

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



and December, (second Sunday)

Volume C • Number 1 January 2023

JANUARY STATED COMMUNICATION A WALK DOWN MEMORY Lane – Celebrating Masonry in Washington D.C. in the 1960s

Meets Second Tuesday of each month except July and August (no meeting),

Join your Brethren in welcoming our new WM Allen Levy when he hosts his first meeting of the new Masonic Year.

When: Tuesday, January 10th Where: Takoma Masonic Center Dinner: 6:30 pm; Meeting: 7:30 pm

The program will feature our most senior Past Master, Allen J. Wright, M.A., G.L.F.M. who will give us insight into Samuel Gompers Lodge and Masonry in general , at its most popular period. If you remember our discussion from the authors of *The Idiot's Guide to Masonry* and *The Dummy's Guide to Masonry*, the 50's and 60's were the height of membership in fraternal organizations. Many of our current brethren find it fascinating how incredibly popular Masonry was back then when our own Lodge's membership topped 1500.

With photos and narration, we can discuss the differences between that time and now and learn why that is.

This will certainly be a memorable meeting. Please RSVP to: secretary@sgbf45.org or respond to the Evite when you receive it.





Officers of Samuel Gompers Lodge, No. 45 - 1963

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



Light From the East

WM Allen Levy



My earliest memories of Samuel Gompers -Benjamin Franklin Lodge revolves around the annual Labor Day Picnic. My grandfather was a Brother of the lodge, and the whole extended family would attend.

My grandmother, father, sister, aunt, uncle, and cousins would all come. We enjoyed the food, but I mostly remember someone from the lodge bringing a moped and allowing children to take turns driving it. As a young child, any motorized vehicle I could operate was a thrill.

When my grandfather passed away, we still went, and even though he was gone, we were still welcomed.

A couple of years later, my father became a Mason. As he progressed through the officers' line, I decided to become a Mason as well during the year he was a Worshipful Master.

I was 29 years old at the time, and I was living in Virginia and busy with work, and didn't even have a car, so it was difficult to be active in the Lodge. I always thought that one day there would be a point in my life when things would calm down and I would be able to participate more.

Then I would be able to get in the officers' line and perhaps become the Worshipful Master of the lodge. That day never came.

I now know that day is now, but when I say, "that day never came", I mean that life never calms down.

27 years have passed since being raised, and I now realize that life never calms down. And due to that realization, when Brother Michael Greenwald encouraged me to be more active in the lodge and get in line while my father was in line again, I did it. I always thought it would be much later, but here we are.

I'll wrap up this Light from the East with what I appreciate most about Masonry. It's something that my father told me even before I was initiated. He said that even though there is strife and war, still to this day, in the world around us, even though our country is divided politically, when you are a Mason, inside the Lodge, the men you might have differences with are still your brothers. There is no hate or prejudice in the Lodge room when you are among brothers. He said that as a Mason, you could go to a country that doesn't have a favorable view of the United States and visit a Masonic Lodge and you would be accepted as a brother. I wouldn't test that in a country like, say Iran or Russia, but in theory, that is part of the Masonic code.

And that always stuck with me. Growing up I dealt with prejudice and hate from people, and the idea of a place where that doesn't exist is very comforting. And I try to maintain that as a Mason even outside the walls of the Lodge, and that, to me, is what Masonry is all about.

2022 William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program

Much appreciation to all who were involved in the extremely successful 2022 William Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program, sponsored by the Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin #45 Masonic Lodge with the help of JSSA.

All in all, we were able to get Thanksgiving meals to 158 families. This includes 103 baskets that included frozen turkeys and multiple Thanksgiving staples (potatoes, yams, stuffing, cranberry sauce, etc), purchased from the Kensington Safeway, then assembled at the Kensington Masonic Lodge on Sunday, November 20th. These were distributed by JSSA Volunteers to 68 JSSA client families. 35 more baskets were distributed to the DC Charter School that we have affiliated with over the past several years.

The last 55 baskets were uncooked turkey meals that were purchased at Costco and distributed on Wednesday, November 23rd to JSSA client families by a host of dedicated volunteers.

