



**Merchantville, N. J.**

ORGANIZED January 14, 1871  
CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

May 2024

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, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Dress will be Formal. Tuxedo for Officers.**

**7:30pm**

- Lodge Opening
- Masonic Light
- Masonic Birthdays
- Closing

By order of

*WB Andrew S. Knaus*  
Worshipful Master



Attest:

*WB David K. Martin Jr., PM*  
Secretary

# Merchantville Lodge No. 119 F&AM

## WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WB ANDREW S. KNAUS (Rachel)  
(609) 238-6144

[AKNAUS@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:AKNAUS@merchantvillelodge.org)

## SENIOR WARDEN

WB LUIS A. VALENTIN, PM (Jessica)  
(856) 383-0956

[lvalentin310@gmail.com](mailto:lvalentin310@gmail.com)

## JUNIOR WARDEN

WB ANTHONY J. "AJ" STARKUS (Brie)  
(856) 571-3471

[ASTARKUS@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:ASTARKUS@merchantvillelodge.org)

## SECRETARY

WB DAVID K. MARTIN JR, PM (Cathleen)  
(609) 346-6433

[SECRETARY@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:SECRETARY@merchantvillelodge.org)

## TREASURER

WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS (Jenn)  
(856) 631-4664

[SROBERTS@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:SROBERTS@merchantvillelodge.org)

## PROXY TO GRAND LODGE

WB El Donaldo F. Vid Al, PM

## CHAPLAIN

WB RAYNALDO SANTIAGO, PM

## SENIOR DEACON

WB EL DONALDO VID AL, PM

**SENIOR  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
LUIS FRANCISCO RUIZ

## SENIOR STEWARD

WB JERRY JEITNER



## TYLER

WB HENRY OLSEN, PM

## MARSHAL

WB ENRIQUE ROSARIO, PM

## JUNIOR DEACON

ERIC VALENTIN

**JUNIOR  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
WB REV JORGE MARTINEZ, PM

## JUNIOR STEWARD

JOSEPH A. GISMONDE

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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. Leonard Vander Horn, Grand Master  
Historic Trenton Masonic Temple  
100 Barrack St.  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
Cell: (973) 886-9486  
[lvanderhorn@gmail.com](mailto:lvanderhorn@gmail.com)

**District Deputy Grand Master Eighteenth Masonic District**

R.W. Keith A. Herman  
(609) 440-2217  
[kaherman@msn.com](mailto:kaherman@msn.com)

**District Ritual Instructor Eighteenth Masonic District**

R.W. Kenneth F. Carpenter Jr.  
(609) 634-5660  
[kfcarpenter@comcast.net](mailto:kfcarpenter@comcast.net)

Masonic Outreach Hotline: 1-800-792-8690 for advice and assistance

Grand Lodge: [NewJerseyGrandLodge.org](http://NewJerseyGrandLodge.org)  
To access your account go to: [nj.grandview.systems](http://nj.grandview.systems)

**MERCHANTVILLE LODGE #119 F&AM**

6926 Park Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Phone (856) 663-1719

[info@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:info@merchantvillelodge.org)

[Merchantvillelodge.org](http://Merchantvillelodge.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Merchantville119](https://www.facebook.com/Merchantville119)

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

I want to thank everyone again who came out and helped with the Official Visit and filled in for members who were unable to attend. Now we have to work toward the GLI in June, we could still be called upon to do an opening or closing so we will try and have a few practice days before then. Symbols are the root of our fraternity, so I hope you enjoy the following light on Masonic Symbols.

### Light from the “East”

In the heart of a bustling city or small town, nestled among the towering skyscrapers or neighborhood homes, there stands an ancient building, its facade adorned with mysterious symbols. This is the meeting place of a centuries-old fraternity known as the Freemasons. Within its walls, members gather to share knowledge, wisdom, and camaraderie. But it is the symbols of Freemasonry that truly captivate those who enter.

At the entrance, a massive door greet members, adorned with intricate carvings of the square and compasses, the most recognizable symbol of Freemasonry. These tools, symbolic of virtue and morality, reminded all who entered of the importance of living a balanced and virtuous life. The “Square” represents morality, honesty, and integrity, reminding Masons to act ethically in their dealings with others. The “Compasses” symbolize self-restraint, providing boundaries for behavior and actions. Together, they remind Masons to act within moral boundaries and to circumscribe their desires and keep their passions within due bounds.

Inside the lodge room, the walls are adorned with an array of symbols, each carrying its own significance.

