### **New Jersey Grand Lodge Information**

Grand Master: Most Worshipful: John Eugene Margroff
Deputy Grand Master: RW Omar S. Morris
Senior Grand Warden: Bruce C. Golway
Junior Grand Warden: RW Bernard J. Madgey V
Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer: MW Douglas R. Policastro
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary: MW Larry S. Plaskett
District Deputy Grand Master: RW Ken Carpenter
District Ritual Instructor: RW Vince Capone

18<sup>th</sup> Masonic District 2025 Grand Officers Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful Casey Huston GC

Laurel Lodge Distinguished Brethren
DB Richard P. Alspach\*, DB Raymond T. McManus,
DB John C. Read Jr., DB Robert S. Outlaw

**Laurel Lodge Honorary Members** 

MW William H. Sackett, Grand Master 1986 \*
MW Edgar N. Peppler, Grand Master 1979
MW Larry S. Plasket, Grand Master 2002
MW William H. Berman, Grand Master 2009
MW David A. Dorworth, Grand Master 2013
RW Chester H. Clark PGC
RW Keith A. Herman, PDDGM
RW Benjamin Foster PGC\*

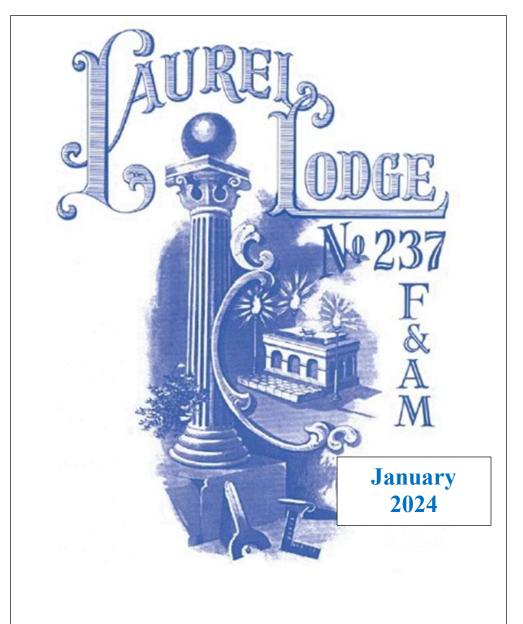
GRAND LODGE WEBPAGE
WWW.NEWJERSEYGRANDLODGE.ORG

LAUREL LODGE WEBPAGE
WWW.LAURELLODGE237.ORG



@LAURELLODGE237





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Please send correspondence to PO Box 127 Stratford NJ 08084

Address of Laurel Lodge 629 Stone Road Laurel Springs, NJ 08021 Constituted May 25<sup>th</sup>1922

## **Communications for January 2025**

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

## Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 6th 7:45PM Meeting

Enjoy masonic light with regular business masonic birthdays and brotherhood. Dinner will be Lodge 6:30PM. Westmont Diner will be providing Dinner. A \$10 Donation is requested.

## Friday January 17th 7:45PM Meeting

Enjoy masonic light with regular business masonic birthdays and brotherhood. Dinner at 6:30PM. A \$10 Donation is requested. A ballot for initiation and membership will be conferred upon Mr. John Patrick Minch.

## Saturday February 8th

Junior Grand Warden's Reception for the open reception in Honor of RW Bernard J. Madgey V. For RSVP contact RW Butch Elliot at 201-390-3415. Attendance is \$60 per person. RSVP by February 1<sup>st</sup>. See page 5 for mailing address.



By Order of RW Michael I. Mattes Worshipful Master Attest
WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM
Secretary

