



Merchantville, N. J.

ORGANIZED January 14, 1871
CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

October 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, October 9th, 2025
Dress is Formal. Tuxedo for Officers

6:30pm

- Dinner in the Hall

7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Business
- Vote for consolidation of Merchantville and Mozart Lodges
- Masonic Light
- Masonic Birthdays
- Closing

By order of

WB Luis A. Valentin
Worshipful Master

Attest:
WB Shawn M. Roberts, PM
Secretary



If you have thought about maybe becoming an officer and might have questions, please reach out to the Worshipful Master, Sr Warden or Secretary.

October Masonic Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Frederic K. Berman, PM	Michael F MacFerren
Floyd D Britt, PM	Joseph M McGuckin, Jr
James T Dunn, Jr.	Michael Medina
Harold F. Jennings, PGM	Francis J O'Neill, Jr.
Edgar N. Peppler, PGM	

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

If you plan to go, please let the secretary know so we can coordinate as a lodge.

If you are interested in making a hotel reservation (\$85.40/night), you may do so by contacting the hotel directly and using the following code when making the reservation:

ST11GL5

Or use this link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/ST11GL5>

Link for Wednesday banquet

(\$110/each): <https://forms.gle/sLhdL4wHCiZtrbpd7>

You may also purchase the full package below which includes:

Banquets, Tuesday & Wednesday nights

Room for Tuesday and Wednesday nights

Breakfast Wednesday & Thursday

Lunch Wednesday

<https://forms.gle/B1eGt6Wd5x4kDonG7>

See the link for specific details

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

Robert E. Collier

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

Worshipful Brother

Edward S Keller

Initiated September 14th, 1972
Passed October 12th, 1972
Raised November 16th, 1972
Called from Labor: August 22nd, 2025

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

Calendar of Events

October DLI – Family & Friends	Wednesday, October 8th at 6:45pm
October Communication	Thursday, October 9th at 7:30pm
Trunk or Treat	Saturday, October 25 th at 2:00pm
<i>Grand Lodge Annual</i>	<i>Tues-Thurs November 4-6</i>
Nominations & Election of Officers	Thursday, November 13th at 7:30pm
Annual Communication &	December TBD
Installation of Officers	

Greetings from the East

October 2025

Dear Brother,

This month's meeting marks a pivotal moment in the history of our Masonic Lodge. We are preparing to vote on the future status of our lodge, a decision that will shape its direction for years to come. As you know, we've had several passionate discussions recently, allowing each brother the opportunity to voice his concerns and ask questions. Now, with the changing times, we must reflect on where we stand and consider the best course of action moving forward.

The question before us is simple but profound: Do we continue as we are, maintaining the status quo, or do we embrace change through a potential merger? This decision is not one to be taken lightly, and your voice is crucial to ensure we make the right choice for the future of our lodge.

I ask you, Brother, will you join us in this important endeavor? Your presence and your vote will help guide us toward the path that is best for the brothers, for the lodge, and for the legacy we leave behind.

Let us stand united as we move forward together.

Fraternally,
Luis A. Valentin
Worshipful Master
Merchantville Lodge No. 119, F.&A.M.
856-383-0956

Masonic Light
The Ashlars Masonic Symbol:

It is common knowledge that the brothers come to moralize on Ashlars which lie in the lodge. The Ashlar is a freestone that comes from the pit. The Rough Ashlar is the stone in its normal shape and is symbolic of man in his usual form – unaware, unformed and vicious. But when knowledge has emphasized its hearty authority in increasing his brainpower, restricting his vigor and simplifying his existence, he is then referred to as the Perfect Ashlar which has been curved and squared and fixed for its position in the building.

Nevertheless, one can study that the Rough Ashlar in a Masonic Lodge is not placed in its natural state. It has been smoothed in a style, partly squared and having obvious force and cohesion. It has all the character that could make it an ideal stone for use in the creation of the Temple. It emphasizes that the applicant for association is in a Masonic Lodge. This candidate is neither unaware, nor is he uncultivated or cruel. Masonry just does not allow individuals of such experience.

