

December 2025

Regular meetings, 2nd Tuesday of the month.
(except July and August).

www.pitmanmasons.org
pitmanmasons@gmail.com

Mission Statement of the Grand Lodge Of New Jersey

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.

Lodge Events

December 13th: Breakfast with Santa,

Come and enjoy a great breakfast, get a picture with Santa ,
and a toy for the children.

\$10 adults, \$5 children. 8-11 AM.

Annual Feasts of Saints John (Installations)

December 1, 2025 Official Visit @ Clarksboro Lodge # 87

December 2, 2025 Official Visit @ Woodstown Lodge # 138

December 3, 2025 Official Visit @ Penns Grove Excelsior Lodge # 54

December 9, 2025 Official Visit @ Pitman Lodge # 197

Dinner 630 PM, Lodge opens at 730 PM.

December 11, 2025 Official Visit @ Mantua Lodge # 95

December 16, 2025 Official Visit @ Williamstown Lodge # 166

District Lodge Meetings

Mantua: Second Thursday of the month.

Pennsgrove-Excelsior: First Wednesday of the month.

Clarksboro: First Monday of the month.

Williamstown #166: First and third Tuesday of the month.

Woodstown: The first Tuesday of the month.

Pitman #197: The second Tuesday of the month.

21 st DISTRICT DATES FOR 2025

District Lodges of Instruction ~ 7PM Start Time

November 21, 2024 @ Mantua # 95 – This is a regular DLI Thanksgiving conflict***

TBD` There will be 2 mandatory dates for qualification. PM only Oct-Nov

Brethren,

As we reach the close of the Masonic year, I find myself filled with gratitude and reflection. Serving as Worshipful Master has been one of the greatest honors of my Masonic journey. This year has been marked by hard work, fellowship, and many moments of light that I will carry with me always.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to all who have supported me and this Lodge throughout the year — to the officers who served faithfully, the brethren who gave of their time and talents, and those whose quiet efforts ensured the success of our labors. Your dedication and brotherly love have strengthened the bonds that unite us.

As I prepare to pass the gavel to my successor, please know that I will always hold this Lodge and its members in the highest regard and with the best interests of each of you in my heart. Our shared work has reminded me of an important truth: *“Don’t Dream It, Be It.”* Let us continue to live our principles each day, transforming the lessons of our Craft into action, service, and light within our communities.

May the Great Architect of the Universe bless and guide this Lodge in the year ahead. I wish each of you and your families a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Fraternally,

Michael Paris Jr., Worshipful Master

Attest: Michael Paris, Secretary

Brothers,

Beginning in January 2026 the paper trestleboard will no longer be mailed. You will be able to view it on the lodge web page at www.pitmanmasons.org. You may also submit an email address so that it can be emailed to you every month.

We are trying to cut costs and keep your dues low.

Please send me your email addresses so that you don’t miss out on a single issue.

Send to: pitmanmasons@gmail.com. Thank you for your understanding.

Pitman Lodge 2025 Officers

WM . Michael Paris Jr.....856-236-7598
SW... Brian Kane PM.....856-419-0626
JW.... Joseph Sauro.....856-863-1003
Tres . R.W. Kenneth W. Thomas..... 609-432-9886
Sec... Michael J. Paris, PM 856- 881-6312
SD James Hall.....210-799-8180
JD..... Girard Falzon.....609-647-1806
SMC . RW Keith Lypka, PGC.....609-839-0499
JMC. Ralph Weed.....856-608-1834
SS Christian Petty.....856-628-6916
JS Alfio Sorbello.....856-297-7013
Chp .. Gerald Montgomery 856- 359-6212
MAR...William McNair.....302-740-9430
TLR .. Michael T. Lowe 856- 589-6612

Lodge Trustees

Matthew Johnson.....856-417-3591
Keith M. Lypka.....856-361-4625
Thomas Little Sr,.....856-881-5535

Grand Lodge Officers

Grandmaster of the State of New Jersey
M.W. Omar S. Morris, G.M.
Grand Lodge of New Jersey
100 Barrack St.
Trenton, NJ 08625

District Deputy Grand Master

RW Thomas G. Rathof
856-981-8844
trathof@gmail.com

District Ritual Instructor

RW John Higgins
609-743-2043
Jhiggs219@verizon.net

Sick and Distressed Brothers

If you know of any sick and distressed brothers, or anyone that has passed,
please contact our Grand Chaplin,
RW John Bowles
856-889-1719

