

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

# bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 6  
December 2022

Takoma Masonic Center  
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012  
Meets Second Tuesday of each month except July and August (no meeting),  
and December, (second Sunday)



Be With Us

on

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

at 1:00 P.M. as we

PROUDLY INSTALL

our

2023 Officers

and celebrate

Our

97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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Washington, D.C. 20012

## Sunshine Committee

The information below is the most current that we have received. To give further or more up-to-date information, call **Sunshine Chairman Hal Henig at 301-681-3873.**

*Join this worthwhile committee by making a call, writing, or visiting any of the below.*

The following Brethren or family members are in

Medical Facilities:

***Jerold Coffee***

*Brooke Grove Nursing Home*

*Rm #209*

*18131 Slade School Rd,*

*Sandy Spring, MD*

*Sister - Esther Jacobs*

*301-910-6562*

*estherjacobsator@yahoo.com*

The following Brethren or family members at home:

***Jules Tepper, PM, PGM***

*16440 Keats Terrace*

*Derwood, MD 20855*

*(301) 980-7264*

***Rosalind Pomerantz, wife of  
the late Bro. Harry Pomerantz***

*1002 Robroy Drive,*

*Silver Spring, MD 20903*

*(301) 434-2120*

*Daughter - Sharon Strelzer*

*(203) 650-2006*

***Shirley Gordon, wife of  
the late Jerry Gordon***

*Riderwood Village*

*Silver Spring, MD 20906*

*301-273-9882*

*Alan Karpas (301) 767-5905*

***Lisa Milman, wife of Erik Milman, PM***

*14716 Top Sergeant Lane*

*Centreville, VA 20121*

*Contact Eric Milman*

*(301) 651-8879*

**Please check out our Lodge website:**

**<https://sgbf45.org>**

**which has been updated for the ensuing year!**

Do you know that on our website all of the **Bulletins** over the last year are posted without the Trestleboard for your reference?



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### In Memoriam

**Abraham Genderson**

Born: 06/12/1919

EA: 04/29/1947

FC: 05/29/1947

MM: 07/22/1947

Passed: 11/01/2022

## Light From the East

W.B. Jerry Kielsohn, P.M.



As the seasons have changed, so does the actual light from the East. As I have written before, I drive East in the morning to go to work. Straight into the sun most mornings. Now that Daylight Savings Time has ended that has changed some. Now I drive into the setting sun on the way home. My personal observations have been that sunsets are often more spectacular than sunrises. Or maybe it is just that at the end of the day, when I am wide awake but tired, Mother Nature is too, and gives it her best performance? Or does it just seem that way?

I started writing this column for the bulletin when I was Junior Steward at the encouragement of several brethren. It is now many years later, and this is maybe the last one from me sitting in a chair. When I wrote this same column two years ago, I thought that one would be the last. Maybe this time?

When I started to get my thoughts together to write this, I was originally going to list all the things we did this year. I ended up doing that in my report to the Grand Master at Grand Visitation, which is elsewhere in this bulletin. I am really proud of what we accomplished this year.

Our last Stated communication was our Grand Visitation. The Grand Master had other plans for all the other Lodges this year, but I was able to make ours happen at our November Stated - instead of within a group on a Friday evening. I was a little disappointed that more of the Grand Lodge officers did not attend, but I was happy to see the ones that did. And I think we all did a wonderful job showing off

our Lodge at the Grand Visitation.

Life is often a combination of what the world throws at you and what you make of it. Being Worshipful Master, is similar. One plans their year. Then something happens, and those plans do not work out. One then tries an alternate plan. That either works out or it does not. The surprise is when something you planned works out and it is even better than what you planned. The exciting one, is the one you did not plan, and is so wonderful that you are astonished that it even happened. This year, we experienced some of each of the above examples.

Next month, this space will be filled by the new Worshipful Master. As each Worshipful Master has taken their turn on spreading some Light for all of us in this space, the style changes, the tone changes and even the topics change. - A true reflection of how we are all different.

