

Worshipful Master's Message

**Brethren,
Happy New Year, I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.**

As I now sit in the East a profound sense of responsibility comes over me. What a wonderful organization of men who receive and aid one another to be better in all aspects of life. I am truly thankful for all the insight and teachings of Masonry.

We are taught to meet on the level, act by the plumb and part upon the square. When we meet, we accept one another as men of equal quality. We act with respect and care for each other's needs. When we separate we leave one another in a better state of mind, knowing we have each other as true friends and Brothers.

I will do my best to impart interest and quality in our meetings. I encourage all Brothers to come out and share together a year of friendship and Brotherly love to develop that cement which unites us together as one society of friend's and Brothers.

I look forward to a year that brings us closer to Masonry and to each other in mind, body and spirit. Any input that will help in improving our Lodge is welcomed. The most important aspect of Masonry is being there for one another.

May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

Sincerely and Fraternaly, John P. Gomen Worshipful Master

Communications for January 2017

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

Friday, January 6th, 7:45 PM

Regular Business, Presentation on the Citadel, Birthdays & Refreshments after Lodge

Friday January 20th, 7:45 PM

Regular Business, Presentation on "Show Them the Pickel", Birthdays & Refreshments after Lodge

Sincerely and Fraternaly
John P. Gomen
Worshipful Master

By Order of
WM John P. Gomen
Worshipful Master

Attest
WB James Weisensee, PM
Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Officers Rehearsal at Lodge

Friday January 6th 7:45PM

Regular Business, Presentation,
Birthdays & Refreshments

Friday January 20th 7:45PM

Regular Business, Presentation,
Birthdays & Refreshments

Saturday January 14TH

8am-12pm

Blood Drive Laurel Lodge 237

Saturday, January 28

2017 Winter Seminar

Saturday, March 10th

Ladies Night

See announcement in this TB

Saturday, March 18

Chairman's Charity Ball

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)

Freemason Jokes

A man was checking into a small hotel on the outskirts of town when he saw a sign on the wall which read, "HIRAM LODGE, Meetings every Wednesday at 7PM."

The man said to the lady at the front desk, "I wonder what they do in there. Do you think they'd ever let me join?"

"I don't think so."

"Well why not?"

"I don't know. That guy there," she said pointing at the man sitting outside the door, "has been knocking on the door for weeks and they won't let him in."

What did the Freemason say when he tripped and fell off the drawbridge?

"So moat it be"

What did the Freemason say when his kids covered him with sand at the beach?

Don't put a sprig of acacia on top.

John has been a mason for many years and finally has worked up the courage to run for the job of Worshipful Master. Unfortunately in the ballot he did not get enough votes and returned home that night quite despondent.

His wife met him at the door with a great big hug and a welcome home kiss. "Don't worry" she said "in this house you will always be the Senior Warden."

Building Fund Benefactors

Bro Joe Abiuso

DB Richard Alspach

Bro James Alspach, Sr.

Bro. Robert F. Brittain

Bro. Richard L. Busch

Bro. Kenneth W. Cashin

Bro Anthony J. Centritto

Bro Alfred J. Dandurand

Bro Richard Faunce

Bro Derek J. Freyberger

WB John P. Gomen

Bro. Wilfredo S. Halaina

RW Albert L Hann, PJGD

Bro. Robert Harrell, Jr.

Bro Ronald S. Head

Bro. Donald Hughes

Bro Lloyd H. Jones

WB Robert E. Kunze Sr., PM

Bro Willam A. Lambert

RW Bernard Madgey, DRI

Bro Fred J. Maiden, Jr.

Bro. James H. Norcross

Bro Robert J Powell

WB Ronald A. Rocco, PM

Bro. Bill Roche`

Bro. James D. Sannipoli

Bro Donald C. Springle

Bro. John L. Stoll

WB James Weisensee, PM

Bro. George E. Widing

Bro. Richard L. Wooster

**Thank you from
Worshipful Brother Gomen!**

Brethren,

Visit your Lodge this month and enjoy two presentations as follows:

Friday January 6th

A presentation on the Citadel Military College

Friday January 20th

A presentation on Show them the Pickel

2017 DUES NOTICE

Please note: Your dues for 2017 were due 12-31-2016. If you know or believe that you haven't paid dues for 2016 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.

ATTENTION !!!

BLOOD DRIVE DATE Laurel Lodge 237

**Saturday January 14TH
8am to 12pm**

**Donate and receive a voucher for free
pint from Bobby Ray's Pennsauken
Tavern**

It's the Masonic thing to do!



Blood Drive!