The letter "G" hangs prominently above the master's chair, symbolizing both geometry, the basis of the craft, and God, the ultimate architect of the universe. Placed at the center of the Masonic emblem it represents the Supreme Being's presence, reminding Masons of the importance of spirituality and the divine in their lives. It reminds members that their work

should be conducted with precision and under the watchful eye of the Creator.

As the meeting commenced, the Worshipful Master stood before his brethren. He spoke of the symbolism behind each emblem, urging his fellow Masons to embody the virtues they represented. For within these symbols lay the keys to enlightenment and self-improvement.

He explains that “The All-Seeing Eye” often depicted as an eye within a triangle, also represents the divine watchfulness of the Great Architect of the Universe. It symbolizes the presence of God and the importance of living a life under the ever-watchful eye of the divine.

The “Trowel” symbolizes brotherly love and affection. It reminds Masons to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, uniting them in the bonds of friendship and fellowship.

The “Level” symbolizes equality and reminds Masons that, regardless of their social, economic, or cultural differences, they are all equal in the eyes of the Great Architect of the Universe.

The “Plumb” symbolizes uprightness of conduct and reminds Masons to walk uprightly in their dealings with others, always maintaining a strict adherence to moral and ethical principles.

And so, as the meeting drew to a close and the brethren departed, they carried with them not only the knowledge shared within those hallowed walls but also a deeper understanding of the timeless symbols that bind them together as Freemasons. For in those symbols lay the essence of their fraternity, guiding them on their journey towards truth and enlightenment.

Fraternally,

Andrew Knaus  
Worshipful Master 2024

## **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 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**

**WB Rev. Jorge Martinez, PM**

**And a Contribution Made In Memory of Brother Clark R. Hewitt Jr.**

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### **OUR Building Still Needs YOUR Help!**

Merchantville Lodge Still Needs Your Help

Brethren

The new system has been installed but we still need your help. We continue to request support and are seeking donations to help us raise the necessary funds to help offset the cost of the new HVAC unit. Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference and directly impact the well-being of everyone who benefits from the use of our lodge.

We ask that you please consider donating to support the replacement of our HVAC unit. Your kindness and support will have a lasting impact on the brethren, organizations and families who use our facility. To make a donation, please see the payment methods below. We are also more than happy to discuss the project in more detail and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your support.

#### **Payment Methods**

By Check: Make Checks out to "Merchantville Lodge" Zelle: [treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org)

PayPal: [merchantvillelodge@gmail.com](mailto:merchantvillelodge@gmail.com) Venmo: @merchantville119

Send to:

Merchantville Masonic Temple

6926 Park Ave

Pennsauken, NJ 08109

**Please note that it is for the new HVAC unit!**

## May Masonic Birthdays

WB Thomas	Roth	PM	5/16/1969	55
John	Oneill		5/18/1973	51
Raymond	Wilson Jr.		5/3/1991	33
James	Mertz		5/19/1998	26
Erich	Thomas		5/18/2007	17
Billy	Hawkes		5/16/2008	16
WB Enrique	Rosario	DB, PM	5/16/2008	16
Scott	Owens		5/16/2008	16
Howard	Miller Jr.		5/30/2008	16
Greg	Merlino		5/30/2008	16
WB Shawn	Roberts	PM	5/19/2017	7
Jeffrey	Hurley		5/19/2017	7

## *2024 In Memoriam*

### **Distinguished Brother Frank Chiaccio**

Initiated, Passed, and  
Raised March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
Called from Labor: December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Distinguished Brother Jerome Clark**

Initiated September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1972  
Passed October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1972  
Raised January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1973  
Called from Labor: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Brother John Murray**

Initiated January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1991  
Passed February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1991  
Raised March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1991  
Called from Labor: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Brother Clark Hewitt Jr.**

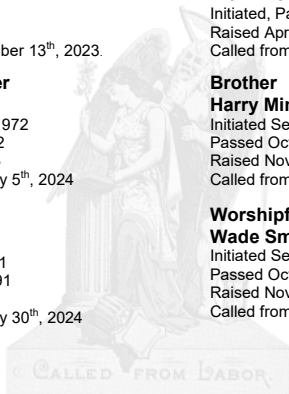
Initiated, Passed, and  
Raised April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999  
Called from Labor: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Brother Harry Minnier**

Initiated September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1968  
Passed October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1968  
Raised November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1968  
Called from Labor: March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

### **Worshipful Brother Wade Smith**

Initiated September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1989  
Passed October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1989  
Raised November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1989  
Called from Labor: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024





## Yearly Dues

Starting in 2024 you will be able to make partial payments towards your 2025 dues. Since we do not know what the exact amount of the 2025 dues will be, we recommend you use a target amount of \$165. There are several ways you can pay, and you can pay any amount you wish each time in advance over the next year.

