



Constituted November 6, 2025

Worshipful Master

WB Andrew S. Knaus, PM

February 2026

**THE GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND
HONORABLE SOCIETY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASON**
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 of the State of New Jersey

M.W. Omar S. Morris
100 Barrack St.
Trenton, NJ 08608

Deputy Grand Master

RW Bruce C Golway

Senior Grand Warden

RW Bernard J Madgey, V

Junior Grand Warden

RW Glenn T Visscher

Grand Treasurer

MW Douglas R Pollicastro, PGM

Grand Secretary

MW Larry S Plasket, PGM

District Deputy Grand

**Master Eighteenth
Masonic District**

RW Kenneth F Carpenter, Jr
(609) 634-5660
kfcarpenter@comcast.net

District Ritual Instructor

**Eighteenth Masonic
District**

RW Vincent M Capone
(609) 206-3078
acgypsy12@aol.com

Grand Chaplains (18th)

RW Jim Stapleton
RW James Boulger

**District Education
Officer**

RW Michael I Mattes

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 MOZART LODGE #119 F&AM

6926 Park Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109
Phone (856) 663-1719
secretary@merchantvillemozart.org

MerchantvilleMozart.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Merchantville119

Instagram: @MerchantvilleLodge

Merchantville Mozart Lodge No. 119 F&AM

2026 Officers

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WB Andrew S Knaus

AKnaus@MerchantvilleMozart.org

SENIOR WARDEN

RW George W Niessner

JUNIOR WARDEN

RW Michael I Mattes

SECRETARY

WB Shawn M Roberts

(856) 631-4664

SECRETARY@merchantvillemozart.org

TREASURER

WB Anthony J Starkus, Jr

PROXY TO GRAND LODGE

WB Anthony J Starkus, Jr

CHAPLAIN
RW Peter G Buchert

SENIOR DEACON
WB Julius Trimbach

**SENIOR
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**
WB Jorge A Martinez

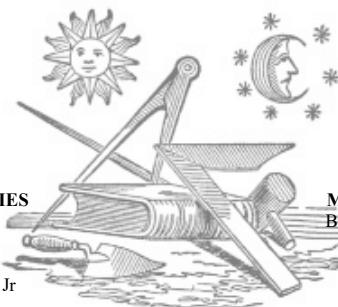
SENIOR STEWARD
Bro. Joseph M McGuckin, Jr

MARSHAL
DB Barney Mohrfeld

JUNIOR DEACON
WB Roger Bohn, Sr

**JUNIOR
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**
Bro. Anthony Rodriguez-Arroyo

JUNIOR STEWARD
Bro. Todd Cottle



TYLER
WB John W Hunsberger, Jr

Musicians
RW Donald R Tuttle
Bro. Steven D McCormack

Lodge Ritual Instructor

To be Appointed

LODGE TRUSTEES

To be Elected

**BLOOD DRIVE
REPRESENTATIVES**Dist Rep WB Shawn Roberts, PM
Lodge Rep to be Appointed**BRETHREN EMERITUS**RW Mark R. Richardson,
PGSB.....Treasurer
RW Raymond W. Taylor, Sr.,
PGC.....Secretary
WB Henry Olsen, PM....Tyler***DISTINGUISHED
BRETHREN**DB Rolf U.
Benninghoven
DB John M. Belko
DB Kenneth L. Pierce
DB Enrique Rosario
DB Barney Mohrfeld
DB Stephen Callaghan**AFFILIATED & DUAL PAST MASTERS**Floyd D. Britt
Gary L. Jones
Charles E. Kern, Jr
Raymond L. Garrison, PSGD
Frederic K. Berman
Brian J. Read, PJGSRobert A. Taylor
Patrick C. Weisgerber, Sr., PSTGM
Henry P. Fratz, PDDGM
Keith A. Herman, PGO
Daniel J. Walker, PGC
John W. Hunsberger, Jr.**HONORARY MEMBERS**

