

IN WAITING

(Mentor Noted)

PETITIONING CANDIDATES

Jonathan Abadir - Freehold

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

Noel Delgado - Freehold

James Long - Manasquan

Jose Ruiz - Freehold

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

MASTER MASON DEGREE

Noah Canderazzi (Michael Thompson, SOKS)

Gregory Daviesin (Michael Thompson, SOKS)

William Frueh (Michael Thompson, SOKS)

MASTER MASON EXAM

NJ GRAND LODGE

www.NewJerseyGrandLodge.org

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

Most Worshipful Leonard Vander Horn

973-886-9486; lvanderhorn@gmail.com

(Communications to the MWGM should go thru the DDGM)

(17th District Representatives)

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND TREASURER

Most Worshipful Douglas R. PolICASTRO, PGM

908-910-1833; polICASTRO21@aol.com

17TH DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Right Worshipful Robert E. DePetro, Jr.

732-245-7921; bobdepetro@gmail.com

17TH DISTRICT RITUAL INSTRUCTOR

Right Worshipful Christopher J. Harris

732-670-5992; navlodgewm2020@gmail.com

17TH DISTRICT BLOOD DRIVE CHAIRMAN

Right Worshipful Nicolas A. Compitello, PGC

609-464-4192; nacl42@hotmail.com

17TH DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER

Brother Kevin P. Cotter, Society of King Solomon

732-556-7740; cottereuph@me.com

SENIOR GRAND DEACON

Right Worshipful Roger R. Busico

732-770-9771; roger.busico@gmail.com

AIDE TO THE GRAND MASTER

Right Worshipful Robert Patrick Kennedy

732-462-7313; rpkenedy22@aol.com

GRAND CHAPLAIN

Right Worshipful Martin L. Spacht

609-619-1071; msparlit@comcast.net

HONORARY MEMBERS

RW Michael J. Carducci, PDDGM, PA2GM 2008

MW Glenn R Trautman, PGM 2012

RW Richard W Holst, PDDGM 2013

RW G. Roger Woodman, PJGS, PDRI 2021

RW Harry Young, PD of the South 2022

RW Omar S. Morris, SGW 2023

WB Herbert Hall 2024

AFFILIATED PAST MASTERS

Franklin K. Bahrs (P#118) 1971

Thomas E. Larson (M#194) 1976, 1985

Barry Magid (B#1165) 1979

Fred Berenbroick (W#184) 2001

Adam M. Reich (AJ#142) 2010, 2012

William M. Manigold (O#89) 2011

Denis De Leon (HA#41) 2013

Michael Emerson (G#88) 2014, 2022

Robert T. Sullivan (HA#41) 2014

Glenn A. Cantor (O#89) 2017

Robert E. DePetro (O#89) 2019

Chris J. Harris (N#9) 2020

Steven J. Hertel (N#9) 2023

LIVING PAST MASTERS

Paul C. Hankins 1983

Mark I. Krogh 1989

Derek G. Smith 1991

William R. Bailey 1992, 1998

Gordon R. Prochnow, Jr. 1995, 2000

Andrew J. Weinstein 1996

Martin L. Perfit, PGC 1997

Mendel White 1999

Edgar A. Schmidt, PGC 2002

Albert F. Baldwin III, PGC 2003, 2007

Robert W. Oliver 2005

Carl S. Andreoni 2008

Michael L. Caprio Jr. 2009

Richard E. Cavanaugh 2010

John R. Moss 2011

Albert M. Barbato 2012

Edward S. Keller 2013

Frank A. Girello 2014

Daniel F. Xavier, PGC 2015

Ralph G. DePalma, III 2016

Nicolas A. Compitello, PGC 2017

John Perri, Jr. 2018

Kenneth A. Long 2019

Peter De Lucia, PA2GM 2020

Andrew Rizzitello 2021

Lee Friedland 2022

Christopher Curcia 2023

2024 COMMITTEES

Committee Chair in **Bold**

CHARITY

WB Lee Friedland, WB John Perri, B. Rich Gross

EDUCATION

RW Peter De Lucia, RW Nic Compitello, WB Ken Long

FINANCE

B. Christian Barbu, WB Andrew Rizzitello SOKS, B. Joe Nuzzo

FUNDRAISING

B. Matt Kuziemski, B. Ben Doda, B. Matt Knice,

B. Bob Merritt, B. Al Yodakis SOKS,

HOUSE

WB Ken Long, B. Ben Doda, B. Mike Thompson SOKS,

B. Joe Fellion, B. Eric Schilling, B. Kevin Vogel SOKS

MENTORING

B. Mike Thompson SOKS, B. Matt Kuziemski, B. Lee Samaha

RELIEF

WB Ralph De Palma, WB Chris Curcia, B. Dave Dziedzick

RITUAL

RW G. Roger Woodman, RW Al Baldwin, RW Peter De Lucia,

WB Andrew Rizzitello SOKS

175TH ANNIVERSARY

RW Dan Xavier, WB Fred Berenbroick, WB Ken Long,

B. Matt Knice, Br. Mike Thompson SOKS

TRUSTEES

WB Paul C. Hankins (Exp. 2024)

