



Merchantville, N. J.

ORGANIZED January 14, 1871
CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

September 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, September 11th, 2025

Dress is Formal. Tuxedo for Officers

7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Business
- Vote for consolidation of Merchantville and Mozart Lodges
- 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. 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
 - Masters and Wardens and DLI are held on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:45pm
Master Masons only; No DLI in September 2025. Oct 2025 @ Merchantville
-

September Masonic Birthdays

Happy Birthday

**Kenneth W Balentine
Pat F Gismonde
Steven D McCormack
Theodore R Stallone
Harry G Trost**

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.

Thank you!

WB Shawn M. Roberts, PM
Secretary

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

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

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

Worshipful Brother

Edward S Keller

Initiated September 14th, 1972

Passed October 12th, 1972

Raised November 16th, 1972

Called from Labor: August 22nd, 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
Nomination of Officers

Trunk or Treat

Grand Lodge Annual

Election of Officers

Annual Communication &
Installation of Officers

Thursday, September 11th at 7:30pm

Thursday, October 9th at 7:30pm

Saturday, October 25th at 2:00pm

Tues-Thurs November 4-6

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.

Thank you to all who came out to help with painting stripes on the parking lot and for cleaning out the shed. Your help is appreciated and the lot and shed look great!

WB Knaus has these highlights for you in regard to the building:

Over the summer we had 3 rentals, painted the parking lot, had a shed cleanout, repaired a vacuum, replaced another, cleaned out and reorganized the storage closet, repaired the old AED, repaired the back door, installed new First Aid kit in the kitchen, added another tenant, the Merchantville Ladies' Club, and most recently had our fire inspection with no physical violations.

We will be looking to have another cleanout day and we need to replace the roof on the shed. There's always some work around the temple that needs to be done. If you'd like to lend a helping hand, please contact WB Knaus. Thank you.

Greetings from the East

September 2025

Brethern,

As we return from darkness to light, I would like to welcome everyone back to lodge and hope the summer was enjoyable and relaxing. I am looking forward to fellowship with all of you as well as all Brothers from the 18th Masonic District. As we return to lodge and prepare for advanced stations, let us keep in mind our Masonic Duties. As a reminder, here is a short excerpt by Bro. Mark St. John in The Midnight Freemason on Masonic Duty.

In Freemasonry, we learn that the symbols and allegories taught in our Blue Lodge are to convey to us our duty. A Freemason's duty is one that should be a duty shared by all: the duty of improving himself, his family, his neighbor, and his society so that he may be a better man, and the world may be a better place because of his contributions. The duty of improving one's self, through a connection to his spiritual side and improving his relationship with God, is with us always. It is a never-ending quest of "perfection," which may not be achieved in this lifetime.

Our first lesson on duty is that we should work without an expectation of reward. It is possible to achieve titles in Masonry, as well as earning esteem for tasks completed or knowledge obtained in ritual and education. If a man's desire to achieve these accomplishments is merely based on the rewards he earns, the status he achieves, or the offices he is elected or appointed to, then he is laboring for the wrong reasons. We should labor because the work is good; it is a worthwhile endeavor, and we can be proud of these accomplishments. We should never do so for notoriety.

Our motives must be for our own improvement and satisfaction of progress to that end, not to impress others or to improve our standing within the fraternity. We must always strive for the perfections shown to us by God. It is a journey we will never achieve in this lifetime. The lessons taught in Blue Lodge truly have the potential to have a profound impact on ourselves and society, but only if each of us constantly ascends our own winding staircase of life.

This is why our Masonic Duty is with us always-because the duty is never finished in this lifetime.

Fraternally,

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

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 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be at The Tropicana Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ on Nov 4-6.

Below are the links to make a reservation for the Wednesday night dinner or for the entire package. There are 2 links, 1 to just purchase tickets for the Wednesday Night Banquet, and 1 to purchase the full package which includes:
Banquets, Tuesday & Wednesday nights
Room for Tuesday and Wednesday nights
Breakfast Wednesday & Thursday
Lunch Wednesday

Link for Wednesday banquet: <https://forms.gle/sLhdL4wHCiZtrbpd7>

Link for complete package: <https://forms.gle/B1eGt6Wd5x4kDonG7>

If you are interested in making a hotel reservation, you may do so by contacting the hotel directly and use the following code when making the reservation:
ST11GL5

Interested in the Masonic Leadership Conference?

The 2025 Masonic Leadership Conference is now open for registration. Although the registration deadline is October 2, 2025, registration is on a first come, first served basis until all slots are filled. The past two years were full earlier than the deadline. Please inform the Worshipful Master ASAP. Only a lodge checks will be accepted as payment.
October 24-26, 2025
Patton Masonic Campus, Elizabethtown, PA

**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
acgy psy12@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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Phone (856) 663-1719

info@merchantvillelodge.org

Merchantvillelodge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Merchantville119

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

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 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

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

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, PGP
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

