

**Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin
Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M.**

bulletin

**Takoma Masonic Center
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012**

Meets Second Tuesday of Each Month
(Except July and August—no meetings;
—December—first Tuesday)

**Volume XCIII
Number 6**

June 2018

Feast of Adam's Rib was a Memorable Festive Board

Conducted by Mark Pearlstein PM of Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 and including members of our sister Lodge, a memorable festive board was held at Positano Ristorante Italiano in Bethesda. On the night of our May Stated Communication, the members and guests filled the banquet space of Positano to hold a special event, The Feast of Adam's Rib. This was an open event held with our Ladies to celebrate our mutual fraternity and the support our Ladies provide us to participate in Masonry.

From the idea of a feast in which brethren broke bread together and drank in common, came the table lodge of the late 17th and 18th centuries. The result of these table

lodges was that the masonic fellowship was well-founded. Friendship, brotherly love and affection could and did flourish. Toasts and song were an integral part of these table lodges. By not only having women attend but to be part of festivities in rendering seven toasts of their own, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship, enjoyment and laughter.

Adding to the festivities was M.W. Brother Roman Volsky PGM, M.W. Brother Jules Tepper PGM, and M.W. Brother Irving Waxman Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The Meaning of the Term "Entered Apprentice"

The word apprentice means learner or beginner, one who is taking the first step in the mastery of a trade, art or profession. An Entered Apprentice Mason, therefore, is a beginner in Masonry, one who is learning the art.

In the latter part of the Middle Ages, liberally from 1100 to 1500 A.D., operative masons, while engaged in the building of the great cathedral and other structures in the Gothic style of architecture in Europe and Great Britain, were organized into Lodges, governed by masters and wardens. The members were divided into grades; they employed ceremonies of installation, and signs, symbols and passwords, preserved secrecy, and admitting only free men to membership. Their Lodges were in many ways strikingly similar to ours. New members were recruited through the apprentice system, which was in vogue in all crafts for many centuries.

The operative apprentice had to be of good reputation and recommended by masons already members of the craft. When an applicant was chosen he was called into the Lodge so that members could assure themselves of his qualifications. If they voted to receive him, he was given much information about the craft, what it required of its members, something of its early history and tradition, and told what his duties would be. In turn the applicant gave a solemn

promise to obey his superiors, to work diligently, to observe the laws and regulations and to keep the secrets. After being thus obligated, the operative apprentice was bound over to one of the more experienced master masons, with whom he lived and worked. This relationship usually lasted seven years. Upon proving his fitness to master the art and to become an acceptable member of the society, the name of the apprentice was entered on the books of the Lodge and he was given a recognized position in the craft as an "Entered Apprentice."

It is difficult to exaggerate the care our operative forbears devoted to these learners. Not until the apprentice, after many years, could prove his proficiency by meeting the most rigid tests of skill, was he permitted to advance to a higher rank in the craft. Master masons, with whom he was set to work at the simpler tasks, were his teachers. He was given moral instruction; his conduct was carefully scrutinized; many rules were laid down to control his manner of life. When we read the Old Charges and ancient documents that have come down to us, we are impressed by the amount of space devoted to apprentices.

See **Entered Apprentice** continued on page 4

Compliments of
**SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M.**



Your father or uncle
may have been a Mason

Your grandfather probably was a Mason

To learn more about Masonry:

**We meet the second Tuesday night
at Takoma Masonic Center**

Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*, wm@sgbf45.org

Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*

Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

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Fellowcraft's Degree June Meeting

Preparations and rehearsals are well underway for our June Meeting. The second step of Masonry, the Fellowcraft Degree, will be conferred at the June Stated Communication, Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

The symbolism of the Entered Apprentice degree emphasizes beginnings, spiritual birth, the first steps, youth, and orientation to the Light, which are all consistent with an initiation into the fraternity. The second degree of Fellowcraft symbolizes the methods of developing and progressing in

the Craft and, in a sense, the emergence into spiritual manhood and maturity. Come and help our candidates continue their journey in Masonry.

Senior Deacon Burt Levy be in the East, Junior Warden Jerry Keilsohn will be in the South and Senior Warden Bob Greenwald, will be in the West. You will want to come out and watch them guide the candidates. Rounding out the ritual team will be Degree Director and Master of Ceremonies, Sheldon Rappoport, PM leading the procession.

