



BSMTMD Lodge No. 35

Grand Lodge of New Jersey

January 2026



Consolidated January 20, 1996
Meets at Secaucus Masonic Center

1422 Paterson Plank Road
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094

First & Third Tuesday

Collation After Communication
Communication 7:30 PM

Secretary – MW Roger Quintana, PGM – Cell – 732-801-6974

Web Site: WWW.NJFREEMASON.NET

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BSMTMD/>

Grand Lodge of New Jersey Web

Page: <http://www.newjerseygrandlodge.org>

Brothers,

Borrowed from "The CALIFORNIA FREEMASON"

In Masonry and Magic, Blending Illusion and Wonder

For generations, the world's greatest magicians have found a second home in Masonry. A deeper look reveals why the two crafts are about as intertwined as two brass rings.

The man in the top hat commands the attention of his audience. He recites a speech that was passed down to him through generations, mouth to ear. He invokes esoteric wisdom and alludes to its mystical origins in the east. Then he takes his wand, taps the hat twice, and runs through a greatest-hits show of performance magic: the coin behind the ear, the rabbit in the hat, and, the fundamental act for any magician, the cups and balls.

The parallels between Masonry and magic are clear to anyone who's sat in a lodge room during a degree conferral or been astonished at a performer's card trick. Both, of course, cultivate an air of secrecy and mystery. Both rely on sensory experience to make an impression on the mind. And both require a certain showmanship and panache to deliver a truly memorable experience. Perhaps most important, they share some significant membership overlap: virtually every one of the most celebrated magicians of the past 200 years have been Freemasons.

Masonry and magic each feature a long fraternal history. Like Masons, magicians have for generations gathered in clubs and societies of performers around the world. In fact, many of the hallmarks of membership in a Masonic lodge—the initiations, rituals, handshakes, and even funerary rites—can be found in groups like the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians, to which the great Harry Kellar, Howard Thurston, and Harry Houdini all belonged. All three, incidentally, were proud Freemasons.

That magic and Masonry connection was acknowledged by one Masonic publisher with a subtle sense of humor. In the early 20th century, the Allen Publishing Company of New York published ritual ciphers with fake titles meant to throw off curious snoops, titling one Magicians' Magic Movements and Ceremonies. Rediscovered by the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Massachusetts, the cipher opens with one page describing a fake magic-sword ritual. Then, without explanation, it jumps into the seeming gibberish of a ritual cipher book.

Harry Houdini: Master Magician and Mason

It's a fitting sleight-of-hand trick, says Randy Brill, the grand master of California. Brill, too, has performed magic his whole life, and still counts himself as something of a semi-professional. "Most of us dabble in magic as kids, and some of us never grow up," he explains. "Mystery has always attracted the human brain. We want to see something that mystifies us, something we can't easily understand."

Brill and Shelton are two of the organizers who will speak at the 2023 Masonic Symposium on June 28, titled Harry Houdini: Master & Mystic. The event pays homage to the Mason, magician, and Hollywood figure who perhaps did the most to bring performance magic into the public consciousness.

Houdini, of course, is practically the patron saint of Mason-magicians. He pushed the boundaries of the field, combining stage magic, parlor magic, illusion, and escape acts in his most celebrated performances. In an era long before television or social media, Houdini was a masterful marketer and showman who knew how to garner publicity. What's less known about him is that Houdini was a committed Mason. He was initiated and raised in 1923 at St. Cecile Lodge № 568 in Manhattan (which is still active today), performed at Masonic benefit shows, and even received a traditional Masonic funeral.

Masons and Magicians: Birds of a Feather

What is it that's so appealing about an act of illusion? Why do normally rational people—especially Masons, whose teachings are grounded in the seven liberal arts and sciences—delight in witnessing feats that fly in the face of the laws of physics?

Gustav Kuhn attempts to answer that question in his book *Experiencing the Impossible: The Science of Magic*. Kuhn is a professor at the University of London and a magician with the Magic Circle there.

He speculates that magic acts might actually serve a cognitive function—namely, allowing us to hold contradictory beliefs. Kuhn suggests that “magical thinking” is innate in humans, dazzling us as babies playing peekaboo and confounding us as adults gambling at a casino even when we know the odds are stacked against us.

Magic and Masonry: A Spiritual Kinship

So, beyond their parallel fraternal histories, the similarities in custom, and the many significant figures they share in common, some practitioners speculate that perhaps Masonry and magic share a more spiritual sort of kinship.