Officer Line Continued		
Senior Deacon	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo	
Junior Deacon	WB Brian McGovern, PM	
S.M. Ceremonies	WB Bro Don Keppen, Jr. PM	
J.M. Ceremonies	WB Craig Woodruff, PM	
Senior Steward	WB Donald L. Keppen, PM	
Junior Steward	WB Keith P. Verrico, PM	
Marshal	DB Robert S. Outlaw	
<u>Chaplain</u>	WB Craig Woodruff, PM	
Tyler	Brother William F. Anderson	
Historian	Brother Jacob Keppen	
Proxy to GL	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo	
Director of Ritual	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS	
Webmaster	DB Raymond T. McManus, DB	
Dir. of Craftsmen	By Appointment - Need Volunteer	
<b>Entertainment</b>	By Appointment – Need Volunteer	
Sick and Visiting	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Auditing, Budget	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
& Finance	by Appointment – volunteer needed.	
Blood Bank	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
<u>Chairman</u>	* **	
<b>Photographer</b>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
<b>Masonic</b>	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS,	
<b>Education</b>	RW Bernard J. Madgey, V GO / PDDGM	
Advisor to	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
<u>Officers</u>	* **	
Refreshments	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
<u>Funeral</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	
Coordinator	ZJ 1-pp similarit , stantest needed.	
<b>Scholarship</b>	RW Frazier Alburger, PGT	
Committee	<b>G</b> 1	
<b>Building Trustees</b>	3 Year: DB Bob Outlaw	
	2 Year: Brother Thomas J. Santangelo	
Dimensiol (F)	1 Year: Brother Eugene Emenecker	
Financial Trustees	3 Year: MW Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM	
	2 Year: WB Craig Woodruff, PM	
Ouganist	1 Year: WB Keith P. Verrico, PM	
<u>Organist</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.	

2025 A.D. 6025 A.L. **Officer Line Worshipful Master** RW Michael I Mattes, PGP – Janice **Senior Warden** RW Scott P. Vicari, PGP - Jacquelyn Junior Warden **Bro Jay Colavita - Marianne Treasurer** WB Robert Taylor, PM - Susan Secretary WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM - Beth **Secretary Emeritus RW Louis W. Bradley PGT\* Treasurer Emeritus** WB Charles W. Bell PM WB John R. Beetle, PM WB Whitney H. Myers, PM \*

MW Joseph H. Rival, PGM

## **Worshipful Masters Message**

As we all know Masonry is non-denominational. We welcome all from any creed or faith equally. But this is not always the case. In the early 19th century Illinois saw an enormous swell in its masonic membership. It saw a growth of 5 lodges and over 1400 members amongst them whereas the rest of the jurisdiction only had roughly around 450 members. A lot of these lodges and in some cases their entire membership roles consisted of members of John Smiths blossoming LDS or Mormon Church. These lodges were all chartered to operate by Grand Master Jonas of Illinois in the years between 1840 and 1842. The names of the lodges were Nauvoo Lodge, Helm Lodge, Nye Lodge, Rising Sun Lodge, and Keokuk.

Apparently, these lodges while what seemed to be wildly popular. Began to fall out of favor with their Grand lodge quite quickly, all of the above-named lodges began to lose their charters and dispensation to perform masonic works. The various offences included. Failure to pay Grand Lodge dues, improper balloting on multiple candidates, failure to bring records to Grand Lodge for inspection, to even initiating, passing, and raising a candidate all within a few days apart and not requiring a proficiency. This resulted in the Grand Lodge of Illinois revoking amity of these lodges and they all were classified irregular or clandestine.

This is not the only time though that Smith was tied into a masonic conspiracy. Later in life Smith married Lucinda Pendleton Morgan Harris. This was the widow of William Morgan of the infamous Morgan Affair and the events leading up to the anti-masonic movement.

Sincerely and Fraternally
Michael Isadore Mattes
Past Master 2020/2021/2022
Worshipful Master 2025
Mozart Lodge #121 F&AM
Past President 18th District
Masters and Wardens Association

## Stated Meeting Laurel Lodge No. 237 F. & A.M. Friday December 6 A.D. 2024 A, L. 6024

Stated Meeting.

Meeting was opened in due form by W.B. Micael Mattes Sr. Warden on advanced Stations. All officers in attendance per the roster and the register on the Tyler desk. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. The gavel was returned to W. M Verrico for the transaction of business.

Bills were read totaling \$1013.56 for utilities, printing costs for trestle board and mailings. Total cash receipts for dues and Charles Schwab dividends and interest for November was \$5,351.60.