Light From the East



This month we are busy preparing for the Fellowcrafts Degree to be held at our June Meeting, the second of three steps in Masonry that can be taken in a Blue Lodge. As our Grand Master reminds us, we are guiding the most important members of our Lodge, the Entered Apprentices. This degree is well prepared and promises to be a strong meeting. Next month, we will observe Memorial Night as our last meeting before the summer.

In keeping with our string of well-attended social activities, the Lodge has reserved a block of good tickets to see the Washington Nationals play on June 10th. These Right Field Corner tickets are being sold to our members at a discount. Last chance to purchase your tickets is now!

This past month we enjoyed a well-attended night at The Capitol Steps. This hysterically funny political satire group is a Washington, DC tradition and a good time was had by all our members and their guests. Our May night out was followed by our May Festive Board. This year we did something new and invited our Ladies for an Adam's Rib Ceremony. Each toast by a Brother, was answered by a toast by his lady. Special thank you for all the ladies that braved this event, everyone really enjoyed themselves and we completely sold

out our space, 50 attendees.

This month the *Bulletin* has two special articles in addition to our meet-ups, visitations, and good deeds day report. As of December of last year, the *Bulletin* is being put together (and printed for those Brethren without email) by the School of Graphic Arts at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, North Carolina. This home which dates from the mid-1880s was founded and is still funded in part by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. We are now helping to support their vocational program in Graphic Arts. An article about this school is included along with an article provided by SW Robert Greenwald on some of the symbolism of the EA Degree.

As I write this article, the Capitals are still in contention for the Stanley Cup and the Nationals are getting warmed up for a great season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Nationals Game and the upcoming FC Degree. – GO CAPS!!!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*

Celebrate the Start of Summer — National's Baseball!!

Last chance to purchase your tickets. This is going to be a great game, with great seats, don't miss out on this opportunity to see your Washington Nationals in action at the start of the season and before the heat of summer.

Sunday June 10, 4:05 pm Start
Nationals Park
Cost: \$30.00 each
Open to friends and family

GO NATS! The Lodge has secured a block of tickets for the Sunday, 4:05 pm, June 10th home game against the San Francisco Giants. Our seats are located in the Right Field corner and the Lodge is discounting them by 20%!!

Seats are \$30/each.

Checks should be made payable to Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 and sent to the Secretary:

Joshua L. Rubin, P.M.,

Secretary; 520 Coral Reef Dr.; Gaithersburg, MD 20878
secretary@sgbf45.org; 240-277-5355.

If you wish to pay via credit card or electronically, please go to our events payment website, <https://sgbf45.org/events-and-dues>, and select the "A Ball Game with Your Brethren" event. (Note that paying in this manner will cost an additional \$3.50 per ticket.)



Brethren Out and About



For the opening ceremony of the Grand Session of the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, our Lodge was asked to present the Israeli Flag. SD Burt Levy PM and WM Raymond Horn

carried the flag. Also attending were Robert Starr PGM and Jonathan Binstock .



At the Grand Lodge May 9th, Semi-Annual Communication attended by Honorary Member William C. Miskovic PGM, SW Robert Greenwald, Burton Penn PM, JW Jerry Kielsohn and not pictured, Jules Tepper PGM, WM Raymond Horn, WM Sheldon Rappaport, Michael Greenwald PM, and Adam Tager PM.



Several members attended the Scottish Rite Reunion, including SD Burt Levy PM, SW Robert Greenwald, JW Jerry Keilsohn and his son William Keilsohn.

Entered Apprentice *continued from page 1*

The operative masons know that the apprentice of their day would become the master mason of the future.

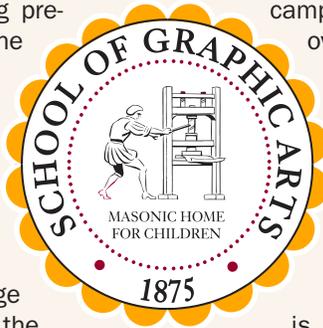
As time passed, an organized set of customs, ceremonies, rules and traditions was developed to regulate and govern entered apprentices. These crystallized into a well-defined unit of practice which we may characterize as the Entered Apprentice Degree of the operative masons. When, after the Reformation, operative masonry was transformed into speculative masonry, the Entered Apprentice Degree was retained as the first of the degrees offered new

candidates. It was modified, of course, to meet the needs of the speculative fraternity, but in substance and meaning, it was fundamentally the equivalent of its predecessor.