It will be interesting to sit on the sidelines and not have to wear a tuxedo next year. Although, pants now become an interesting topic. None (like Bugs Bunny), or square like Sponge Bob?

As I have in the past, I will close with a quote. As has been the case in the last few months, it took me a while to find an appropriate one for this month - and this one is not actually a quote, but I think it fits here:

"A little bit of light pushes away a lot of darkness"  
~Jewish Proverb

*Jerry*

# W.M. JERRY KIELSOHN'S REPORT TO THE GRAND MASTER GIVEN AT THE NOVEMBER 8TH GRAND VISITATION



## *Turning over the Gavel*

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful, Worshipful, and Brethren all:

It is an honor and a pleasure to have you and the rest of your officers with us this evening.

The temptation, when writing this was to just do a chronological recitation of the events that have happened in this Masonic year. I suspect half the brethren would be asleep before I finished. So, let me try this a different way.

First some not so good news, then I promise, all better news.

Our lodge membership has continued to decline. Sadly due to the passing of our older Brethren. On a bright note, we have added two brethren who chose to associate with us, plus there is another that has petitioned for the same. We also added an honorary member.

One of my goals early in the year was to get the two brethren that were in COVID limbo raised as Master Masons. My predecessor, WB Burt Levy, had done

everything in his power to initiate and pass them. We held a special communication in January to raise them. Doing it on a Sunday afternoon, allowed the father of one of the brothers to come all the way from Indiana so that he could participate in the raising of his son. The other had many members of his extended family in attendance as well.

We initiated another brother in April. The ritual team, under the guidance of RWB Rappaport and WB Wright, as we always do, had spent many weeks practicing for his Passing at our June Stated. Unfortunately, he has ghosted us.

At our March Stated, I provided the light that evening. The topic was about how Geometry and the number three are significant to our Masonic traditions. This included how Archimedes was defiantly not alone in the tub.

Our Tiler, Brother Hal Henig has done an outstanding job keeping our Meet-Ups happening. The Lodge Meet-ups are usually on the fourth Monday of the month. They are very informal and usually involved dinner someplace. We have managed to have an event just about every month this year.

We held a Plus One Dinner, in June to honor those in our lives that make our lives better. We had a great turnout, and all of our Plus ones had a nice afternoon with their Plus ones.

Samuel Gompers- Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 is in good shape financially. Our investments continue to grow at a rate greater than the rate we are spending them. The Trustees; Julien Hofberg, PM; Sheldon Rappaport, PM and Jeffrey Greenwald and the chairman of our investment committee, Allen Wright, PM have and continue to do, even in these uncertain times, an outstanding job managing the situation with our professional money manager.

One of the three Graces or Moral Virtues of Masonry, as originally introduced in the first degree, is charity. One of the things we at Gompers-Franklin take great pride in, is our charity work.

With some of the protections due to COVID finally starting to get back to normal, we have been able to resume many of our charitable projects.

We assisted the Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) with the distribution of Passover Baskets in April. Then in September, we helped JSSA assemble and distribute over 1000 Rosh Hashanah Baskets. Both of these are an annual event for the Lodge and we have been doing both of them with our JSSA partner for many years.

A few weeks ago, we erected Sukkahs at several of the Jewish group homes. This allows the residents to observe the Jewish Holiday of Sukkot. A few weeks later, once the holiday was over, we did the deconstruction at each of the homes.

We are on track to continue the oldest continuous philanthropic event in the entire jurisdiction again this year; the William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket program. As in past years, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will assemble and with JSSA's help, distribute, full Thanksgiving meal baskets, turkey included, to those less fortunate in our community. Several years ago we connected with the Eagle Academy Public Charter School in South East, DC, to make Thanksgiving better for many of their students by providing them the same Thanksgiving baskets. We will again be supporting the kids this year.

Working on an idea JSSA gave us, we tried something new last year. The distribution of already prepared meals the day before Thanksgiving. It was a huge success. We are planning on distributing about 60 prepared meals this year along with 70 traditional baskets.

