HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41 - NOVEMBER 2026

TRESTLEBOARD

From the East

MICHAEL KRAUS
PM, WORSHIPFUL MASTER



Greetings Brethren,

This Masonic year is all too rapidly coming to a close. We have worked diligently together and by any measure we have accomplished much of which to be proud. During this year we have sadly had to say farewell to some of dear Brethren who had been called to the Lodge on High. We did this with the dignity and respect worthy of so solemn an event. We have shown the strength and commitment of our Lodge with outstanding performances at the Grand Lodge of Instruction and in the degrees we have conferred or assisted other Lodges to confer.

We have celebrated the joy of our fellowship at our annual picnic, our many communal dinners and each time we gather at our Lodge. We have shown our support for the many appendant bodies of Masonry, actively participating in and benefiting from the opportunities given us. We have given back to our community, showing Hightstown Apollo pride at memorial services and as the feature activity at the town's annual autumn fair. And, that which makes me proudest of all, we have raised six worthy men to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

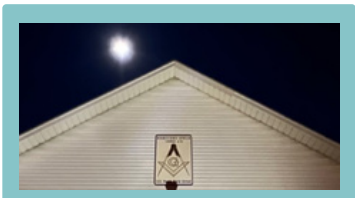
Our work is not over and rewards are still to be earned. A strong and committed line-up of men have been nominated to serve our Lodge in the upcoming Masonic year. In their hands Hightstown Apollo will continue to grow and stand as a beacon of light and virtue. These men need and deserve your full support. I urge you to attend our next communication, cast your votes and then keep asking, "How can I help? What can I do?"

It will be a bittersweet pleasure to turn the gavel over to our next Worshipful Master. I do it knowing that in many ways, large and visible and sometimes subtle and unnoticed, I have served our Lodge and you with fidelity, honesty and purpose. My simple goal has been to leave the Lodge better than it was. Hightstown Apollo will prevail. It is an honor sit in the Oriental Chair and receive the trust and support that goes with it.

Laborare est orare.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Michael Kraus, PM
Worshipful Master
Hightstown Apollo Lodge No. 41 F&AM



STATED MEETINGS

We are a moon lodge; our meetings are held on the Friday coinciding with or immediately following the full moon.

January 9, 2026
February 6, 2026
March 6, 2026
April 3, 2026
May 1, 2026
June 5, 2026
October 2, 2026
October 30, 2026
November 27, 2026
December 4, 2026

Dinner at 6:30pm
Meeting at 7:30pm

Masonic education, ritual practice and fellowship

Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

From the West



RON MAYER
SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings Brethren,

Happy Halloween! Thank you for all the well wishes on my speedy recovery from foot surgery in late September.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the Ducky Derby, from those who sold ducks to those who tallied sales on the day of the Derby itself. You all deserve a big round of applause. We see what we can do when we work together. Let's think about more fundraisers like this, that we can have each year, to strengthen our Lodge. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please tell one of the lodge officers or past masters.

Congratulations to our lodge's new Master Masons. As I prepare to ascend to the East next year, I am still looking to fill the steward chairs. Please let me know if you are interested.

Although I am still laid up from foot surgery, and expect an update on my condition by the time this reaches you, I plan to be at the Lodge for installation on December 12, even if I have to arrive by wheelchair.

Lastly, happy birthday to our brothers celebrating this month. That includes you, Paul Z.!

/G\

Fraternally,
Ron Mayer
Senior Warden

From the South



THOMAS PETER REYNOLDS
JUNIOR WARDEN

Greetings from the South,

Brethren,

I would like to congratulate our Lodge on successfully raising six good men to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Using the common gavel and the guidance of their mentors, these brethren have begun the important work of smoothing their rough ashlars.

We also celebrated a sold-out Ducky Derby, securing necessary funds to continue our work. By making good use of the 24-inch gauge, our brethren shared the labor wisely, preserving eight hours for rest and recreation.

