

Worshipful Master's Message

Brethren,

Long before I was ever knew what the Masons were or heard that famous lecture that describes the seven liberal arts and sciences, I knew that music had an amazing ability to “wrap us in melancholy or elevate us in joy”. My father was a cross country trucker. We listened to all sorts of music at home, we watched Mitch Miller and Lawrence Welk as well as Glen Campbell, Andy Williams and others on television, but country music in particular has always been a big influence in my life. I cannot carry a tune in a bucket with two handles nor can I play a single instrument. I do however appreciate listening to those that can.

When I was elected to serve as Worshipful Master at Laurel Lodge, every Past Master that I spoke to said “your year will be gone before you know it”. No truer words were ever spoken. I can't help but think of the lyrics to a Kenny Chesney song called “Don't Blink”.

*I turned on the evening news, saw an old man being interviewed
Turning a hundred and two today, Asked him what's the secret to life
He looked up from his old pipe, Laughed and said "All I can say is"
Don't blink! Naw, don't blink, Life goes faster than you think.*

It has been a pleasure being able to serve our lodge as the Worshipful Master. What an amazing year it has been, one that will never forget! When I look back on my Masonic journey I think about the changes and starting over that has constantly been a part of my life. It seems that I moved from pond to pond until I reached the ocean. Being the big fish in the small pond of elementary school I entered high school and was quickly humbled and reminded that I am once again a minnow in a great lake. Then after graduation, I joined the military and became a small fish in a great ocean and starting again at the bottom.

As an entered apprentice Mason, I knew that I was a small part of the world's oldest and greatest fraternity, I was again the smallest fish in this new pond. The difference though is that I felt as welcomed and as much a part of this organization immediately as I do today. The brethren made me feel as though I had always been a part of the family. The journey through the chairs was challenging and informative. I made many new friends along the way and the experience created a desire to learn as much as possible in the short a time as allotted.

Now that I have been fortunate enough to have been able to serve as Master of the lodge, I will soon start over again, this time as the newest Past Master. I only hope that I can be as helpful to the future Masters of Laurel Lodge as the Past Masters, officers and brothers were to me. This has indeed been a challenging, rewarding and fast moving year. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I wish you and your family the very best in the upcoming year. Please enjoy the holidays and have a safe and wonderful new year.

Communications for December 2016

You are cordially and fraternally requested to attend the following communications of Laurel Lodge No. 237, F&AM

Friday, December 2nd, 7:45 PM

Regular Business, Officer Elections, Birthdays & Refreshments after Lodge

Saturday, December 17th 2:00 PM Open Installation

Please note: the Friday Meeting will not be held

Open Installation of Laurel Lodge Officers

Installation Dinner 6PM See Announcement in this Trestleboard

Sincerely and Fraternally

Gene G. Olson

Worshipful Master

By Order of
WM Gene G. Olson
Worshipful Master

Attest
WB James Weisensee, PM
Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM
Officers Rehearsal at Lodge

Friday December 2nd 7:45PM
Regular Business, Officer Elections,
Birthdays & Refreshments

Saturday December 17th 2:00PM
Open Installation of Worshipful
Master and Officers

Saturday December 17th
Open Installation and
Installation Dinner
See announcement in this Trestleboard

Saturday December 10th
2:00PM
Children's Christmas Party
See announcement in this trestleboard

DLI Schedule for 2017

January 11 Audubon-Parkside #218

February 8 Collingswood-Cloud
#101 (@ TBA)

March 8 Laurel #237 April 12

Lazarus #303 (@ Rising
Sun/Haddonfield Temple)

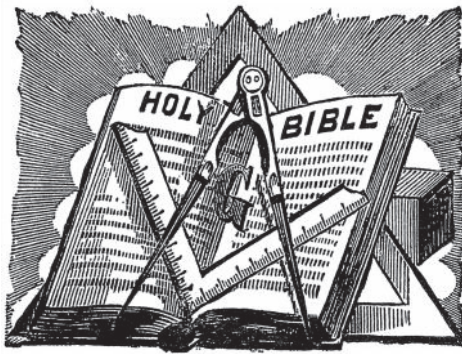
May 10 Mozart #121 (@ Audubon
Temple) June 14
Merchantville #119 September 14