Brother Junior Deacon Jeffrey Greenwald has done a magnificent job this year and in past years coordinating all these efforts.

As in the past, we will be use the parking lot and facilities at the Kensington-Bethesda Lodge to stage

and distribute the Thanksgiving baskets. The brethren of that lodge have been supporting us for so long, nobody seems to remember when the relationship started.

Many of us have always wanted to travel to Kensington Lodge, to attend one of their stated communications and thank all the brethren for their support. Kensington Lodge meets on the same day and time as we at Gompers-Franklin do. The second Tuesday of the month. Which makes visiting rather difficult if not impossible. I, with the support of the Lodge decided to fix that this year. We called off the May Stated, and all of us attended Kensington that evening instead. As an added bonus, we got to be part of a Maryland Fellowcrafts degree.

It has been the custom at #45 for the last few years to give not just the Grand Lodge's 50, 60, and 70 years of service awards, but a Gompers-Franklin award and pin for every five years of service as a Mason. This year we did it at our September Stated. We also were able to give the Lodge Silver Fidelity medal to Brother Peter Frank. He also received a 70 year award. Both Brother Frank and WB Michael Rinis, a 50 year member shared with us what it was like to be a Mason of this lodge when there were well over a thousand brethren.

It is a tradition at #45 at Grand Visitation, to make a donation to the Grand Masters favorite charity. Most Worshipful, I have a donation to the Masonic Foundation of DC in your honor. [Check to GM]

I had not planned to be Master this year. But circumstances worked out such, that here I am sitting in the East. I and my officers have strived to make this a great year. Not everything we planned happened or worked out. I can say without reservations, we certainly tried.

The Brethren of #45 know I like to always close with a quote, which I usually save for the closing. I thought I would finish with it here instead:

"Freemasonry is an order whose leading star is philanthropy, and whose principles inculcate an unceasing devotion to the cause of virtue and morality."

*-Bro Marquis de La Fayette*

*R.W.B. Dongmo escorting DGM Kamara to the East*



*Welcoming the Grand Master*



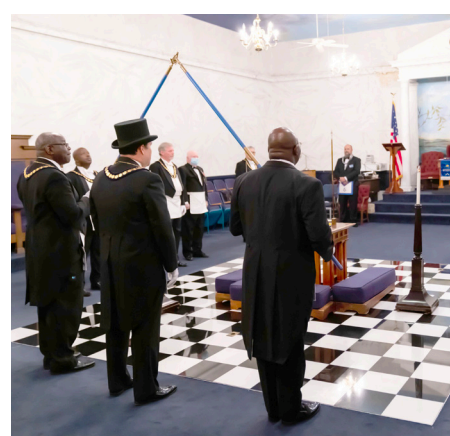
*Sharing a Lighter Moment*



*Introducing the PGM's*



*Escorting the GM to the East*



# Our October Social Meet-up

By Hal Henig



On Monday October 24th, we had our Monday Evening Meet-Up at Mamma Lucia Italian Restaurant at the Olney Village Center in Olney Maryland. This was the first time that our Lodge had a Meet-Up at this Restaurant, since January 2020, before COVID became a serious pandemic. The October Evening Meet-Up was highly successful.

Thirteen Brethren and guests showed to enjoy rich and delicious Italian entrées offered by Mamma Lucia. Brethren present were Tiler and Meet-Up, Chairman Hal Henig; WM Jerry Keilsohn, PM; Secretary Ray Horn, PM; Dave Torchinsky, PM; Jon Binstock, PM; Degree Director Sheldon Rapoport; PM, Alan Friedman, PM, JW Derek Gould; SD Aaron Kameron; JD Jeff Greenwald and Brother Alan Karpas. Our Guests were Stuart Zitomer, Dave Horn, and Lee Silverman. Lee Silverman is a guest of Brother Karpas and is interested in joining our Lodge. Mr. Silverman is an Officer for the Fire Department and would be a good addition to Samuel Gompers.

