

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

bulletin

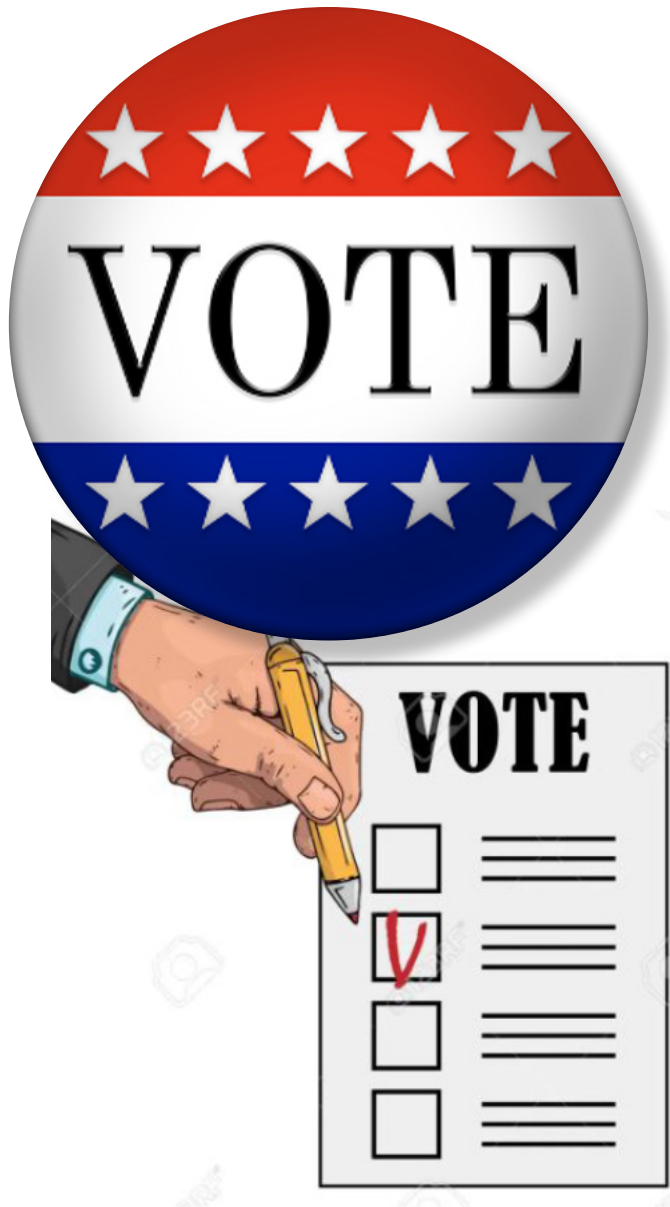
Volume XCIX • Number 6
November 2022

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)

NOVEMBER DOUBLE FEATURE Election of our 2023 Officer Line and Annual Grand Visitation



Brethren – Tuesday, November 8th is a very important date for our country AND our Lodge! It is the date of our all-important National Mid-Term Elections as well as the day that we will choose the line of Officers who will be responsible for all the decisions concerning our Lodge for the ensuing Masonic Year. Every citizen has an obligation to cast their votes for State Governors; Representatives; and Senators. It is your Civic Duty to vote in the National Elections. In a like manner, it is your Masonic Duty to vote for your Lodge Officers. So –November 8th is a day of obligation to us both as Citizens and Masons.

Members who attend will enjoy a pre-meeting dinner; the privilege to vote; and the impressive Pomp & Circumstance of having the Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia pay us his Annual Visitation accompanied by Officers of the Grand Lodge. This is always an impressive Masonic ceremony to behold.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm for those who remember to RSVP, and the Meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Simply email secretary@sgbf45.org to be sure you can enjoy the dinner, and make your plans to be in attendance for the election and visitation. Any member wishing to run for a position in the Officer Line is invited to notify the Secretary by November 5th. The dress code for members is coat and tie, while Officers will be clad in tuxedo.