Rising Sun #15 October 12

USSNJ #62 (@ Rising
Sun/Haddonfield Temple)

November 9 Qualification Teams
(location TBA)

IN MEMORIUM



WB William E. Hand

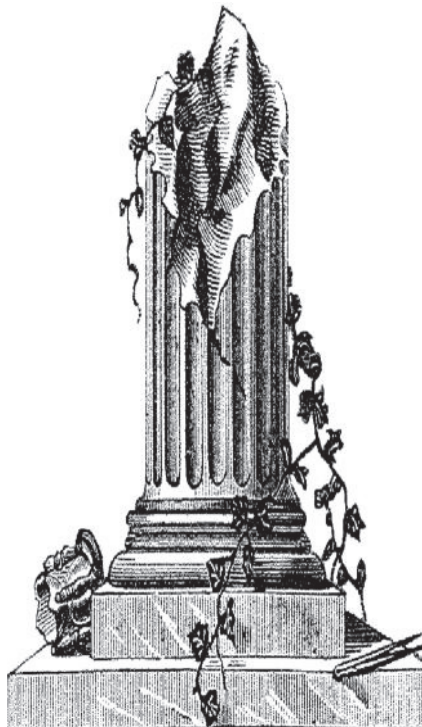
Raised 10-17-1975
Worshipful Master 1988
Called from Labor
November 2nd, 2016

Bro. William P. Hansche

Raised February 2, 1951
Called from Labor
October 25, 2016

RW Warren E. Rival PGC

Raised June 14th, 1957
Worshipful Master 1982
Grand Chaplain
Called from Labor
November 17, 2016



Building Fund Benefactors

Bro. Joseph Abiuso
Bro. Leonard Albig
Bro. James Alspach
DB Richard P. Alspach
WB Eugene J. Applegate
WB Charles W. Bell
Bro. Robert R. Brittain
Bro. Richard L. Busch
Bro. William F. Campbell
Bro. Barclay Campion
Bro. Kenneth W. Cashin
Bro. Anthony J. Centritto
Bro. Ross Chase
Bro. Chester H. Clark
Bro. Joseph Cruz, III
Bro. Al Dandurand
Bro. John A. Delabo
Bro. Gerard DiBona
WB Robert F. DiOrio
Bro. Alvin C. Fitting
Bro. Derek Freyberger
Bro. John Gomen
Bro. Richard A. Greiner
Bro. Wilfred Halina
RW Albert L. Hann
Bro. William P. Hansche
Bro. Robert T. Harrel, Jr
Bro. Walter C. Harrington
Bro. Charles A. Heimerl III*
Bro. Charles A. Heimerl IV
Bro. Donald N. Hughes
Bro. Lloyd H. Jones
Bro. Ronald Knott
WB Robert Kunze
Bro. Anthony A. Lafferty
Bro. William Lambert
Bro. Fred Maiden, Jr.
Bro. Charles D. McMaster
WB Whitney Myers*
WB Gene Olson
Bro. Harry E. Parvin
Bro. Robert J. Powell
Bro. Bill Roche
Bro. James Sannipoli
WB Donald C. Sharp
Bro. Donald C. Springle
Bro. John L. Stoll
WB Robert A. Taylor
Bro. William Terwilliger, Jr.
Bro. Marvin O. Thorn
WB James A. Weisensee
Bro. Jeffrey Williams
Bro. Richard L. Wooster

2016 DUES NOTICE

Please note: Your dues for 2016 were due 12-31-2015. If you know or believe that you haven't paid dues for 2015 please contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary.

Payments: Laurel Lodge No. 237
P.O. Box 127 Stratford, N.J. 08084

Contact Status Changes

Brethren,
Please remember to contact the Secretary or Worshipful Master with regard to changes to your mailing address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses etc. Our goal is maintain our membership database as accurate as possible.

