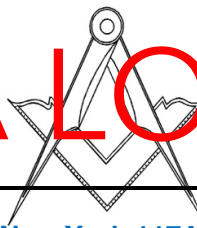


# JEPHTHA LODGE 494



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342 New York Avenue, Huntington, New York 11743 ♦ <https://band.us/band/77740271>

**WORSHIPFUL MASTER JOHN A LENTINELLO**

Br Richard Gentile, Editor - Assistant Secretary  
[rg.jlnews@iCloud.com](mailto:rg.jlnews@iCloud.com)

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Warm Fraternal Greetings my Brothers and to our Masonic family,

Enjoy our spring edition and also final edition of our newsletter for the 2024-2025 Masonic year. Cheers to hoping the snow has left us for the year and we can expect at least somewhat warmer temperatures as our favorite Masonic Events are nearing.

The Brothers of Jephtha Lodge and I congratulate Brothers Lisimba Addae, Kristian Folk, Herbert Schramm and Khasha Yousefi on being recently passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Bravo on a job well done!

I welcome all Brothers, Family and Friends, to our annual St. Patrick's Day Party, Sunday, March 9, 2025, from 12 PM-6 PM, \$25/pp. Includes two drinks, food, DJ, dancing, as well plus many laughs and memories.

Still looking for a fun Saturday night? Come on down dressed in your best Miami Vice look in pastels for Jephtha Lodge's Miami Vice Themed Table Lodge/Festive Board on Saturday April 5, 2025, at 6:30 PM. \$60/pp. Be there, we know Calderon won't be! *Brothers of all degrees are welcome to attend but the event is only open to Freemasons.*

Also, as spring nears, we think of warmer weather, our Third Degree and our end of the year Dinner Dance following the passing of our Brothers to the Third Degree on Saturday May 3, 2025, being held at the Britannia Yacht Club in Northport, 7 PM-11 PM, with Dinner, Dancing and Drinks. Ladies come on down, it's going to be a ball! You will not want to miss it, \$75/pp, \$150/couple. I look forward to our yearly speeches on this Masonic Year, as well as toasts to the future of Jephtha Lodge and celebrating the newly raised Master Masons and their families.

I cordially invite all Brothers to the Third Degree, which will be held on Saturday May 3, 2025, at 8:30 AM starting with breakfast. Gavel will be at 9:30 AM, Lunch at 12 PM, and Remainder of Degree through early afternoon. Interested in a speaking part to help make our Third Degree special? Please speak to our Senior Deacon ASAP. If you are interested in a line officer role, I strongly encourage you to take a speaking part in the Third Degree.

Brothers, we always look forward to celebrating all of our events together in unity and harmony, meeting on the level, by the plumb and parting upon the square. This is a time to reflect about our Masonic year, all of the events thus far and all those that still remain. With that thought, line officers are starting to build for, and think about, future officer roles and positions. It's never too late to think about what the future holds or where you want your Masonic journey to go. After all, we all seek wisdom and light, but only those dedicated who understand the penultimate maxim of masonry should move East. What is that maxim you ask? Well, put simply, what is in the best interest of the Lodge and acting on those best interests for the Lodge and its Brothers. Thus, take this time to follow our teachings, light, and dissuade those discordant passions within us, always thinking about what is best for the Lodge at large. What is best for my Brothers? What is best for my Brothers going forward? These are questions that we are often and constantly faced with causing self-reflection, and humble reverence for truly appreciating all Masonry offers each one of us. I must caution, one who acts without the best interests of the Lodge as a whole or for their own interests, does not follow our Masonic teachings. He has already strayed from that path and is lacking the leadership our great Lodge requires. Therefore, my Brothers, as the time to elect officers is shortly near with our annual Summoned Communication on May 12<sup>th</sup>, I urge you to take note and reflect.

It has been my distinct pleasure and true honor serving you as Worshipful Master for the 2024-2025 Masonic Year. Much like every Master who has come before me, there have been events planned, changed, and sudden changes, shepherding and teachings, and sudden contingencies requiring immediate attention within my own cabledow. At this time, I would like to thank my Events Committee and W.: Richard Harris for assisting with planning events and with

cooking for our parties, St. Patrick's and Table Lodge included. Remember, the wise teachings or if you will, a great moment in cinema history, from the Neil Simon *Odd Couple* starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemon. There is a scene where Walter Matthau playing Oscar Madison, throws Jack Lemon's (Felix Unger's) linguini marinara at the wall watching some pieces stick while others fall... Well, this is like our trestleboard, ever reminding us to be moldable like clay and ever ready to adjust on the fly, be prepared, and have multiple plans ready to be easily put into action.