That instinct to break down seemingly supernatural acts into replicable components is common to nearly all magicians. In fact, Shelton says, there may be no more determinedly rational, critical thinkers out there than magicians. Call it the credo of an honest liar: Many famous magicians have made it their mission to expose performers who blur the line between illusions and miracles. Houdini, James Randi, and Penn & Teller, for example, have all aggressively exposed performers who claimed divine intervention. Houdini even commissioned an unpublished manuscript by H.P. Lovecraft called *The Cancer of Superstition*.

So, beyond their parallel fraternal histories, the similarities in custom, and the many significant figures they share in common, some practitioners speculate that perhaps Masonry and magic share a more spiritual sort of kinship.

Masonry: The "Other Magic"

Centuries ago, the line between magic and science was not so clear or well defined. So-called “natural magicians” of the Renaissance era blended concepts of metaphysics, alchemy, and magic. It was into this proto-scientific hothouse that many of the themes found in “speculative” Freemasonry were born. Historically, even some esteemed scientists dabbled in “the other magic.” Consider Isaac Newton, an icon of science and the Enlightenment and a president of the Royal Society. Only after Newton’s death was it discovered that a substantial portion of his manuscripts dealt with alchemy and the occult. John Maynard Keynes, who purchased Newton’s private writings, was compelled to observe that, “Newton was not the first of the age of reason. He was the last of the magicians.”

Even defining magic is no easy task. It’s a loaded word with contested meanings. Some magicians bristle at the word magic and prefer the term illusion. Others embrace the word but are loath to acknowledge other types of magic. Justin Sledge, a scholar in Western esotericism, observed that the word magic has historically been used to “other” those with divergent views, denigrating them by implying that they trade in sorcery or trickery. (Consider how “magical” elements of gnosticism or voodoo are used to delegitimize those spiritual traditions.) Modern magic, whether we call it “stage magic” or “performance magic,” might never completely shake off those less-than-reputable vestiges of its past.

In Masonry and Magic, a New Order

Magic, whether as a staged illusion or in the supernatural sense, likewise rearranges our sense of order. The performer is able to control the seemingly uncontrollable. Ritual offers a similar kind of magic of its own. The Masonic ritual, which is fixated on precise movement and memorization, offers the promise of an invisible transformation. The anthropologist Bronisław Malinowski said of ritual and magic, “Magic is to be expected and generally to be

found whenever man comes to an unbridgeable gap, a hiatus in his knowledge or in his powers of practical control, and yet has to continue in his pursuit."

Whether it's Houdini escaping a water tank or a costumed amateur pulling out your queen of diamonds from his deck, the magician is able to command an aura of wonder. They pierce the veil of perception, promising us a fleeting glimpse into what might be on the other side. Both the Mason and the magician, then, can be best described as seekers—those wishing to see more, to go beyond, to push the limits of their perception. Like the Masonic initiate, they await the moment of illumination from the proverbial darkness. As the magician says,

Abracadabra!

S & F

W. Bro. Eriberto Castillo



Upcoming Events:

We often look at our Roster and wonder how the Brothers we have not seen in a while are doing. Give a Brother a call. Come to the lodge together. In the lodge, there are no strangers. Make time to see your Brothers.

LODGE MEETINGS FOR January 2026

Officers Ritual Practice Floor Work at Lodge every 1st Thursday of the month. See W. Bro. James B. Klingener JR. for details.

Regular Communication – Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Lodge Opens at 7:30 pm – Dinner by reservation before the meeting. Please make a reservation. Worshipful Master will present his plans for 2026.

Regular Communication – Tuesday, January 19, 2026

The lodge opens at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is by reservation before the meeting. Please make a reservation. Lecture of Protocol.

Thursday, January 21, 2026, is our January DLI

All Officers are required to attend. It will be held to be announced...

SAVE THE DATE: EMERGENT COMMUNICATION OF THE LODGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING 2024 OFFICERS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024. OPEN INSTALLATION.

Lodges of the 5th District

Enterprise 31 1st Friday @ 7:00 PM

Blue Stone 35 1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30PM

Secaucus 72 2nd & 4th Friday @ 7:30PM

Peninsula 99 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7:00PM

Plaridel 302 2nd Saturday @4:00PM

Hippocrates 304 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30PM

LODGE APP
Members of BSMTMD Lodge #35
Download your lodge APP
For your smart phone
Or web Login

<https://bsmtmdlodge35.minsh.com/launch.html>

2026 Dues ARE NOW DUE

Dues for 2026 are \$180, Dual Members \$103

Dues Payments

Brothers,

Dues payments can be made through the Square App or by check payable to the lodge. Use the Square App for dues payments and Masonic travel.