Thank you,
Worshipful Master
PS: It's better to be proactive than reactive.

Laurel Lodge #237 Officer Elections

Please note, Officer Nominations were held on November 18th

December 2nd Elections as Follows:

Worshipful Master: Bro. John P. Gomen

Senior Warden: Bro. Joseph Abiuso

Junior Warden: Bro. William Roche

Proxy to Grand Lodge: Bro. Ed S. Bohi

Financial Trustee 3 year term:
Nomination December 2nd &
Election January 2017
Bro. Ross Chase

Financial Trustee 2 year unexpired term:
Bro. Ed S. Bohi

Building Trustee 3 year term:
WB Gene G Olson

Building Trustee 3 year term:
Bro. John C. Read

18th Masonic District Installation Dates

Audubon-Parkside Lodge No. 218 (Open Installation)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND @ Audubon Temple
Dinner at 6:30 PM,
Lodge opening/installation ceremonies at 7:30PM

Lazarus Lodge No. 303 (Closed Installation)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH @ Haddonfield Temple
Lodge opens at 5:30 PM,
Dinner at 6:30 PM, Qualification at 6:45 PM
Installation ceremony commences at 7:30 PM

Merchantville Lodge No. 119 (Closed Installation)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH @ Merchantville Temple
145th Annual Memorial Service and Installation of Officers. Lodge opens at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM, Resume Labor at 7:00 PM

Rising Sun Lodge No. 15 (Open Installation)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH @ Haddonfield Temple
Lodge opens at 5:00 PM, Social & Dinner at 5:30 PM,
Qualification 7:15 pm,
Memorial / Installation Ceremonies 7:30 PM

Mozart Lodge No. 121 (Open Installation)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH @ Audubon Temple
Installation starts at 3:00 PM,
Banquet to follow at Pennsauken CC. Tickets \$30
RSVP kjosepayt@gmail.com by 12/7

Collingswood-Cloud Lodge No. 101 (Open Installation)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH @ Collingswood Temple
Dinner at 6:00 PM \$20
Qualification of incoming WM at 7:00 PM
Installation ceremony at 7:30 PM. Contact Secretary

USS New Jersey Lodge No. 62 (Open Installation)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
@ Haddonfield Temple
Lodge Opens 5:00 PM, Social at 5:30 PM
Dinner at 6:00 PM (\$30), Installation Ceremony at 7:30

Laurel Lodge No. 237 (Open Installation)
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH @ Laurel Temple
Lodge opens at 2:00 PM.
Dinner at The Palace in Blackwood \$35, 6-10 PM.
Cash bar, Contact Bob Taylor at taylor89@comcast.net
for info or reservations

World War One Christmas Truce

The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and legendary events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in no-man's land?

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches. The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out. The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit. After 1914, the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again. Despite this, there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war, and not only at Christmas. In what was known as the 'Live and Let Live' system, in quiet sectors of the front line, brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead.

Laurel Lodge #237 Open Installation & Installation Dinner

Open Installation Ceremony

**Laurel Lodge #237 F&AM
Saturday December 17th 2PM
(No Meeting Friday December 18th)**

Open Installation Dinner

**The Palace 109 N. Black Horse Pike Blackwood, NJ
Saturday December 17th 6:00PM-10PM
\$35.00 per person with 4 hour cash bar**

**Menu includes: Soda, juice, coffee and tea.
Salad bar, fresh baked rolls with butter.
Crudités display, tomato basil bruschetta and fresh mango salsa.
Buffet Dinner: Carving Station with Top Round Beef Au Jus, Jumbo Stuffed Shells, Chicken Cordon Bleu and Flounder stuffed with Crabmeat, Oven Roasted Potatoes and mixed vegetables.**

Dessert: New York Cheese Cake served with Fresh Berries And Crème Anglaise.

**RSVP by Monday December 12th to
Worshipful Brother Robert Taylor at
Taylor89@comcast.net or 856-834-3917.**

Payment will be accepted at door.

