



January
2026

**Please send correspondence to PO Box 127 Stratford NJ
08084 Address of Laurel Lodge 629 Stone Road Laurel
Springs, NJ 08021 Constituted May 25th 1922**

Communications for January 2026

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

Friday January 2nd 7:45PM Meeting

Our guest speaker, R.W Howard Kanowitz will present some very interesting ideas in his "Masonic Stuff." The evening will also include, regular business, masonic birthdays and brotherhood. Dinner will be Lodge 6:30PM.

Friday January 16th 7:45PM

Learn about Freemasonry in Hitler's concentration camps from our guest speaker R.W. Eli Berkawitz who will present "Masons in the Camps."

Our Senior Warden, Jay Collavita will also present "The Double life: Living with a Working K-9"

The ladies have been invited to join us for dinner and afterward they will have a get to know you BYOB social, "Sip and Share" downstairs. The evening will include regular business, and brotherhood. Dinner at 630PM.



By Order of RW Scott P. Vicari Worshipful Master
Attest RW Michael I Mattes, Secretary

Suggested Donation of \$10 is requested for dinner.

Worshipful Masters Message

"Back to the Future"

January is named for Janus, the two-faced Roman god of beginnings, endings, doorways, and transitions. Freemasonry also employs Janus to symbolize Masonic themes of moral growth, past knowledge (looking back), and future potential (looking forward). It also links to Masonic initiation (the "janitor" opening doors to secrets) and themes of light, darkness, and spiritual rebirth, especially through the Solstice feasts of St. John, which I discussed in December's Trestle Board.

The theme this year is "Back to the Future," which is thus explained. For over one hundred years Laurel Lodge has been known for having great traditions and ritual excellence. In recent years the practice of some traditions, along with our ritual skills, have become inconsistent.

It is my intention to continue the great work of our immediate Past Master, Michael Mattes, to revive some of these traditions and to improve our ritual to meet the standards of the past. To thrive in the future our lodge needs to grow its membership and increase attendance at our meetings. Which, with your help, I will attempt to do by getting the lodge more involved in our community, creating events for our families, and ensuring each meeting has something interesting for the brothers to experience.

You will find in the pages of this Trestle Board that we have a busy January and exciting year ahead of us. I humbly ask for your support of our events and attendance at lodge.

R.W.Scott P Vicari, PAGM
Worshipful Master



January Masonic Birthdays

- Hal Hazen, January 18th
- Kenneth Chashin, January 25th
- John Wiley, January 27th
- Charles McMaster, January 31st

January 2nd Vote on Petitions for Dual Membership

- Marc Platt
- Alexander Giebel





"Masonic Stuff"

*Come hear the "the stuff lectures are made of"
from the New Jersey Lodge of Reasearch and
Education Distinguished Laureate Brother Emeritus*



R.W. Howard Kanowitz
Friday, January 2nd

Dinner at 6:30 PM Lodge opens at 7:45 PM

Friday, January 16th

MASONIC LIGHT

January 16, 2026

7:45 Gavel

LAUREL LODGE.
629 STONE ROAD
LAUREL SPRINGS, NJ

MASONS IN THE CAMPS



RW ELI A. BERKOWITZ:
GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER .

Eli will talk about Germany, World War II, and the Masonic lodges that existed in the concentration camps under the Nazis Regime.

THIS WILL BE A VERY
INFORMATIVE LECTURE WITH
ALOT OR GREAT INFORMATION

Plus:

**Bro. Jay Collavita Presents “The Double
life: Living with a Working K-9”**

The ladies will join us for dinner and stay for a get to know you BYOB social, “Sip and Share” downstairs.

Degree Status

Name	Degree	Last Date	Next Degree	Next Date
	EA	11/7/2025	FC	2/20/2026



Become A Mentor!

Please consider helping our candidates on their Masonic journey by becoming a mentor today!.