I would like to thank my Line Officers for a special year. We have all grown together, but most importantly, I have watched you grow and continue to grow in Masonry. For those of you advancing or yearning to advance East, I wish you continued success, always acting in the best interests of the Lodge, holding the honor and privilege of serving the Master and the Lodge burning brightly in your hearts. Let this be your Brotherly Love. Let the beauty of our shared rituals shine through and be undertaken with pride as well as accuracy. It has been my distinct pleasure serving as your Worshipful Master this year. I look forward to what lies ahead and seeing and enjoying these special moments at the Lodge together.

Of course, this final *Jephtha Newsletter* would not be complete without a special thank you to our Brother Editor, Richard Gentile. I have appreciated all of his assistance and guidance. I hope our newsletter continues for years to come and I look forward to reading the next Worshipful Master Elect's newsletter in the June/Summer edition.

From my heart, a sincerely heartfelt thank you. Let's enjoy and celebrate with a drink on May 3, 2025, at the dance. See you there Mr. McFly! Note, there is not enchantment under the sea, but Johnny Be Good? Hmm...time to think. Salute!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
W.: M.: John A Lentinello

**SPRING BIRTHDAYS**

Richard Arthur	Kristian Folk	Drew MacCallum	Jonathan Poole	Richard Schultze
Eric Bencivenga	Eric Freedman	Raymond Mahdesian	Robert Previto	Percy Tatem III
James Beyer	Robert Gaudioso	Bob Marini	Michael Rittenhouse	James Visalli
Chuck Brady	Douglas Henningsen	Andrew Martin	John Sammartino	Thomas Wainwright
Michael Casalotti	Gunnar Herbert	John Muller Jr	Scott Scarabino	Jonathan Watson
William DeBenedetto	Stuart Koening	Brendan Okeefe	Herbert Schramm	Robert Wuestefeld
Michael Denkovich	Luke Loporto	Stephen Parke	Brian Schulbaum	

**SPRING RAISINGS TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF MASTER MASON**

Seyed Asad	Michael Forster	John Hurioglu	Bill Meis	John Sammartino
Eric Bencivenga	Michael Fufidio Jr	Robert Hylton Jr	Warren Melnick	Joseph Savaglio
James Beyer	Gregory Gatto	Randolph Ivans	David Minassian	Christopher Schenker
Harry Burger	Robert Gaudioso	Ryan Jennings	Sauman Mohammadi	Stephen Schenker
Christopher Camilleri	Richard Gentile	Anthony Kalabacas	Thomas Montefusco	Brian Schulbaum
Jeremiah Campbell	Michael Goodkin	Stephen Kanzler	Jarred Muraco	Herbert Schumann
Edward Carlson	Kamal Gupta	William Kalogris	William Muskopf	Ronald Seifried
Michael Casalotti	William Habermaas	Arthur Landman	Scott Myers	Marlo Suazo
Geoffrey Cohen	Richard Hajek	John A Lentinello	Vladimir Nelson	Percy Tatem III
Anthony Colonna	Kenneth Hall	Paul Levy	Brendan Okeefe	Timothy TenClay
Michael Crispino Jr	Kirk Hall	John Lowe	Christopher Palmer	Christopher Tilley
Moses Cucura	Gregory Hannington	Drew MacCallum	Stephen Parke	Patrick Tomasino
John Dowling	Richard Harris	Cooper Macco	Arthur Perri Jr	Brenden Twomey
Ralph Duke IV	Douglas Henningsen	Robert MacKenzie	Jonathan Poole	Osmar Valdez
Thomas Ferentinos	Gunnar Herbert	Raymond Mahdesian	Robert Previto	Paul Vermeylen III
William Fenty III	Norbert Heuser	Frank Marinaro III	Brian Rodriguez	Jonathan Watson
Thomas Fisk	William Hren	Xavier Marinaro	Peter Rolfe	Charles Williams
Joseph Foresto	Charles Hudak	Andrew Martin	Nicholas Russotto	