We will also be receiving a new petition for affiliation and some important Grand Lodge communications. So ---
SEE YOU THERE!

IT IS YOUR CIVIC AND MASONIC DUTY TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8TH

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

estherjacobsutor@yahoo.com

The following Brethren or family members at home:

Jules Tepper, PM, PGM

16440 Keats Terrace

Derwood, MD 20855

(301) 980-7264

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

Riderwood Village

Silver Spring, MD 20906

301-273-9882

Alan Karpas (301) 767-5905

***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

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

Edward Hinkle

Born: 04/10/1930

EA: 02/14/1956

FC: 03/13/1956

MM: 04/24/1956

Passed: 10/18/2022

Robert W. Husemann, PM

Born: 05/24/1931

EA: 09/11/1984

FC: 10/09/1984

MM: 11/13/1984

Passed: 10/14/2022



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Giving back to your community is one of the most rewarding things you can do. At JSSA, we have many opportunities for you to help your neighbors manage life's consequential moments.

Brethren, as you know we partner with JSSA several times a year to help with Holiday Food Baskets.

You may donate directly to JSSA and specify holiday baskets to support their food assistance.

<https://www.jssa.org/get-involved/donate/>

View From the East

W.B. Jerry Kielsohn, P.M.



The Worshipful Master is supposed to impart Light (wisdom/knowledge) to the Brethren. This month I am going to try something a little different. In the past, I have written about my Masonic journey. Often highlighting times when I got the opportunity to do something new. Those opportunities--(the new ones, at least) have become rarer, but occasionally still happen.

My son William keeps a "bucket list" of things he would like to do or accomplish. He often has on the list a visit to some place of true Americana. Which is how the entire family ended up in Roswell, New Mexico several years ago. This is not about that trip. The desire to visit Americana runs strong in my kids. I am sure many of you have seen the picture of my daughter in the October 2021 Bulletin at the Cadillac Ranch (hedge) outside Amarillo, Texas.

Several weeks ago, Willie and I set out early one morning to cross one of the items off his list. The

Ouija board!

While the Jewish custom is to leave a stone on the grave marker when visiting, Brother Bond's had lots of small crystals, coins, and other odd small objects on it.

After taking the requisite pictures and the weather being nice, we decided to explore some more of the cemetery.

This cemetery has the most eclectic group of monuments and markers I have ever seen. The cemetery pre-dates the Civil war and we saw markers with dates right up to the present. We saw all sizes. Some were so small that they had just initials on them. To ones that were small family mausoleums. Some of the stones were so worn with age that they were unreadable. While others over 150 years old were easily readable.

As we wandered around, it occurred to me that I had not seen a single marker with any Masonic emblem or symbol on it. And just as I was about to mention that to William, he spotted several of them with the Square and Compasses on them.

We continued to walk around and came upon a very large monument, at least 8 feet tall. It was square and while part of it was shaped as an obelisk, it had four small panels one on each side. Carved in the panels were a Square and Compasses, the Scottish Rite emblem, and a crown with a cross, which is used by several religions as well as the York Rite of Masonry.

While further walking around, we also spotted another large monument with a six-pointed star on the very top. So, we walked over to it. It turns out that this one is for Brother George W. Starr. It was erected in his honor by the Boumi Shriners of Maryland. This brother was a Past

Potentate of the Boumi Temple. I did a little research, and he was the Potentate from 1892 to 1898. As he passed in 1898, it appears he died while he was in office, which probably explains the large monument in his honor, 123 years ago.

We had an interesting day exploring the rest of the cemetery.

To close on a much brighter note, here is the quote for the month

"Death is nature's way of saying, 'Your table is ready'"
- Robin Williams

Jerry



item, - visiting the grave of Elijah Jefferson Bond.

Brother Bond (January 23, 1847 – April 14, 1921) was a Maryland native. He served in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. He worked as a lawyer in Baltimore having graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law. He is interred at Baltimore's Green Mount Cemetery, the destination for our trip.

