

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

bulletin

Volume XCIII • Number 9
November 2018

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)

IT'S THANKSGIVING BASKET TIME OUR CALL TO ACTION!

"There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him, and then shame upon him who will not stretch out the helping hand to his brother."

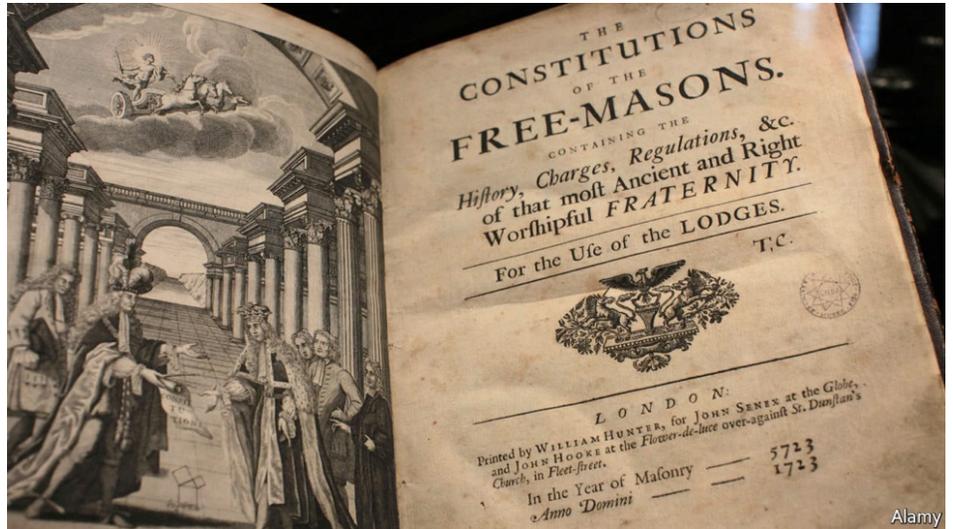
Theodore Roosevelt

Brethren,

For over 40 years Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 has helped feed needy families in the metro area. In fact, our charity has been going on for so long, no one actually knows the exact year we started the program! If I had to make a conservative guess, I would venture to say we have provided well over 4,000 baskets. The force behind this charity was William Boker, PM. A few years ago we officially named this "The William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program."

Having worked for many years at the Chevy Chase Super Market, W. Bro. Boker was very passionate about feeding those who needed help. It started out as a grassroots

See **Thanksgiving** on page 4



Alamy

A Great Masonic Double Header!

Come out for our November Meeting!

We will hold our elections for next year and raise new Master Masons for our Lodge. Our November meeting will be one of the most engaging meetings of the year as we hold our officer elections followed by the Master Mason Ritual. Our candidates have been working all year to learn their catechism and participate in their first two degrees. Our ritual cast has been learning and practicing their parts under the excellent tutoring of RWB Sheldon Rappeport. If you had the good fortune to attend Wardens Night, you know that our SW Robert Greenwald and his new line are ready to move up a chair. Come out and show your support for our cast and help prepare the Lodge for another successful year.

Standing for Election for the 2019 Masonic Year

Worshipful Master	Robert Greenwald
Senior Warden	Jerry Keilsohn
Junior Warden	Burt Levy, PM
Secretary	Michael Greenwald, PM
Treasurer	Robert Starr, PGM
Senior Deacon	Jeffrey Greenwald
Junior Deacon	Sonny Garibay
Trustee (2021)	Jerome Bauman

The appointive officers of the Lodge are as follows:

1. Chaplain	4. Senior Steward
2. Master of Ceremonies	5. Junior Steward
3. Degree Director	6. Tiler
7. Historian	

SAMUEL GOMPERS

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**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*

2B1



SK1

Light From the East



“You admit that it is not in the power of any man or any body of men, to make Innovations in the Body of Masonry. Many Grand Masters and Worshipful Masters must give their assent to this or some similar statement during the ceremony of installation. But nowhere in the installation ceremony, is a definition offered as to the “Body of Masonry” or of “innovation.”

There is less dispute over what constitutes the body of Masonry than regarding the nature of an innovation. Usually, brethren agree that the body of Masonry is composed of the laws, customs, rules, landmarks, ceremonies, teachings, which make Freemasonry.”

So began RWB Harold Granger at our recent Wardens night, roughly paraphrasing his stimulating lecture. Harold walked us through a series of changes and innovations which have happened in Masonry and in our Jurisdiction. From the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, through reacting to the change in the legal age in The District of Columbia.