**JEPHTHA LODGE 494**  
PRESENTS:

# ST. PATRICK'S



**09  
MAR**





**12  
PM**

# CELEBRATION

Watch Huntington's 91th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

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<p><b>JEPHTHA LODGE</b></p> <p>342 New York Ave. Huntington NY 11743</p> <p><b>PARADE • DRINKS • FOOD</b></p>	<p><b>ADMISSION \$25</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Drink tickets one for \$5 or 5 for \$20</p> <p>Authentic Irish Cuisine</p> <p>Parade starts at 2pm</p>
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Tickets: [www.JephthaEvents.org](http://www.JephthaEvents.org) or At the door

Artwork by Brother Brian Schulbaum

**Jephtha Lodge #494**

**MIAMI**

**VICE**

**THEMED**

**TABLE LODGE**

**April 5 2025**

**6:30PM**

**\$60**

**www.JephthaEvents.org**

**342 New York Ave Huntington, NY 11743**

Artwork by Brother Brian Schulbaum



# JEPHTHA LODGE #494

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE  
WITH US AT OUR

# Master Mason Dinner



MAY 3RD, 2025

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

\$75 PER PERSON\*

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BRITANNIA YACHT CLUB  
81 FORT SALONGA RD,  
NORTHPORT, NY 11768

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RSVP BY APRIL 28TH  
[WWW.JEPHTHAEVENTS.ORG](http://WWW.JEPHTHAEVENTS.ORG)  
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED  
ONLY 72 SEATS AVAILABLE!

\* NEWLY RAISED BROTHERS AND THIER SIGNIFICANT OTHER ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE.\*

Artwork by Brother Brian Schulbaum

## FROM TAVERNS TO REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

The legacy of Benjamin Franklin's "Junto" collective illustrates the morally edifying power of community.  
Reprinted from *The Epoch Times*, 2.13.2025. Article by Leo Salvatore (Respectfully submitted by the editor.)

"What new story have you lately heard agreeable for telling in conversation? Have you lately heard of any citizen's thriving well, and by what means?"

It would be common for members of "Junto" to discuss these questions. Benjamin Franklin founded the collective in 1727, almost three centuries before self-improvement became a multi-million-dollar industry. The Founding Father understood that an individual can't become virtuous alone—we need each other to improve ourselves and our communities.

How did his club put this notion into practice?

### Debates, Discussions, and Sound Thinking

"I should have mentioned before, that, in the autumn of the preceding year, [1727] I had form'd most of my ingenious acquaintance into a club of mutual improvement, which we called the Junto," wrote Franklin in his autobiography.

Alternatively called "The Leather Apron Club," the collective met regularly in Philadelphia. The 21-year-old Franklin was the youngest of the 12 members. The group was eclectic, including businessmen Hugh Meredith, Stephen Potts, George Webb, and Robert Grace, merchant and scrivener Joseph Breintnall, clerk William Coleman, inventor and mathematician Thomas Godfrey, cartographers Nicholas Scull II and William Parsons, and cabinetmaker William Maudridge, and shoemaker John Jones Jr., whose name remained unknown until 2007, when Pennsylvania State University Historian George Boudreau discovered it among long-forgotten documents.

Every Friday night, a Junto member had to lead the gathering with "one or more queries on any point of Morals, Politics, or Natural Philosophy, to be discuss'd by" the "junta," which is Spanish for "assembly." Meetings took place either in local taverns or in members' private residences. Some of Franklin's guiding questions for the meetings were published posthumously in his "Political, Miscellaneous, and Philosophical Pieces." These five give us a glimpse of the wide range of topics up for discussion:

- "Do you know of any fellow citizen, who has lately done a worthy action, deserving praise and imitation? Or who has committed an error proper for us to be warned against and avoid?"
- "What unhappy effects of intemperance have you lately observed or heard? Of imprudence? Of passion? Or of any other vice or folly?"
- "Do you know of any deserving young beginner lately set up, whom it lies in the power of the Junto any way to encourage?"
- "Have you lately heard any member's character attacked, and how have you defended it?"
- "Is there any difficulty in matters of opinion of justice, and injustice, which you would gladly have discussed at this time?"

Discussion was meant to help members reflect on their failures and accomplishments, think of ways to assist one another, and refine their thinking. In addition to enriching conversations, attendees also had to write essays on "Morals, Politics, or Natural Philosophy." Every three months, they read the essays to their Junto peers, who offered critiques and suggestions on content, style, and other noteworthy details.

