



## Press Release

Hammonton, NJ (April 2,2011).The Historical Society of Hammonton invites the public to a community program to be held Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> , 8:00 PM at the Frog Rock Golf and Country Club. Programs are provided as a service to the community. There is no charge nor is there a requirement to be a member of HSH to attend. The program is videoed and a copy is placed in our archives so that now or future generations will be provided with a snapshot of Hammonton's past.

The program for the evening will be the history of the Masons in Hammonton as presented by member and past Worshipful Master Joseph Maillet of Hammonton. Mr. Maillet collaborated with the former Ralph Fitchetola, long time member who also served a term as Worshipful Master to chronicle a written account of their history.

In 1875, just nine years after Hammonton's incorporation, nine residents ,members of the Masonic Order , former New Englanders, weary of traveling to Atlantic City or Philadelphia to attend meetings ,petitioned the Grand Lodge to establish a local order. They honored a fellow mason and well respected Camden attorney Marmaduke B Taylor with the name, thus the M B Taylor Lodge

According to Mr. Maillet they met for about 50 years on Bellevue Avenue on the second floor of property known for years as the Malinsky Building and then on the third floor of the former home of Rubba furniture, now offices for Dr. Belli Associates,

. In 1920 however they purchased their current property on Central and Peach from fellow member William L Black, owner of Bellevue Avenue's grand general store.

Their first meeting was held there in 1922. Hear the fascinating story how WW I and Amatol provided them with their current building, how it was used in the

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1920's as a social center, for Vaudeville shows; learn the identity of a young man who got his start there and achieved national prominence as an actor.

The M.B. Taylor Lodge today with 120 members remains a vibrant part of our community. Its history will be skillfully told by accomplished historian, Joseph Maillet

Won't you join us Thursday night? Enjoy the evening with friends and members.

Refreshments will be served.

### **About The Historical Society of Hammonton**

The Historical Society of Hammonton was established to provide for generations to come a living collection relating to the rich and unique social, political, economic and cultural heritage of the Town of Hammonton, New Jersey. The mission of the society is to increase awareness of history relating to Hammonton, New Jersey environs and to establish public access to that history by collecting, conserving, studying, interpreting and promoting the history to the widest audience.

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