January Masonic Birthdays

| | | |
|--------------------------|------|----|
| Bro Warren E Kreis | 1949 | 68 |
| Bro Harry L Scherfel | 1949 | 68 |
| WB Joseph Raffensberger | 1950 | 67 |
| Bro David A Schmitt | 1962 | 55 |
| Bro Kenneth W Cashin | 1963 | 54 |
| Bro A. Harry Moffett | 1964 | 53 |
| Bro John L Wiley | 1981 | 36 |
| WB Donald C Sharp, Sr. | 1989 | 28 |
| Bro Harold P Hazen | 1991 | 26 |
| WB Scott D Cianci, PM | 1993 | 24 |
| Bro Charles Clements III | 1999 | 18 |

MOON LODGES

A century ago there were more than 3,000 Masonic lodges which can be described as "Moon Lodges"; in 1954 there were fewer than 500. These lodges meet on the day of the full moon for practical reasons; the brethren had light to travel by at night. There may have been some symbolic meaning also. The advent of electricity, street lights, and the automobile made the reason for meeting on such nights antiquated through unique. Many Grand Lodges now require lodges to meet on fixed days of the week.

LODGE IN TWO COUNTRIES

At one time Golden Rule Lodge No. 5 of Stanstead, Canada, occupied a lodge room which was bisected by the boundary between Canada and the United States. It had entrances from the Vermont and Canadian sides; the membership of the lodge consisted of men from both sides of the border.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND FREEMASONRY

The famous Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor was designed by a Frenchman, Frederick A. Bartholdi, a Freemason. The Grand Lodge of New York laid the cornerstone with masonic ceremonies on August 5, 1885.

Laurel Lodge and Black Horse Square Club Ladies Night 2017

Lucien's Manor 81 West White Horse Pike Berlin, NJ 08009

Friday, March 10, 2017 - 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Cocktails 6:00pm with Cash Bar and Hors d'oeuvres

Dinner 7pm with DJ Dance 8pm and Gifts for the Ladies **\$70.00 per couple**

You and your lady are cordially invited to attend our annual **"Ladies Night"**. This is a most enjoyable evening and it offers us an opportunity to show our ladies how much we appreciate them. This is an Open Affair. Feel free to invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

Group seating can be arranged. Please RSVP to: WB Robert A. Taylor, PM
30 Indian Birch Rd. Turnersville, NJ 08012 (856-834-3917 or Taylor89@comcast.net)

\$70.00 per couple: Make checks payable to Laurel Lodge #237

Name: _____ No. Attending: _____

Please make a menu selection:

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Chicken Marsala _____ Stuffed Flounder _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Masonic Family Bowling Night

Saturday, March 4th 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM

30 Strikes Bowling, Pub & Pizzeria

501 S. White Horse Pike, Stratford, NJ 08084

Cost: \$10.00 per person, Pay WB Taylor, Cash bar available

Included: 2 hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental

Bumper lanes available for kids

Contact WB Robert A. Taylor for reservations

856-834-3917 or Taylor89@comcast.net

Group reservations of 6 can be made – Reservations are helpful



Volunteer Services 2017

Brethren, thank you for volunteering at the Masonic Home this year.

Masonic Home Address:

902 Jacksonville Road, Burlington, NJ

January 22nd April 23rd

July 23rd October 22nd

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.

Laurel Lodge Dues Notice

Brethren, your dues for 2017 were due 12-31-2016.

If you know or believe that you haven't paid dues for 2017 and possibly prior years, please contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary.