As my year in the East is beginning to close, I am preparing to assist the next Master to assume the East and to prepare for some of the changes or possible innovations which I found to be diffi-

cult. Over the last two years, first as Senior Warden and now as the Master, I have worked with our officers and others to react to a number of changes that are creating other innovations. The changes that I am thinking of include how to react to the rapidly changing demographics of the membership of Masonry and our Lodge, the extraordinary increase in the use of social media and smartphones for communicating and the challenges of retaining the long-term engagement of our members.

For me, the biggest challenge is determining what innovations help fill the chairs in our meetings and social programs. We adopted the smartphone application for the Lodge which is used by a third of our membership. We revived the automated calls with a recorded message. In the age of robo-calls, we produce an electronic copy of our bulletin, we send electronic calendar invitations, and we include our events on the Grand Lodge Calendar. Most importantly, with the help of these communications and direct contact, we have been able to hold many programs for our Brethren and their families with a broader participation.

Sincerely & Fraternally,
Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*

Upcoming: Masonic Day of Thanksgiving

What?

**The Grand Lodge of DC
Annual Masonic Day
of Thanksgiving and
Remembrance**

Where?

**The Campus of the
University of the
District of Columbia**

When?

**Saturday, October 20th
Meet at 11:30 am
in the Firebird Inn**

Attire is dark suit and tie and regalia. Lunch will be served after.
Adjacent to the Van Ness-UDC Metro station (Red Line)



Nats Beat Mets 6-Nil

And we were there to see it!

Thanks to the generosity of Kil Chang and the Schwab Investment Team, 14 members and their guests were able to enjoy a skybox on the first base side of Nationals Ballpark. Participants included David Torchinsky, PM, his wife Laura, and 2 daughters as well as Joshua Rubin, PM and Erik Milman, brothers Jeffrey Greenwald, Derek Gould, Chester Katz, Jerry Baumann with his grandson, and Kevin Stemp with his son. Quite a big crew.

We all had the pleasure of unlimited food to include Nathans hotdogs, chicken wings, meatballs, macaroni and cheese, mini-steak sandwiches, pasta and salad in addition to popcorn and chips. Unlimited soft drinks and beer helped as well, but the ultimate benefit was the dessert cart that we experienced after the 3rd inning. I can still taste the pistachio tart with the cookies and cream ice cream...ahhhh. In addition to the obvious enjoyment, the game was actually pretty good too. A combination of 5 Nats pitchers achieving a shutout, one-hitter. Hopefully, we can make this an annual event!

THANKSGIVING *continued from page 1*

effort with the love and support of our lodge and quickly became one of the premier events of any Worshipful Master's year.

This year will be no different as we plan to make an even greater impact than ever before. In partnership with JSSA (Jewish Social Services Agency), we will again be supplying Thanksgiving baskets. However this year we would like to go one step further. Through the generous donations we have received from our members and other lodges, we are now able to provide 100 baskets. In previous years, JSSA had their own volunteers deliver the baskets. This year we would like to deliver the baskets ourselves. This is an opportunity to really see how our efforts are appreciated first hand. WE NEED

YOUR HELP to make this happen.

Please contact Bro Jeffery Greenwald and let him know how many baskets you can commit to delivering. PLEASE LET HIM KNOW BY MONDAY NOV 12th. If you are unable to deliver baskets, we still need your help to assemble baskets. If you are unable to do either



and have not made a donation to help keep this program going, please consider making a financial donation.

Here is the information for the event:

Where: Kensington Masonic Lodge
4315 Howard Ave.
Kensington Md.

When: November 18th, 2017

Time: To help assemble baskets arrive at 7:30 AM. To deliver baskets arrive at 9:00 AM

Chairman: Jeffery Greenwald

Cell: 240-401-1261

Email: Jrg57@comcast.net

**Breakfast foods will be provided to volunteers



Late August Dinner at Not Your Average Joe's

Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge held our last monthly summer Meet-Up at Not Your Average Joe's on Monday, August 27 in the Bethesda Restaurant. Seven Brethren and one guest attended our evening get together to enjoy each other's company. The attendees were Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, WM Raymond Horn, Dave Torchinsky, PM, Walter Simon PM, JW Jerry Keilsohn, our recently departed Brother Marty Zitomer, and his son Stuart. We enjoyed the food and fellowship from each other's company and especially Bro. Zitomer who attended our regular meet-ups with his good humor so frequently.

The attached photo above showed us together in the spirit of good brotherhood.

There was no September Meet-Up due to the Sukkot Holiday, in which many of our lodge members celebrate. We look forward to having the next Monthly Meet-Up.