I am overwhelmed with pride when I look back on all that we accomplished together. Above all, with use of the trowel representing our efforts—cementing brotherly love, strengthening our bonds, and spreading kindness throughout the past month for our fraternity and our community.

Yours in Fraternal Service,
Tom Reynolds
Junior Warden

"When the Master governs with wisdom and the Wardens uphold with loyalty, the Lodge stands firm and united"



A Message from the Outgoing Grand Chaplain

Brethren,

As I prepare to turn over the Grand Chaplain's jewel of office, I find myself reflecting on a year filled with friendship, fellowship, and memories I will cherish for a lifetime.

I am deeply grateful to MW Grand Master Omar S. Morris for appointing me Grand Chaplain and allowing me to serve our District. It has been a privilege I will always hold close to my heart.

To the Brethren who traveled with me, welcomed me into their lodges, attended events, and shared the many miles and moments along the way, thank you. Your companionship and friendship made this journey far more meaningful than I could have imagined. I am especially grateful for the new friendships formed and the bonds strengthened throughout the year.

I did my best to remain true to my charge of outreach, offering a listening ear, a kind word, and a reminder to our Brethren that they are never forgotten. I sincerely hope I have served the 15th Masonic District well and represented Hightstown-Apollo Lodge No. 41 with honor.

Following in the footsteps of RW Ron Herzog, a Brother I greatly admire and look up to, meant having some very big shoes to fill. His example inspired me throughout this journey, and I hope I have honored the office he served so well.

It is now my privilege to pass the jewel of office to another of Hightstown's own, soon-to-be RW Michael Kraus. Mike, I wish you every success and know you will bring your own dedication and heart to this important responsibility.

As I close this chapter, I do so with a grateful heart. Thank you for your kindness, your encouragement, and the privilege of serving you and alongside you. The friendships and memories made this year will remain with me long after the jewel has been passed.

Fraternally,

Dennis Cuan
Grand Chaplain 2026
15th Masonic District

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Your Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Michael Kraus PM
Senior Warden	Ronald Mayer PM
Junior Warden	Thomas Reynolds
Treasurer	Ernesto C. Somera PM
Secretary	Christopher Aiello PM
Chaplain	James Hauck PGC
Senior Deacon	Dominique Jennette
Junior Deacon	Conny Svensson
Sr Master of Ceremonies	Brett Scott
Jr Master of Ceremonies	Robert Meier
Senior Steward	Michael Shashoua
Junior Steward	Brian Yuro
Marshal	J. Dennis Cuan GC
Tyler	Earl C Groendyke PM
Historian	Alexander J.C. Bragat PDDGM
Proxy to Grand Lodge	Edgardo Villafuerte PM
Lodge Trustee	Earl Groendyke (2023)
Lodge Trustee (Chairman)	James Hauck PGC (2023)
Lodge Trustee	Matthew Beltran PM (2024)
Lodge Trustee	Alexander J.C. Bragat DDGM (2024)
Lodge Trustee	Ronald Herzog PGC (2025)
Lodge Trustee	Michael Shashoua (2025)

"Lodge officers are not defined by the titles they hold, but by the service, example, and leadership they give to the Craft"

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

For Initiation or Advancement

Knocking at the door	*Josue Gonzales-Berger* *Joseph Marcus*
To pass to the Degree of Fellowcraft	*Ronith Banganoori*
To be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason	*Jezreal Nazario*

"In our efforts to grow the Craft, remember to guard the West gate"

