

# Merchantville, N. J.

ORGANIZED January 14, 1871 CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

# January 2025

### 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, January 9th, 2025 Dress will be Formal. Tuxedo for Officers

## 7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Masonic Light
- Masonic Birthdays

Closing

After the meeting we will meet at the Cherry Hill Applebee's for Half Priced apps and beverages (9pm). Brethren are welcome.

By order of

WB Luís A. Valentín 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 are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
- Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30pm
- District Lodge of Instruction are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:30pm Master Masons only; For location see the Events page

# Merchantville Lodge No. 119 F&AM

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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

lvalentin310@gmail.com

## SENIOR WARDEN

WB ANDREW S. KNAUS (Rachel) (609) 238-6144 AKNAUS@merchantvillelodge.org

## JUNIOR WARDEN

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

ASTARKUS@merchantvillelodge.org

#### SECRETARY

WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS (Jenn) (856) 631-4664 SECRETARY@merchantvillelodge.org

### TREASURER

WB DAVID K. MARTIN JR, PM (Cathleen) (609) 346-6433 DMARTIN@merchantvillelodge.org

> PROXY TO GRAND LODGE WB SHAWN M. ROBERTS, PM

### CHAPLAIN WB RAYNALDO SANTIAGO, PM

SENIOR DEACON WB EL DONALDO VID AL, PM

SENIOR MASTER OF CEREMONIES LUIS FRANCISCO RUIZ

> SENIOR STEWARD DAVID R. SAUNDERS



MARSHAL WB CHRISTIAN P. KOCHON, PM

JUNIOR DEACON WB REV. JORGE A. MARTINEZ, PM

JUNIOR
MASTER OF CEREMONIES
WB GERALD D. JEITNER, PM

JUNIOR STEWARD JOSEPH M. MCGUCKIN, JR.

TYLER WB ENRIQUE ROSARIO, PM

# THE GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONORABLE 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. J. Eugene Margroff 100 Barrack St. Trenton, NJ 08608 Cell: (201) 362-3982 nigm2024@gmail.com

# District Deputy Grand Master Eighteenth Masonic District

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

# District Ritual Instructor Eighteenth Masonic District

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

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 LODGE #119 F&AM

6926 Park Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Phone (856) 663-1719

info@merchantvillelodge.org

Merchantvillelodge.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Merchantville119
Instagram: @MerchantvilleLodge

# **Greetings from the East**

# January 2025

"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

-Bro Benjamin Franklin

Happy New Year Brethren! I hope you all were able to enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones and may 2025 be a year full of health, healing, happiness, prosperity, and advancement in all our endeavors. I am thrilled to occupy the oriental chair once again, but this time for Merchantville Lodge. It has been quite a journey and I look forward to working with the brethren to move Merchantville Lodge forward. Your support is not only welcomed but also greatly appreciated.

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to continue our masonic work and continue to propel our lodge and our district to prominence. We do this by our willingness to be present at our rehearsals, our regular communications, District Lodge of Instruction, attending lodge activities and by reaching out to one another and displaying Brotherly Love and Support. During my young masonic career, I enjoyed many of Merchantville's traditions that were supported by the brethren. I plan to continue these traditions and ask for your support.

As I reflect on my masonic journey, I am reminded of the lessons learned. One constant lesson was the importance of listening in masonry while being guided into the brotherhood. Whether it was listening to the instructions in the preparation room, ready to take that leap of faith for enlightenment, or listening to the words of my guide during the degrees, listening to the obligations and the lectures or listening to the Worshipful Master while he provided masonic light and instruction. I learned to listen with my ears as well as my heart, allowing the obligations to resonate within. To hear unspoken words to aid a fellow brother, to heed to the instructions of our masonic teachings. And finally, to listen as the Worshipful Master of our lodge with a commitment to serve. My Brothers, as you may know, attendance at lodge meetings is not what it once was for many lodges across the state. So, I beseech you brethren, if your cable-tow allows, recommit yourselves to the brotherhood and to your lodge and join us in fellowship. I look forward to seeing you in lodge.