The amount due is on Grandview. Please note that the Grandview amount is due through December 31, 2026.

Regular Member (this is your mother lodge) dues payment link on Square.

<https://square.link/u/cCoRVPpMp>



Dual Member (this is NOT your mother lodge) dues payment link on Square.

<https://square.link/u/3ptfzujf>



You can change the payment amount to include arrears if you are in arrears.

WISHING ALL OF MY
BROTHERS
NEAR AND FAR
A VERY



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.



Find out more about us—

***The Grand Lodge
of New Jersey***

www.newjerseygrandlodge.org





New Jersey Grand Master Cruise 2026

Pricing Options via
Seaview Travel LLC's
Group Booking

Please Keep In Mind:

- To take advantage of these rates, it is important to make a reservation and deposit as soon as possible. **These rates are locked for a specific amount of rooms per room type and will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis.**
- **Once we meet our max. amount of rooms for a category**, we are not able to add more rooms within that category at this price point. In this scenario, the travel agent will explore the other room options available to you and its corresponding cost.
- You will have until **May 2026** to cancel with a **full refund of your deposit** if you are no longer able to attend.
- The prices listed are for **2 people per room**.

Room Type/Price:

- **Promenade View Interior:** \$3,249.46 (20 cabins reserved)
- **Connecting Promenade View Interior:** \$3,203.46 (20 cabins reserved)
- **Ocean View Balcony:** \$4,941.46 (75 cabins reserved)
- **Ocean View:** \$3,715.46 (10 cabins reserved)
- **Ocean View:** \$3,693.46 (35 cabins reserved)
 - These ocean view options are the same type of room--the difference would just be location on the ship (ex. lower vs. higher deck or forward vs. midship).
- **Inside:** \$2,877.46 (15 cabins reserved)

2026 GRAND MASTER'S GOLF OUTING

All proceeds
go to support
the Grand
Master's
Charities!

Monday, June 1st, 2026

PEDDIE GOLF CLUB
671 OLD YORK RD
EAST WINDSOR, NJ 08520

Check-in with continental
breakfast : 8:30am
Shotgun start: 10:00am
BBQ Lunch to follow

\$175 - Per Player (Limit 80)
\$50 - Lunch Only (Limit 20)

Register now. space is limited
tinyurl.com/gmgolf2026



Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with
M.W. Omar S. Morris and the Square and
Compassion Foundation at the:

Grand Master's GALA

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”



On March 28, 1776, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John Adams, urging him to “remember the ladies” as our nation was being formed. Join us as we honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the promise of tomorrow.

March 15th, 2026 at 2:00 PM

The Liberty House, 76 Audrey Zapp Drive, Jersey City, NJ, 07305

Cost: \$125 Per Person **Dress Code:** Black Tie

RSVP Details: Reserve your ticket via electronic form at tinyurl.com/gmgala26 (QR code below) & make check payable to “Team Morris NJ Grand Staff”. It should be mailed to: R.W. Chris Roethke, 360 Central Ave., Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097.

Deadline: Sunday, February 1st, 2025 or until sold out
(only 300 tickets available)





Voyager Award



Discover the Journey. Earn the Voyager Award.
Experience Freemasonry like never before!

The Voyager Passport invites you to travel, explore, and celebrate the spirit of the Traveling Man — recording your visits, experiences, and milestones along the way.

As you journey, you'll strengthen your Masonic knowledge, build lifelong friendships, and bring new light back to your Lodge.



Earn Your Recognition:

Journeyman Voyager Award – for travels throughout New Jersey

Master Voyager Award – for travels within New Jersey and beyond

Every trip brings you closer to growth, brotherhood, and achievement.



Get your Passport today — start your journey as a Voyager!



THE ROAST OF SENIOR GRAND WARDEN BERNARD 'BUD' MADGEY

THURSDAY,
MARCH 26
6:00PM

MASONIC CLUB OF LYNDHURST
316 RIVERSIDE AVE, LYNDHURST, NJ **\$50**

To RSVP & Purchase
Tickets
<https://is.gd/DdDQKI>



Price includes
Food by Chef
Serafin
Cash Bar

Children's Dyslexia Center—Fund Raiser



Fund Raiser for the Verdon R. Skipper Children's Dyslexic Center

When: SUNDAY, January 25th, 2026 - 1:00PM to 4:00PM

Where: TOPGOLF - 104 Centerton Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ (856) 793-4084

Cost: \$80.00 PER PERSON

What's Included: 3 Hours of Video Golf game fun, 6 people per Hitting Bay.

