



Merchantville, N. J.

ORGANIZED January 14, 1871
CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

May 2025

Dear Brother;

You are cordially and fraternally requested to attend the Regular Communication of Merchantville Lodge #119, F. & A.M., to be held at Merchantville Masonic Temple, [6926 Park Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ.](#)

Thursday, May 8th, 2025
Dress is Formal. Tuxedo for Officers

7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Business
- Ballots/Voting
- Masonic Light
- Masonic Birthdays
- Closing

After the meeting we will meet at the Cherry Hill Applebee's for Half Priced apps and beverages (9pm). Brethren are welcome.

By order of

WB Luis A. Valentín
Worshipful Master

Attest:
WB Shawn M. Roberts, PM
Secretary



Recurring Dates (Not held in July & August)

All Masons in Good standing are welcomed and encouraged to join us each month.

- Rehearsals are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
 - Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm
 - District Lodge of Instruction are held on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:30pm
Master Masons only; For location see the Events page
-

May Masonic Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Bro. Billy W Hawkes

Bro. John S Oneill

Bro. Jeffrey Hurley

WB Shawn M. Roberts PM

Bro. Greg Merlino

WB Enrique Rosario PM, DB

Bro. James R. Mertz

WB Thomas E Roth PM

Bro. Howard K. Miller, Jr.

Bro. Raymond S Wilson, Jr.

2025 In Memoriam

Brother

Jerome H Szczesniowski, Sr

Initiated January 21st, 1977

Passed February 18th, 1977

Raised March 18th, 1977

Called from Labor: July 9th, 2024

Brother

Roger T. Wells

Initiated January 20th, 2012

Passed February 17th, 2012

Raised March 23rd, 2012

Called from Labor: December 2nd, 2024

Brother

Robert E. Collier

Initiated September 20th, 1963

Passed October 18th, 1963

Raised November 15th, 1963

Called from Labor: November 10th, 2024

Brother

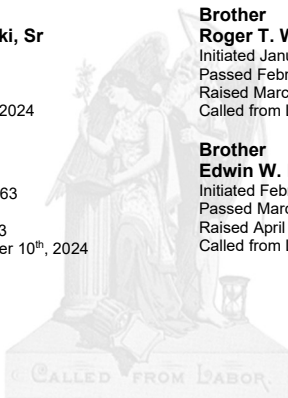
Edwin W. Messey

Initiated February 14th, 1964

Passed March 20th, 1964

Raised April 17th, 1964

Called from Labor: February 27th, 2025



Calendar of Events

18th District Blood Drive

Regular Communication

Temple-wide Open House

Annual Lady's Night

Regular Communication

Past Master's Night

GLI

Regular Communication

Nomination of Officers

Trunk or Treat

Election of Officers

Annual Communication &

Installation of Officers

Thursday, May 8th Noon - 5:00pm (RSL)

Thursday, May 8th at 7:30pm

Friday, May 9th @ 6:30pm

Saturday, May 17th @ 6:30pm

Thursday, June 12th at 7:30pm

Wednesday, June 25th @ 6:00pm

Thursday, September 4th at 7:00pm

Thursday, September 12th at 7:30pm

Thursday, October 9th at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 25th at 2:00pm

Thursday, November 13th at 7:30pm

December TBD

Event Coordinator(s) Needed

Paint Day

Need Event Coordinator

Salsa Night

Need Event Coordinator

BBQ

Need Event Coordinator

Annual Table Lodge

Need Event Coordinator

Food Baskets

Need Event Coordinator

Christmas\Holiday Party

Need Event Coordinator

As you can see from the above events, all need an event coordinator. Event planning is a great way to support your lodge and to get prospects involved. Coordinating an event consists of, but is certainly not limited to, finding the date, time, location, cost vs price for entry, gifts or awards, and doing so with a positive outcome.

If you are able to lend a helping hand or offer assistance in any way, please contact WM Luis Valentin, WB Andy Knaus or WB Shawn Roberts.

If you have interest in becoming The Lodge Event Coordinator, or helping in any other way, please contact us ASAP.

Thank you.

ATTEND THESE EVENTS!!!

Open House

Friday, May 9th, @ 6:30pm

The Lodges of the Merchantville Temple will hold an open house to bring some new light to some men who have knocked on our outer door. We will enjoy food, beverage and enjoy each other's company, all while meeting new prospects.

Contact WB Shawn Roberts for RSVP 856-631-4664

Lady's Night

Saturday, May 17th @ 6:00pm

Sponsored by Merchantville Lodge and limited to 50 attendees

Filomena's Restaurant Blackwood-Clementon Rd

Choice of 4 entrees (Beef, Chicken, Seafood or Pasta)

Cost is \$35/person

Bring your lady for a special gift

Contact Brother Jeffrey Pennell for RSVP 609-668-3070

A HUGE "THANK YOU!" to Brother Pennell for offering to help!!!!!!!