Yours in Brotherhood, WB Luis A. Valentin Worshipful Master 2025 Merchantville Lodge #119

# **EVENTS**

DLI (@Laurel Lodge) **Regular Communication** Officer Rehearsal Super Bowl Party Officer Rehearsal Regular Communication Officer Rehearsal Official Visit of DDGM Officer Rehearsal Regular Communication Annual Table Lodge Annual Lady's Night **Regular Communication** Past Master's Night **Regular Communication** Paint Day BBOGLI **Regular Communication** Nomination of Officers Trunk or Treat Election of Officers Food Baskets Christmas\Holiday Party Annual Communication & Installation of Officers

Wednesday, January 8th at 7:30pm Thursday, January 9th at 7:30pm Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30pm Sunday, February 9th 5:30pm Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm Tuesday, February 13th at 7:30pm Tuesday, March 11th at 6:30pm Thursday, March 13th at 7:30pm Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30pm Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30pm April TBD May TBD Tuesday, May 8th at 7:30pm June TRD Tuesday, June 12th at 7:30pm Late Spring/Early Summer TBD Summer TBD Thursday, September 4th at 7:00pm Thursday, September 12th at 7:30pm Thursday, October 9th at 7:30pm Saturday, October 25th at 2:00pm Thursday, November 13th at 7:30pm November TRD December TBD

# **Events Planning**

December TBD

We need your help to plan and execute the above events.

Event planning is a great way to support your lodge and to get prospects involved.

Event planning is a great way to support your lodge and to get prospects involved. If you are able to lend a helping hand or offer assistance in any way, please contact WM Luis Valentin, WB Andy Knaus or WB Shawn Roberts.

# **Petitions for Membership**

Petitions are available to print on Grandview.

# 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 Rev. Jorge Martinez. PM

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
DB Kenneth "Peaches" Pierce

Bro Michael Koehler
And a Contribution Made In Memory of Brother Clark R. Hewitt Jr.

## 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: <a href="mailto:treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org">treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org</a>
PayPal: 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!

# January Masonic Birthdays

Michael T Coates Gary L Jones PM Stephen J Paull George H Schoppet Wayne A Farren Andrew S Knaus William L Reeves III Eugene L Wallace PM William C Johnson David K Martin Jr. PM Andrew W Sosna

# 2025 In Memoriam

# **Brother**

Robert E. Collier

Initiated September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1963 Passed October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1963

Raised November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1963 Called from Labor: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Brother

# Roger T. Wells

Initiated January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Passed February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Raised March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Called from Labor: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

# From the Secretary's Desk:

Brethren,

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to WB David K. Martin, Jr. for his dedication and service to our Lodge over the past five (actually 6.5-7) years. His efforts, especially during Covid and the challenging year for him personally, have set a high standard for what it means to be a dedicated Secretary. On behalf of the entire Lodge, thank you for your hard work and for ensuring our Lodge's business was handled with integrity and care.

As I step into the role of Secretary, I am deeply honored and humbled to serve in this capacity. I know the responsibility is significant, and I take it on with a deep respect for the trust you've placed in me. Like many of you, I balance this commitment with a full-time job and other responsibilities, but I am determined to prioritize clear and consistent communication to keep our Lodge informed and engaged.

Our Lodge is unique in its challenges and opportunities, especially as stewards of our building and tenants. I will strive to build on the foundation laid by those before me, ensuring that our Lodge remains strong and that the administrative work supports the vision and goals of our Worshipful Master and the membership.

I ask for your patience as I transition into this role and for your continued involvement and support. Whether through attendance, sharing ideas, assisting in event planning, or encouraging others to join and participate, every contribution matters. Together, we can ensure that our Lodge continues to thrive and uphold the tenets of our Fraternity that brought us all together.

Finally, I want to express my enthusiasm for working alongside WB Valentin in his year as Worshipful Master. I have no doubt that, with your support, we will achieve great things for our Lodge in the coming year. Let's meet each other on the level, strengthen our bonds as Brothers, and make this a year to remember.

Thank you for your trust and support.

Fraternally, WB Shawn Roberts, PM Secretary

P.S. The most effective way to receive an immediate response is through <u>text</u> or <u>email</u>.

