



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 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



BRO TOM BARANOWSKI COOKING AT THE CORN ROAST LAST YEAR

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.



Greetings from the East — May 2017



Brethren, another month has come and gone and our labors have not ceased. We forge on towards summer when we go from labor to refreshment for July and August. In the meantime, we have much planned and time to fulfill our obligations to the Craft and the Brethren.

This past month we had four very successful Thursday evenings. First our Regular communication on April 3rd, then on Maundy Thursday some Brethren met out at Churchills Cigar Bar and Bistro in Birmingham for a night of fellowship and friendship. Many brothers showed up and enjoyed good cigars, good libations, and good laughs. It was such a success that in fact we have received petitions from friends of Brothers in attendance! The following Thursday we received dispensation from Grand Lodge to move our Charter downtown to the Detroit Masonic Temple to put on a Fellowcraft degree where we Passed two Brethren on and gave them further Light in Masonry. The Detroit Masonic Temple is an incredible building. I was in awe by the magnificence of its designs. Following the degree, we traveled to Jacoby's Biergarten in Detroit and enjoyed some food and fellowship. It was a great evening and a wonderful time to take our Craft on travels. Finally, we held a Master Mason on the 27th. It was an excellent night and we raised a fine Michigan Man. We had Brethren from out district lodges in attendance including Worship Brother Matt Shelton from Pontiac Lodge #21 who is a Master Ritualist whom gave the lecture from memory.

Onward! As I have many goals for Birmingham #44, I would like to say this is no time for reflection. The question now is: What else can we accomplish? I have eight months left in the East and will labor fervently to pursue my goals and lead Birmingham #44 towards 2018. We have many Masonic and fellowship events planned for May and June and I urge everyone to attend as many as they can. May 4th we will have our Regular Communication. On May 11th we will hold a dual Entered Apprentice Degree starting at 7:30pm. On May 18th, we will be having another Fellowship night. Due to the overwhelming enjoyment from the Brethren in attendance we will again travel to Churchills Cigar Bar and Bistro in Birmingham. Feel free to arrive any time after 7pm and enjoy fellowship and good food if you wish to eat. (I recommend the Lobster sandwich, it is not only one of the most reasonably priced items on the menu, it is also delicious). Finally, on May 25th we will be holding a dual Master Mason Degree starting at 6:30pm. Brethren please attend if you can as we need all the help we can get assembling a Fellowcraft team and assure the Brothers their evening is just as Sublime as it ought to be.

Further, on June 15th, I am planning a lodge outing to Comerica Park to watch the Tigers play the Tampa Bay Rays with a 7:10pm start. As we did with the Pistons outing, please inform Secretary Steve Skrzycki if you wish to attend. Tickets will be no more than \$45 and will be lower level seats.

Lastly, I would like everyone to keep our Senior Deacon Brother Scott Licavoli in your thoughts and prayers. In the last two months Brother Scott has lost his Mother and Father. We should offer support in any way we can in these trying times for Brother Scott and his family. He has been a wonderful officer in our lodge and a very devoted Mason. Let us put a "hand to his back" and always support a Brother in times like these.

Brethren each day being your Worshipful Master I feel more honored to represent you. I humbly thank you all for the opportunity and look forward to continuing my labors.

Fraternally yours,
 Matt M. Wilde, WM

The Secretary's Pen

Brethren:

Please note, in addition to the Tiger Game and the Burger Night, we have the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday June 11th, from 9 to 11 am. This is open to everyone, so please bring the whole family (kids, mom, dad, the neighbors, the postman — everybody!) This takes a lot of volunteers, so please contact me if you can help out. Thanks.



Also — we don't have a final number on ticket prices for the Tiger game, but that may depend on how many we get. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to go. It should be a great time.

Steve Skrzycki, PM
 Secretary — (248) 647-4229

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

MAY 2017	
MAY 2	— TEMPLE BOARD
MAY 4	— BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 11	— EA DEGREE
MAY 18	— FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
MAY 25	— MM DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30PM
JUNE 2017	
JUNE 1	— BUSINESS MEETING
JUNE 6	— TEMPLE BOARD
JUNE 8	— FC DEGREE
JUNE 11	— PANCAKE BREAKFAST — 9-11 AM
JUNE 15	— DETROIT TIGER GAME AT COMERICA PARK—7PM
JUNE 22	— MM DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30PM
JUNE 29	— BURGER NIGHT — 7 PM

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 BROTHERS 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

Pinocchio and Freemasonry

(A multi-part series — Part 2 of 3)



The same way Masons represent the process of illumination by the transformation of a rough stone into a smooth one, Pinocchio starts out his journey as a rough piece of wood and will seek to smooth out his edges to finally become a real boy. Nothing is however handed out to him. An inner-alchemical process needs to take place in order for him to be worthy of illumination. He has to go through life, fight its temptations, and, using his conscience (embodied by Jiminy Cricket), he has to find the right path. The first step is to go to school (symbolizing knowledge). After that, life's temptations rapidly come across Pinocchio's path.