Why the interest in visiting Brother Bond's grave? - Brother Bond is best remembered for patenting the Ouija board. The real reason for visiting- is to see the back side of Elijah Bond's grave marker which is a

The Feast of Tishri

Burt Levy, P.M.

Many of our brethren are members of the Scottish Rite. Those who are had an opportunity to attend the annual Feast of Tishri event on October 11th. Of all the Masonic “appendant bodies” the “Rite” is my most cherished affiliation. It just seems that everything they do has a measure of classiness about it. There’s the impressive Temple on 16th Street, N.W. and the magnificent stairway leading to the marbled entrance lobby (all of which are stunning architecture). Other “classy” features members appreciate include the valet parking; frequent catered meals; and well-planned meetings. The meetings are always interesting and are usually limited to just one hour. The annual Feast of Tishri is always one of the most special events.

The Rite celebrates the Feast of Tishri to commemorate the completion of King Solomon’s Temple which occurred during the harvest holiday of Sukkot and the celebratory Feast of the Tabernacle held during the Hebrew month of Tishri. The feast is and was a sharing of our Fraternal spirit. The legacy of the dedication of the Temple is an essential part of the Fourteenth Degree. This year’s speaker was Illustrious Brother Matt Szramoski, 33° who’s subject was “Have You Chosen to be Thankful?”

Members of the ‘Rite’ enjoy unity with the greater Masonic Fraternity and an increased knowledge of Masonry in general. Anyone who would like to inquire about membership in the ‘Rite’ can contact me at:
Burt753@rcn.com



Those who attended this year are pictured above and include:

Back Row:

R.W.B. Michael Greenwald, P.M., Burt Levy, P.M., Allen Levy, Sr. Wdn., M.W.B. Robert Starr, P.G.M., Bro. William Kielsohn

Front Row:

Raymond Horn, P.M., R.W.B. Sheldon Rappeport, P.M., Robert Greenwald, P.M., and W.B. Jerry Kielsohn, P.M.



SUKKOT GOING UP.... SUKKOT COMING DOWN!

By Jeff Greenwald

A heartfelt thanks from Makom (formerly Jewish Foundation for Group Homes) for our help in constructing Sukkot at 3 Group Homes in the Silver Spring area on Sunday, October 9th. The pictures demonstrate the joy that we felt in doing this task, but the joy of the residents was even more remarkable. In a few short hours, the task was done, interspersed with fresh donuts of course (because how can we have a function without food!). At the conclusion of our work and donuts, WM Jerry Keilsohn was able to present David Torchinsky, PM with his 30 Year Anniversary Award as WB Torchinsky was not able to attend our September Meeting.

Attending the Construction: David Torchinsky, PM and his daughter Shira, Burt Levy, PM, WB Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Jeff Greenwald, Raymond Horn, PM and his son David.

Then 2 weeks later, we were tasked to deconstruct the Sukkot. Again, we came together to accomplish

the task. The Jewish Living Coordinator at Makom was impressed with our willingness and fortitude in helping to create a wonderful holiday feeling for disabled members of our community.

Attending the Deconstruction: David Torchinsky, PM, Burt Levy, PM, WB Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Jeff Greenwald, Hal Henig, Raymond Horn, PM and his son David.

This community service is one of many volunteer opportunities that demonstrate the devotion of SGBF#45 to the principal tenets of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth!

Our next volunteer event is our signature event of the year; the Annual William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Basket Project. Looking forward to seeing many of you help out for this worthy project on Sunday, November 20th and Wednesday November 23rd. Look out for e-mails with more details closer to the event.



David Torchinsky, PM, WM Jerry Keilsohn The Construction Crew



David Torchinsky, PM and Shira



The Deconstruction Crew

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin



Jeff Greenwald, and David Horn



WM Jerry Keilsohn



Vet's Corner
by Robert Greenwald, PM

Social Security Fund Depletion

Good News, if only Temporary

Three cheers for Virginia for us. Let's hope they do not change or reduce this.