Text: 856-631-4664 Email: secretary@merchantvillelodge.org

Please reach out to me if you have a change of contact info including address or other masonic questions\concerns.

# Dues

Any outstanding dues balance is now past due. NPD Notices for 2024 (and prior) balances will begin in March 2025. If you need assistance, contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary ASAP.

You can now pay your annual dues to the Lodge via the Amity app. The Grand Lodge has been working with the Blue Lodges to enable the secure transaction of your dues directly to us via the Amity app, with the fees for use being paid by the member. While PayPal and Venmo are excellent and safe ways to pay, there is a cost that the Lodge has been covering for that service. This method will be directly associated with your Masonic information and will go directly to the Lodge. Click on the three bars in the upper left corner of the app and select "Pay Dues". From the Secretary's desk, this is an excellent alternative to the current online payment system. You can also make prepaid installments for the upcoming year!

Your current balance will show on your Grandview landing page.

Merchantville Lodge 2025 Dues Breakdown:

GL Assessment: \$76.00 Lodge Dues: \$89.00

2025 Total Dues: \$165.00 (Dual Member: \$89 | 50+ year: \$76)

Available Payment Methods:

By Check: Make Checks payable to "Merchantville Lodge"

Send to:

Merchantville Masonic Temple

6926 Park Ave

Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Amity App

Zelle: treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org PayPal: merchantvillelodge@gmail.com

Venmo: @merchantville119

(Please include your name and member # so we can ensure your

payments are credited properly)



# Secure · Transparent · Masonic

# DUES PAYMENTS WITH AMITY

Built for Jersey Masons.



# COMPARE AMITY WITH OTHER POPULAR TOOLS

LOW-FEE BANK TRANSFERS ARE COMING SOON... STAY TUNED!



travel... safely.



3.49% + \$0.49 "Card Not Present" Cost 3.33% + \$0.33

3.5% + \$0.15"Card Not Present" Cost

(\$0.99 under \$20)

find your Lodge, and tap "Make Dues Payment."

52.000+ LODGES. ONE CRAFT.





travel... safely.





# Junior Grand Warden's Reception



Laurel Lodge #237

Cordially invites you

To attend the Official Visit of

# Most Worshipful J. Eugene Margroff,

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

for the Open Reception in Honor of R.W.Bernard J. Madgey,V, Junior Grand Warden

Saturday, February 8, 2025

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 1, 2025
Checks Payable to: "Laurel Lodge #237"	No tickets will be issued
I would likeReservations @ \$60 ea	ch 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:Ph	ione:





Monday, December 23, 2024

#### Dear Fellow Lodge Secretary;

As part of my duties as Secretary to the Grand Master in 2028, I am organizing an Ad Book to help offset the cost of the Junior Grand Warden's Reception for Right Worshipful Brother Bernard J. Madgey, V, that will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the Masonic Fellowship Center in Burlington, N. J. This Ad Book will be distributed to everyone attending the event and to every advertiser.

I have enclosed the Ad Book Contract and a sample of the ad sizes for your reference. Ads and boosters must be received by me by Saturday, February 1, 2025, to be included in the Reception Ad Book. No exceptions! Checks or money orders made payable to Grand Staff 2028 with either "Ad" or "Booster(s)" on the memo.

The ad prices are: Cover Pages (5x8, only 3 available) - \$200 each; Full Page (5x8) - \$100.00; Half Page (5x4) -\$65.00; Quarter Page (5x2) - \$35.00; Classified Ad (max. of 3 lines/20 words) - \$15.00; and, Boosters (name and title only) \$5.00.

Please mail "print ready" ad(s) with the contract to: RW Bro. Jeffrey E. Hicks, PGC, SGM 2028

Or email "print ready" ad in Adobe PDF format to

NJSGM2028@Gmail.com

PO Box 2689

Southampton, NJ 08088-2689

For more information call/text: 1 (609) 206-6583

On behalf of Team Madgey, we appreciate your lodge's support of the Ad Book as we honor our Right Worshipful Brother Junior Grand Warden at his Reception!