An Afternoon at THE OLNEY THEATRE!

Brethren,

The Lodge secured seats for the Olney Theatre Lab production of Labour of Love, on Sunday, October 28th at 1:45 pm.

These were general admission seats in the Olney Theatre Lab. Seats were \$40/each which was 50% off the regular cost!!

Your payment reserved your seat. Read the delightful description below, this play was a lot of fun.

Brethren and their guests were invited. If you did not attend, you missed a wonderful performance.

LABOUR OF LOVE

The winner of the 2018 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy is a delightfully clever mashup of the political gamesmanship of The West Wing with a war of the sexes that feels straight out of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. Set in a member of Parliament's district office, this wildly witty comedy is about the ups and downs of left-wing British politics over the past twenty-five years. Unfolding over decades, this wickedly funny clash of values and class reflects a shifting political landscape in the heartland that echoes similar developments in America as progressives seek the road back to power. Playwright James Graham is one of the U.K.'s hottest playwrights who recently had three separate works (including Labour of Love) running concurrently on the West End. <https://www.olneytheatre.org/whats-playing/labour-love>

When

Sunday, October 28th, 2018 1:45 pm

Age Guidance

If this were a film it would be rated R.

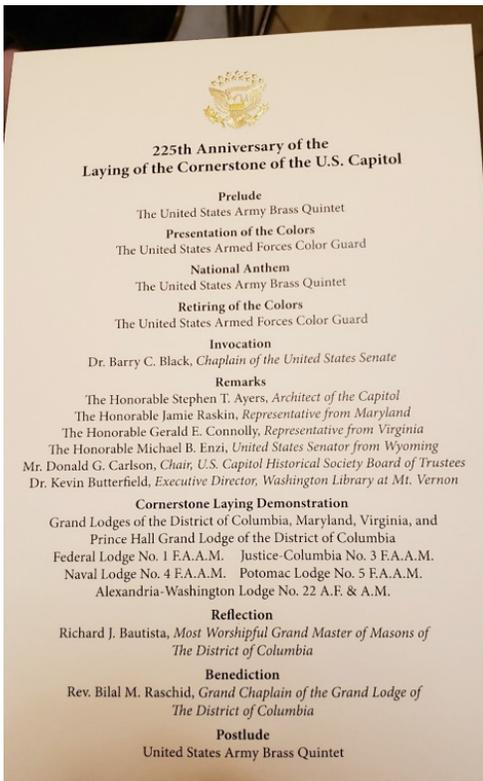
Location

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Questions should be addressed to the WM at WM@sgbf45.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .

November 13 Stated—7:30 PM
Master Mason's Degree & Elections



Michael Greenwald, PM and Erik Milman, PM participated on the 225th Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

225th Anniversary of the Laying of the US Capitol Cornerstone Celebrated

On the evening of Tuesday, September 18th, our Grand Master, Richard J. Bautista, along with members of the Grand Lodges of DC, Maryland, Virginia, and DC (Prince Hall Affiliated) rededicated the cornerstone of the United States Capitol in commemoration of the same ceremony that was originally led by Worshipful Bro. George Washington 225-years ago. The event was televised live on CSPAN. (You can see the broadcast in full here: <https://www.c-span.org/video/...>)

Along with the re-dedication of the cornerstone, Members of Congress and representatives from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and George Washington’s Mount Vernon spoke, and members of our founding Lodges were in attendance along with Masonic relics associated with George Washington (including the Washington Gavel from Potomac Lodge No. 5 and the Bible used at Washington’s funeral from Federal Lodge No. 1).



Symbols and Allegories OF THE SECOND DEGREE

In the days when Masons were builders of great and costly structures, the apprentice was a mere boy of 10 to 12 years of age, scarcely knowing one tool from another, ignorant of the secrets and arts of the builders. Yet after seven years he was able to produce his master's piece and perform any task to which the Worshipful Master might appoint him. How was this miracle accomplished? Not by his own unaided efforts, but by the teaching of the masters, who guided his clumsy hands and passed on to him what they had already acquired.

A Fellowcraft certainly benefits from experience and education. Experience makes us aware of the world at points of immediate contact; knowledge gained by education gives us competency for special tasks in the arts, professions, callings and vocations. But a man's life is not confined to his own immediate experience, nor is he day and night engaged in the same task; life is richer than that! It comes to us compounded of all manner of things, a great variety of experiences, a constant succession of situations, a never-ending list of new problems, and it is full of people with reactions, emotions, varied characters and behaviors. The world is infinitely greater than that portion which each of us

now sees, hears or feels; it is far more complex than our daily tasks.