Past Master's Dinner

Wednesday, June 25th @ 6:00pm

Merchantville and Mozart Lodge Past Master's Dinner

Marco's Restaurant at The Pennsauken Country Club

Limited to 25 Brothers – Menu Pricing & cash\card bar

Honor the Past Masters of the Merchantville Temple's Lodges

Contact WB Shawn Roberts for RSVP 856-631-4664

Open to all Masons, PM take Priority

If we have more than 25 people, we can move to the upper bar and have a sit-down dinner with a selection of entrees.

Important...

WE NEED YOUR RSVPs NOW PLEASE

Merchantville Lodge No. 119 F&AM

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WB LUIS A. VALENTIN, PM (Jessica)
(856) 383-0956
lvalentin310@gmail.com

SENIOR WARDEN

WB ANDREW S. KNAUS (Rachel)
(609) 238-6144
AKNAUS@merchantvillelodge.org

JUNIOR WARDEN

WB ANTHONY J. "AJ" STARKUS (Brie)
(856) 571-3471
ASTARKUS@merchantvillelodge.org

SECRETARY

WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS (Jenn)
(856) 631-4664
SECRETARY@merchantvillelodge.org

TREASURER

WB DAVID K. MARTIN JR, PM (Cathleen)
(609) 346-6433
DMARTIN@merchantvillelodge.org

PROXY TO GRAND LODGE

WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS, PM

CHAPLAIN

WB RAYNALDO SANTIAGO, PM

SENIOR DEACON

WB EL DONALDO VIDAL, PM

SENIOR

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
LUIS FRANCISCO RUIZ

SENIOR STEWARD

DAVID R. SAUNDERS



TYLER

DB WB ENRIQUE ROSARIO, PM

MARSHAL

WB CHRISTIAN P. KOCHON, PM

JUNIOR DEACON

WB REV. JORGE A. MARTINEZ, PM

JUNIOR

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
WB GERALD D. JEITNER, PM

JUNIOR STEWARD

JOSEPH M. MCGUCKIN, JR.

**THE GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE
SOCIETY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

FREEMASONRY promotes a way of life that binds like-minded men with the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth in order to serve God, Family, Country, Neighbor and Self.

Grand Master of Masons for the State of New Jersey

M.W. J. Eugene Margroff
100 Barrack St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
Cell: (201) 362-3982
njgm2024@gmail.com

District Deputy Grand Master Eighteenth Masonic District

R.W. Kenneth F. Carpenter Jr.
(609) 634-5660
kfcarpenter@comcast.net

District Ritual Instructor Eighteenth Masonic District

R.W. Vincent M. Capone
(609) 206-3078
acgypsy12@aol.com

Masonic Outreach Hotline: 1-800-792-8690 for advice and assistance

Grand Lodge: NewJerseyGrandLodge.org
To access your account go to: nj.grandview.systems

MERCHANTVILLE LODGE #119 F&AM

6926 Park Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Phone (856) 663-1719

info@merchantvilleglodge.org

Merchantvilleglodge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Merchantville119

Instagram: [@MerchantvilleLodge](https://www.instagram.com/MerchantvilleLodge)

Greetings Brethren,

I'd like to share some light about the Symbolic Story behind the Masonic Apron.

The Masonic Apron is an easily recognizable symbol of the Freemasons and is a garment that has been worn by masons for generations. Aprons are arguably the best-known symbol of the Freemasons, and the Masonic Apron is steeped in historical significance. At the very least, the apron is usually the first symbol that an 'initiate' encounters, as it is the first gift that they receive when joining.

When the Freemasons were established in the eighteenth century in the U.K. and USA, its founding members looked to the traditions and garbs of actual stonemasons when developing their rituals and philosophical beliefs. The Masonic apron is bestowed upon new Freemasons when they join the fraternity, and members have been wearing aprons throughout the institution's 300-year history.

Even before this, however, the apron was regarded as a symbol of a holy man's high honor in ancient times. The earliest mention of the apron was when Melchizedek, with Abraham, started the Priesthood, and he wore the apron as a badge of religious authority (circa 2100 B.C.).

In ancient times, the Masonic apron was regarded as an honorary badge of distinction. Only the superior members of the Priesthood were allowed to adorn their aprons with grand decorations. Throughout the world, in Ancient Persia, Hindustan, Japan, and Rome, to name but a few civilizations, aprons have been present in historic ceremonies of investiture and contribute to the evolution of the Masonic apron to the present day.