Living Past Masters

Sharp, Jay H.	1976
Davis, Alan A.	1976#
Thomas, Kenneth W	1978
Kier, James R.	1981
Morris, Donald G.	1981#
Coblentz, William W.	1982
DiNovi, Joseph A.	1984
Schubert, Joseph E.	1984#
Cooper, Danny L.	1989
Stowman, Robert A.	1990
Leap, Wayne E.	1991
Eckenroth, Richard L.	1993
Marker, David W.	1994
Dillon, Douglas F.	1997#
Stanger Jr., Hiram	1998
DiNovi, Joseph A.	1999
Bradley, Theodore K.	2000
Henry, Frederick B.	2000#
Anderson, Allen S.	2003
DiNovi, Joseph A.	2007
Thomas, Kenneth W.	2008
Thomas, Kenneth W.	2009
Sanders, Keith S.	2011
Nesbit, Robert Scott	2012
Marek, Peter A.	2016
Paris, Michael	2017
Thomas, Kenneth W.	2018
Thomas, Kenneth W.	2019
Baehr, Vincent L.	2020
Baehr, Vincent L.	2021
Brian M. Kane	2022
Keith M. Lypka	2023
Thomas, Kenneth W.	2024
Michael J. Paris Jr.	2025

Lodge Dues 2026: Your dues for 2025 are now due if you have not paid as of yet. Dues for 2026 are \$150 and may be paid using the same QR code.

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/62F6ALWNXHDSQ>



Most Ancient and Honorable Society
of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey

Grand Lodge Offices Elected 2025-2026

Grand Master	Omar S. Morris
Deputy Grand Master	Bruce C. Golway
Senior Grand Warden	Bernard J. Madgey, V
Junior Grand Warden	Glenn T. Visscher
Grand Treasurer	Douglas R Policastro
Grand Secretary	Larry S. Plasket
Grand Lodge Trustee	Alexandru D Aldea
	Michael Mattes
	David J Weiss
Historic Trenton Masonic Temple Trustee	Andrew G. Churney
Masonic Charity Foundation Trustee	Arthur J. Campbell
	Bruce S Graham
	Donald R Tuttle
	Richard F. Schmidt

Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey

MW Omar S Morris
Grand Master

100 Barrack St
Trenton, NJ 08608-2008

My Brothers,

With deep humility and profound gratitude, I accept the honor of serving as your 165th Grand Master. I do so not as one who seeks to rule, but as one who desires to serve, always guided by our sacred principles and the trust you have so graciously placed in me.

The theme for this term is simple yet powerful: **Educate, Elevate, and Empower**. These three words reflect not only our proud past and meaningful present but also the very promise of OUR future as New Jersey Freemasons.

To Educate

Knowledge is the foundation of Masonic growth. We will strengthen our programs of instruction and education to ensure that every Brother, whether newly initiated or seasoned by years of service, has access to meaningful instruction that deepens understanding, builds character, and renews purpose.

Some examples of this include:

- Additional mentoring workshops for all Brothers, along with new workshops aligned with statewide degrees.
- Expanded leadership training opportunities available both in person and virtually.
- A Past Masters Training Program to provide new Past Masters with resources and information to better support their Lodges.

To Elevate

We must lift the expectations of what it means to be a Mason. We will enhance communication at every level of our fraternity—between Lodges, the Grand Lodge, and, most importantly, among Brothers. Clear, consistent, and transparent communication will be a cornerstone of my term.

To that end:

- We will share thoughtful ideas and encourage Lodges to elevate the overall Masonic experience for their members, fostering meetings that are not only well-organized but also truly meaningful, inspiring, and rooted in the deeper values of our Craft.
- We have developed two new mobile applications: one to improve communication among Grand Lodge officers, District Education Officers, and Past Grand Masters; and another to strengthen communication between all Worshipful Masters across our jurisdiction so that we can better support each other.
- *The Garden State Mason* electronic newsletter will now be published monthly, featuring messages from the Grand Master along with timely updates and Masonic Light—serving as the Grand Lodge's trestleboard for all Brothers.

To Empower

Because the future of our fraternity depends on you, I will work to improve the experience of our members and ensure that every Brother and every Lodge feels a true sense of ownership and belonging within this Grand Lodge. Leadership at every level will be held accountable, not for authority's sake, but for responsibility's sake. Together, we will build a culture where our members feel connected, valued, and inspired.