Informal debates occasionally took the place of discussion. Although the stakes were low, it seems that members took their rhetorical practice very seriously. The goal of the debates was neither "dispute" nor "victory," but a greater understanding of whatever question was at hand. To discourage dogma and uncritical opinions, Franklin even established "small pecuniary penalties" for using words like "certainly" and "undoubtedly," which "imported a fix'd opinion" to be avoided in "the sincere spirit of inquiry after truth."

Franklin's attitude is an exemplary guideline for upholding intellectual honesty in our lives. "When another asserted something that I thought an error," Franklin continued, "I deny'd myself the pleasure of contradicting him abruptly. ... I soon found the advantage of this change in my manner; the conversations I engag'd in went on more pleasantly. The modest way in which I propos'd my opinions procur'd them a readier reception and less contradiction; I had less mortification when I was found to be in the wrong, and I more easily prevail'd with others to give up their mistakes and join with me when I happened to be in the right."

Honesty, modesty, and curiosity were the Junto's guiding principles.

### **Civic Duty: Serving the Community Through the Intellect**

Out of Junto's meetings came proposals for the creation of the first lending library, volunteer militia, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Hospital, which is the second-oldest hospital in the United States. The American Philosophical Society was also conceived in 1743 as a branch of Junto. It now connects tens of thousands of philosophy students and professors worldwide.

Another product of Junto was the first firefighting company in Philadelphia, and one of the first in the American colonies. Its inception illustrates the value of encouraging active participation in local communities, which had always been the collective's overarching goal. Better individuals meant better communities.

After observing the inefficiencies of the constables who were supposed to manage Philadelphia's city watch, Franklin wrote an essay that called for "the hiring of proper men to serve constantly in that business." The idea floated without materializing until he wrote another paper about the "carelessnesses by which houses were set on fire," which was later published in a local newspaper. Again, he received unconditional support from Junto members, whose influence and financial backing enabled the establishment of what eventually became the Union Fire Company.

Several similar companies were founded by Philadelphian citizen groups inspired by Junto's commitment to proactive citizenship. As Franklin reported in his autobiography, since the formation of these institutions, "the city has never lost by fire more than one or two houses at a time, and the flames have often been extinguished before the house in which they began has been half consumed."

### **Junto's Predecessors**

Junto-like societies have existed for millennia. The first academic institutions in Athens were born of leaders like Franklin who wanted to converse with their friends for the benefit of everyone involved. After he converted to Christianity, Augustine of Hippo spent the autumn of that year in Cassiciacum, modern-day Italy, where he held morning and evening conversations around a shared text with his younger friends. These are just two of countless examples from history.

Two well-known collectives closer in time to Junto were Cotton Mather's "neighborhood benefit societies" and the "Dry Club," both of which were known to Franklin. Mather's "society" began in pre-independence Massachusetts around 1700. The Puritan clergyman invited 12 married couples to meet in rotation at one another's homes for prayer, supper, and conversation. Mather articulated his vision in "Essays To Do Good," which explicitly reminds members to refrain from deeds or speech "that may have any taint of backbiting or vanity." Back in England, the "Dry Club" was inaugurated around the same time by philosopher John Locke, who hosted weekly two-hour meetings in his home to encourage the free exchange of ideas about topical issues. Although the two groups had been established with slightly different aims—one for spiritual enrichment and the other for intellectual inquiry—their goal was the same: to foster moral improvement by participation in a like-minded community.

### **Junto in the Digital Age**

Had Franklin lived today, his ideas would have reached millions across the globe in record time. The amazing perk of digital media is that we don't have to be senators, wealthy philosophers, or successful entrepreneurs to form or join collectives like Junto. But would Franklin have chosen to limit his work to the online sphere?

This Founding Father's interest in proactive citizenship reminds us that genuine self-improvement unfolds in the application of ideas. Application is most tangible and effective in the physical world, where it directly affects human lives, as Franklin cared to show us in his reflections on the Union Fire Company. The internet offers limitless resources. It allows us to connect beyond physical boundaries, giving us a far better starting point than most human beings could have ever wished for. Yet it also precludes essential in-person interactions.

There's something special about meeting friends under the same roof, sharing ideas around the same table, and encouraging one another to think more carefully, act more prudently, and assist those in need more passionately while looking each other in the eyes. But maybe Franklin would have told us not to worry about our methods too much. Any means will do, so long as our hope is to become better and better every day.