WB Robert T. Sullivan (Exp. 2025)

WB Chris Curcia (Exp. 2026)

2024 LODGE OFFICERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Maliek S. Olden (Vanessa)

732-809-1234, oldenfamily1987@gmail.com

SENIOR WARDEN:

William D. Bilbow, III (Danielle)

732-740-8181, wdbmason@gmail.com

JUNIOR WARDEN:

Benjamin J. Doda

732-580-7276, benjamindoda@protonmail.com

TREASURER:

WB Ralph G. DePalma III (Gina)

732-682-3665, treasurer@olivebranchlodge.org

SECRETARY:

WB Adam M. Reich, SOKS (Tara)

732-305-0380, secretary@olivebranchlodge.org

SENIOR DEACON:

Matthew J. Kuziemski

908-692-3121, matthewkuziemski@gmail.com

Proxy to Grand Lodge

JUNIOR DEACON:

Albert D. Yodakis, SOKS (Janeen)

732-966-7076, ayodakis@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN:

Lee R. Samaha

732-685-7724, leesamaha@gmail.com

MARSHAL:

Michael M. Thompson, SOKS (Rachel)

856-816-1217, mmthomp1@gmail.com

SENIOR MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Kevin W. Vogel, SOKS (Emily)

631-965-9168, kevin.w.vogel@gmail.com

JUNIOR MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Joseph E. Fellion (Debra-Ann)

732-207-8339, joefellion@gmail.com

SENIOR STEWARD:

David A. Dziedzick

732-672-7203, davidadziedzi@gmail.com

JUNIOR STEWARD:

Joseph A. Nuzzo (Mary)

732-236-1146, nuzzoj@verizon.net

HISTORIAN:

Matthew J. Knice (Yeralis)

732-312-7886, mknice@kobrand.com

TYLER:

WB Christopher M. Curcia (Rosa)

732-673-0117, chris.curcia@yahoo.com



OLIVE BRANCH LODGE

NO. 16

FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Established 1849

2 Dutch Lane Road
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

Regular Communications
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30PM

SEPTEMBER 2024

www.OliveBranchLodge.org

Find us on [Facebook](#) (OBL16)

Follow us on [Instagram](#) (olivebranch16)

Our Mission Statement

FREEMASONRY promotes a way of life that binds like-minded men with the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Trust in order to serve God, Family, Country, Neighbor and Self!

SEPTEMBER

Dinner is at 6:30PM every Tuesday evening.

September 3: Rehearsal

- Trustees Meeting @ 6PM
- Advanced Stations EA Degree Rehearsal
- Fellowship

September 6 (Friday): 17th & 20th Districts Reception

- See Lodge Announcements for event details.

September 10: Regular Communication

- Presentation by RW William VonDerHeide, PDDGM - Musconetcong Lodge #42
 - “The 3 M’s: Membership, Money & Morale”
- Business of the Lodge

September 17: Rehearsal

- Advanced Stations EA Degree Rehearsal
- Fellowship

September 19 (Thursday) @ 7:00PM:

District Lodge of Instruction – Matawan #192

- 192 Main Street, Matawan
- Open to all Master Masons / Suit & Tie Attire
- Officers’ Attendance Strongly Encouraged
- Come support your Lodge and your District!

September 24: Regular Communication

- Presentation by RW Rob Morton, PGC - Historic Alpha Lodge #116
 - “Masonic Symbols and Their Meaning”
- Business of the Lodge

17TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.facebook.com/NJ17th

Navesink No. 9	1 st & 3 rd Wednesdays
Caesarea No. 64	1 st & 3 rd Mondays
Ocean No. 89	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays
Durand No. 179	2 nd & 4 th Mondays
Matawan No. 192	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays

2024 “BIG WINNER RAFFLE”

Purchase tickets from any Lodge Officer! Win Big!
Drawing 12/21/24 at our 2025 Installation of Officers!



MASTER’S MESSAGE

“Making Good Men Better “

This is the most common thing I heard about freemasonry when I joined. It is like staring at yourself in the mirror every day after consistent exercise to look for changes. Over time, those around you notice your growth, even if you don’t. I believe true growth often comes quietly, before you’re even aware of it.

So as the world turns, and we approach the change of the seasons again, let us remember how our Fraternity teaches us to regard the whole human species as one family. The high and low, rich and poor, who, as created by the same Almighty parent and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other. This principle unites men of every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

It is more obvious now than at any time in our history that we are one human family, whether we like it or not. When we regard humanity and every single person as a member of our family, we are united simply by virtue of being human. That’s the only qualification. It doesn’t matter where or how you were raised, what language you speak, or what name you use to praise God. Our diversity is our strength. It’s as true for our genetics as it is for our society. The more, the better.

We have never needed the unifying principles of Freemasonry more than we do now. Brotherhood, Truth, Charity, and Moral Integrity—are essential to fostering harmony, personal growth, and ensuring that we all work together toward common goals and the betterment of society. We are inextricably, irreversibly and inseparably connected. And as our technology advances, the physical distances between us will become even smaller. Helping us realize that we all live on the same small, fragile planet.