The middle chamber, which is so conspicuous in the Second Degree, has many teachings; it is a symbol of wisdom. By the experience of the five senses, through the knowledge gained of the liberal arts and sciences, the candidate is called to advance, as on winding stairs, to that balanced wisdom of life in which the senses, emotions, intellect, character, work, deeds, habits and soul of a man are knit together in a balanced, poised, and adequate unity. If the Fellowcraft will thus equip himself, he need not shrink from his toil nor faint beneath the heat and burden of the day because his competency as a human being will be equal to the demands made upon him

Among the allegories peculiar to this degree, the most striking and important is that rite in which you acted the part of a man approaching King Solomon's Temple; you came into its outer precincts; passed between the two pillars, climbed a winding stair and at last entered the middle chamber where our ancient brethren received their wages of corn, wine and oil. During certain stages of this allegorical joule you listened to

See **Symbols** on page 9

Warden's Night Report



During our Warden's Night, at this past October Stated Communication, a very interesting lecture by our Illustrious RWB Harold Grainger, entitled "Innovations" was presented. Harold gave everyone a lot of food for thought about changes in the Grand Lodge of The District of Columbia.

Harold had been very mysterious about the content of this lecture for which our SW Robert Greenwald requested to be appropriate for Fellowcrafts so that we could invite new Fellowcrafts at our meeting. Those who know Harold, know that he is an excellent speaker on Masonic topics and he did not disappoint in making this a highly provocative program.

Warden's Night is, of course, the night when our line steps up one chair for the purpose of preparing themselves for the coming year and our SW Robert Greenwald did an excellent job in the East along with the prospective line for next year. We congratulate everyone who sat in a new chair during this meeting.





2018 Leadership Conference

The Lodge was well represented at this year's Grand Lodge Leadership conference, our SW, JW, SD, SS and Immediate Past Master all attended. The Leadership Conference helps to prepare our advancing line officers for the next year by sharing information about their new duties and most importantly by giving them a wide range of new contacts in the jurisdiction.



DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

- November**
- 13 – Stated—7:30 PM—Master Mason's Degree & Elections—Master Masons only
 - 18 – Charitable—7:30 AM—William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program—Everyone
 - 26 – Social—7:00 PM—Meet up: TBD—Members & prospective members
 - 27 – Special—5:30 PM—Past Master's Degree—Actual Past Masters only
- December**
- 4 – Stated—CALLED OFF
 - 9 – Special—1:00 PM—Installation—Everyone
 - 23 – Social—VA Hospital Visitation—9:00 AM—Everyone

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Arthritis Foundation, Jingle Bell Run

Lace up your sneakers, button up your coats, and put on your gloves, because Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge is participating in the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run.

The Jingle Bell Run is an annual winter-themed 5k run that raises money to find a cure for the many forms of arthritis. Laura Torchinsky, wife of PM David Torchinsky, was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis in her early 20s. Over the last few years, Laura has gotten very involved with the Arthritis Foundation and the American College of Rheumatology. In 2016, she formed Laura's Army, a team of runners and supporters



who participate in the Jingle Bell Run, by running, walking or simply cheering.

This year's event is on December 1 at Pentagon Row in Arlington, VA, at 9am. Please join us! If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then come on out and cheer us on. If you can't make it, feel free to make a donation.

If you have further questions feel free to email me at lwtorch@gmail.com, to register or contribute to this event, please go to <https://events.arthritis.org/team/LaurasArmy>

SYMBOLS *continued from page 7*
various parts of a discourse called the middle chamber lecture.

This allegory is a symbolic picture of the inner meaning of initiation. The temple is the life into which a man is initiated. That which lies outside the walls of the temple, from which you were supposed to come, represents the profane world - not profane in the sense of being blasphemous, but profane in the technical sense; the word literally means "without the temple," and signifies all not initiated. The pillars represent birth; when you passed between them it signified that you were no longer a profane but had now entered the circle of

initiates. The stairs represent the steps by which the life of initiation is approached - qualification, petition, election and the three degrees. The middle chamber represents the initiation completed; on arrival there the candidate receives rewards for the ordeals and arduous labors he has endured on the way.