Sincerely and fraternally, Jeggy E. Hickor

RW Bro. Jeffrey E. Hicks, PGC

Secretary to the Grand Master, 2028 Lodae Secretary

Central Lodge No. 44, F&AM Southampton, New Jersey

19th Masonic District

Brethren and families,

The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey is excited to share some important changes for our 2025 scholarship program.

- <u>Expanded Eligibility.</u> For the first time, nieces and nephews of living or deceased Master Masons in good standing will be eligible.
- New Scholarships available. Scholarship offerings will be expanded to include students attending a 2-year College, Trade, or Technical school.
- <u>Simplified Application Process.</u> One application form (via Google Forms) will cover all nine MCF Scholarships.

See the attached flyer for more details or contact Scholarship Coordinator Karla Lippincott at 609-239-3830 or kpl@njmasonic.org for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely and fraternally,

The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey

https://tinyurl.com/mcfscholarship25

# The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Jersey offers these scholarships to students interested in pursuing higher education.

For the single application for all scholarships, visit tinyurl.com/mcfscholarsh All completed applications must be postmarked by May 30, 2025.

2-Year College, Trade/Technical School 4-Year College/University

### **Burk-Townley** Scholarship

(\$1,000 per year for up to 4 years) For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major | Available

GPA: Bor 3.0 Must be relative of NJ Mason\*: financial need required

#### Serewitch Family DeMolay Scholarship \$20,000

(\$5,000 per year for up to 4 years) For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major - 1 Available GPA: C- or 2.2 over last 2 years

Active NJ DeMolay, financial need, swimming activity required

#### Sol & Reba Serewitch \$5,000 Scholarship

(\$5,000 for 1 year) For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Anv Major - 1 Available

GPA: C or 2.2 over last 2 years Must be relative of NJ Mason\*: financial need required

## 4-Year College/University

#### Asbury Jordan Lodge Scholarship

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years) For Graduating High School Seniors \$4,000 in Any Major 1 Available GPA: B or 3.0 over last 2 years

Relative of NJ Mason preferreds: financial need required

In honor of Christian Mogensen and John D. Post

#### Chairman of the Board \$10,000 Scholarship

(\$2,500 per year for 4 years) For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major - 3 Available GPA: B or 3.0

Must be relative of NJ Mason\*

### John H. Critchley, Sr. & Emma F. Critchley Scholarship

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years) For Graduating High School Seniors in Engineering or Related Sciences -

1 Available GPA: B or 3.0

Unmarried sons or grandsons of NJ Mason®

\$4,000

\$4,000

#### Culver DeMolay \$4,000 Scholarship

(\$1,000 per year for 4 years) For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Any Major - 3 Available GPA: B or 3.0 over last 2 years Active DeMolay preferred

#### Patterson Engineering Scholarship \$16,000

(\$4,000 per year for 4 years) For Graduating NJ High School Seniors in Engineering - 3 Available GPA: C or 2.5 over last 2 years

#### Taylor Scholarship \$4,000

(\$1,000) per year for 4 years) For Graduating High School Seniors in Any Major - 2 Available GPA: B or 3.0

Must be relative of NJ Mason\* Must perform up to 30 hours of community service at Masonic Village

## The Grand Lodge of New Jersey offers these scholarships. For an application, visit www.newjerseygrandlodge.org

#### Scholarship \$4,000 (\$2,000 per year for 2 years)

For High School Graduates 2 Available GPA: C+ or 2.5 over last 2 years

Must be relative of NJ Mason

#### Scholarship (\$2,000 per year for 2 years)

For College Graduates 2 Available GPA: B1 or 3.25 over last 2 years Must be relative of NJ Mason



The amplicant must be the duld, step-duld niece, nephro, graušchilá ar step-granáckilá of a living or esseased Master Mason in good standing in a Masonio Lodge of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey:

# **DIRECTOR OF RITUAL**

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 WB Henry Olsen, PM....Tyler

## 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 Richard Wimmer, PGC RW Dale A. Lynch, PDDGM RW Scott R. Vicari, PGP WB David N. Tilton, PM

## LIVING PAST MASTERS OF MERCHANTVILLE LODGE No. 119 F&AM