*NB Brother Benjamin Franklin was initiated into Masonry in 1731 at St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia. He was held in such great esteem he was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734. He lived until he was 85, 60 of those years as a Mason. Many of the ideals and philosophy of Junto closely reflect our Masonic traditions and beliefs.*

# JEPHTHA LODGE 494



## TRESTLEBOARD

### UPCOMING JEPHTHA EVENTS

Sun. Mar 9	12-6 PM	<b>St. Patrick's Day Party</b> at Jephtha Lodge, \$25 includes two tickets and food. Additional drinks will be \$5 each or 5 drinks for \$20.
Mon. Mar 10	7 PM	<b>Stated Communication</b> , lecture, recap of St. Patrick's Day and final plans for the Third Degree. Collation at 7 PM, our own St. Patrick's leftovers - corn beef, cabbage, carrots, soda bread and hero sandwiches, libations from our Bar Committee. Gavel promptly at 8 PM. Open on the Third Degree, close on the Second Degree.
Wed Mar 12	8 PM	<b>Fellowcraft Shepherding</b> via Zoom
Wed Mar 19	7 PM	<b>New Fellowcrafts' Educational Lecture</b> with W.: Rob Previto, DSA
Mon. Mar. 24	7 PM	<b>Special Communication TBD.</b> Collation at 7 PM, Mac and cheese, oxtail stew with all the sides and fresh vegetables. Gavel promptly at 8 PM.
Wed Mar 26	8 PM	<b>Fellowcraft Shepherding</b> via Zoom
<b>TUESDAY, APRIL 1</b>		<b>COMPLETED JEPHTHA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE</b>
Wed Apr 2	7 PM	<b>Fellowcraft Shepherding</b> at the Lodge
Sat. Apr 5	6:30 PM	<b>Festive Board - Miami Vice</b> at Jephtha Lodge, \$60/pp which includes Dinner, Cannons and Libations from our Bar Committee. Come join us for a special night. <i>Brothers of all degrees are welcome to attend but the event is only open to Freemasons.</i>
Wed Apr 9	8 PM	<b>Fellowcraft Shepherding</b> via Zoom
Mon Apr 14	7 PM	<b>Stated Communication</b>
Wed Apr 16	7 PM	<b>Fellowcraft Shepherding</b> at the Lodge
Wed Apr 23	8 PM	<b>Fellowcraft Shepherding</b> via Zoom
Mon Apr 28	7 PM	<b>Special Communication</b>
Mon Apr 28 - Thr May 1		<b>Fellowcraft Testing</b> (as needed)
Sat May 3	8:30 AM	<b>Third Degree Breakfast</b> at 8:30 AM, 9:30 AM gavel for the Third Degree, 12 PM Third Degree Lunch, 1 PM Third Degree Drama Presentation.
Sat May 3	7-11 PM	<b>Third Degree and End of the Year Dinner</b> at the at the Britannia Yacht Club, dancing, open bar, formal attire. A party you won't want to miss. \$75 per person, \$150 per couple.
Mon May 12	7 PM	<b>Summoned Communication</b> , Election of Officers
Mon Jun 9	7 PM	<b>Stated Communication</b> , Installation of Officers
Mon Jun 23	7 PM	<b>Special Communication</b>

### UPCOMING SUFFOLK MASONIC DISTRICT EVENTS AND DISTRICT DEPUTY VISITS

Thr Mar 13	7 PM	<b>Dongan Patent Lodge</b> , DDGM
Sat Mar 15	2-6 PM	<b>Grand Lecturers Convention</b> (First Degree), Babylon Lodge. Joint convention with Nassau and Suffolk Masonic Districts. RSVP is required, available on BAND
Wed Apr 9	6 PM	<b>Babylon Lodge</b> , DDGM, collation at 6 PM, gavel at 7:30 PM
Fri Apr 25	6 PM	<b>District Dinner at Polish Hall</b> , Riverhead, no tickets will be sold at the door. See <a href="https://suffolkmasons.com/event/suffolk-district-dinner/">https://suffolkmasons.com/event/suffolk-district-dinner/</a> for more information.
Mon Jul 14	6-10 PM	<b>Long Island Past Master's Association (LIPMA) Summer Soirée</b> at Land's End Catering, Sayville, NY. Details to be announced.

When you change your home address, please notify Br Richard Gentile, Editor-Assistant Secretary of the *Jephtha Newsletter*, along with your current phone number and current email address, so that you may be easily contacted by the Lodge and receive your newsletters regularly - rg.jlnews@icloud.com.