M.W. David A. Dorworth PGM	M.W. John M. Colligas PGM	R.W. Bruce C. Zielinski PDRI	R.W. Scott P. Vicari, PGP
M.W. Douglas R. Policastro PGM	M.W. John S. Ryan PGM	R.W. Dale A. Lynch PDDGM	R.W. Steven M. Preissman PDDGM
M.W. Edgar N. Peppler PGM	M.W. Joseph H. Rival Jr. PGM	R.W. Donald Tuttle G. Music	R.W. Thomas R. Stallone, PDDGM
M.W. Gerald J. Sharpe, PGM	M.W. William H. Berman PGM	R.W. Howard Kanowitz PGC	R.W. Richard Wimmer PGC
M.W. Glenn R. Trautmann PGM	M.W. William H. Sackett PGM	R.W. John L. Reader III PDRI	W.B. David N. Tilton, PM
M.W. Harold F. Jennings, PGM	R.W. Bernard Madgey, VSGW	R.W. Leonard M. March PDDGM	

Dear Brother;

You are cordially and fraternally requested to attend the Regular Communication of Merchantville Mozart Lodge #119, F. & A.M., to be held at the Merchantville Masonic Temple, 6926 Park Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ.

TUESDAY, February 3rd, 2026

Dress will be Formal. Tuxedo with bow tie for Officers

Dinner served at 6:30pm in the hall

7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Business
 - Full Agenda
- Petitions to be read
- WB Robert Harris, Jr. Presentation
- Masonic Birthdays
- Closing
- Refreshments & Dessert

By order of

**WB Andrew S Knaus
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 - TBD
- Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm, Dinner at 6:30
- District Lodge of Instruction (DLI) is held on the 2nd Wednesday at 7:30pm (Master Masons only)
 - Wednesday, February 11, 2026, DLI - Haddonfield

Upcoming

February Communication featuring WB Robert Harris, PM 2017
“Flexibility, Mobility, Energy for Adults”
Tuesday February 3rd - Dinner 6:30, Gavel 7:30

District Lodge of Instruction at Haddonfield Masonic Temple
Wednesday February 11th - M&W 6:45, DLI 7:30

March Communication

Tuesday March 3rd - Dinner 6:30, Gavel 7:30

April Communication - Official Visit of DDGM RW Kenneth F Carpenter, Jr

Tuesday April 7th - Dinner 6:30, Gavel 7:30
Open, 1st Section EA, 1st Section FC, Close

May Communication - featuring R.W. William M. Krzewick, III, PGT, PAGM “The Quiet Watch”

Tuesday May 5th - Dinner 6:30, Gavel 7:30

Petitions for Membership

John Joseph Leuzzi – Cherry Hill, NJ – 44 Years Old
Byron William Rozier – Pennsauken, NJ – 33 Years Old

Masonic Fun Cryptogram

Decipher the words below. Each letter represents a different letter in the alphabet (e.g., if Q represents A, it will represent A throughout the entire list). Solution further in Trestleboard.

Hint: T equals E

L	J	X	Q	K	T	
E	G	D	H	Q	L	L
S	T	C	T	S		
H	S	X	D	W		
Z	K	G	V	T	S	
Q	L	I	S	Q	K	

S	G	R	U	T	
D	Q	L	Z	T	K
Z	N	S	T	K	
Q	H	K	G	F	
S	O	U	I	Z	
R	T	U	K	T	T

Origins of Ritual Traditions

The ritual traditions of Freemasonry trace their roots to a blend of operative stone-mason practices, medieval guild customs, and the philosophical ideals that emerged during the Enlightenment. In the Middle Ages, stonemasons used signs, words, and symbolic tools to verify skill and preserve the secrets of their craft. These early practices were practical rather than ceremonial, but they laid the foundation for the symbolic language that later became central to Speculative Masonry. As lodges gradually shifted from groups of working masons to societies of moral and philosophical thinkers in the 17th and early 18th centuries, these operative customs were adapted into lessons on character, virtue, and personal growth.

As Freemasonry expanded, the ritual took on a more structured form, particularly after the establishment of the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717. Early manuscripts—such as the Old Charges—revealed both the rules of the craft and hints of degrees that carried moral instruction. Over time, these early catechisms evolved into the degree systems familiar today. Each degree became a symbolic journey, using allegory and ritualized drama to convey timeless lessons. Rather than merely teaching rules, the ritual aimed to engage the candidate's emotions, imagination, and sense of personal transformation.