Living Past Masters

William Rowles 1972	*Ronald Mayer 2006, 2010*
Bob Sprout 1973	*John Chobrda 2007*
Gary Grubb 1976	*Barry Cutler 2008*
Wayne Hetzell 1976	*John Chobrda 2008*
Charles Stults III, PGC 1979	*Earl Groendyke 2012*
Peter McNulty 1980	*Denis de Leon 2013*
Francis Conway 1981	*Robert Sullivan 2014*
Wayne Hetzell 1985	*Alexander Bragat, PDDGM 2015*
Raj Sudarsanam 1988	*James Hauck, PGC 2016, 2018*
George Smith, PGC 1990	*Ernesto Somera 2017*
Thomas Estelle 1991,1993	*Ronald Herzog PGC 2019*
William A. Counterman 1994	*Anthony Katawick 2020*
James Mount, PGC 1995, 2001	*Michael Kraus 2021*
Gerald Fabisch 1997, 1998	*Edgardo Villafuerte 2022*
Mark Megee, PDDGM 1999	*Matthew Beltran 2023*
Carlos Rodriguez 2000	*J. Dennis Cuan 2024 GC*
Michael Lakat, PGP 2004	*Christopher Aiello 2025*

"A Past Master never ceases to labor; his work may change, but his duty remains — to guide with wisdom, support with experience, and inspire by example"

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Masonic Birthdays

Frank Bristol	November 18, 1969
Charles Stults	November 16, 1973
Leonard Toner	November 19, 1974
Louis Leigh	November 9, 1979
George Smith	November 9, 1984
Ronald Mayer	November 6, 1987
Mark Megee	November 8, 1995
Alan Peters	November 6, 2013
Anthony Katawick	November 21, 2014
Michael Kraus	November 13, 2015
Ryan Bennett	November 25, 2017
Salvatore Montore	November 25, 2017
Alexander Ovejas	November 25, 2017
Edgardo Villafuerte	November 25, 2017
Christopher Aiello	November 13, 2018
Rafael Sosa	November 30, 2019
Anthony Guest	November 30, 2022

Chronological Birthdays

Brent Rivenburgh	November 16
J. Dennis Cuan	November 28
Michael Deman	November 30

"As the sun marks another year upon your journey, may the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide your steps with light, wisdom, and brotherly love"

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

District Lodges of Instruction

~~January 7, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	HA41	Opening, Drop to FC, Close on FC, Ballot
~~February 4, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	~~GM270~~	1st Section of MM Degree – 4 candidates
~~March 4, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	~~TC5~~	~~2nd Section of MM Degree – 5 candidates~~
~~March 9, 2026~~	~~Mon~~	~~TC5~~	~~GLI Rehearsal – NO DINNER – start 7pm (casual)~~
~~March 24, 2026~~	~~Tues~~	~~TC5~~	~~GLI Rehearsal – NO DINNER – start 7pm (casual)~~
~~April 1, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	~~TC5~~	~~Grand Lodge of Instruction~~
~~May 6, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	~~HA41~~	~~EA Degree, FC Degree (1st Section)~~
~~June 3, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	~~GM270~~	~~OPEN DLI – Gold Token Presentations~~
~~July 1, 2026~~			~~Dark for the summer~~
~~August 1, 2026~~			~~Dark for the summer~~
~~September 2, 2026~~	~~Wed~~	~~TC5~~	~~Rusty Mason, Lodge Protocol – nominations, elections, NPDs, etc.~~
~~**October 7, 2026**~~	~~Wed~~	~~A12~~	~~PMs only – Qualification Ceremony~~
November 3–5, 2026		Atlantic City	NJ Grand Lodge Session
December 2, 2026	Wed	TC5	Open, Close and Ballot from Advanced Stations

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Important Dates

Tue.-Thu. Nov. 3-5 - New Jersey Grand Lodge Annual Communication
Sat. - Dec. 12 - Hightstown Apollo #41 installation of officers for 2027