The Temptation of Fame and Fortune

On his way to school, Pinocchio is stopped by Foulfellow the Fox (not a very trustworthy name) and Gideon the Cat who lure him to the "easy road to success": show business. Despite his conscience's warnings, the marionette follows the shady characters and is sold to Stromboli, the belligerent puppet show promoter. During his performance, Pinocchio is acquainted with the up sides of the "easy road": fame, fortune and even hot women puppets. Pinocchio however quickly learns the great costs of this apparent success: he cannot go back to see his father (the Creator), the money he generates is only used to enrich Stromboli, his "handler", and he sees what fate awaits him when he grows old. He was duped into selling his soul

Pinocchio then gains back his conscience (Jiminy Cricket) and tries to escape. All of the good conscientiousness in the world cannot however save him, Cricket cannot open the lock. Nothing less than a divine intervention is needed to save him, but not before he is truthful to the Fairy (the divine messenger) and, most importantly, to himself.

The Temptations of Earthly Pleasures

Back on the right path, Pinocchio is stopped again by Foulfellow the Fox who lures him into going to "Pleasure Island", a place with no school (knowledge) and laws (morals). Kids can eat, drink, smoke, fight and destroy at will, all under the watchful eye of The Coachman. Pleasure Island is a metaphor for the "profane life" characterized by ignorance, the search for instant gratification and the satisfaction of the one's lowest impulses. The coachman encourages this behavior knowing it is a perfect method to create slaves. The boys who indulge enough into this dumbed-down lifestyle turn into donkeys and are then exploited by The Coachman to work in a mine. Another rather grim depiction, this time of the ignorant masses.

Pinocchio himself starts to turn into a donkey. In esoteric terms he is closer to his material self, personified by this stubborn animal, than his spiritual self. This portion of the story is a literary reference to Apuleius' *The Metamorphoses* or *Golden Ass*, a classic work studied in Mystery schools such as Freemasonry.

The *Metamorphoses* describes the adventures of Lucius who is tempted by the wonders of magic, because of his foolishness, turns himself into an ass. This leads to a long and arduous journey where he is finally saved by Isis and joins her Mystery cult. The story of the *Metamorphoses* bears many resemblances with Pinocchio by its story line, its spiritual allegory and its theme of occult initiation.

Pinocchio, once he regained his conscience, escaped the prison of profane life and escaped Pleasure Island.

Next — "The Initiation"



A CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH

CHARGE, PROSECUTE, EXECUTE!

Isn't it the way of the world to find the problem, purge and dissect it then kill it before it spreads! If it isn't made here, cast it to the eternal furnace and be rid of the problem just in case it develops into one! After all, who likes things that are different or could be different; it could lead to new avenues of discordant activity.

Well, too often certain of us have been predisposed to this type of thinking. Better to attack than to reason or thoroughly explain. Better to sit in judgement than to offer helpful remedies and thoughtful council. Better to be indignant than to offer Brotherly council and advice. Better to flout the manual of etiquette than to quietly advise and orchestrate.

The above two paragraphs offer a lot to contemplate and consider. They contain information, attitudinal persuasion and the means to sure failure. We have all witnessed these travesties and participated to some degree. We all have hoisted our allegiance manuals to a particular source and closed our minds to a real and Brotherly solution to a particular problem or problems. That is one of the joyous opportunities that face each of us at this juncture of our Lodge activities! W. M. Matt Wilde is doing a masterful (slight play on words) job in bringing Brotherhood to all of our members. He, along with his line of young officers and his Secretary, W. B. Steve Skrzycki are bending the oppressive punishment tact of obedience by edict to the more beautiful and useful follow in Friendship and Brotherly Love! The more youthful exuberance and compliant attitudes are creating a stronger atmosphere of all those things we strive for. The only missing elements are those Brethren who for whatever reason fail to attend Lodge and support the leadership of our Lodge. Kindness, cooperation and respect are all elements that are overcoming all kinds of obstacles among our younger Brethren. The only missing element is more of our Brethren attending Lodge or offering their support to ALL of the officers at Birmingham # 44. Stop by Brethren, you may just find a Brother who will welcome you and enjoy your support and Friendship.

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to gather together in unity."

Robert C. Hall, 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!**