

Merchantville, N. J.

ORGANIZED January 14, 1871 CONSTITUTED January 18, 1872

February 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, February 13th, 2025 Dress will be Formal. Tuxedo for Officers

7:30pm

- Lodge Opening
- Business
- 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm
- Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm
- District Lodge of Instruction are held on the 2nd 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.

TYLERDB 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

February 2025

Greetings Brothers,

I pray you and your loved ones are doing well. It was great to see everyone at our first communication of the year last month.

As we enter the month of February, we eagerly await the playing of the 59th Super Bowl and hopefully celebrate a Philadelphia Eagles victory! This month is also recognized as African American History month in the US, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Some notable African American Freemasons who left a historical mark in history are Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Nathaniel "Nat King" Cole, Duke Ellington, just to name a few. Their accomplishments continue to thrive throughout history.

February is also observed for Presidents Day as well as the birthdays of former U.S. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Throughout our history, there have been fifteen U.S. Presidents, (one as an Entered Apprentice) who have donned the Masonic Apron, including George Washington, the first Masonic President. Lest we forget, February also recognizes the observance of Dia de San Valentin/St. Valentine's Day, not to be confused with yours truly. A day to extend and celebrate love. An act expected as a Freemason, to extend Brotherly Love to one another.

What are some additional expectations of you in Freemasonry? I'd like to share an excerpt from the Masonic Find. Some reminders of certain things expected of you. Always remember the following:

- the calling of a Freemason is a high one, and your conduct should always reflect this.
- loyalty to home, to country, and the Fraternity is expected of you at all times.
- patriotism is a duty, and you should not approve of disloyalty or rebellion.
- the Masonic institution stands for liberty, equality, and Fraternity not only for its members but all mankind.
- Freedom of thought, speech, and action are supported by Freemasons, so far as it is not incompatible with the rights of others.
- Every Freemason is the enemy of ignorance, bigotry, oppression, superstition, and all mental and spiritual darkness.
- a Mason champions the cause of the widow, the fatherless, the weak, and the oppressed.

He challenges the arbitrary assumption by anyone of the power to dictate the actions, beliefs, and destinies of any group or individual.

The time-honored virtues so cherished by our forefathers are still relevant. Humility, patience, charity, and gentleness are among the hallmarks of purity and integrity of character.

Sincerely & fraternally,

WB Luis A. Valentin Worshipful Master 2025 Merchantville Lodge #119

From the Secretary's Desk:

Brethren,

A month in and it's a whirlwind. The officers are working hard to get your lodge moving forward. From my standpoint as secretary, the digital age has made it possible to do this job quite effectively from anywhere. If you have yet to join us in the digital world, I highly recommend you try out Grandview. You can see your balance, print your own dues card or see a virtual dues card, update your contact information, and see all digital notices from the Grand Lodge and Merchantville.

The most effective way to receive an immediate response is through <u>text</u> or <u>email</u>. Unfortunately, with a full-time job, I can't promptly answer phone calls while working.

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. If you have not seen a mailing in some time, I need your address please.

Thank you!

Fraternally, WB Shawn Roberts, PM Secretary

2025 Blue Cards

Blue cards have been sent out to those with a zero balance. Dues notices have also been sent out to those with a balance owed. If you see a discrepancy in your balance, please notify me ASAP so we can have it resolved. Thank you for your patience during my learning experience.

EVENTS

Super Bowl Party? Officer Rehearsal DLI (@Merchantville Lodge) **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 BBQGLI **Regular Communication** Nomination of Officers Trunk or Treat **Election of Officers** Food Baskets Christmas\Holiday Party Annual Communication &

Sunday, February 9th 5:30pm Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm Wednesday, February 12th at 7:30pm 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 TRD 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 TBD December TRD

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. 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

Installation of Officers

Petitions for restoration, dual\plural and full membership are all available upon request to the secretary or 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 EI Donaldo F. Vid AI, 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: treasurer@merchantvillelodge.org 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!

February Masonic Birthdays Happy Birthday

Charles W Foulke, Jr.

Alexander W Giebel

Keith A. Herman

David C Lynn

Brian J Portanova

2025 In Memoriam

Brother

Robert E. Collier

Initiated September 20th, 1963 Passed October 18th, 1963 Raised November 15th, 1963

Called from Labor: November 10th, 2024

Brother

Roger T. Wells

Initiated January 20th, 2012 Passed February 17th, 2012 Raised March 23rd, 2012

Called from Labor: December 2nd, 2024

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.

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: See next page for info

Venmo: @merchantville119 (Add \$5 to cover the fee)

PayPal: Scan QR Code (Includes fee amount)

2025 Dues + PayPal Fee (\$5)



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!



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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.





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, PM 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, PDDGM 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