SMOKEHOUSE BBQ for 1-1/2 hours including soft drinks.

Golf clubs and golf balls included. BYO clubs if desired.

TOPGOLF Ambassadors present for instruction and assistance.

Facility is temperature controlled and all Hitting Bays are under cover and heated!

Adult beverages available for purchase.

Do You need to be good at golf to have fun?

Absolutely not! With holes the size of craters, anyone at any age or ability level can play and enjoy. Team Play makes the day even more fun. All experience levels will have a terrific time!



Children's Dyslexia Center—Fund Raiser



The price of Golf Participation for this CDC event is \$80.00 per golfer.

Everyone of *ALL* ages is Welcome. Register solo, with your *Significant Other* or with a group.

Only 6 participants per Hitting Bays.

Clubs are provided but bring your own clubs, golf glove and shoes if desired.

TOPGOLF HAS NO ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SPECTATORS BECAUSE OF SPACE RESTRICTIONS

**** IMPORTANT – Make Your Reservations by Saturday, January 17th****

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Players in Your Group - Up To 6 Names per Hitting Bay.

If registering over 6 players, please list those names on back of the form.

2. _____ Email _____

3. _____ Email _____

4. _____ Email _____

5. _____ Email _____

6. _____ Email _____

Children's Dyslexia Center SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Platinum - \$525 - Includes all the amenities for 6 golfers plus signage for the event.

Gold - \$285 - Includes all the amenities for 3 golfers plus signage for the event.

Silver - \$205- Includes all the amenities for 2 golfers plus signage at the event.

HITTING BAY SPONSOR - \$75.00 for a sign at the Buffet

Please send Checks payable to: Verdon R. Skipper Dyslexia Center

Mail Registrations and Checks to: John Bradshaw, 14 Medoc Court, Marlton NJ 08053

Questions: John Bradshaw, poppyjohn@comcast.net, Phone 609-694-6272

V.2022.02.14b

JGW Reception



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY FEB 21, 2026

FELLOWSHIP CENTER
1114 OXMEAD RD, BURLINGTON, NJ



Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey,
in conjunction with Cincinnati Lodge #3's
Reception of the new Charity Foundation
Trustee and Jr. Grand Warden,
R.W. Glenn T. Visscher.

Robert Burns Dinner Dance

Morrison Tartan



The Masonic Kilties of New Jersey
Cordially invites you to our annual

Robert Burns Dinner Dance



Saturday, January 24th, 2026
\$100pp, 4 Hour Open Bar, 5:30 - 9:30 pm
at The Hanover Manor

Most Worshipful Omar S. Morris

The Grand Master of Masons for The State of New Jersey
will be in attendance.

Our Grand Ball Features
The Kearny Caledonian Pipe Band
The Late Show Dance Band

Open to Non-Masons

R.S.V.P. RW Arnold (Butch) Elliott

E-mail: butch0012@gmail.com • Call: 201-390-3415

The Hanover Manor • 16 Eagle Rock Ave • East Hanover, NJ • Phone (973) 887-2682

Robert Burns Dinner Dance



THE MASONIC KILTIES OF NEW JERSEY for our annual ROBERT BURNS NIGHT DINNER DANCE

PLACE: The Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Avenue, East Hanover, NJ

TIME: Saturday, January 24th, 2026, at 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM

ACTIVITIES:

Open Bar, Hors d'oeuvres, Dancing to Outstanding Music by "The Late Show", the Usual Festive Toasts and Responses, Address to the Haggis and an Outstanding Meal with a choice of Top Sirloin of Beef (TSB), Chicken Française (CF), Broiled Salmon (BS). And for vegetarian's Eggplant Parmigiana (EP)

DRESS CODE:

The suggested attire for the evening is Highland Dress, Tuxedo or dark suit for the gentlemen; and formal or semi-formal dress for the ladies. As always it is hoped that you will wear something Tartan (a tie, a sash, a ribbon, or whatever tickles your fancy).