Laurel Lodge Children's Christmas Party - Bring Gift for your Child **Saturday December 10th 2:00PM**

Bring the kids and grandkids to Laurel Lodge #237 for a fun afternoon. The Lodge will be providing entertainment and food. We are also expecting a visit from a special guest.

Celebrate Christmas cheer with Laurel Lodge!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Peace on earth and good will to men!

RSVP to Brother Jack Gomen, Senior Warden by Tuesday 12/6/2016.

Contact: JAKG1231@HOTMAIL.COM or 609-502-0771.



Volunteer Services 2017

Brethren, thank you for volunteering at the Masonic Home this year. Sunday volunteer services for 2017 will be announced in the January Trestleboard.

Masonic Home Address:

902 Jacksonville Road, Burlington, NJ

Carpool from the lodge at 7:45

There are two services 9:30AM and 10:45AM.

We finish up about 11:30 AM

Children, family and friends are welcome.

Did You Know?

You can access

www.newjerseygrandlodge.org

for information on our

Brotherhood. On the left hand

side of the home page click the

members only tab. For user

name use the number on your

blue card. The password should

be your last name. If you have

difficulty accessing the members

only section please call NJ

Grand Lodge to assist with

access 609-239-3950.

Did You Know?

When lightning strikes it can reach up to 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit! (Ouch)

The croissant was invented in Austria

Hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backwards

The safest car color is white

75/40 Members

Laurel Lodge continues to value and Honor our 75/40 members by not requiring Lodge dues payments. In order to preserve our lodge's financial stability, we are requesting that if you are able, and it will not cause you any undue hardship, to pay only the Grand Lodge assessment of \$44.50. This is voluntary on your part, but will help our Lodge meet its financial responsibilities.

Laurel Lodge 237 New Phone Number

Brethren, our Lodge has a new phone number.

It is 856-258-6262.

Laurel Lodge Masters Hat

Please donate your dollar bills to the Laurel Lodge Masters Hat. Remember the letter L to the left of Worshipful Brother George Washington. Thank you for your continued support. This money helps pay for lodge refreshments.

Candidate Status

<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Last Date</u>	<u>Next Status</u>	<u>Next Date</u>
	MM	10/2/15	MM exam	TBD
	MM	11/3/15	MM exam	TBD
	MM	N/A	Ballot - Affiliation	TBD
	FC	9/18/15	MM	TBD
	EA	11/17/15	FC	TBD
	EA	6/5/15	FC	TBD
	EA	4/1/16	FC	TBD
	EA	4/1/16	FC	TBD
	EA	10/21/16	FC	TBD

Brethren: Attention Please

This memo is directed to Brother Entered Apprentice Masons, Brother Fellow Craft Masons and Brother Master Masons who have not completed their exam work. Your Brethren are available to meet with you at our Lodge every Tuesday evening at 6PM to review and memorize exam work. Please make every effort to attend. Please note; during your committee of investigation you were asked if you were willing to spend at least one hour per week with your Brethren to study Freemasonry.