S.4223 | Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-KS) have introduced the **Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022** to increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and military survivors under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Chairman Tester said, "When it comes to our nation's veterans and their families, we've got to see to it that they don't fall back on hard times. Our bipartisan bill will ensure their benefits are keeping pace with the changing economy—providing these folks with the support they need and earned." Ranking Member Moran said, "We have a responsibility to take care of our veterans, many of whom rely on VA for financial support. As rampant inflation is driving up the cost of living, this legislation helps makes certain veterans are able to keep up with our changing economy and receive the benefits they have been promised."

The Senators' bill would increase certain VA benefits including disability and dependent compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children to reflect increases in the cost of living. The cost of living adjustment will be determined by the annual COLA adjustment to social security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration, and would go into effect Dec. 1, 2022. The Social Security Administration bases their annual COLA adjustment on the Consumer Price Index, as determined each December by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 **NOVEMBER** dates shown. Be sure to wish them well on that day.

Paul C. Cohen 3	Jerry M. Robbin 11	Jeffrey R. Greenwald 16	Aaron S. Teitel 23
Jay A. Torchinsky 4	Joseph P. Gibson, Sr. 14	Zalmon J. Chelec 20	Howard L. Blum 30
Allen R. Levy 6	Jules V. Fink 15	Chester N. Katz 20	
Erik F. Milman 8	Jerome Barry 16	John F. Buchanan 22	



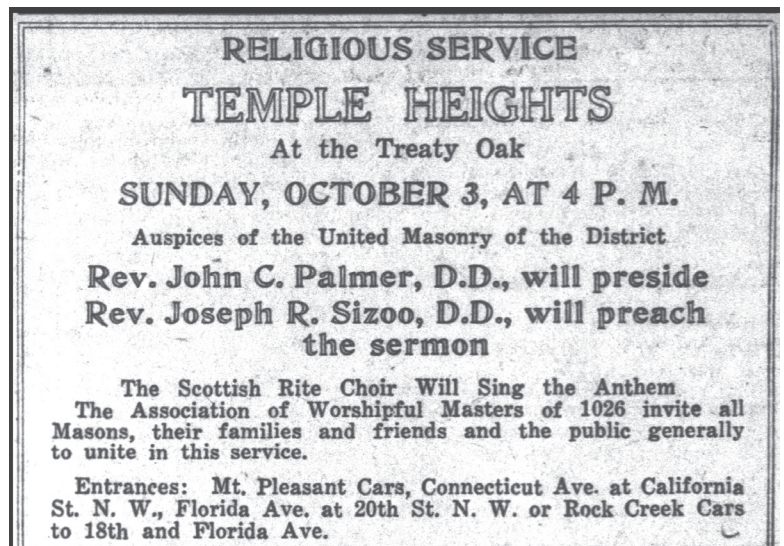
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

By Joshua L. Rubin, PM

When I received a message from the Secretary asking officers and Past Masters to begin collecting items to help mark the upcoming centennial of our Lodge, I (as the lodge historian) began to wonder what I could write about that would be meaningful to our brethren but also representative of our Lodge history. I'm hoping to publish a column periodically between now and January 2026 when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our lodge receiving its charter from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. I intend to have that column focus on the high points of our lodge history. And where better to begin than the beginning? In 1926, the year in which we received our charter, our brethren participated in a list of activities that might have been ripped from our 2022 highlights. There was, of course charity work and educational programming; degrees were presented; men were initiated, passed, and raised; the secretary chased after members to pay their dues. But these are things we have come to expect of Masonic organizations, traditionally since at least 1717. It is instead the various leisure activities that caught my eye as I was going through the 1926 bulletins and minutes. In 1926 alone Samuel Gompers Lodge #45 either sponsored or participated in social activities that seem very familiar. I'm sure many of us have participated in some of these events ourselves since joining the Craft. I know I have!