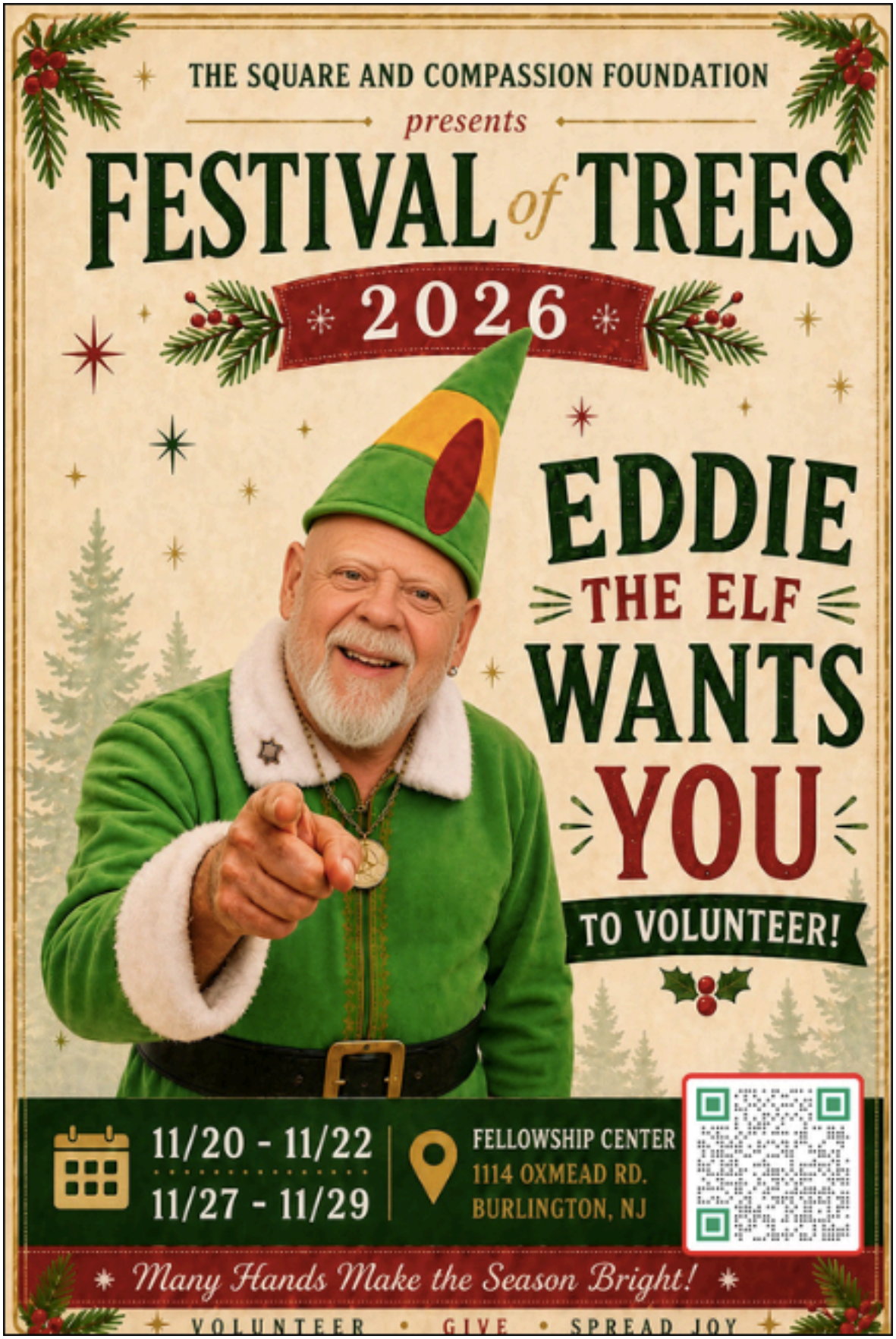
TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Lodges of the 15th Masonic District

Lodge	Address	Meeting Schedule
Trenton Cyrus 5	131 Burd Street, Pennington	3rd Wed @ 7:00 PM every month; except July & August. Dinner at 6:00 PM before all Regular Communications.
Amwell 12	21 Bridge Street, Lambertville	2nd Wed @ 7:30 PM every month. Dinner at 6:30 PM. No meetings in July & August.
Hightstown-Apollo 41	535 North Main Street, Hightstown	Full Moon Friday or directly after the full moon. Dinner at 6:30 PM; gavel at 7:30 PM. No meetings in July & August.
Horizon Daylight 299	2308 Burlington-Mt Holly Road, Burlington	2nd Wed of the month @ 10:00 AM.
Gothic-Mercer 270	3682 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Sq.	1st & 3rd Mon @ 7:30 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM every month except Jul & Aug.