Anyone can review Masonry by the dealings and mode of living of the people who are part of the Order but know less to nothing of its wisdom or objectives in the construction of one's character. So this way, this individual exists in raw form of the rough Ashlar, taking control of the complete attributes, but somehow missing the shine that is a result of a constant revision and performance of the immense wisdom of Masonry.

One thing must be kept in mind: being a member of the lodge does not make you a Mason. You must look into improving your skills that have been placed by Masonry in character building. However, if you are content with being a Master Mason only for the title, you lose the profits of additional progression and enhancement accessible by the linkage with the Order.

History tells us that the Perfect Ashlar is for the professional workmen to adjust their gear on. In Masonry, workmen are workmen, whether active or inactive. The building of character is the most prized jewel amongst us. And in creating the state of rightness, we use these jewels to take us to higher levels. The Ashlars are not just two pieces of stone. They symbolize where we were and where we aim to go. It is the duty of each Mason to live his life trying to become a better person before passing on and leaving behind his footsteps as a good Ashlar for young Masons to follow and provide their own payments to the Masonic order.

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

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.

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

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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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

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Phone (856) 663-1719

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Merchantvilleglodge.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

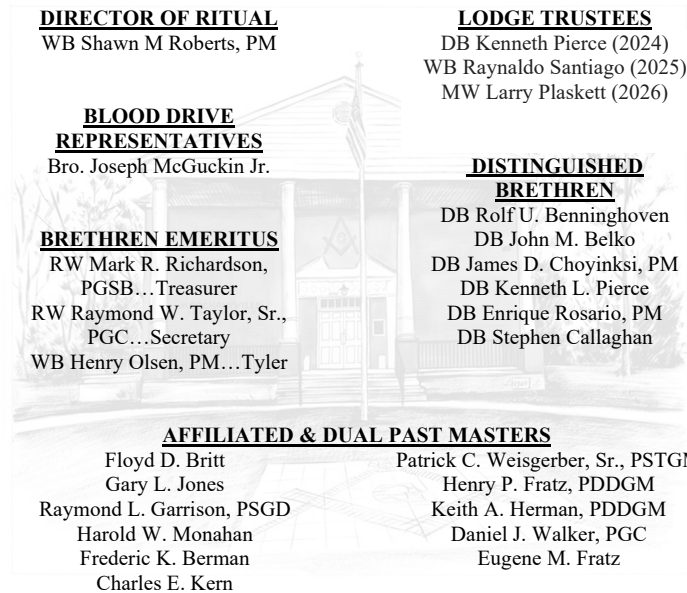
WB CHRISTIAN P. KOCHON, PM

JUNIOR DEACON

WB REV. JORGE A. MARTINEZ, PM

JUNIOR
MASTER OF CEREMONIES
WB GERALD D. JEITNER, PM

JUNIOR STEWARD
JOSEPH M. MCGUCKIN, JR.

	
<u>DIRECTOR OF RITUAL</u> WB Shawn M Roberts, PM	<u>LODGE TRUSTEES</u> DB Kenneth Pierce (2024) WB Raynaldo Santiago (2025) MW Larry Plaskett (2026)
<u>BLOOD DRIVE REPRESENTATIVES</u> Bro. Joseph McGuckin Jr.	<u>DISTINGUISHED BRETHREN</u> DB Rolf U. Benninghoven DB John M. Belko DB James D. Choyinksi, PM DB Kenneth L. Pierce DB Enrique Rosario, PM DB Stephen Callaghan
<u>BRETHREN EMERITUS</u> RW Mark R. Richardson, PGSB...Treasurer RW Raymond W. Taylor, Sr., PGC...Secretary WB Henry Olsen, PM...Tyler	
<u>AFFILIATED & DUAL PAST MASTERS</u>	
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

<u>HONORARY MEMBERS</u>	
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