Symbolically, you now represent the Entered Apprentice of the ancient craft. Whereas your counterpart was required to serve a long apprenticeship in the builder's art, under strict supervision, you are obligated to devote only a reasonable amount of time to the study of the precepts of Masonry. Moreover, you are obligated to meditate on and assist in the building of brotherhood, as expressed through the practice of humility, loyalty to the fraternity, and service within and without the Craft.

Welcome to the School of Graphic Arts at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford!

As of 2018, our Lodge Bulletin is being prepared at the School of Graphic Arts at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, North Carolina. Our Bulletin expenses now go directly to the support of the vocational program at this modern day program of an old and well known Masonic charitable institution. The following description is provided by the School:



“The Masonic Home for Children on College Street in historic Oxford, N.C. was built on the foundation of St. John’s College which opened in 1853 and closed down when the firestorm of the Civil War started. The College had been founded by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina but by the time of the Civil War the College had failed.

After the Civil War, there was a great need for an orphanage, so in 1873 the Oxford Orphans’ Asylum was started by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and took in the first children. When the Oxford Orphans’ Asylum started it was the first orphanage in the state, they had almost no money and there were only a few thousand Masons in NC that supported the home. It started in the most humble way with the children that lived there working on the farm to raise their own food for survival.

Since its beginning over 140 years ago many students have learned a valuable trade which carried them into adulthood. The only remaining vocational area on

campus, The School of Graphic Arts has grown over the years into a vibrant and integral part of campus life as well as an important partner to the local business community. Early in the history of the School of Graphic Arts the primary focus was on training our students to become productive citizens by providing them with a skill that could support them after they left the Home.

The mission of the School of Graphic Arts is to provide an educational and vocational environment to any resident of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford in the business of Graphic Arts and Printing. Our staff also offers printing services to the Home, the Masonic Fraternity, businesses and individuals who wish to support our mission. Together we are committed to helping young adults develop a strong work ethic and the basic skills for surviving in a business environment.

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford assists families in need by providing a safe, home-like setting for children until they are reunited with family or achieve independence. Children in our residential care program live in a family setting and receive quality care in a caring and stable environment. Our Independent Living Program serves young adults ages 18 to 21, as they leave foster care or achieve independence. Our Home survives and our children are cared for through the charity of others.”



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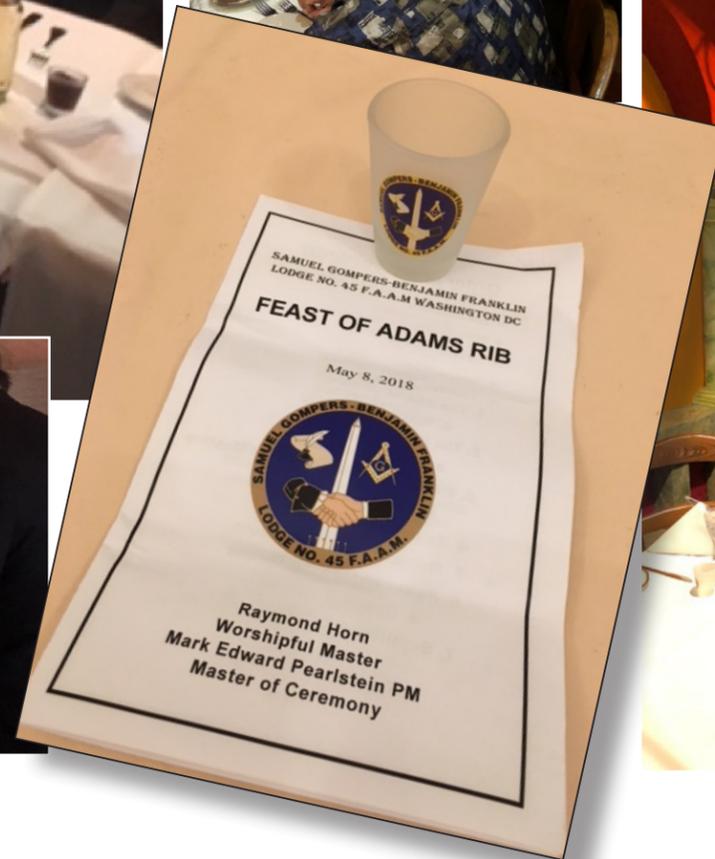
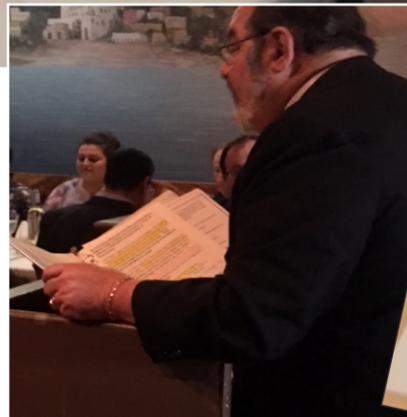
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FEAST OF ADAM'S RIB