Brothers Helping Brothers

- 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/www.olsonelectricnj.com
- 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.jjgunworks.com YOUR 2nd Amendment Store.
- Contact **Bro. Drexel** for the following Service: **DREXEL HVAC, LLC**, 27 Canyon Drive, Berlin, NJ 08009 - NJ Master HVACR Contractor #19HC00586400 856-809-9342 or e-mail drexelhvac@hotmail.com
- Contact **WB Moser** for the following service Financial Planning: DSM Capital Wealth Management Managing Director/CCO www.dsmwealthmanagement.com 609/221-9276
- Contact **Brother Kingett** for the following service: Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Elder Law Donald L. Kingett, Esq. Offices in Gloucester County & Camden County 856-374-5800 or DKingett@KingettWarren.com
- 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 Website: [tridentprotection](http://tridentprotection.com) or Email: tridentprotectionk9@gmail.com
- Contact **WB Paul Burkhardt** or Mark Burkhardt for the following Service: **Burkhardt's Custom Counter Tops** 856-435-2020/ Burkhardtscountertops.com 648 7th Ave. Lindenwold, NJ 08021



The following proposed by-law change was read, and submitted in writing with the required five signatures, to the lodge at our December 5th, 2025 stated communication. It will be voted on at our March 6th meeting:

Article 1-Communications

Current Language:

1.1 The regular Communication of this Lodge shall be held on the first and third Friday of each month except during the months of July and August and on the third Friday in December. If the first Friday in January falls on the first of the month (New Year's Day) there will be no communication. The regular Communication shall begin at 7:45 PM. The Worshipful Master may, at his discretion, open a regular Communication up to one hour earlier then the prescribed time provided that due and timely notice shall be given to every member and that no business shall be transacted until the regular hour stated above.

Proposed Language:

1.1 The regular Communication of this Lodge shall be held on the first and third Friday of each month except during the months of July and August and on the third Friday in December. ~~If the first Friday in January falls on the first of the month (New Year's Day) there will be no communication.~~

If the Regular Communication date in any month should fall on (a) a legal holiday, or (b) during the Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge, or (c) on a religious holiday that in the estimation of the Worshipful Master would prevent some members from attending, that communication will be canceled. If the next scheduled Regular Communication, after the canceled Communication, falls on a day noted above (a), (b) or (c), that Communication shall automatically defer to the Tuesday of the following week. In determining whether any member's inability to attend the deferred meeting is material, the Master shall carefully consider the nature of any business or ballots to be conducted , so that no brother should be deprived of his right to be heard or to ballot on a matter of import. In making such a determination, the Master shall also give substantial weight to the explicit objections of any individual members and act in good conscience accordingly.

If for similar reasons or any other reason the first and third Friday is also unavailable as a meeting date, the Regular Communication shall be held on such a date as the Worshipful Master shall designate provided that due and timely notice be given to every member of the Lodge, any required dispensation be properly obtained from the Grand Lodge, and the scriptures of subparagraph 1.1 shall be observed.

The regular Communication shall begin at 7:45 PM. The Worshipful Master may, at his discretion, open a regular Communication up to one hour earlier than the prescribed time provided that due and timely notice shall be given to every member and that no business shall be transacted until the regular hour stated above.

Interpretive Statement:

Occasionally our stated communications will fall on a federal or religious holiday (most often Good Friday). Since we meet twice a month this by-law change allows us to cancel any meeting (not just New Year's Day as in the original by-law) if it falls on Grand Lodge, a religious, or federal holiday. It also ensures that, in the unlikely event that two consecutive meetings fall on one those occasions, that the second meeting would be moved and not canceled, so that we do not miss two meetings in a row. Also, the proposed by-law change prescribes how a meeting may be moved for any other reason.

Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237

** Deceased # Served another Lodge*

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	Josph 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 #

Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237

** Deceased # Served another Lodge*

1990	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *	2015	Robert A. Taylor Richard
1990	Donald C. Lever, PSGS *	2015	Hartshorne #
1991	Stewart D. Walsh *	2016	Gene G. Olson
1991	Ralph S. Hill, Jr. # *	2016	Eric Erickson #
1991	William H. Berman, PGM	2017	John P. Gomen
1992	George W. Stott, Jr. *	2017	Scott P Vicari, PAGM#
1992	Harry H. Wible # *	2018	Joseph Abiuso PGC
1993	Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM	2019	Edward S. Bohi
1994	Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS *	2020	William E. Roche*
1994	Charles A Castley PDDGM *	2020	Michael I Mattes PGP #
1995	Russell B. Hoyle, Sr.	2021	Craig J Woodruff
1996	Frazier R. Alburger, PGT *	2021	Michael I Mattes #
1996	James E. Miller, PGC #	2021	Casey Huston GC #
1997	Raymond B. Kingett	2022	Donald L. Keppen Jr.
1997	Jerry R. Barnish #	2022	Michael I Mattes,PGP #
1998	Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC *	2022	Casey Huston PGC #
1999	Scott D. Cianci	2023	Jerry R. Barnish
1999	Frank M. Blizard, III #	2024	Keith Verrico
2000	Paul E. Burkhardt	2025	Michael I Mattes, PGP
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 SGW		
2012	David J. Lane Sr. AGM #		
2013	Kevin D. Kloss		
2014	James A. Weisensee		
2014	Brian McGovern #		