The rich symbolism found in Masonic ritual also draws from a wide range of historical and philosophical sources. Biblical narratives, classical architecture, Renaissance humanism, and even ancient mystery traditions influenced the way Masons expressed moral truths. While none of these sources alone define Masonic ritual, their convergence created a system that feels both ancient and uniquely Masonic. This blending allowed the ritual to speak across cultures and centuries, giving each Mason the freedom to interpret its symbols in a way that resonates personally.

Although the ritual has been refined and standardized over the years, its deeper purpose remains unchanged: to communicate moral principles in a way that words alone cannot. Its origins remind us that Freemasonry is both a guardian of tradition and a living, evolving fraternity. Each time the ritual is performed, it connects modern Masons to generations who came before—making the lodge not just a place of instruction, but a place of continuity, meaning, and shared light.

WM Andrew S Knaus, PM
Merchantville Mozart Lodge No. 119 F&AM
AKnaus@MerchantvilleMozart.org

2026 IN MEMORIAM

Right Worshipful Brother
Raymond W. Taylor, Sr., PGC
Initiated January 15th, 1971
Passed February 19th, 1971
Raised March 19th, 1971
Called from Labor January 12th, 2026



February Masonic Birthdays

Michael S. Berk
Edward E. Cohen, Jr
Charles W. Foulke, Jr
David C. Lynn
Alexander W. Giebel
Keith A. Herman
Brian J. Portanova



Thank You to all who have contributed to the Building Maintenance Fund.

Brethren

Dues notices will be sent out in January 2026. The amount is \$165 (Full member), \$76 for Grand Lodge Assessments (50+ Year Members), \$89 Lodge Dues (Dual Members).

Please consider donating to support our lodge and building. Your kindness and support will have a lasting impact on the brethren, organizations and families who use our facility. To make a monetary donation, please see the payment methods below. For donations of your time and efforts, please reach out to WM Andy Knaus and/or Secretary WB Shawn Roberts. We are also open to discussing projects in more detail and answering any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your support.

Payment Methods

Please note what it is for.

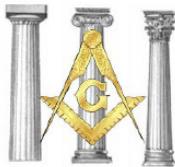
Zelle through your bank's web site to secretary@merchantvillelodge.org
(No Additional Fees!) *Some banks may not participate in Zelle.

Online Options *Fees apply to some options:

Dues payments

[PayPal \(+\\$5 fee\)](#) <---Click here (digital copy only) or Scan the QR below to check out through PayPal using a card, Venmo or Apple Pay.





Brethren,

On February 21th 2025 we will be holding a reception for our new Charity Foundation Trustee, and Junior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Glenn T Visscher. We would like you to participate in this celebration by sharing your congratulations and well wishes with our new Junior Grand Warden. We are compiling an ad book to be distributed during the Junior Grand Wardens Reception. This can be anything from a personal message, a message from your lodge, or a message from your district.

The cutoff date for ads will be February 7th 2026. We will not be able to accept ads after February 7th. The ad prices are: Cover Pages (5x8, only 3 available) - \$250 each; Full Page (5x8) - \$150.00; Half Page (5x4) - \$100.00. Checks can be made out to Team G 2029. Checks can be mailed to "Team G Ad Book" CO RW Michael Loiacono 77 Diamond Lane Old Bridge NJ 08857. Please email "print ready" ad(s) in Adobe PDF format to mattes.michael76@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or text Right Worshipful Michael Mattes at (856) 516-2061. Thank you, brethren.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Michael Mattes

The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey



and Cincinnati Lodge #3
cordially invite you
to attend the Official Visit of

Most Worshipful Omar S. Morris

**Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey
Chairman, Masonic Charity Foundation**

for the Open Reception in Honor of

**R.W. Glenn T. Visscher
Junior Grand Warden
Masonic Charity Foundation Trustee**

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Fellowship Center

1114 Oxmead Road

Burlington, NJ 08016

BYOB Social Hour 4:00 PM, Dinner 5:00 PM, Reception 6:30 PM

Mail To: RW Butch Elliott, 38 Main St. - Flanders, NJ 07836

Questions? Contact RW Butch Elliott at (201) 390-3415 Deadline: February 13, 2026

Checks Payable to: "Cincinnati Lodge #3" *No tickets will be issued*

I would like _____ Reservations @ \$80 each Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please write the names of any additional attendees included in this reservation on the back of this form.