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### Payment Methods

#### By Check:

Make Checks out to "Merchantville Lodge."

#### Send to:

Merchantville Masonic Temple

6926 Park Ave

Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Zelle: [treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org)

PayPal: [merchantvillelodge@gmail.com](mailto:merchantvillelodge@gmail.com)

Venmo: @merchantville119

(Please include your name and member # so we can ensure your payments are credited properly)

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# UPCOMING SCHEDULED EVENTS

Regular Communication	Thursday, May 9 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
<b>Annual Ladies Night</b>	<b>Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm</b>
<b>Grand Lodge of Instruction</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm</b>
Regular Communication	Thursday, June 13 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
<b>Salsa Night</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>BBQ &amp; Paint Day</b>	<b>Late Spring/Early Summer TBD</b>
Regular Communication	Thursday, September 12 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
<b>Annual Table Lodge with Campana de Libertad</b>	<b>Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at TBD</b>
Nomination of Officers	Thursday, October 10 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
<b>Trunk or Treat</b>	<b>Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm</b>
<b>Halloween Party</b>	<b>Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm</b>
Election of Officers	Thursday, November 14 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm</b>
<b>Annual Communication &amp; Installation of Officers</b>	<b>TBD</b>

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**Ladies Night 2024! May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm!**

This year it will be held at the Blue Monkey in Merchantville, the building that was once our home for so many years! Tickets are \$50 per person, \$100 per couple.

This includes:

Food  
Open Bar  
DJ  
Basket Raffel  
And more!

Please RSVP as soon as possible because spacing is limited to  
[secretary@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:secretary@merchantvillelodge.org) or [aknaus@merchantvillelodge.org](mailto:aknaus@merchantvillelodge.org).

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## **Petition for Membership**

Mr. Jayron Estrada of Camden, NJ. Mr. Estrada is 26 years old and works as an Operations Lead for Loomis Security out of Pennsauken. He is unmarried, enjoys the gym, cigars, music, playing poker, and reading. He is recommended by WB Andrew Knaus and WB Shawn Roberts.

# Arlington National Cemetery

## Grand Master's Bus Trip

### September 28, 2024

#### Itinerary:

- 8:00am-Leave Fellowship Center/Breakfast
- 11:45am-Arrive at Arlington Cemetery
- 12:15pm-Wreath Laying at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier/Lunch
- 2:00pm-Visit at the National Museum of United States Army, Fort Belvoir, VA
- 4:15pm-Arrive for Dinner, Gadsby's Tavern
- 9:00pm-Arrive at Fellowship Center

**\$135/PP  
INCLUDES  
3 MEALS,  
BUS &  
EVENTS**

**Register by June 15, 2024**

**Space is Limited -Open to Masons & Family**

Program Questions: RW Michael Czech, Grand Historian  
coachmikec@yahoo.com 609-638-2926 Parking Info will be sent to registrants

Please Print Clearly & Return the Below to:

Grand Lodge of New Jersey

100 Barrack St. Trenton, NJ 08608 Attn: Arlington Trip

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Attendee Name(s): 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address and Phone Number of 1st Attendee

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Selection (pick one per attendee and give total number of each in blank):

Ham & Cheese \_\_\_ Turkey & Cheese \_\_\_ Roast Beef & Cheese \_\_\_

Check for \$135 per person made to: "Grand Lodge F&AM of NJ"

Credit Card (2% fee applies): Number: \_\_\_\_\_

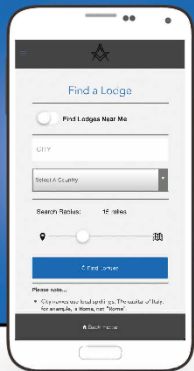
Exp: \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Call M.W. Plasket at 609-239-3950 to give CC & Lunch Information



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WB David K. Martin Jr., PM

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Bro. Joseph McGuckin Jr.

**BRETHREN EMERITUS**

RW Mark R. Richardson,

PGSB.....Treasurer

RW Raymond W. Taylor, Sr.,

PGC.....Secretary

**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

DB Stephen Callaghan

**AFFILIATED & DUAL PAST MASTERS**

Floyd D. Britt

Edward S. Keller

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, DDGM

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 Albert L. Hann, PJGD

RW Richard Wimmer, PGC

RW Dale A. Lynch, PDDGM

RW Todd Mertz, PGC

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

\* Demitted