A motion to pay the bills was forwarded by W.B. Don Keppen Jr. And seconded by W.B, S, Vicari. The motion to pay the bills was approved by the brethren. There was only one piece for correspondence advising of visitation to inspect building water pipe entrance by NJ Water over the next few months. A report by Secretary Barnish of 10 prospective candidates assigned to Laurel for contact. Names for nomination for elective offices was read for a formal ballot. R.W. M. Mattes moved to elect all a single ballot was made and seconded by R.W. S. Vicari and passed by the brethren. The single ballot was cast by R.W. J Abiuso and was found to be proper by the Secretary.

A ballot for dual membership to Laurel Lodge by W.B. Hartshorne was spread and unanimously balloted by the brethren.

Lodge of Sorrows for 2024 was closed by W.B. Verrico and a lodge of sorrows for 2025 was opened.

Elected officers: Worshipful Master: R.W. M. Mattes.

Senior Warden: R.W. S. Vicari / Junior Warden J. Colavita

Grand Lodge Proxy: T. Santangelo. Treasurer: W.B. R. Taylor

Secretary W.B. J. Barnish

Financial Trustee Three Year Term: MWPGM J. Rival Treas. Emeritus.

Building Trustee: Three Year Term: DB R. Outlaw.

No further business lodge was closed by W.B. Verrico in long form for the final time in the lodge year A.L 2024.

Attest: WB J. Barnish Secretary 2024 Cc: BB, file, G/V.

# Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237 Continued \* Deceased # Served another Lodge

	December 11 Servi		
1990	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *	2016	Gene G. Olson
1990	Donald C. Lever, PSGS *	2016	Eric Erickson #
1991	Stewart D. Walsh *	2017	John P. Gomen
1991	Ralph S. Hill, Jr. #*	2017	Scott Vicari #
1991	William H. Berman, PGM	2018	Joseph Abiuso PGC
1992	George W. Stott, Jr. *	2019	Edward S. Bohi
1992	Harry H. Wible # *	2020	William E. Roche
1993	Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM	2020	Michael Mattes PGP #
1994	Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS *	2021	Craig J Woodruff
1994	Charles A Castley PDDGM *	2021	Michael Mattes #
1995	Russell B. Hoyle, Sr.	2021	Casey Huston GC #
1996	Frazier R. Alburger, PGT	2022	Donald L. Keppen Jr.
1996	James E. Miller, PGC #	2022	Michael Mattes #
1997	Raymond B. Kingett	2022	Casey Huston GC #
1997	Jerry R. Barnish #	2023	Jerry R. Barnish
1998	Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC *	2024	Keith Verrico
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		
2010	Craig R. Thorpe		
2011	Brian J. Read, PSGS		
2011	George W. Niessner, PSGS #		
2012	Bernard J. Madgey, V JGW		
2013	Kevin D. Kloss		
2014	James A. Weisensee		
2014	Brian McGovern #		
	Robert A. Taylor		

## Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237

\* Deceased # Served another Lodge

Deceaseu # Sei vi	cu ano	mer Louge
1922 Albert C, Stack *	1961	John P. Steffan*
1923 Harry A, Beck *	1962	Harold H. Croom*
1923 William S. Martin # *	1963	Charles F. Yost *
1924 Arthur Scrimshaw *	1963	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *
1925 Benjamin Forrest *	1964	Charles W. Engler, Jr.*
1926 Elmer F. Giffin *	1965	Daniel A. Mullen, III *
1927 Charles B. Giffin *	1965	Carl H. Gamp # *
1928 John T. Reif *	1966	Edgar N. Peppler PGM #
1929 Charles V. Osborne, Sr. *	1966	Albert L. Hann, PJGD *
1930 Samuel G. Garrison, Jr.*	1967	Henry Baumert *
1931 Charles P. Mills # *	1968	Robert E. Walsh, Jr.*
1932 William R. Cannon *	1969	George E. Carpenter *
1933 Noah C. Bender *	1970	Henry Sannipolli, PDDGM *
1934 F. Maurice Goodwin *	1971	Leonard O. Beebe *
1935 Michael Balent, Jr. *	1972	Robert D. Rowand *
1936 Enos J. Jarvis *	1973	Louis W. Bradley, PGT*
1937 Robert F. Ranken *	1974	Robert W. Bates, PSGD
1938 John H. Fisher, Sr. *	1975	Frederick W. Knox
1939 Oscar M. Hansen *	1976	Leroy See *
1940 Albert F Neidinger PGP*	1976	John J. Eitel # *
1941 Lawrence E. Gardiner *	1977	Roy F. Gutshall, Jr.*
1942 B. Franklin Cope *	1978	John R. Beetle
1943 Fred Humphrey *	1978	James J. Golley #
1944 Charles. S. Schenick *	1979	Charles W. Bell
1945 Ora L. Wooster, Sr. *	1980	Benjamin H. Read, Jr.*
1946 Carl C. Caldwell *	1981	Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM
1947 Benjamin A. Glatz *	1982	Warren E. Rival, PGC *
1948 Joseph H. Matthews *	1982	Ronald A. Rocco #
1949 Ralph E. Husted *	1983	Hugh C. Williams *
1950 Thomas Milne *	1984	Walter C. Knett *
1951 Ferdinand Herbst *	1984	Charles E. Oppido, Jr. # *
1952 Charles Mannice *	1984	Larry S Plasket, PGM, #
1953 Robert C. Osborne, PGC*	1985	Frank A. Applegate, Sr.*
1954 Earl B. Hallowell *	1985	Henry Bubacz # *
1955 Harry M. Ireland *	1986	Wilfred E. Wilson *
1956 John M. Fisher, Jr.*	1986	Donald L. Keppen Sr. #
1957 Albert C. Stack, Jr.*	1987	Robert F. Butler *
1958 Whitney H. Myers *	1988	William E. Hand *
1959 George F. McCann *	1989	Edwin W. Griffiths, Jr. #*
1960 Harold T. Wolf*	1989	James E. Miller, PGC #

## 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

Chiestions? Contact RWButch Elliott at (201) 390-3415

Deadline: February 1, 2025

Checks Payable to: "Laurel Lodge #237" No tickets will be issued

I would like\_\_\_\_ Reservations @ \$60 each Total Enclosed: \$

AND THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF

Please write the names of any additional attendees included in this reservation on the back of this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_ Lodge: \_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email; \_\_\_\_\_\_Phone: \_\_\_\_

## **January Masonic Birthdays**

<b>Bro Kenneth W Cashin</b>	1963	61
Bro John L Wiley	1981	44
Bro Harold P Hazen	1991	34

## **Famous Freemasons**

Gene Autry, Nat King Cole, Mel Blanc, John Wayne, Will Rodgers, Charles Lindbergh, Rudyard Kipling, Bob Feller, Duke Ellington, Thomas Payne, Ludwig Von Beethoven, Winston Churchill, Buzz Aldrin, Henry Ford, Harry S. Truman, Glenn Ford, Mark Twain, James Monroe, William Howard Taft, Count Basie, Ernest Borgnine, Harry Houdini, Don Rickles, Benjamin Franklin, Clark Gable and George Washington.



## **Brethren helping Brethren Continued:**

#### Call or contact WB Moser for the following service:

**Financial Planning:** WB Moser is a second-generation financial planner with over 30 years' experience. I was the last Past Master of Florence Lodge in Woodbury.

Donald S Moser - DSM Capital Wealth Management Managing Director/ CCO <u>www.dsmwealthmanagement.com</u> 609/221-9276

#### <u>Call or contact Brother Kingett for the following service:</u> Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Elder Law

Donald L. Kingett, Esq. Offices in Gloucester County & Camden County 856-374-5800 or DKingett@KingettWarren.com

#### Call or contact Brother Jay Colavita for the following service:

**Trident Protection Group** Contact Brother Jay Colavita (609) 481-8091 We're a full-service security agency providing armed or unarmed guards and K9 units. We specialize in event security (no size too big or small), executive protection, property and asset protection (facilities, fine arts, gems, and resources), and transportation.

Website: https://tridentprotection.org/

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Trident-Protection-2584900004858860">https://www.facebook.com/Trident-Protection-2584900004858860</a> / Email: tridentprotectionk9@gmail.com



## Contact WB Paul Burkhardt or Mark Burkhardt for the following Service: Burkhardt's Custom Countertops

Paul and Mark Burkhardt Owners/Fabricators 856-435-2020 / Burkhardtscountertops.com 648 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lindenwold, NJ 08021 Burkhardtscountertops@yahoo.com

Ouality you can trust since 1983.