Moreover, aprons have been used in religious rites since time immemorial, mainly when delivering burnt offerings and blood sacrifices. Such practice was common in Ancient Egypt in particular. In other parts of the world, such as in Central America, Ancient Gods have been commonly depicted as always wearing aprons, and actually, this practice can be found spread all over the world, with Ancient Gods represented wearing aprons in China and Palestine as well.

The Masonic apron is worn proudly by Freemasons as a badge and is a distinguishing feature of the institution. It is widely argued that the apron is more honorable than the Star and Garter. For Freemasons, no symbol is more important in its teachings or more interesting in its history than the white lambskin apron. It is impressed upon the Mason as the first symbol that is explained to him and the first tangible piece of evidence he has, as proof of admission into the world of Freemasonry.

Although the symbols adorned on the apron will change over time, and color will be added to show progress, the symbolic white of the apron will remain as a reminder of the purity of the masons.

The Masonic apron should not be seen as a mere piece of regalia, and any mason in a lodge who does not wear the apron is seen to be improperly dressed, such as the symbolic importance of the apron. The apron is an honorable garment that should be treasured, looked after, and proudly worn by Masons all over the world.

Yours in Brotherhood,

WB Luis A. Valentin
Worshipful Master 2025
Merchantville Lodge #119

Contacting the Secretary

Brethren,

The most effective way to receive an immediate response is through text or email. Unfortunately, with a full-time job and retirement way off for me...I can't answer phone calls while working. I can get away with text and emails.

Text: 856-631-4664

Email: secretary@merchantvillelodge.org

Please reach out to me if you have a change of contact info including address or other masonic questions\concerns. If you have not seen a mailing in some time, I need your address please, but how would you see this? Hmm :)
Thank you!

WB Shawn M. Roberts, PM
Secretary

Petitions for Membership

Petitions for restoration, dual\plural and full membership are all available upon request to the secretary or to print on Grandview.

Dues

Any outstanding dues balance is now past due. NPD Notices for 2024 (and prior) balances have begun. If you need assistance, contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary ASAP.

Your current balance will show on your Grandview landing page.
If you still need help logging into GrandView, please contact us.

Merchantville Lodge 2025 Dues Breakdown:

GL Assessment: \$76.00

Lodge Dues: \$89.00

2025 Total Dues: \$165.00 (Dual Member: \$89 | 50+ year: \$76)

Available Payment Methods:

By Check: Make Checks payable to "Merchantville Lodge"

Send to:

Merchantville Masonic Temple

6926 Park Ave

Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Amity App: See next page for info

Venmo: @merchantville119 (Add \$5 to cover the fee)

PayPal: Scan QR Code (Includes fee amount)

2025 Dues + PayPal Fee (\$5)



Please include your name and member # so we can ensure your payments are credited properly



Secure • Transparent • Masonic

DUES PAYMENTS WITH AMITY

Built for Jersey Masons.



More Secure.

Payments are made in Amity's secure mobile app, not in a web browser.



More Transparent.

As soon as a payment is made, **both** the Secretary and Treasurer are notified. As it should be.



More Masonic.

Pay your dues for all of your New Jersey Lodges, and see all your payments in the app.

* **Looking for the Payments tool?** Open your Profile, tap the "Masonic" tab, find your Lodge, and tap "Make Dues Payment."

COMPARE AMITY WITH OTHER POPULAR TOOLS

LOW-FEE BANK TRANSFERS ARE COMING SOON... STAY TUNED!



3.49% + \$0.49
"Card Not Present" Cost

Amity
travel... safely.

3.33% + \$0.33
(\$0.99 under \$20)



3.5% + \$0.15
"Card Not Present" Cost

315+ GRAND LODGES. 52,000+ LODGES. ONE CRAFT.



Amity
travel... safely.

stripe

Copiri partners with Stripe for secure financial services.



Thank You for Contributing to the Main Hall HVAC and Building Maintenance Fund!

MW Larry S. Plasket, PGM
WB Raynaldo Santiago, PM
WM Jerry D. Jeitner
Bro Philip Lowe
Bro. Wilbur Wannamaker
Mozart #121 F. & A. M.
Bro. Dr. Charles Ivory
WB Barry Hanson, PM
Bro. Michael Riggs
WB Shawn Roberts, PM
Bro. Scott Cuneo
WB Rev. Jorge Martinez, PM
Bro Michael Koehler

WB Thomas Smith III, PM
Bro James Mertz
WB El Donaldo F. Vid Al, PM
WB Christian Kochon, PM
USS NJ #62 F. & A. M.
Athene Chapter O. E. S.
WB Leroy Emory, PM
RW Raymond W. Taylor Sr., PGC
Bro. Alexander Martinez
Bro. George Saunders
Bro. Robert Down
DB Kenneth "Peaches" Pierce
Bro Jonathon Magpantay

A contribution of an exorbitant amount of time by WB Andrew S. Knaus.