Above is a photo of the Brethren and guests enjoying the food and camaraderie at Mamma Lucia, that evening. I hope all the Brethren had an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

## SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M.

### LIVING PAST MASTERS

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

#### LIVING PAST MASTERS

1963	Allen J. Wright, MA, Gold Fidelity Medal
1974	Aaron S. Teitel
1974	Donald M. Stein
1979	Michael J. Rinis
1979	Burton Penn
1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM
1981	Joel Shulman
1983	Julien P. Hofberg
1984	Edwin S. Nachlas
1989, 2001	Sheldon I. Rapoport, MA DSM, GL-E
1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM
1994	Joseph N. Snyder
1995, 2021	Burt Levy
1997	Adam Forman
2002-2003	Jeffrey Sherman
2009	Jonathan M. Binstock
2010	David B. Torchinsky
2011	Joshua L. Rubin
2012-2013	Erik F. Milman
2014	Adam Forman
2015	Randy A. Schoch
2016	Leonard Rubin
2017	Michael K. Greenwald, SGS
2018	Raymond E. Horn
2019	Robert Greenwald
2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn

## Happy Birthday

The following Brethren observe their birthdays on the **DECEMBER** dates shown. Be sure to wish them well on that day.

Irwin B. Pescov .....16    Lewis A. Gertz.....22    Burton S. Levy .....25    Julius Rudden .....31



## Thanks for Giving...

.....of your time and monetary donation for this years' William Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Basket Program. As in the past, we had many brethren participate as we worked with JSSA and the DC Charter School to make Thanksgiving a joyful and gastronomical event for many needy members of the greater DC community. This year, we continued the "hybrid" program that we started last year. In addition to the preparation of baskets with goods and frozen Turkeys for over 100 families on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we also delivered prepared meals to almost 60 families on the day prior to Thanksgiving. This involved a lot of coordination, but in the end, the feeling of joy was felt by both the recipients and the deliverers.

As always, further monetary donations can continue to help expand this program. In addition to the main event, the brethren of SGBF #45 presented a Certificate of Appreciation to our long-standing partner at JSSA, Diane Hays-Earp. Diane has been a stalwart leader at JSSA for many years, especially in coordinating the special programs to help the needy. This included the Passover and Rosh Hashanah Basket programs in addition to the Thanksgiving Basket program. Diane will be retiring at the end of the year and she will spend more time with her own growing family. This doesn't mean that SGBF #45 will no longer be involved with JSSA. We will simply need to initiate the person who takes Diane's place to assure that we maintain a strong presence in community resource activities.



Veterans Day was formerly known as Armistice Day and was originally set as a legal holiday to honor the end of World War I which took place on November 11, 1918. It was amended in 1954 to include all wars.

It is a time for us to pay our respects to those who served. For this one day we stand united. It is set aside to honor and thank our living veterans who served their country in wartime/peacetime.

People sometimes confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day. The difference is Memorial Day honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They gave their life in service

to their country.

So, when you go about your day and see a Veteran or someone in uniform go up to them and say thank you for your service and sacrifice. A special thing happens that touches you deep inside.

Always remember They walked the wall on their watch to insure your freedoms.

To my fellow comrades/ brothers and brethren, thank you for your service and sacrifice.

