



# HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41

TRESTLEBOARD – JUNE 2025



## LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master - Christopher J. Aiello  
Senior Warden - John T. Hamilton  
Junior Warden - Michael Leahy  
Treasurer - Ernesto C. Somera  
Secretary - Michael Kraus  
Chaplain - James Hauck  
Senior Deacon - Rafael Sosa  
Junior Deacon - Dominique Jennette  
Sr Master of Ceremonies - Thomas Reynolds  
Jr Master of Ceremonies - Robert Meier  
Senior Steward - Elijah Basse  
Junior Steward - Conny Svensson  
Marshal - Brett Scott  
Tyler - Earl C Groendyke  
Historian - Alexander J.C. Bragat  
Proxy to Grand Lodge - Edgardo Villafuerte

## Lodge Trustees

Ron Herzog (2022) Anthony Katawick (2022)  
Earl Groendyke (2023) James Hauck (2023)  
Matthew Beltran (2024) Alex Bragat (2024)



## MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

As we approach the summer months, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work and dedication that has brought us this far in the year. Our Table Lodge in May was a tremendous success, and that is thanks to the efforts of so many of you. Your commitment to planning, setting up, and participating in this cherished tradition truly exemplifies the spirit of brotherhood and Masonry. Thank you all for making it a memorable evening.

Before we go dark for July and August, we have one more important event on the horizon: an Entered Apprentice Degree June 13th. I encourage all who are able to attend to join us as we welcome a new Brother into the Craft. Degrees are a time for reflection and renewal, not just for the candidate, but for each of us as Masons.

Let us finish this part of our Masonic year strong and united, knowing that the Light of Masonry continues to shine brightly in our lodge thanks to the work and presence of each and every one of you.

Fraternally yours,

Christopher J. Aiello:  
Worshipful Master

Hightstown, New Jersey 15th Masonic District  
Established by Charter of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey  
535 North Main St Hightstown NJ  
hightstownapollo41.org | hightstownapollo41@gmail.com  
609-303-2993

## MESSAGE FROM THE WEST



Words from the West  
June 2025

Freemasonry rests upon a foundation cleanly cut and unambiguous. Its basic principles are few in number; each has been tested by the square of human experience; each has been proved again and again throughout the years. The teachings of our order are not strangled by dogma, prejudice, or narrow creeds. The symbolism of the Craft is not veiled in mysticism; it pertains to life as it is lived by men. A study of Masonic history gives testimony that our order is capable of fulfilling its aims wherever its principles are followed by men who give with their minds, their hearts, and their hands.

In a world where “man’s inhumanity to man” lurks on every side, where temperance and justice are mocked, and where a reverence for God is left for emergencies or abandoned completely, we Masons must be shocked by that ancient evil and by the loss of dignity and wisdom. Indeed, it is easy to slip into the habit of “following the crowd” and indulging in rude or unmasonic behavior. I myself am guilty of this offense, and for this I sincerely apologize for my actions.

Our apprenticeship must begin anew. First, we must learn to be true to our real natures, and then to master the art of building for humanity. This is the only way that we can help to lift the darkness of violence and greed or to escape the fears of hate and ignorance. Then, when our work is done, we may lay down the tools of our Craft and stand among the brethren looking up- wards at the new light in the east.

Source (with apologies): The Short Talk Bulletin, March 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

Thank you all for your hard work. From initiating new Brothers to putting on a table lodge few will forget.

Through the WM in the East to you all, I couldn’t be more proud of the good work we do.

It is near High Twelve. Enjoy your summers, all!

Sincerely,  
Brother Leahy Jr



100 Barrack Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608-2008  
[njglinfo@njmasonic.org](mailto:njglinfo@njmasonic.org)  
609.239.3950

## Grand Lodge of New Jersey

### 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.***

Most Worshipful J. Eugene Margroff, Grand Master  
100 Barrack St  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
[njgm2024@gmail.com](mailto:njgm2024@gmail.com)  
Cell 201-362-3982

Right Worshipful Omar S. Morris, Deputy Grand Master  
Right Worshipful Bruce C. Golway, Senior Grand Warden  
Right Worshipful Bernard J. Madgey, Junior Grand Warden  
Most Worshipful Douglas R. Policastro, PGM, Grand Treasurer  
Most Worshipful Larry S. Plasket, PGM, Grand Secretary



Notice of Change to Regular Communication Venue

Hightstown-Apollo Lodge No. 41, F. & A.M.