Our interpretation of the allegorical picture of Masonic initiation cannot stop here; the whole process is itself a symbolical allegory of something else, so that in this central portion of the degree we have an allegory within an allegory. We must ask, then, what is symbol-

ized by Masonic initiation? Certainly it symbolizes the experience of every man who seeks the good life; moreover it suggests he may realize the blessings of religion, which is knowledge of God; or brotherhood, which is a life of fellowship grounded in goodwill; of art, by which we enjoy the beautiful; of citizenship, by which we enjoy the goods of communal life; of science, by which we learn the nature of the world we live in; and of literature, by which we enter into communion with the life of all mankind. Such is one meaning of your allegorical entrance into Solomon's Temple as a candidate in the Second Degree.

JSSA Rosh Hashanah Baskets Were a Huge Success

On September 9th, WM Raymond Horn, David Torchinsky, PM, Alan Karpas, JW Jerry Keilsohn, Hal Henig, and Jeff Greenwald along with 3 family members participated in a Mitzvah with the Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA). We helped load and distribute over 300 Rosh Hashanah “baskets” (bags of goodies) to needy members of the Jewish community in Montgomery County, DC, and Northern Virginia. We arrived around 8 am to add the traditional round challah and honey cake into

the “baskets.” In addition, each bag included apples with honey, gefilte fish, and kosher wine. Lodge members individually distributed approximately 40 bags to elderly families in the Revitz House. Our strong turnout made it possible. Without our support, it would have been very difficult for JSSA to accomplish this event. Our tasks were completed by 10:30 AM, then we made the traditional “after-activity” jaunt to Bagel City for food and fellowship.

Our next volunteer activity will

be our Lodges’ main event when we put together and help distribute the Thanksgiving Baskets at our annual William Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Program. Hope to see many of you once again, helping out with this worthy cause.

We will also be performing our Erev Christmas Eve VA Hospital Visitation this year in December. As usual, if anyone has any other suggestions for volunteer activities, please contact Brother Jeff Greenwald at jrg57@comcast.net

And the Sukkahs were quickly assembled

Temperatures hovered in the low sixties and rain poured down on the muddy grass; our team of four zipped up their raincoats and grabbed their rubber mallets. Building Sukkahs for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes has become an annual volunteer event for our Lodge, so we could not let a little rain stop us this year.

Jeff Greenwald, JW Jerry Keilsohn, David Torchinsky, PM, and daughter Rina Torchinsky, assembled the Sukkahs, bamboo-covered huts, for three Silver Spring, MD homes within the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes network on Sunday, September 23.

Sukkot, the feast of booths, is a Jewish harvest festival that originates in the Bible. The festival commemorates the temporary shelters that the Israelites lived in after they were freed from Egypt. To celebrate the holiday today, some Jews build shelters,

Sukkahs, to dwell in for eight days.

The team constructed the metal frames, covered them in tarps and topped them off with supporting beams and a traditional bamboo roof.

Wet grounds and materials made it hard to assemble the outdoor structures, so the construction crew brought the festivities inside for one of the homes. Sitting around the dining table, the volunteers led the residents in the traditional Sukkot blessing, and the blessings over wine and Challah bread.

These faithful volunteers should have received double compensation, it turned out that the only Sukkahs to be assembled for JFGH this year were those done by our Lodge in the rain. All the other volunteers who work with all the other JFGH homes did not show up because of the weather!

And the Sukkahs Came Tumbling Down ...

And the Sukkahs came tumbling down. Well, not exactly. We actually disassembled 5 sukkahs in a very organized manner on Sunday, October 7th and were even able to enjoy a bagel at Bagel City before we split to end the day. WM Ray Horn along with David Torchinsky, PM, JW Jerry Keilsohn, Brother Jeff Greenwald, and friend of the Lodge Mike Goldman started in Silver Spring where we disassembled 3 Sukkahs. We then moved on to Bagel City for a refreshing break before splitting up to handle the last two. Ray, David, and Jerry traveled to Reston, VA while Mike and Jeff went to Gaithersburg to complete the task. All in all, a great mitzvah, and completed in time to enjoy most of Sunday. Next big mitzvah, of course, is our William Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program. Hope to see many of you there at the Kensington Lodge on Sunday, November 18th @ 7:30 AM to help assemble and distribute baskets to needy families in the national capital area.



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 Gaithersburg, MD 20878



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 2)

Date		Event	Open to
November	13	Stated—7:30 PM Master Mason's Degree & Elections	MM only
	18	Charitable—7:30 AM—William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program	Everyone

Date		Event	Open to
November	26	Social—7:00 PM—Meet up: TBD	Members & Prospective Members
December	4	Stated—CALLED OFF	
	9	Special—1:00 PM—Installation	Everyone
	23	Social—9:00 AM—VA Hospital Visitation	Everyone