Name: _____ Guest: _____

District: _____ Lodge: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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



THE 18th & 21st MASONIC DISTRICTS

Cordially invite you to attend the official visit of

Most Worshipful Omar S. Morris

Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey

An open reception in honor of

Right Worshipful James Boulger III
Grand Chaplain – Collingswood Cloud Lodge No. 101

Right Worshipful Jon A. Bowles
Grand Chaplain – Williamstown Lodge No. 166

Right Worshipful James Stapleton
Grand Chaplain – USS New Jersey Lodge No. 62

Right Worshipful John J Higgins Jr.
District Ritual Instructor 21st District – Clarksboro Lodge No. 87

Monday, March 30th, 2026
Saffire Grand Catering, 1849 Cooper St., Almonesson NJ 08096-3808
Social Hour 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Reception 7:00pm

Mail Payment to: USS New Jersey Lodge, PO Box 772 Cherry Hill NJ 08003-0772
Checks made payable to USS NJ Lodge **Cutoff date March 20th** *No tickets will be issued at door



I would like _____ reservations @70.00 per person, total enclosed _____

Name _____ Guest _____

Email _____ Phone _____

District _____ Lodge _____ Title _____

Tables of 8 may be reserved by providing a list of all guests attending to.

Contact RW Thomas Rathof at (856) 981-8844

trathof@gmail.com

Brothers,

I hope this message finds you well and in good health.

I will be holding two Town Hall meetings on Saturday, February 28th. The first meeting will begin with fellowship and a light breakfast at 9:00 a.m., followed by the meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Crescent Shrine. The second gathering will open at 2:30 p.m. for fellowship and refreshments, with the meeting commencing at 3:30 p.m. at Salaam Shrine. These Town Halls will provide an opportunity to share important updates with the brethren, discuss new initiatives, and allow members of the Craft to ask questions and engage in open, honest, and respectful dialogue.

Due to personal health matters affecting members of our Grand Lodge staff, several urgent issues requiring immediate attention, and the emergence of a potential lawsuit related to decisions I might make, a number of reports and discussions were delayed in being submitted to me. As a result, I will be extending all edicts through February 28th, following the conclusion of the Town Hall meetings. At that time, I will present a full and transparent report detailing these matters, its origin, and their outcomes.

It was my sincere hope to have these issues resolved sooner; however, several of these challenges were unavoidable. Decisions that significantly impact the peace and harmony of our Craft must be carefully weighed and thoughtfully considered in the best interests of the fraternity as a whole, not individual interests, regardless of external pressures, threats of litigation, or circulating rumors.

Despite some of the isolated challenges we face as a jurisdiction, I remain deeply inspired by the current state of our fraternity. Each installation of our 2026 officers was filled with fellowship, laughter, family, and genuine love—clear reminders of the strength of our bond and our shared commitment to one another. Let us continue to Educate one another through shared knowledge and understanding, Elevate our conduct and behavior within the Craft and our communities, and Empower every Brother to serve, lead, and grow with confidence and purpose. Above all, let us remain our brother's keeper and walk uprightly as true and faithful Masons, united in purpose and dedicated to this remarkable fraternity we love.

I love you ALL, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Omar Morris

The Grand Lodge



Most Ancient and Honorable Society
of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey

Omar S. Morris
Grand Master
omarmorrisNJCL@gmail.com

100 Barrack Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-2008
609-239-3950 B

EDICT

WHEREAS, I issued an edict extending Most Worshipful J. Eugene Margroff's edict regarding the restoration to membership of R.W. Gary J. Olsen, R.W. Michael Holt and R.W. Jose Villalta for 60 days in order to investigate the matter.

WHEREAS, I have determined that additional time is needed to properly resolve the matter.

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby invoke my authority, pursuant to Landmark 3 to extend the above edicts until the end of the day February 28, 2026.

So ordered,

Omar S Morris
Grand Master

Attest:

Larry S. Plasket, PGM
Grand Secretary

Solution for Cryptogram:

SQUARE
COMPASS
LEVEL
PLUMB
TROWEL
ASHLAR

LODGE
MASTER
TYLER
APRON
LIGHT
DEGREE



The Grand Lodge of New Jersey presents...

Leadership Through the East & Beyond:

*Modern Business Practices
for Today's Lodge Officers
and Past Masters*



This interactive program is designed for current Lodge Officers preparing to serve in the East, as well as Past Masters who continue to play vital leadership roles within their Lodges. Participants will gain a better understanding of modern business practices, including practical tools that they can utilize in their Lodges and beyond.

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Registration: 8:30am

Program: 9am to 12pm

**Merchantville Masonic Temple
6926 Park Ave
Pennsauken, NJ 08109**

**Questions? Contact
RW Vincent Capone
acgypsy12@aol.com**

Register Here





Living Past Masters of Merchantville Mozart Lodge No 119

2026 Andrew S. Knaus

1972	Thomas A. Muskett	2008	Javier Seguinot**
1975	Thomas W. Lowe, Sr. PGT	2009	Henry D. Olsen**
1977	Thomas E. Roth	2009	Roger D. Bohn, Sr.
1977	Robert F. Wells, PGC	2010	Barry T. Hanson
1983	George E. Emmanuel, PSGD**	2010	Michael F. Ohr, Jr.
1983	Thomas L. Lewis	2011	James D. Choyinski, PGP**
1984	Larry S. Plasket, PGM	2011	George W. Niessner, PIJS
1985	Phillip H. Lowe	2012	David J. Lane, Sr., PGC
1986,88	David C. Spaeth	2013	Christian P. Kochon
1989	Paul L. Duffy	2013	Todd E. Mertz, PGC
1990	Jerome J. Williams	2014	Raynaldo Santiago
1992	Mark R. Richardson, PGSB	2014	Roger D. Bohn, Jr.
1993	James McFarland, Jr.	2015-16	Jorge A. Martinez
1996	Julius W. Trimbach	2015	Richard V. Hartshorne
1998	Leroy R. Emory, Jr.**	2017	Robert Harris, Jr.
1999	Thomas R. Smith III**	2017	John A. Dioszeghy
2000	Patrick M. Barrett	2018	Eric T. Johnson
2001	E. Wayne Newell	2019	David K. Martin Jr
2003	Alfred H. Rose	2019	Louis A. Benucci**
2004	Daniel L. Lloyd	2020	El Donald F. Vid Al
2004,06	Peter G. Buchert, PGC	2020-22	Michael I. Mattes, PGP
2005	Eugene L. Wallace	2021-22	Shawn M. Roberts
2005	Donald C. Heritage	2023	Anthony J. "AJ" Starkus Jr.
2006	William W. Johnson, Sr.	2024	Andrew S. Knaus
2007	Robert W. Hertneck, PDDGM	2023-25	Peter G. Buchert, PGC
		2025	Luis A. Valentin

**Denotes Demitted\Withdrawn\NPD

Scan the QR Below to sign into the Grandview system.



Grandview is where you can see your Masonic history and dues balances as well as a roster of your brothers of all the NJ Lodges of which you are a member.

Join the conversation and view the lodge and district calendars on the TeamReach App



Install the TeamReach app from your smartphone's App Store and enter these Group Codes to sign up for:

Merchantville Mozart Lodge #119: Enter Code: **MerchMozart119**
18th Masonic District: Enter Code: **nj18Masonic**



Please update your contact information on the section below and send it to the secretary. Alternatively, you can email this information to secretary@merchantvillemozart.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you want to receive text messages: Yes No

Do you want to receive postal mailings: Yes No

Do you want to receive emails: Yes No

Is it your wish for a Masonic Funeral Service: Yes No