Among our efforts:

- The creation of the Voyager Award, encouraging Brothers after their first year to travel and experience Masonry throughout our jurisdiction and the world.
- Higher expectations for Lodges and Districts to provide timely reports and information to improve efficiency.
- Town Halls that empower Brothers to engage with Grand Lodge Leadership, promoting full transparency and open dialogue across all levels of our Craft.
- Enhanced training for our Grand Lodge Leadership, including District Deputies, District Ritual Instructors, and the entire Elected Line.
- Open office hours at the Grand Lodge for Brothers to meet with the Grand Master to ask questions, offer suggestions, and reconnect with your Grand Lodge temple.

In addition, I will extend the edicts issued during Most Worshipful Gene Margroff's administration for an additional 60 days. This extension will allow me sufficient time to consult with my team, the Grand Staff Office, and Past Grand Masters before making any formal decisions. I believe I owe that to the Craft.

My promise to you is simple: I will always keep the welfare of the Brethren and the integrity of our institution at heart. Every decision I make will be thoughtful, mindful, and measured by one question: "Does it strengthen our Craft, and does it serve the Brothers of New Jersey well?"

Change cannot be achieved by one man alone. The strength of our fraternity lies in our UNITY. I ask each of you to join me, lend your voice, your ideas, and your energy to this shared labor. Let us rekindle the spirit of brotherhood that has made Freemasonry a force for good for generations.

Together, let us Educate, Elevate, and Empower—not for personal recognition, but for the advancement of New Jersey Freemasonry and the betterment of all whose lives we touch. Let us continue to strive to be a beacon of Light, Hope, Civility, and Kindness.

I love you all, and there is **NOTHING** you can do about it.

Fraternally yours,

MW. Omar S. Morris

BREAKFAST

With Santa

PITMAN LODGE #197



**Join us for Breakfast with Santa Claus,
where children can share their holiday
wishes, enjoy a delicious breakfast,
and revel in the magic of the season**

EVERYONE GETS A PHOTO WITH SANTA TO TAKE HOME

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | AT 8 AM-11AM

334 Lambs Road Sewell NJ

**ADULTS \$10.00 KIDS \$5.00
FOR BREAKFAST**



Elk

Pitman Lodge Welcomes our newest Master Masons



Award of Merit given to Eli Berkowitz



MASONIC LIGHT

January 16, 2026

7:30 Gavel

LAUREL LODGE,
629 STONE ROAD
LAUREL SPRINGS, NJ



MASONS IN THE CAMPS

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



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.



Commemorative Masonic
Funeral

Honoring the 226th Anniversary
of George Washington's Passing

\$20



\$20

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

14

9:30AM

Historic Masonic Trenton Temple
100 Barrack St. Trenton, NJ

Brunch and Presentation by
RW Moises Gomez to Follow

RSVP to Eric Rebels at
erebels55@gmail.com or 973-610-8600

GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY F&AM EDUCATION COMMITTEE



WINTER SEMINAR

SATURDAY JANUARY 24 2026



R.W. Joseph Barbara

Past Aide to the Grand
Master and Masonic Charity
Foundation President

LEADERSHIP

TOPIC: "Strategic Planning:
A Blueprint for Masonic and
Business Success" To think
ahead- 1, 5, or 10 years and
beyond will strengthen your
lodge and the members in it
to create long term results



R.W. Arthur Campbell

Past Grand Chaplain and
Masonic Charity Foundation
Trustee

MEMBERSHIP

TOPIC: "A Freemason? What's
That?" Ways to explain to
others what Freemasonry is
when considering potential
members to join your lodge
and how to keep them
engaged



Joshua Nay, P.M.

Grand Commander of Grand
Commandery of Knights
Templar of Pennsylvania

SYMBOLISM

TOPIC: "On The Three Lesser
Lights: Placement, Symbolism
and Geometry" With this
deeper understanding of
Masonic ritual, you will open
your mind and ability to
understand and instruct

REGISTRATION REQUIRED, RSVP BY 1/15/26
REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MRJ6C99D](https://tinyurl.com/mrj6c99d)

OPEN TO ALL FREEMASONS

8:15AM BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION 9:00AM-12:30PM SEMINAR
DRESS CODE: BUSINESS CASUAL LOCATION: FELLOWSHIP CENTER
1114 OXMEAD ROAD, BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

FREE

QUESTIONS? CONTACT R.W. MOHAMAD YATIM, G.E. AT
484-995-3337 OR MAYATIM@HOTMAIL.COM

FREE