It All Started With Food

April's volunteer/charitable event started out with food, friendship, and brotherhood at Bagel City. So we charged up to start Sunday April 29th, better known as the Sara & Samuel J. Lessans "Good Deeds Day." Along with many other groups, SGBF #45 sponsored a booth at the Rockville JCC for this event. Our task was to provide "New Socks for Veterans," which included more than just socks. Many volunteers, mostly children, along with Brothers Jeff Greenwald, Dave Torchinsky PM, WM Ray Horn, JW Jerry Keilsohn, SD Burt Levy, and Hal Henig (with wife Lisa) helped to put together 20 grocery bags of clothing and toiletries which were distributed via the Volunteer Section of the DC Veterans Hospital to needy veterans in the greater DC community. Good Deeds Day is an annual event, so look to be involved again next year and in many years to come.

Our Volunteer/Charitable activities will take a short break before our next activity also involving the DC VA hospital for our visitation the last Sunday in June. Then, we will take an even longer break until the fall and winter volunteer season will start up. Look forward to more information about the specifics, but the following is the proposed schedule:

- **September: Rosh Hashanah Baskets; helping JSSA to fill bags and distribute to the community**
- **October: Cutting Bamboo, erecting, then deconstructing Sukkah's for JFGH**
- **November: Our Signature event; the William Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program**
- **December: Another DC Veterans Hospital visitation for the Christmas service**
- **January: MLK Day of Service to spruce up schools in DC**
- **February: "Souper Bowl" Sunday with the Jewish Federation**
- **March: Passover Baskets; again helping JSSA distribute bags to the community**
- **April: Back to "Good Deeds Day"**

If anyone has any other events that they would like to propose, please contact the volunteer coordinators, Brother Jeff Greenwald (jrg57@comcast.net) or Brother Dave Torchinsky, PM (Dtorchinsky@steinsperling.com). As always, every event will either start or end with food, so come on down and help a brother in need.



Tribute to Brother Mervin; Conn and His Music

By Hal Henig

One day late February. I decided to check out “Merv Conn Way,” it took me almost 30 minutes to find the walkway. Merv Conn Way was organized and funded by United Therapeutics Lab in Silver Spring, Maryland. Brother Merv Conn was a member of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge and he was an accomplished Accordionist. Brother Merv had a music career that lasted more than 70 years and he performed for President’s Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson and even taught then Vice President Richard Nixon’s daughters to play the accordion. Brother Merv also taught several members of the Lodge and their families. Merv Conn was born in February 1919 and passed away in 2010.

Throughout several decades, Brother Merv was a well-known Accordionist not only in the Washington area but nationally. He played for the Washington Senator games as well as at many Masonic and Community events. His music brought joy to many people. The Washington Post and The Patriot Ledger had articles on Merv Conn and his music in 1996 and 2004 respectively. Merv was also interviewed by CBS, during an Accordion Festival. You can find YouTube videos of his playing and a documentary film on line. In these videos his personality and musicality still come through and grab your attention.