Brethren, I leave you with this...

“If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn’t sit for a month.”
- Brother Theodore Roosevelt

Fraternally,

WM Maliek Olden

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

Brothers, 2024 Dues Notices have been sent out.

2nd Dues Notices went out in June! Please remit payment if you haven’t!
2024’s dues break down are as follows:

- Grand Lodge Operating - \$38.50
- Grand Lodge Reserve Fund - \$12.00
- Grand Lodge Capital Fund - \$3.00
- Masonic Charity Foundation - \$6.00
- Insurance - \$6.25
- George Washington Masonic Memorial - \$1.00
- Rainbow for Girls - \$1.00
- DeMolay - \$1.00
- Masonic Renewal Committee - \$0.50
- Trenton Historic Masonic Temple - \$3.00
- Grandview Fee - \$1.25
- Lodge Assessment - \$116.50
(\$1 of Lodge Assessment earmarked for 17th District)

2024 Total (Regular Members): \$ 190.00

2024 Total (Dual Members): \$ 116.50

Online Payment of Dues

Dues can be paid online at paypal.me/OBL16.

If you choose to use this eCommerce option, please include a processing fee of \$6.00 for Regular Members (total of \$196.00) or \$4.00 for Dual Members (total of \$120.50). Unfortunately, this fee is non-negotiable and is assessed to us by PayPal.

We do not accept Venmo, Zelle, or CashApp. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Make sure to include your full name as part of the payment note. Please contact the Secretary if you have any questions.

Have you moved recently or changed your contact information? Please either update your profile in Grandview or contact the Secretary so that he can do so. We can’t stay in touch with you if we don’t know how to reach you!

If you haven’t signed up with Grandview, please do so as soon as possible as all membership coordination will be through that system.

GRAND LODGE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Contact the Secretary for more information on any event.

See Grandview and “The Garden State Mason” Communications Regarding:

- MWGM’s Receptions & Official Visits (Various)
- SGW’s North-Vs-South Festive Board (9/14)
- DGM’s Casino Night (9/29)
- JGW’s Night in Memphis (10/5)
- DGM’s Bowling Fundraiser (10/12)
- MWGM’s Charity Winter Coat Drive (10/31)
- 2024 MLC in Elizabethtown, PA (10/25-10/27)
- GL Annual Communication @ Tropicana Hotel (11/5-11/7)
- 2025 Unity Day @ GLPA (1/25)
- Other Education Committee Events including Lodge Leadership Academy Zoom Presentations
- Other Upcoming Events in our Grand Jurisdiction

LODGE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Contact the Secretary for more information on any event.

Upcoming Lodge Events

Tuesday, October 8th

2025 Dues Discussion and Vote

Followed by an Advanced Station EA Degree

Tuesday, October 22nd

“Plato’s Allegory of the Cave”

Presentation by RW Christian Stebbins, PGC – Beverley-Riverside #107

Tuesday, October 29th

“The Skull Lecture”

Presentation by WB Andrew Rizzitello – Olive Branch #16

Central Jersey Candidates Night

Wednesday, September 25th – 5:00-9:30PM

Philo Lodge #243 – 120 Old Bridge Turnpike, South River

\$40/Person, Master Masons Only

5PM Social Hour, 6PM Chinese Buffet, 7PM Candidate Presentations

Scan for Tickets or Purchase at the Door



9th Annual Scotchtobfest

Scotch Tasting and Cigar Smoking Extravaganza

Friday, October 4th @ 7:00PM

Join us for a strolling, table-side tasting presentation,

with food pairings & informative discussions!

50/50 and Basket Raffle Prizes, too!

\$50/person includes tastings, pairings, and cigars.

Open to Brother Masons and their Family & Friends

21 and older. Please drink and smoke responsibly.

To RSVP or for information, email tasting@olivebranchlodge.org.

Tickets can be paid for at the door via cash, check or credit card or purchased online at paypal.me/OBL16.

175th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 19th, 2024, from 4PM – 8PM

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating a remarkable milestone in the history of Olive Branch Lodge, our 175th anniversary. Your presence would greatly enhance the significance of this momentous occasion.

The celebration will include a presentation of the history of our Lodge, a cornerstone rededication by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Elected Line and a reenactment of important Freemasons of our Lodge portrayed by current members. A reception will follow, providing an opportunity for networking with members of our fraternity.

This is a free event, open to the public, however, an RSVP is requested by September 15th to secretary@olivebranchlodge.org. Additionally, we are putting together an ad journal for the event. If you’d like to be included, please contact our Secretary to request an ad pricing guide and submission form. Thank you!

Toys for Tots Drive

Join our Lodge’s efforts to support the Toys for Tots Program through the year, we’ll be collecting (gently) used or new children’s (PK-Grade School) books, new, unwrapped toys, batteries, & contractor-grade black trash bags.

Please contact RW Peter De Lucia for more information.

732-221-6178