- The Fellowcraft Club, long the "social arm" of the lodge, was initially founded in 1926, alongside the lodge itself.
- In addition to existing for socialization, the Fellowcraft Club was also the home of a traveling degree team, conferring degrees not only in our Lodge but also in lodges around the Grand Jurisdiction.
- A Masonic Bowling League existed in the 1920s, and Samuel Gompers Lodge #45 was highly ranked in its first year as a team.
- Many brethren attended a baseball game; tickets were sold to benefit the Masonic & Eastern Star Home (MESH). I thought, at first, that it might have been a Washington Senators game. However, on the date given (June 19, 1926), the Senators were in St. Louis, losing a game to the Browns 9-4. Later in the record, that date is referred to as the Masonic and Eastern Star Field Day. It may not have been pro ball, but I'm sure a good time was had by all.
- Masonic services were held on a Sunday morning in a non-denominational format (see attached newspaper clipping from the Washington Times, October 2, 1926, about the service to be held the following day.) According to our Secretary's records, President Calvin Coolidge and Vice President Charles Dawes were expected to attend, despite neither being Freemasons.

There were also mentions of a ladies' night being planned, but I couldn't find any details on it in 1926's records... and I haven't thoroughly searched 1927 yet!



Any brother who has a specific event from our lodge past that they would like to see in our Bulletin once again should contact me at jrubin@srgb45.org. Just give me the name of the event and the approximate year that it took place. Who knows? Maybe you'll see it in the *Bulletin* again!



Jingle Bell Run

BE THERE WITH BELLS ON!

National Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor:

Ring in the holiday season and join the Arthritis Foundation for this year's Jingle Bell Run - the most fun and festive race around town!

The original festive race for charity is only a couple months away. And now is a great time to sign up and start planning to jingle all the way to a cure.

Together, let's champion arthritis research and life-changing resources for the nearly 60 million Americans (including 300,000 kids) living with arthritis. Register today and get your jingle back on. The arthritis community nationwide is counting on your support.

2022 Jingle Bell Run - Montgomery County, MD on 12/11/2022 at Maryland SoccerPlex starting at 8:00 am.

REGISTER NOW! <https://events.arthritis.org/team/laurasarmy2022>

The Arthritis Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Update on the Platelet Supply

You may have heard: There's a platelet shortage and it's relentless. Doctors across the country have been forced to make tough decisions regarding medical treatments. We're grateful to every single donor who has rolled up their sleeves to help. As 2022 winds down, donations have dropped even further. Each day is a delicate balance to meet patient needs. **Your next donation is critically important.**

Give Platelets

This year, hospital demand for platelets has continued to grow. Many patients have resumed medical care long-postponed throughout the earliest years of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the number of platelet donations each week has not kept up with increased patient needs.

Help Ensure Care Remains Available. Give Platelets.

Less than 1% of eligible Americans give platelets. You're one of the few – a special group of heroes for hospital patients across the country. **They need your help again now.**

Will you make an appointment to ensure there are platelets ready for patients?

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Historian Joshua L. Rubin, jrubin818@gmail.com. 240-277-5355
Tiler Hal Henig, tiler@sgbf45.org. 301-681-3873
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St. John's Mite Association chaplain@sgbf45.org

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Refreshment. J.S., S.S.
Relief W.M., S.W., J.W.
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Derek R. Gould, 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. 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
November	8	Stated Communication – Elections, 7:30 pm	Masons Only
	19	William Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program, Basket Making, 6:00 pm Safeway Kensington, MD	Masons, Family, Friends
	20	Basket Distribution, Kensington Masonic Center, 8:00 am	Masons, Family, Friends
	21	Meetup, 7:00 pm	Masons and Guests
	23	Distribution of hot meals, meet at 12:00 pm	Masons, Family, Friends

Date		Event	Open to
December	11	Stated Communication, Installation of new Officers	Masons Family and Friends