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Masonic Events



Masonic Events

Harris Tartan

The Masonic Kilties of New Jersey

Cordially invites you to our annual

Robert Burns Dinner Dance



Send Money with Zelle®
THE MASONIC KILTIES OF NEW JERSEY
Zelle
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Saturday, January 23rd, 2027

$100 pp, 4-hour Open Bar
5:30 - 9:30 pm at The Hanover Manor

Our Grand Ball Features

The Kearny Caledonian Pipe Band, The Late Show Dance Band and the McAngus School of Highland Dancing

Open to Non-Masons
R.S.V.P. RW Arnold (Butch) Elliott
E-mail: butch0012@gmail.com • Call: 201-390-3415

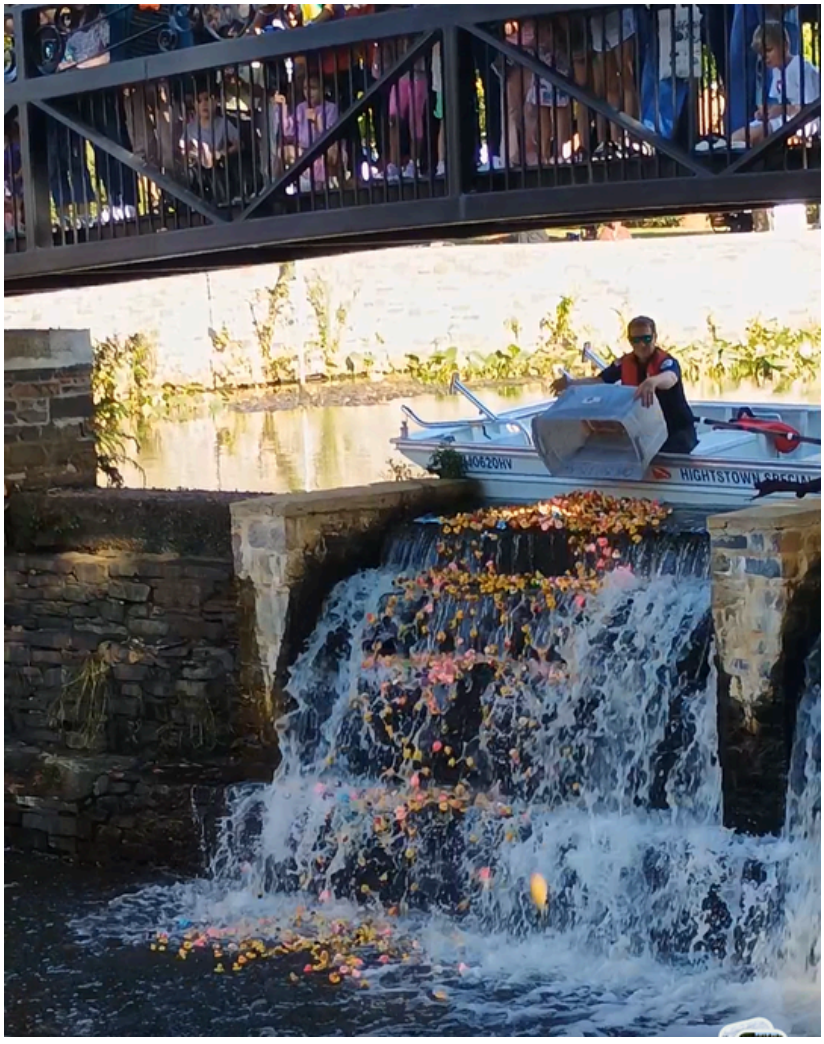
The Hanover Manor • 16 Eagle Rock Ave • East Hanover, NJ • Phone (973) 887-2682

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

In and About the Apartments - Ducky Derby

After a couple years without a Hightstown Harvest Fest and a Ducky Derby, this year it was back!