A Contribution Made In Memory of Brother Clark R. Hewitt Jr.

Linda and Karl and the rest of the Flower Crew

Anyone I may have missed or who donated through the box.

We continue to happily accept donations toward the Building Maintenance Fund, General Fund and Charity Fund.

Payment Methods

By Check: Make Checks out to "Merchantville Lodge"

PayPal: merchantvillelodge@gmail.com

Venmo: @merchantville119

Send to:

Merchantville Lodge

6926 Park Ave

Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Please note what it is for.

Mother's Day Flower Sale

May 7th – 11th Wednesday – Sunday 9am – Dusk

Geraniums – Roses – Orchids – Dahlias – Hanging Baskets

\$1.99 and up - Discount offered to all Masons

(609) 923-5435

At Merchantville Masonic Temple

**18TH DISTRICT MASONIC
& HADDONFIELD COMMUNITY
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**



**RIISING SUN LODGE No. 15
16 KINGS HWY E, HADDONFIELD, NJ 08033
THURSDAY MAY 8, 2025
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM**



SCAN QR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

COME TO GIVE BLOOD MAY 1 TO 18 FOR A \$20 E GIFT CARD TO A MERCHANT OF YOUR CHOICE!

Maximize your blood donation. **Help more patients.** If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a **Power Red** donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

DIRECTOR OF RITUAL

WB Shawn M Roberts, PM

BLOOD DRIVE

REPRESENTATIVES

Bro. Joseph McGuckin Jr.

BRETHREN EMERITUS

RW Mark R. Richardson,
PGSB...Treasurer

RW Raymond W. Taylor, Sr.,
PGC...Secretary

WB Henry Olsen, PM...Tyler

LODGE TRUSTEES

DB Kenneth Pierce (2024)

WB Raynaldo Santiago (2025)

MW Larry Plaskett (2026)

DISTINGUISHED

BRETHREN

DB Rolf U. Benninghoven

DB John M. Belko

DB Kenneth L. Pierce

DB Enrique Rosario, PM

DB Stephen Callaghan

AFFILIATED & DUAL PAST MASTERS

Floyd D. Britt

Edward S. Keller

Gary L. Jones

Raymond L. Garrison, PSGD

Harold W. Monahan

Frederic K. Berman

Charles E. Kern

Patrick C. Weisgerber, Sr., PSTGM

Henry P. Fratz, PDDGM

Keith A. Herman, PDDGM

Daniel J. Walker, PGC

Eugene M. Fratz

HONORARY MEMBERS

MW Harold F. Jennings, PGM

MW Douglas R. Policastro, PGM

MW William H. Berman, PGM

MW Joseph H. Rival, PGM

MW Gerald J. Sharpe, PGM

MW Edgar N. Peppler, PGM

MW David Dorworth, PGM

RW Thomas R. Stallone, PDDGM

RW Richard Wimmer, PGC

RW Dale A. Lynch, PDDGM

RW Scott R. Vicari, PGP

WB David N. Tilton, PM

LIVING PAST MASTERS OF MERCHANTVILLE LODGE No. 119 F&AM



1972 Thomas A. Muskett
1975 Thomas W. Lowe, Sr. PGT
1977 Thomas E. Roth
1983 George E. Emmanuel, PSGD
1984 Larry S. Plasket, PGM
1985 Phillip H. Lowe
1992 Mark R. Richardson, PGSB
1996 J. Michael Aaron, PGC
1998 Leroy R. Emory, Jr.
1999 Thomas R. Smith III
2003 Raymond W. Taylor, Sr. PGC
2004 Daniel L. Lloyd
2005 Eugene L. Wallace
2006 William W. Johnson, Sr.
2007 Robert W. Hertneck, PDDGM
2008 Javier Seguinot
2009 Henry D. Olsen
2010 Barry T. Hanson
2011 James D. Choyinski, GGP
2013 Christian P. Kochon
2014 Raynaldo Santiago
2015 Jorge A. Martinez
2016 Jorge A. Martinez
2017 Robert Harris, Jr.
2018 Eric T. Johnson
2019 David K. Martin Jr.
2020 El Donaldo F. Vid Al
2021 Shawn M. Roberts
2022 Shawn M. Roberts
2023 Anthony J. "AJ" Starkus
2024 Andrew S. Knaus
2025 Luis A. Valentin