PAST MASTERS

<i>* Deceased</i>	<i># Dual Member</i>
1922 Albert C. Stack *	1974 Robert W. Bates, PSGD
1923 Harry A. Beck *	1975 Frederick W. Knox
1923 William S. Martin # *	1976 Leroy See *
1924 Arthur Scrimshaw *	1976 John J. Eitel # *
1925 Benjamin Forrest *	1977 Roy F. Gutshall, Jr. *
1926 Elmer F. Giffin *	1978 John R. Beetle
1927 Charles B. Giffin *	1979 Charles W. Bell
1928 John T. Reif *	1980 Benjamin H. Read, Jr. *
1929 Charles V. Osborne, Sr. *	1981 Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM
1930 Samuel G. Garrison, Jr. *	1982 Warren E. Rival, PGC *
1931 Charles P. Mills # *	1982 Ronald A. Rocco #
1932 William R. Cannon *	1983 Hugh C. Williams *
1933 Noah C. Bender *	1984 Walter C. Knett *
1934 F. Maurice Goodwin *	1984 Charles E. Oppido, Jr. # *
1935 Michael Balent, Jr. *	1985 Frank A. Applegate, Sr. *
1936 Enos J. Jarvis *	1985 Henry Bubacz # *
1937 Robert F. Ranken *	1986 Wilfred E. Wilson *
1938 John H. Fisher, Sr. *	1986 Donald L. Keppen Sr. #
1939 Oscar M. Hansen *	1987 Robert F. Butler *
1940 Albert F. Neidinger PGP*	1988 William E. Hand *
1941 Lawrence E. Gardiner *	1989 Edwin W. Griffiths, Jr.
1942 B. Franklin Cope *	1990 Donald C. Lever, PSGS *
1943 Fred Humphrey *	1991 Stewart D. Walsh *
1944 Charles. S. Schenick *	1991 Ralph S. Hill, Jr. # *
1945 Ora L. Wooster, Sr. *	1992 George W. Stott, Jr. *
1946 Carl C. Caldwell *	1992 Harry H. Wible # *
1947 Benjamin A. Glatz *	1993 Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM
1948 Joseph H. Matthews *	1994 Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS
1949 Ralph E. Husted *	1994 Charles A. Castley, PDDGM #*
1950 Thomas Milne *	1995 Russell R. Hoyle, Sr.
1951 Ferdinand Herbst *	1996 Frazier R. Alburger
1952 Charles Mannice *	1996 James E. Miller, PGC #
1953 Robert C. Osborne, PGC*	1997 Raymond B. Kingett
1954 Earl B. Hallowell *	1997 Jerry R. Barnish #
1955 Harry M. Ireland *	1998 Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC
1956 John M. Fisher, Jr. *	1999 Scott D. Cianci
1957 Albert C. Stack, Jr. *	1999 Frank M. Blizard, III #
1958 Whitney H. Myers *	2000 Paul E. Burkhardt
1959 George F. McCann *	2001 Robert F. DiOrio
1960 Harold T. Wolf*	2001 Donald. C. Sharp Sr. #
1961 John P. Steffan*	2002 Leonard M March, PDDGM
1962 Harold H. Croom*	2002 Craig J. Woodruff #
1963 Charles F. Yost *	2003 Eugene J. Applegate
1964 Charles W. Engler, Jr. *	2004 Eugene O. Bathurst
1965 Daniel A. Mullen, III *	2005 Juan A. Caraballo, Jr
1965 Carl H. Gamp # *	2006 Moses R. Hayes, Jr., PGC
1966 Albert L. Hann , PJGD	2007 Richard J. McCunney, II
1967 Henry Baumert *	2008 Michael E. Owsiak
1968 Robert E. Walsh, Jr. *	2009 Robert E. Kunze Sr.
1969 George E. Carpenter *	2010 Craig R. Thorpe
1970 Henry Sannipolli, PDDGM *	2011 Brian J. Read PJGS
1971 Leonard O. Beebe *	2012 Bernard J. Madgey V DRI
1972 Robert D. Rowand *	2013 Kevin D. Kloss
1973 Louis W. Bradley, PGT *	2014 James A. Weisensee
	2015 Robert A. Taylor

DISTINGUISHED BROTHERS

DB Richard P. Alspach DB Thomas J. Kane
 DB John E. McDowell * DB Raymond T. McManus

HONORARY MEMBERS

MW David A. Dorworth, Grand Master 2013
 MW William H. Berman, Grand Master 2009
 MW Larry S. Plasket, Grand Master 2002
 MW William H. Sackett, Grand Master 1986
 MW Edgar N. Peppler, Grand Master 1979

2016 A.D.

OFFICERS

6016 A.L.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WB Gene G. Olson – Kathy
 1 Windsor Rd. Gibbsboro, NJ 08026
 856-782-0077 - GENESELECT@MSN.COM