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

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

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| <p><i>* Deceased</i></p> <p>1922 Albert C. Stack * 1923 Harry A. Beck * 1923 William S. Martin # * 1924 Arthur Scrimshaw * 1925 Benjamin Forrest * 1926 Elmer F. Giffin * 1927 Charles B. Giffin * 1928 John T. Reif * 1929 Charles V. Osborne, Sr. * 1930 Samuel G. Garrison, Jr. * 1931 Charles P. Mills # * 1932 William R. Cannon * 1933 Noah C. Bender * 1934 F. Maurice Goodwin * 1935 Michael Balent, Jr. * 1936 Enos J. Jarvis * 1937 Robert F. Ranken * 1938 John H. Fisher, Sr. * 1939 Oscar M. Hansen * 1940 Albert F. Neidinger PGP* 1941 Lawrence E. Gardiner * 1942 B. Franklin Cope * 1943 Fred Humphrey * 1944 Charles. S. Schenick * 1945 Ora L. Wooster, Sr. * 1946 Carl C. Caldwell * 1947 Benjamin A. Glatz * 1948 Joseph H. Matthews * 1949 Ralph E. Husted * 1950 Thomas Milne * 1951 Ferdinand Herbst * 1952 Charles Mannice * 1953 Robert C. Osborne, PGC* 1954 Earl B. Hallowell * 1955 Harry M. Ireland * 1956 John M. Fisher, Jr. * 1957 Albert C. Stack, Jr. * 1958 Whitney H. Myers * 1959 George F. McCann * 1960 Harold T. Wolf* 1961 John P. Steffan* 1962 Harold H. Croom* 1963 Charles F. Yost * 1964 Charles W. Engler, Jr.* 1965 Daniel A. Mullen, III * 1965 Carl H. Gamp # * 1966 Albert L. Hann , PJGD 1967 Henry Baumert * 1968 Robert E. Walsh, Jr.* 1969 George E. Carpenter * 1970 Henry Sannipolli, PDDGM * 1971 Leonard O. Beebe * 1972 Robert D. Rowand * 1973 Louis W. Bradley, PGT * 2015 Robert A. Taylor</p> | <p><i># Dual Member</i></p> <p>1974 Robert W. Bates, PSGD 1975 Frederick W. Knox 1976 Leroy See * 1976 John J. Eitel # * 1977 Roy F. Gutshall, Jr.* 1978 John R. Beetle 1979 Charles W. Bell 1980 Benjamin H. Read, Jr. * 1981 Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM 1982 Warren E. Rival, PGC * 1982 Ronald A. Rocco # 1983 Hugh C. Williams * 1984 Walter C. Knett * 1984 Charles E. Oppido, Jr. # * 1985 Frank A. Applegate, Sr.* 1985 Henry Bubacz # * 1986 Wilfred E. Wilson * 1986 Donald L. Keppen Sr. # 1987 Robert F. Butler * 1988 William E. Hand * 1989 Edwin W. Griffiths, Jr. 1990 Donald C. Lever, PSGS * 1991 Stewart D. Walsh * 1991 Ralph S. Hill, Jr. # * 1992 George W. Stott, Jr. * 1992 Harry H. Wible # * 1993 Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM 1994 Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS 1994 Charles A. Castley, PDDGM ** 1995 Russell R. Hoyle, Sr. 1996 Frazier R. Alburger 1996 James E. Miller, PGC # 1997 Raymond B. Kingett 1997 Jerry R. Barnish # 1998 Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC 1999 Scott D. Cianci 1999 Frank M. Blizard, III # 2000 Paul E. Burkhardt 2001 Robert F. DiOrio 2001 Donald. C. Sharp Sr. # 2002 Leonard M March, PDDGM 2002 Craig J. Woodruff # 2003 Eugene J. Applegate 2004 Eugene O. Bathurst 2005 Juan A. Caraballo, Jr 2006 Moses R. Hayes, Jr., PGC 2007 Richard J. McCunney, II 2008 Michael E. Owsiak 2009 Robert E. Kunze Sr. 2010 Craig R. Thorpe 2011 Brian J. Read PJGS 2012 Bernard J. Madgey V DRI 2013 Kevin D. Kloss 2014 James A. Weisensee 2016 Gene G. Olson</p> |
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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

2017 A.D.

OFFICERS

6017 A.L.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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

SENIOR WARDEN

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

JUNIOR WARDEN

Bro William Roche – Patricia
 12 Valley Dr. Pine Hill, NJ 08021
 609-314-0505 – WSHAY62@COMCAST.NET

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 *

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| <u>Senior Deacon</u> | Bro Edward S. Bohi - 609-268-7399 |
| <u>Junior Deacon</u> | Bro Charlie Heimerl 856-343-8637 |
| <u>S.M. of Ceremonies</u> | Bro Don L. Keppen Jr – 856-371-8675 |
| <u>J.M. of Ceremonies</u> | Bro Casey Huston – 856-627-0094 |
| <u>Senior Steward</u> | Bro Ross A. Chase - 856-503-7677 |
| <u>Junior Steward</u> | Bro Jeffrey Scott Slimm Jr. 609-313-3628 |
| <u>Marshal</u> | Bro Robert S. Outlaw - 609-471-2869 |
| <u>Chaplain</u> | Bro. Julian Bable – 301-938-2124 |
| <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 Edward S. Bohi - 609-268-7399 |
| <u>Director of Ritual</u> | WB Bob Kunze, PM |
| <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, PM 856-845-6951 RW Bernard J. Madgey, V, DRI, 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, PJGS |
| <u>Advisor to Officers</u> | RW Albert L. Hann , PJGD |
| <u>Refreshments</u> | WB Gene G Olson, PM |
| <u>Funeral Coordinator</u> | RW Albert L. Hann , PJGD 856-845-6951 |

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|----------------------------------|---|
| | Bro John C. Read |
| | 3 Year WB Gene G. Olson, PM |
| <u>Building Trustees</u> | 2 Year DB Raymond T. McManus WB Robert A. Taylor, PM |
| | 1 Year RW Bernard J. Madgey, V, DRI, PM RW Brian J. Read, PJGS, PM |
| | 3 Year Bro Ed S Bohi |
| <u>Financial Trustees</u> | 2 Year Bro Bill Anderson |
| | 1 Year Bro Ross Chase |

Grand Master Most Worshipful Walter R. Kaulfers
 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