During his February 2007 interview with Jeff Krulik at his Birthday Gala at the AFI Theater in Silver Spring, Merv told of how he learned to play the accordion as a teenager in 1934. He listened to music played on the radio by a famous Accordionist named Arthur Tracey and this started his music career.

Throughout his career spanning seven decades, in addition to his many performances, he established the Merv Conn Accordion School to teach students to play the accordion. One of his songs he was well known for playing was “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” when the Washington Senators were still in DC. During his Birthday Gala, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett issued a Proclamation to Honor Merv Conn’s Music Career. During his Proclamation at the Gala, Merv played “God Bless America.”

Brother Merv was also a member of the Scottish Rite in Washington, DC and he was also a Shriner. He was also a member of the Washington Accordion Society and the Silver Spring Kiwanis Club.

Brother Merv Conn was a cheerful and compassionate man who loved his music and is remembered by many members of our Lodge who knew him personally. Merv has passed to the Celestial Lodge above but his accordion and music will be remembered and will live forever.



Monthly Evening Meet-Up at Parkway Deli

On Monday, April 23rd, we had our April Meet-Up at Parkway Deli in Silver Spring, Maryland. Five Brethren and one guest attended our Lodge Meet-Up during that evening. Attendees were: Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, Walter Simon, PM, Dave Torchinsky, PM, Jeff Greenwald, Marty Zitomer, and his son Stuart. Most of us had a relatively small dinner for almost an hour and a half of friendly fellowship. Some talked about the Skeet Shooting that Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge organized and had held the previous day, before the April Evening Lodge Meet-Up.

Attached is a photo taken of the participants who attended the Parkway Deli Meet-Up. Nothing like a meal at the Parkway and hitting the pickle bar, the best part of going there. I look forward to having more successful Lodge Meet-Ups.



LODGE MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY JULY 8th

On July 8, the Lodge is having its annual Memorial Service to honor the memory of the following brethren who passed away in 2017:

IRVING M. ROTHSTEIN
MELVIN L. JACOBSON
MELVIN A. GRAVITZ
L. PAUL CORNELL, PM
ALLEN M. HILLMAN
MARC J. POSTAL
BERNARD EHRLICH
CHARLES J. FUTROVSKY

SAMUEL M. HOFBERG
LEON LIBYS
ROBERT N. HIXON, PM
RONALD B. DAUB
ROBERT HABER, PM
MORTON HYATT
STANLEY D. JORDAN, PM
ALVIN BROOKS

The event will begin on Sunday, July 8 at 2:00 PM at our regular meeting room at Takoma Masonic Center, 115 Carroll Street, NW. Cantor Michael Zoosman will sing El Mohle Rachamim and several other appropriate songs. A presentation will be made and candles will be lit for each name called. Families present will be asked to light a candle for their loved one. This will be a special memorial event which is open to family and friends and will be fully focused on our brethren who have passed on to the celestial lodge. No other lodge business will be conducted. Please encourage the families and friends of our brethren to attend.

After the service, light refreshments will be served in the 3rd. floor dining room.

Walter F. Simon, PM
Chairman

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.....	Jeffrey Greenwald, (2019) jgreenwald@sgbf45.org , 301-869-1915
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Musician	Leonard S. Rubin, PM, lrubin@sgbf45.org , 570-205-0954
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Webmaster	Joshua L. Rubin, PM, jrubin@sgbf45.org , 240-277-5355
* Deceased	
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Calendar for Masonic Year 2018—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45

For the most up-to-date information, please check the Trestleboard or www.sgbf45.org. If anyone is interested in any of these events and wishes to obtain more information, please contact WM Ray Horn about all events (see page 3)

Date		Event	Open to
June	10	Social—4:05 PM—Nats Game with your Brethren	Everyone
	12	Stated—7:30 PM—Fellowcrafts Degree	FC Masons ONLY
	24	Charitable—9:30 AM—VA Visitation	Everyone
	25	Meet-up—TBD	

Date		Event	Open to
July	8	Social: Memorial Night—2:00 PM-4:00 PM—TMC	Everyone
	23	Meet-up	TBD
August	14	Social: Game Night—7:00 PM-10:00 PM	Everyone