SENIOR WARDEN

Bro John P. Gomen – Margaret
 139A Coles Rd. Blackwood, NJ 08012
 609-502-0771 - JAKG1231@HOTMAIL.COM

JUNIOR WARDEN

Bro Joseph Abiuso – Jennifer
 624 Center Ave. Chesilhurst, NJ 08089
 856-357-7883 - J.ABIUSO@GMAIL.com

TREASURER

MW Joseph H. Rival, Jr., PGM – Judith
 333 Francis Ave. Chesilhurst, NJ 08089
 856-768-0312 - GM-NJ2010@COMCAST.NET

SECRETARY

WB James A. Weisensee PM - Cathy
 24 Bells Lake Dr. Turnersville, NJ 08012
 856-227-1699 - ITJAYW@YAHOO.COM

Secretary Emeritus
 RW Louis W. Bradley PGT*

Treasurer Emeritus
 WB Charles W. Bell PM
 WB John R. Beetle, PM
 WB Whitney H. Myers, PM *

<u>Senior Deacon</u>	Bro William Roche - 609-314-0505
<u>Junior Deacon</u>	Bro Edward S. Bohi - 609-268-7399
<u>S.M. of Ceremonies</u>	Bro Charlie Heimerl 856-343-8637
<u>J.M. of Ceremonies</u>	Bro Jeffrey Scott Slimm Jr. 609-313-3628
<u>Senior Steward</u>	Bro Rick Pena 609-727-6068
<u>Junior Steward</u>	Proxy – Bro Scott Vicari 856-952-3459
<u>Marshal</u>	Bro Robert S. Outlaw - 609-471-2869
<u>Chaplain</u>	Bro. Ross A. Chase - 856-503-7677
<u>Tyler</u>	Bro William F. Anderson - 856-547-0453
<u>Historian</u>	RW Albert L. Hann, PJGD - 856-845-6951
<u>Proxy</u>	Bro William Roche - 609-314-0505
<u>Director of Ritual</u>	MW Joseph H. Rival Jr. PGM , PM - 856-768-0312
<u>Webmaster</u>	DB Raymond T. McManus - 856-346-9150
<u>Dir. Of Craftsmen</u>	Brother William Gahagan 609-313-0924
<u>Entertainment</u>	WB James A Weisensee WB Robert A. Taylor
<u>Sick and Visiting</u>	RW Albert L. Hann ,PJGD 856-845-6951 RW Bernard J. Madgey, V, PM 856-470-7609
<u>Auditing, Budget & Finance</u>	RW James E. Miller, PGC Bro Gerard DiBona
<u>Blood Bank Chairman</u>	Bro Bob Outlaw - 856-471-2869
<u>Photographer</u>	Bro William Roche - 609-314-0505
<u>Masonic Education</u>	RW Albert L. Hann, PJGD RW Brian J. Read, JGS
<u>Advisor to Officers</u>	RW Albert L. Hann , PJGD
<u>Refreshments</u>	Need Volunteers - By committee at this time
<u>Funeral Coordinator</u>	RW Albert L. Hann , PJGD 856-845-6951

<u>Building Trustees</u>	3 Year	WB Robert A Taylor PM DB Raymond McManus
	2 Year	RW Bernard J. Madgey, V, DRI, PM RW Brian J. Read, PJGS, PM
	1 Year	Bro John C. Read WB Kevin D. Kloss, PM
<u>Financial Trustees</u>	3 Year	Bro Bill Anderson
	2 Year	Bro William Roche
	1 Year	WB John R. Beetle, PM

Grand Master Most Worshipful Walter R. Kaufers
 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08602-2008

District Deputy Grand Master Right Worshipful Robert W. Hertneck, Jr.
 95 Stacey Haines Road Lumberton, NJ 08048
 609-257-3359/609-509-1947 -
 RHERTNECK@COMCAST.NET

District Ritual Instructor Right Worshipful Bernard J Madgey V
 7 Lake Villa Drive Voorhees, NJ 08043
 856-470-7609 – budmadgey@aol.com