## **Brethren helping Brethren:**

#### Call or contact WB Olson for the following service:

GENE OLSON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LLC

1 WINDSOR ROAD GIBBSBORO, NJ 08026
License# 13794 Office (856) 782-0077 and Cell (609) 868-2218
Residential Electric Work | Commercial Electrical
Services www.olsonelectricnj.com

Gene Olson Electrical Contractors, LLC has provided dependable residential & commercial electrical services in Camden, Gloucester and Burlington counties since 1996.

#### **Call or contact Brother Halina for the following service:**

Trophies, Plagues, Medals and other Awards

FAMILY IMPORTS, LLC 630 N Black Horse Pike Blackwood, NJ 08012 Tel 856 228 6400 or <a href="mailto:familyots@yahoo.com">familyots@yahoo.com</a>

#### **Call or contact WB Abiuso for the following services:**

Firearms, Ammunition, Accessories and More.

#### J&J GUNWORKS

310 White Horse Pike Clementon, NJ 08021 856-784-1910 www.jigunworks.com

YOUR 2nd Amendment Store.

#### Call or contact RW Brian Read for the following Service:

**Alcoy's Spa Service Parts and Service** for Whirlpool Baths and Hot Tubs 800-322-7727

## **Call or contact Brother Drexel for the following Service:**

DREXEL HVAC, LLC

27 Canyon Drive, Berlin, NJ 08009 - NJ Master HVACR Contractor #19HC00586400

Office – 856-809-9342 or e-mail <u>drexelhvac@hotmail.com</u> Sales/Service/Installation/Oil to gas conversions

#### SPECIAL MEETINGS CALLED FOR A KING

On December 20, 1874, a special meeting of New York Lodge No. 330 was held to exemplify the third degree for the edification of a Brother. His Royal Highness David Kalakaua, King of the Hawaiian Islands, and a member of Le Progres de l'Oceanie Lodge No. 124 (Supreme Council of France) Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. After the degree was exemplified, the Bible on which George Washington had taken his oath of office was displayed. The royal visitor asked that the book be opened at the page where the oath was administered. He took the book in both hands and kissed the page saying, "I thank God for this privilege." On January 15, 1865, the same royal visitor attended Chicago's Oriental Lodge No. 33 which had called a special meeting. Over four hundred distinguished visitors attended.

# HOW MANY MASONS SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Extravagant claims are sometimes made in connection with the Masonic membership of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. There were fifty-six signers of the document. There is satisfactory evidence to prove conclusively that eight were Masons. Twenty-four others are sometimes claimed as Masons, but evidence submitted is not completely satisfactory, being based of hearsay and "tradition", rather than documents. There are twenty-four signers who have never been claimed as Masons. The best answer the question is as follows: "Scholars have proved that eight Signers were Masons. As many as thirty may have been."

2025 Building Fund Benefactors				
Bro Richard A Greiner	Bro William R Terwilliger			
WB Eugene Applegate, PM	Bro Jay Colavita			
WB Bill Roche, PM	Bro Ricardo Pena			
Bro William Campbell	WB Robert A Taylor, PM			
Bro Wilfredo S Halina	WB Eugene O Bathurst, PM			
Bro Kenneth J Cheeseman	Bro Joseph A Cruz			
RW Leonard M March,	Bro James Griggs			
PDDGM				
Bro Richard L Wooster	Bro Richard A Faunce			
Bro Wallace Carey	Bro Joseph J Novello			
Bro Kenneth W Cashin				
Brethren, Thank you!				

Candidate Status					
NAME	STATUS	LAST	NEXT	NEXT	
		DATE	STATUS	DATE	
	EA	1/20/23	FC	TBD	
			Degree		
	EA	4/21/23	FC	TBD	
			Degree		
_	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD	
	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD	
	Mr.	10/18/24	EA	1/3 or	
				1/17	

Brethren, many sets of hands make lighter work. Let us continue to work towards building a stronger Masonic Temple. If you have a question or concern, please contact Lodge Leadership promptly.