**Please note:** If you have served in the military let me know in order for me to keep this list current.

By Brother Bob Greenwald  
USMC(Retired)  
pegasusi613@gmail.com

## ***Our Members Who Have Served Their Country***

Leonard I. Abel	Gilbert Fisher *	Harold Levy *	Norman Schikevitz *
Moe Lawrence Aitel *	Irving Fleishman *	Blair Lewis *	Jack Schneider
Frank Akman	Leonard Frank *	Stanley Love	Daniel D. Segal
Frank D. Allison *	Eddie Freedman *	Irving Lipsky *	Albert Shayne *
Sid Alpert *	Raymond Friedman *	Milton N Lubar *	Frank Shechtman
David Applestein	Abe Genderson *	Seymour Lubitz	Joseph Sher *
Daniel Baer	Rubin Gertz *	Bernard Lynn *	Robert Sherman *
Norman Barshai *	Stanley Gimble *	Sol Lynn *	Al Shuster *
Albert Bass *	Jerome Goldberg *	Charles Markus	Robert Silberg *
Jerome Bauman *	Louis "Luck" Goldberg *	Leonard Maites	Frank Silnicky
Robert Becker *	Martin Goldman *	Jerrold Michael *	Philip L. Silver *
Sol Becker *	Jerrold Gordon *	William Milman *	Brian S. Simon *
Alvin Bennof *	Melvin A Gravitz *	Albert Modlin *	Walter F. Simon *
Joseph Benson	Leonard Greenberg	Henry Modlin *	Theodore K. Smith *
Maurice Berger *	Gerald M Greenwald	Al Molenof *	Joseph Snyder *
Sam Berger *	Jeffrey R. Greenwald	Harry Mostow	Abraham Sperling *
Jerome Barry	Robert Greenwald	William O'Brien *	Alvin Sperling *
Max Beloff *	Robert Haber *	Israel Orlove *	Joseph Spund *
Fred Blanken *	Arnold Heft *	William S. Orlove *	William A. Stein
Howard L. Blum	Albert B. Hemmerdinger *	Leroy Peake *	Daniel J. Stein
David Boker *	Kenneth Herman *	Burton Penn	Donald M. Stein
William Boker *	Seymour Herman	Leonard T. Philips *	Howard L. Stern
Paul Boylin	Edward Hinkle*	Norman Pisner *	Richard Sugarman
Jerrold Brotman *	Harry Hofberg *	Harry Pomerantz *	Leonard Tash *
Irving Burka *	Julien P. Hofberg	Allan Porter *	Burton J. Tepper *
Charles Burke	Sam Hofberg *	Leon Prissman *	Jules S. Tepper
Solomon Chabbott *	Robert Husemann	I. Rocky Racklin *	Gerald Tolpin *
Jerry Cherner	Melvin Jacobson *	Earl Reiser *	Irving Torchinsky *
Arthur Cherpack *	Stanley Jacobson	Arthur Rosenblatt	Albert Ulitzky *
Kenneth Cohen	Stanley Jordan *	David Rosendorf *	Milton Van Grack *
Moritz A. Cohen, Jr.	Ellis N. Kahn *	Frank Rosendorf *	Theodore Weiner *
Sheldon Cohen	Theodore M. Kahn *	Sydney Rosendorf *	David Weinstein
L. Paul Cornell *	Aaron Kamerer	Alfred Rosenthal *	Edward I. Weinstein*
Ronald Daub*	Alan Karpas	Jack Rosenthal *	Simon Weker *
Morton Davis *	Milton Kessler *	Irving M. Rothstein *	Stuart L. Werner *
Jack Dichter *	Herbert King *	Ralph B. Rothstein *	Joseph Williamowsky *
Paul Dick *	Jack Klawans *	Jack Rowe *	Milton Williams
Bernard Ehrlich *	Marvin Kotz *	Donald Roxenberg	Herman Zeitchik *
Jack Ehrlich *	Harry Korb *	Arthur Rubinstein *	Murray Zelkind *
Raymond Ehrlich *	Seymour Korn *	Jerome Saidman *	Gilbert Zellan *
Edward Eisenstein *	Howard Kouzel *	Morton Samler	Jack Zellan
Charles Feingersh *	Samuel Kramer *	Adolph Sandler *	<u>Howard H. Ziegler *</u>
Irvin Feldman *	Dick Kravitz *	Benjamin Sanger	* Deceased
Harvey S. Fenster *	Harry Levin *	Joel Sanger	
Jules Fink	Burt Levy	Stanley Schechter *	

This list will continue until all our Brethren, those with us and those who have passed, are listed. Please send those names and their stories to Robert Greenwald.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES: A LOOK AT OUR LODGE'S PAST

**December 2022: Here Comes the Son**

**By Ray Horne, Secretary**

In 1995, our Lodge Initiated, Passed, and Raised someone who would be rather important to us here in the 2023 Masonic Year. Not only has this Brother distinguished himself during his time in Masonry, he has garnered the respect of the Brethren... But I'm getting ahead of myself.