Hightstown, New Jersey

Brethren,

Please be advised that the next regular communication of Hightstown-Apollo Lodge No. 41 will be held by dispensation at the

Historic Trenton Masonic Temple

100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ on Friday, June 13, 2025

Gavel drops promptly at 7:00 PM

Primary on the agenda will be to confer the Entered Apprentice Degree upon one worthy candidate

Your attendance and support are earnestly requested as we welcome a new Brother into the Craft. Officers are asked to arrive early for preparation and rehearsal.

We look forward to seeing you there

Fraternally and sincerely,

Christopher J Aiello  
Worshipful Master

"To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry."





# 2025 FULL MOONS AND STATED COMMUNICATION DATES

Full Moon	Stated Meeting
January 13, 2025   Wolf Moon	January 17, 2025
February 12, 2025   Snow Moon	February 14, 2025
March 14, 2025   Worm Moon	March 14, 2025
April 12, 2025   Pink Moon	April 18, 2025
May 12, 2025   Flower Moon	May 16, 2025
June 11, 2025   Strawberry Moon	June 13, 2025
July 10, 2025   Buck Moon	Dark
August 9, 2025   Sturgeon Moon	Dark
September 7, 2025   Corn Moon	September 12, 2025
October 6, 2025   Hunter Moon	October 10, 2025
November 5, 2025   Beaver Moon	November 7, 2025
December 4, 2025   Cold Moon	December 5, 2025

We meet the Friday of, or directly after the full moon. Dinner is at 6:30 pm and the gavel sound at 7:30



## FOR INITIATION OR ADVANCEMENT

Knocking at the  
door

CASTRO GERMAN  
RONITH BONGUNOORI

To be initiated  
Entered Apprentice

MICHAEL DEMAN  
CHRISTOPHER FELTON  
ROBERT YAMSON

To pass to the Degree  
of Fellowcraft

JEZREAL NAZARIO  
BRIAN YURO

## CHRONOLOGICAL BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Gallatin	3-Jun
Rafael Sosa	3-Jun
Carlos Rodriguez	13-Jun
Brett Scott	16-Jun
Michael Leahy	20-Jun
Francis Conway	21-Jun
Alan Peters	25-Jun
Alexander Bragat	27-Jun



# Masonic

# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

## MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

	Raised	Years of Service
Robert Sprout	10-Jun-55	70
S. Tantum	18-Jun-57	68
John Dawes	6-Jun-58	67
Gary Grubb	26-Jun-70	55
L. Wayne Hetzell	15-Jun-71	54
Dennis Whitney	30-Jun-72	53
Thomas Estelle	25-Jun-84	41
Brian Hartel	25-Jun-08	17
Anthony Dionne	17-Jun-16	9
Carlos Remolado	17-Jun-16	7
Brian Kleman	5-Jun-21	4
Dominique Jennette	9-Jun-23	2
Robert Meier	9-Jun-23	2
Eric Miller	9-Jun-23	2

## LIVING PAST MASTERS



William Rowles 1972  
Bob Sprout 1973  
Francis Fels, PGC 1974  
Charles O'Neill 1975  
Gary Grubb 1976  
Wayne Hetzell 1976  
Charles Stults III, PGC 1979  
Peter McNulty 1980  
Francis Conway 1981  
Wayne Hetzell 1985  
Raj Sudarsanam 1988  
George Smith, PGC 1990  
Thomas Estelle 1991,1993  
William A. Counterman 1994  
James Mount, PGC 1995  
Gerald Fabisch 1997, 1998  
Mark Megee, PDDGM 1999  
Carlos Rodriguez 2000  
James Mount, PGC 2001  
Michael Lakat, PGP 2004  
Ronald Mayer 2006, 2010  
John Chobrda 2007  
Barry Cutler 2008  
John Chobrda 2008  
Keith Bergmann 2009, 2011  
Earl Groendyke 2012  
Denis de Leon 2013  
Robert Sullivan 2014  
Alexander Bragat 2015  
James Hauck, PGC 2016, 2018  
Ernesto Somera 2017  
Ronald Herzog 2019  
Anthony Katawick 2020  
Michael Kraus 2021  
Edgardo Villafuerte 2022  
Matthew Beltran 2023  
J. Dennis Cuan 2024