COST:

\$100.00 per person. Please make your check payable to "The Masonic Kilties of N.J." Reservations are required for all who attend. We request that reservations WITH checks be received no later than Saturday, January 10th, 2026. Don't delay and miss the fun!

(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)

Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

(Please make a dinner selection for each name on the list below)

1	_____ TSB CF BS EP	6	_____ TSB CF BS EP
2	_____ TSB CF BS EP	7	_____ TSB CF BS EP
3	_____ TSB CF BS EP	8	_____ TSB CF BS EP
4	_____ TSB CF BS EP	9	_____ TSB CF BS EP
5	_____ TSB CF BS EP	10	_____ TSB CF BS EP

Number of Reservations _____ \times \$ 100 = \$ _____ (total amount of the check)

Arrangements can be made for tables of 8 or 10. Indicate special seating if required with your reservation.

Please mail reservations with payment before Saturday, January 10th, 2026

To: **Arnold (Butch) Elliott, 38 Main Street, Flanders NJ 07836**
c/o Masonic Kilties of New Jersey

If paid by ZELLE, you MUST still send meal choices to Butch. This can be scanned to his email.



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THIS BANK-TO-BANK ZELLE QR CODE.
IT IS SAFE AND SECURE AND DOES NOT INCUR ADDITIONAL CHARGES.
REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR MEAL CHOICE BY REGULAR MAIL OR Email.
E-mail: butch0012@gmail.com

Thank you.



A NIGHT IN NASHVILLE

featuring music from Nashville



**MARCH 28TH
STARTING AT 6PM
COST: \$36.00**

BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverage)

Location: Crescent Shrine 700 Highland Ave. Westampton NJ

To pay via Zelle use
the QR code or send to

"NJSGM2026@Gmail.com"

To pay by Check, make payable to
"Team Golway Staff Account"
and mail to 1071 Bonnie Blue Cir.
Williamston, NJ 08094



**Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons
of the State of New Jersey**
**Grand Master of Masons for the State of
New Jersey**
MW Omar S. Morris
100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
718-809-7294
omarmorris@gmail.com

5th District Deputy Grand Master

RW Luis G. Diaz 201-437-8640

Luis.g.diaz.73@gmail.com

District Ritual Instructor

RW Thomas J. Uzzalino 201-753-0846

thomas.uzzalino@gmail.com

Lodge Committees For 2026

RITUAL INSTRUCTOR

James Klingener Jr.

FINANCE

Master & Wardens

AUDITING

RW John E Margroff

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

All Line Officers

RELIEF

Master & Wardens

Dues

Roger Quintana, Bruce Kalogera

Investigation

Senior Warden

Honorary Members

MW Harold F. Jennings

RW Robert K. Pedersen

MW Glenn Trautmann

RW Bud Madgey

Trustees

2027

2028

2026

Richard Vincentz	Brendan Meany	James Jimenez
John E Margroff	James Jimenez	Yoel Lee

Officers For 2026

Worshipful Master

201-927-8314 email: ecastillo475@hotmail.com

Senior Warden Jason D Dembowski

(201) 852-2900 email: jdembo19@gmail.com

Junior Warden Anthony M Barbire

(973) 767-9574 email: amb16@outlook.com

Secretary MW Roger B. Quintana PGM

732-801-6974 email: njquintana@gmail.com

Asst. Secretary Andrew Quintana Meany

732-213-0981 email: njameany@gmail.com

Treasurer RW Bruce Kalogera

201-864-7570 email: bkalogera@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Chaplain - Carlos Mesa

(732) 921-9468 email: cmesa1@hotmail.com

Junior Deacon Luis Salgado

(973) 747-5139 email: luis.s.salgado@outlook.com

Senior Deacon Justin P Storie

(201) 397-6255 email: jstorie2010@gmail.com

Senior Master of Ceremonies Christian Martinez

(201) 705-8106 email: gvr4dsm@hotmail.com

Junior Master of Ceremonies Andrew Quintana Meany

(732) 213-0981 email: njameany@gmail.com

Senior Steward Arnaldo Mateo

(973) 789-4024 email: arnaldo.mateo@gmail.com

Junior Steward Mudduser Hameed Malik

(201) 376-0906 email: mudmalik@gmail.com

Marshal Fidiberto Soto, Jr

(201) 838-4148 email: trooper6154@aol.com

Historian - Bladimiro Rodriguez

(201) 424-8612 email: bladir1933@gmail.com

Tyler Cesar Garcia

(201) 908-0045 email: cesaregarciajr32@gmail.com