In 1995, Worshipful Brother Burt Levy sat in the East, and our Secretary was the now late Worshipful Brother Walter Simon. Who would be so important of an individual to have the Worshipful Master and Secretary be the first- and second-line signers of his petition?

I certify that I have been personally acquainted with the above-named petitioner for 29 years and believe that he has answered truly all the questions in the petition.

I recommend him as a fit and proper candidate for Freemasonry.

Burt Levy

I also have known the petitioner for 5 years and recommend him as a worthy candidate for Freemasonry.

Walter F. Simon, PM

If you haven't figured it out so far from the clues I've dropped, here are a few more:

- This Brother received his 1st degree as a Courtesy at Federal Lodge #1
- He was born in 1965 in Atlanta, but relocated to the DC area when he was 3 months old
- Both his father and grandfather were Masons, and in his "Meet Our New Members" column, printed in September 1995, it is written that "there was never any doubt that he would become a Mason."

Still no idea? Here's one final hint for you: he is due and in waiting to ascend to the Oriental Chair for the ensuing Masonic Year!

*Brethren who guess correctly will receive a Bulletin each month for as long as they pay their dues! Though I guess, technically, Brethren who don't guess correctly will receive that, too...*

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Historian ..... Joshua L. Rubin, [jrubin818@gmail.com](mailto:jrubin818@gmail.com). 240-277-5355  
Tiler ..... Hal Henig, [tiler@sgbf45.org](mailto:tiler@sgbf45.org). 301-681-3873  
Immediate PM ..... Burt S. Levy, PM, [chaplain@sgbf45.org](mailto:chaplain@sgbf45.org). 202 409-4449

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JD Jeffrey Greenwald  
Michael J. Rinis, PM, [mrinis@sgbf45.org](mailto:mrinis@sgbf45.org). 301-384-8244  
Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care ..... Allen J. Wright, PM, MA  
[awright@sgbf45.org](mailto:awright@sgbf45.org). 301-989-8945  
Burt S. Levy, PM, [chaplain@sgbf45.org](mailto:chaplain@sgbf45.org). 202 409-4449  
Investment Committee..... Trustees, Treas. Robert H. Starr, PGM  
Refreshment. .... J.S., S.S.  
Relief ..... W.M., S.W., J.W.  
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman ..... Hal Henig  
[hhenig@sgbf45.org](mailto:hhenig@sgbf45.org). 301-681-3873  
Technology and Communications ..... Aaron Kamerer  
[sd@sgbf45.org](mailto:sd@sgbf45.org). 202-510-5181  
Derek R. Gould, [dgoald@sgbf45.org](mailto:dgoald@sgbf45.org). 240-938-6285  
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving

## 2022 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master ..... Robert Greenwald  
For the Senior Warden ..... Aaron Kamerer  
For the Junior Warden ..... Ryan Simon

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M.  
 Secretary  
 6109 Lone Oak Drive  
 Bethesda, MD 20817



### Calendar for Masonic Year 2022—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45

For the most up-to-date information, please check the Trestleboard or [www.sgbf45.org](http://www.sgbf45.org). If anyone is interested in any of these events and wishes to obtain more information, please contact WM Jerry Keilsohn about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
December	9	Grand Lodge Membership Banquet, J.W. Marriott Hotel, Registration Required, 7:00 pm	Masons and Guests
	10	Grand Lodge Third Communication, Scottish Rite Temple, 5:00 pm	Masons
	11	Jingle Bell Run, Charity Event, registration required, 8:00 am	Open To All
	11	Stated Communication – Installation of 2023 Officers, 1:00 pm	Masons, Family, Friends
	26	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons

Date		Event	Open to
January	10	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	23	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons

Date		Event	Open to
February	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	27	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons