



ORGANIZED January 14, 1871
CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

June 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, June 12th, 2025
Dress is Formal. Tuxedo for Officers

7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Business
- 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 and prospects are welcome.

By order of

WB Luis A. Valentin
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; This month will be at Haddonfield on June 11th
-

June Masonic Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Nathaniel L. Baker	Jeffrey C. Martin
Scott R Barry	Alexander Martinez
John M Belko	Thomas A Muskett
Rolf G. Benninghoven	Russel V Panchelli
William H Berman	Kenneth L Pierce
William J DeFoney	Larry S. Plasket
Richard M DiMonte	Robert J Quigley, Jr.
Frederick L. Follis, Jr.	Michael D. Riggs
Michael J. Giletto	Ramon A. Rodriguez
William H Griffith IV	Raynaldo Santiago
Robert W Hertneck, Jr.	Andrew D Schmidt
Donald R Hoblitzell	Gerald J Sharpe
Joseph J. Hopkins III	Thomas R Smith III
Charles M Ivory	Anthony J. Starkus, Jr.
Gerald D Jeitner, Jr.	Eric Valentin
Eric T. Johnson	Luis A. Valentin
William W. Johnson, Sr.	El Donaldo F. Vidal
John A. Lattanzi	Wilbur Wanamaker, Jr.
John E Laurick	Patrick C. Weisgerber, Sr.
Michael W Mack, Sr.	Richard Wimmer

2025 In Memoriam

Brother

Jerome H Szczesniewski, Sr

Initiated January 21st, 1977
Passed February 18th, 1977
Raised March 18th, 1977
Called from Labor: July 9th, 2024

Brother

Robert E. Collier

Initiated September 20th, 1963
Passed October 18th, 1963
Raised November 15th, 1963
Called from Labor: November 10th, 2024

Brother

Roger T. Wells

Initiated January 20th, 2012
Passed February 17th, 2012
Raised March 23rd, 2012
Called from Labor: December 2nd, 2024

Brother

Edwin W. Messey

Initiated February 14th, 1964
Passed March 20th, 1964
Raised April 17th, 1964
Called from Labor: February 27th, 2025

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

© CALLED FROM LABOR.

Calendar of Events

Regular Communication

Past Master's Night

Temple Family BBQ

GLI Rehearsal – Merchantville

GLI Rehearsal – Merchantville

GLI – At Merchantville Temple

Regular Communication

Nomination of Officers

Trunk or Treat

Election of Officers

Annual Communication &

Installation of Officers

Thursday, June 12th at 7:30pm

Wednesday, June 25th @ 6:00pm

Saturday, June 28th @ Noon

Wednesday, August 20th @ 7:00pm

Wednesday, August 27th @ 7:00pm

Thursday, September 4th at 6:45pm

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

Salsa Night

Annual Table Lodge

Food Baskets

Christmas/Holiday Party

Need Event Coordinator

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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

Past Master's Dutch Treat Dinner

Wednesday, June 25th @ 6:00pm

Merchantville & Mozart Lodge Past Master's Dutch Treat Dinner

Marco's Restaurant at The Pennsauken Country Club

Limited to 25 Brothers – Menu Pricing – Dutch Treat

Honor the Past Masters of the Merchantville Temple's Lodges

Contact WB Shawn Roberts for RSVP 856-631-4664

Open to all Masons Past Masters will 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.

Temple BBQ

Saturday, June 28th @ noon

Sponsored by Merchantville Lodge

Organized by Campana De Libertad Lodge

Contact WB Shawn Roberts for RSVP 856-631-4664

Important...

WE NEED YOUR RSVPs NOW PLEASE

MAILINGS

Look for notices in your email and mail boxes

Important mail will be coming!

If you have not been receiving mail from the lodge, please send your address to secretary@merchantvillelodge.org or update it in Grandview

Brethren,

As we prepare to "go dark" and enjoy the summer months, 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 educates masons all over the world that 'none are admitted to that honor but such as were cleansed of all impurities of both body and mind.'

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

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.

Petitions for Membership

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

2025 Dues + PayPal Fee (\$5)



**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
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njgm2024@gmail.com

District Deputy Grand Master Eighteenth Masonic District

R.W. Kenneth F. Carpenter Jr.
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kfcarpenter@comcast.net

District Ritual Instructor Eighteenth Masonic District

R.W. Vincent M. Capone
(609) 206-3078
acgy12@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

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info@merchantvillelodge.org

Merchantvillelodge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Merchantville119

Instagram: @MerchantvilleLodge

Merchantville Lodge No. 119 F&AM

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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SENIOR WARDEN

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JUNIOR WARDEN

WB ANTHONY J. "AJ" STARKUS (Brie)
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SECRETARY

WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS (Jenn)
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TREASURER

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PROXY TO GRAND LODGE

WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS, PM

CHAPLAIN

WB RAYNALDO SANTIAGO, PM

SENIOR DEACON

WB EL DONALDO VID AL, 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.

DIRECTOR OF RITUAL

WB Shawn M Roberts, PM

LODGE TRUSTEES

DB Kenneth Pierce (2024)
WB Raynaldo Santiago (2025)
MW Larry Plaskett (2026)

**BLOOD DRIVE
REPRESENTATIVES**

Bro. Joseph McGuckin Jr.

**DISTINGUISHED
BRETHREN**

DB Rolf U. Benninghoven
DB John M. Belko
DB Kenneth L. Pierce
DB Enrique Rosario, PM
DB Stephen Callaghan

BRETHREN EMERITUS

RW Mark R. Richardson,
PGSB...Treasurer
RW Raymond W. Taylor, Sr.,
PGC...Secretary
WB Henry Olsen, PM...Tyler

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