HA#41 sold out of ducks by midday, a very successful fundraiser for our Lodge.









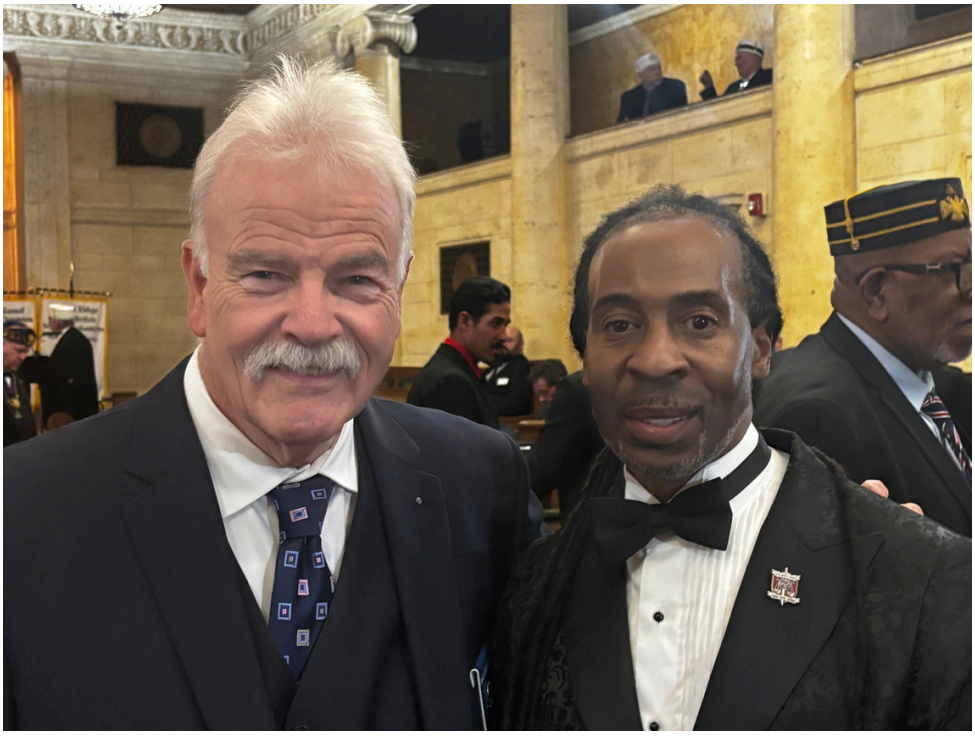
TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

In and About the Apartments



Congratulations to our newest Master Masons, Joseph Ragno III and Sharod Dijon Kearney

Congratulations to our brother Hakeem Bey on receiving his Scottish Rite 32nd degree.



TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

In and About the Apartments



Junior Deacon Conny Svensson served as exemplar for the first two orders in the Templar journey to Knighthood, held at Hightstown Apollo Lodge #41.

Assisting with the Senior Grand Warden's Poker Run.





TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

In and About the Apartments



At left: Official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master at Amwell Lodge.

Below: Dennis Cuan and Ronald Herzog visit Jerusalem Lodge in Plainfield, NJ





Above: Ronald Herzog, Dennis Cuan and Jim Hauck with Grand Master Omar S. Morris at the Mt. Moriah Table Lodge on October 28.

At right: With the Grand Master at the Annual Communication of Prince Hall Masons of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

In and About the Apartments





Brothers Dennis Cuan, Ronald Herzog, Conny Svensson and Michael Leahy at a Clay Shoot sponsored by brother Joseph Ragno.





ShopRite gift cards are available at face value, and 5% of each purchase is returned to the Lodge - an easy way to give back while buying groceries you already need.
Please see RW Ron Herzog.

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Donate your Gently used Sneakers

DROP OFF AT THE LODGE

HIGHTSTOWN APOLLO LODGE NO 41

535 N MAIN ST HIGHTSTOWN NJ



Did You Know?