Officer Line

2026 A.D. 6026 A.L.

Worshipful Master

RW Scott P. Vicari, PAGM - Jacquelyn

Senior Warden

Bro Jay Colavita - Marianne

Junior Warden

Bro Tom Santangelo-Jeanine

Treasurer

Bro Evan Graham - Jaclyn

Secretary

RW Michael I Mattes, PGP – Janice

Secretary Emeritus

RW Louis W. Bradley PGT*

Tyler Emeritus

DB William Anderson

Treasurer Emeritus

WB Charles W. Bell PM

WB John R. Beetle, PM

WB Whitney H. Myers, PM *

MW Joseph H. Rival, PGM

Officer Line Continued

Senior Deacon	Brother Francis M. Guthrie
Junior Deacon	Brother Ross Chase
S.M. Ceremonies	Brother Christopher Broschard
J.M. Ceremonies	WB Don Keppen, JR
Senior Steward	RW David J. Lane, Sr AGM
Junior Steward	WB Brian McGovern, PM
Marshal	DB Robert S. Outlaw
Chaplain	WB Craig Woodruff
Tyler	Brother Marc Platt
Historian	RW Michael I Mattes, PGP
Proxy to GL	Brother Francis M. Guthrie
Director of Ritual	RW Joseph Abiuso, PGC
Webmaster	DB Raymond T. McManus,
Sick and Visiting	RW David J. Lane, AGM
Masonic Education	Bernard J. Madgey, V JGW
Building Trustees	3 Year: WB Don Keppen, JR
	2 Year: DB Bob Outlaw
	1 Year: WB Brian McGovern
Financial Trustees	3 Year: Bro. Chris Broschard
	2 Year: MW Joseph H. Rival JR., PGM
	1 Year: WB Craig Woodruff, PM

**Congratulations to R.W. Michael I Mattes
for his election to Grand Lodge Trustee
and to the entire 2025 Laurel Lodge
officer line for an outstanding year!**

Lodge Fund Raising Event!

You and your lady will enjoy a great meal followed with entertainment by three professional comics. Please come out and support your lodge!



*Love is
Funny!*

STAND UP COMEDY

Show



Joey Callahan



Jimmy Q



Natty Bumpercar

TICKET

\$75

*includes
buffet dinner*

Presented by :

**Laurel Lodge No.
237 F. & A.M.**

Ginger Ninja
PRODUCTIONS 

Date: Saturday, February, 7th

Where: The Kove 20 West
Atlantic Ave., Audubon, NJ

Time: Dinner 6PM Show 8PM

Mail a check payable to: Laurel Lodge No. 237
629 Stone Rd. Laurel Springs, NJ 08021 or pay
with Zelle: LAUREL LODGE 237 F AND AM
laurellodge237@gmail.com

New Jersey Grand Lodge Information

- Grand Master: Most Worshipful, Omar S. Morris
- Deputy Grand Master: RW Bruce C. Golway
- Senior Grand Warden: RW Bernard J. Madgey, V
- Grand Secretary: MW Larry S. Plaskett
- Junior Grand Warden: RW Glenn T. Visscher
- Grand Treasurer: MW Douglas R. Policastro
- District Deputy Grand Master: RW Ken Carpenter
- District Ritual Instructor: Vince M. Capone

18th Masonic District 2025 Grand Officers

- Grand Lodge Trustee: Michael I Mattes
- Aid to the Grand Master: David J. Lane, SR
- Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful James C. Boulger
- Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful James R. Stapleton

Laurel Lodge Distinguished Brethren

- DB Richard P. Alspach*
- DB Raymond T. McManus,
- 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*

Next Month February 6th

Learn about the
Mysteries of
Rosslyn Chapel
And Its Mythical
Enigmatic
Relationship to
Freemasonry



R.W. Glenn A Cantor, SKoS

