!
PERFECTLY COOKED WITH ALL
THE TRIMMINGS!