Most people throw awag their used sneakers every 125-200 days without ever thinking about recycling. Since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, they remain in landfills or are incinerated, which leads to toxic chemicals in our air and soil.

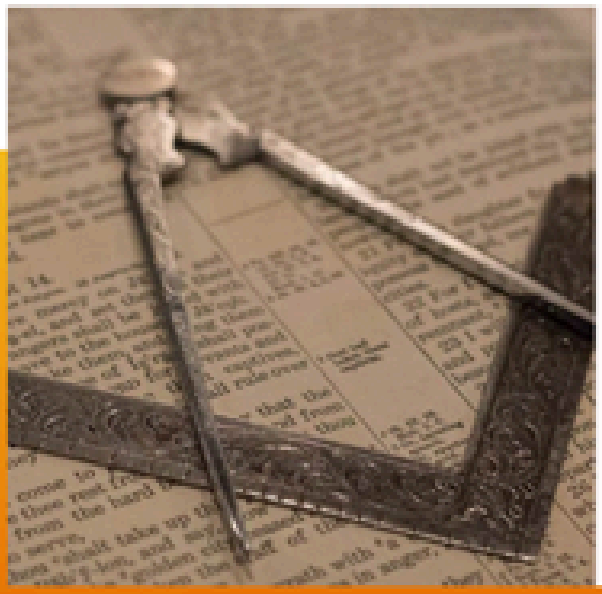
The process of manufacturing sneakers produces large amounts of C02 which contributes to the serious effects of climate change and global warming. Recycling and reusing sneakers keeps sneakers out of landfills, reduces the need for manufacturing new shoes and sneakers, and supports a growing circular economy.

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Visit the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy website



Home Articles Contact About



Welcome to the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Masonic Legacy Project

The Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy Project aspires to create a living archive, where the voices and experiences of our members resonate through interviews, anecdotes, and reflections. This digital repository will serve as a testament to the enduring principles, camaraderie, and contributions that have shaped our lodge.



Meet the Brethren

RW Ron Herzog, PGC

Brotherhood, Hospitality, and a Coyote Hat: A Tribute to Right Worshipful Ron Herzog



Meet the Brethren

RW James Hauck PM,PGC

Past Master 2016, 2018



Meet the Brethren

WB Gerald Fabisch PM

Past Master 1997, 1998

HIGHTSTOWN APOLLO LODGE No. 41
F.&A.M.

2026 LODGE DUES HAVE BEEN ASSESSED

Payment of **$225.00** can be made by check payable to Hightstown Apollo Lodge No. 41 or Zelle® using the QR code below.

When using Zelle, please include your name and the purpose of payment.

Zelle ID:
HIGHTSTOWN APOLLO LODGE 41
Email: hightstownapollo41treasurer@gmail.com

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY

TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026



TRESTLEBOARD - November 2026

Our primary method of communication with members is through our email list. If you are not receiving our emails, please contact our Secretary at **hightstownapollo41@gmail.com**

We also use the Signal app to share time-sensitive updates, such as reminders and information about weekend meetups. If you would like to be added to our Signal group, install the Signal app and scan this QR code.

Grand Lodge of New Jersey

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.

100 Barrack Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-2008
njglinfo@njmasonic.org
609.239.3950

Most Worshipful Omar S. Morris, Grand Master
100 Barrack St
Trenton, NJ 08608
omarmorris@gmail.com
Phone(718) 809-7294

Right Worshipful Bruce C. Golway , Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Bernard J. Madgey , Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Glenn T. Visscher, Junior Grand Warden
Most Worshipful Douglas R. Policastro, PGM, Grand Treasurer
Most Worshipful Larry S. Plasket, PGM, Grand Secretary

HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41
Hightstown, New Jersey 15th Masonic District
Established 1856 by Charter of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey
535 North Main St., Hightstown, NJ
hightstownapollo41.org *hightstownapollo41@gmail.com*
(609) 303-2993