## 2025 DUES HAVE BEEN ASSESSED

2025 have been assessed. Payment of \$225.00 may be made by check made out to Hightstown Apollo Lodge No. 41

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES





## Lodges of the 15th Masonic District

<a href="#">Trenton Cyrus 5</a>	131 Burd Street Pennington	3rd Wed @ 7:00 PM Every month; except Jul, Aug Dinner is served at 6 PM before all of our Regular Communications.
<a href="#">Amwell 12</a>	21 Bridge Street Lambertville	2nd Wed @ 7:30 PM Every month Dinner at 6:30 PM No meetings in July & August
<a href="#">Hightstown-Apollo 41</a>	535 North Main Street Hightstown	Full Moon Friday of, or directly after the full moon. Dinner is at 6:30 pm and the gavel sound at 7:30 pm.
<a href="#">Horizon Daylight 299</a>	2308 Burlington-Mt Holly Road, Burlington, NJ 08016	Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am
<a href="#">Gothic-Mercer 270</a>	3682 Nottingham Way Hamilton Sq.	1st & 3rd Monday at 7:30 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM every month except July, & August

## DISTRICT LODGES OF INSTRUCTION

Date	Host Lodge	Topic
Jan 9, 2025   Thurs	HA41	Opening, Drop to EA, Close, Ballot
Feb 5, 2025   Wed	GM270	FC Degree (3 cand), Block Out FC Lecture - Short Form Exam
Mar 5, 2025   Wed	A12	EA Degree (2 cand), Short Form Exam
Apr 2, 2025   Wed	TC5	MM 1st Section (2 cand), Short Form Exam
May 7, 2025   Wed	HA41	MM 2nd Section (5 cand), MM Charge
Jun 4, 2025   Wed	TC5	GLI Rehearsal
Jun 23, 2025   Mon	TC5	Grand Lodge of Instruction
Jul 2025		Dark
Aug 2025		Dark
Sep 3, 2025   Wed		Rusty Mason "You Can't Do That"
Oct 1, 2025   Wed	GM270	PM's only – Qualification Ceremony
Nov 4-5 2025   Tue-Wed	A12	Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Atlantic City
Dec 3, 2025   Wed	TC5	Open, Close, and Ballot from Advanced Stations

## IN AND ABOUT THE APARTMENTS

A truly memorable Table Lodge! The evening was a resounding success—filled with fellowship, laughter, and Masonic spirit. The energy in the room remained high from the first toast to the final charge.







(Above) At the May District Lodge of Instruction, Brother Thomas Reynolds was honored as a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of King Solomon—a prestigious recognition of his dedication to Masonic learning and his active participation in this esteemed educational program.



(Above) The Worshipful Master and the Brethren Traveling to Burlington Lodge to witness a Master Mason degree. We had enough members to claim the Traveling Gavel, sadly the district rules do not allow it



The Worshipful Master and the Brethren  
Traveling to Burlington Lodge to attend their  
regular communication and listen to a lecture on  
Music and Masonry







The Brethren Honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country at the Hightstown Memorial Day Parade





Visit the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy website  
[Click HERE](#)



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## Welcome to the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Masonic Legacy Project

The Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy Project aspires to create a living archive, where the voices and experiences of our members resonate through interviews, anecdotes, and reflections. This digital repository will serve as a testament to the enduring principles, camaraderie, and contributions that have shaped our lodge.



Meet the Brethren

### **RW Ron Herzog, PGC**

Brotherhood, Hospitality, and a Coyote Hat: A Tribute to Right Worshipful Ron Herzog



Meet the Brethren

### **RW James Hauck PM, PGC**

Past Master 2016, 2018



Meet the Brethren

### **WB Gerald Fabisch PM**

Past Master 1997, 1998