All baskets included a pumpkin loaf baked with love by the Sunflower Bakery.

Everyone involved should be proud of their accomplishments to make Thanksgiving a hearty feast for those needy families.

Thank you.

Jeff Greenwald Program Coordinator SGBF45

Special Thank You from JSSA's Clients

I have heard from several clients who received Thanksgiving baskets yesterday. They were very-very grateful to the volunteers who delivered food baskets for the holiday.

One client mentioned that they enjoyed the thoughtful organization of the items in the baskets. One client was really touched by the volunteer's son who helped bring the food to her apartment and by children's artwork that was included in the basket.

Thank you for bringing smiles to the clients' faces and brightening their holiday!

Thank you! Liza



Robert H. Starr, PGM, JD Jeffrey Greenwald, WB David Torchinsky



The assembled volunteers



Michael Greenwld, PM

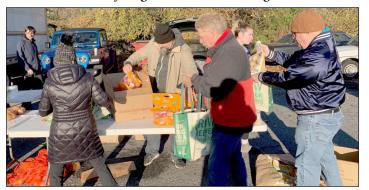


JW Aaron Kamerer Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin



The earliest morning volunteers with our Safeway Partners who assisted us in filling our order and loading our truck











Pictures of our **Ready – to – Cook meals** that were delivered on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving

Special thank you to RWB Michael Greenwald who just happened to have 11 refrigerators that could be used to store the meals for a day prior to being delivered





used to store the meals



Bro. Keven Stemp loading the Ready Meals Bro. Keven Stemp among the refrigerators Lots and Lots of Ready Meals ready to be delivered



Attending the Past Master's Degree were Worshipful Brothers: Sheldon Rappeport, Raymond Horn, Robert Greenwald, Michael Greenwald, Burt Levy, Randall Schoch, Allen Wright, Harold Grainger, Jerry Keilsohn, Erik Milman and SW Allen Levy.

WM ELECT – ALLEN LEVY RECEIVED HIS PAST MASTERS' DEGREE

On November 20th, and in accordance with the Grand Lodge Code, the Past Masters of our Lodge conferred upon our Worshipful Master Elect the Past Master's Degree. Our Grand Lodge Code reads:

SEC. 2003.04 - Additional Master Qualifications: Ceremonial Requirement

(Passed at the Semi-Annual Communication, May 8, 2019) No Master-elect shall be installed Master of a Lodge unless he shall have had conferred upon him the Past Masters' Degree. The Past Masters' Degree may be conferred in a Royal Arch Chapter, or in a Lodge of Actual Past Masters.

The Past Masters' Degree may be conferred in a Lodge of Actual Past Masters on any Brother expecting to be installed as Worshipful Master in the ensuing Masonic year.



WM – Elect Allen Levy and his father, WB Burt Levy

Happy Birthday The following Brethren observe their birthdays on the JANUARY dates shown. Be sure to wish them well on that day. Arik Shalom Michael J. Rinis PM 13 Stanley M. Albert 16 Daniel J. Stein 21 David S. Rosenblatt 5 Martin M Simon 15 Stuart J. Levin 16 Moritz A Cohen, Jr. 28



JD Ryan Simon



JW Aaron Kamerer



WB Burt Levy congratulating his son, WM Allen Levy on becoming Master of our Lodge



WB Burt Levy presenting WM Allen Levy with the Lodge Charter to Read



SW Derek Gould and WB Jerry Keilsohn



WB Jerry Keilsohn delivering his final remarks and WB Sheldon Rappeport



WB Jerry Keilsohn presenting his out-going officer line with a special gift, A Mason Jar containing M&M's with the Square and Compass imprinted on them. From Left to Right: WB Burt Levy, WB Raymond Horn, JD Ryan Simon, SW Derek Gould, Tyler Hal Henig, SD Jeffrey Greenwald, WM Allen Levy and JW Aaron Kamerer.



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

By Joshua L. Rubin, PM, Lodge Historian **January 2023: DELETE!**

One of the things I get sincere enjoyment from while looking through our archives is seeing how much things have changed... and how much things have stayed the same. The unofficial motto of Freemasonry is that we take good men and we make them better; in other words, we are still human. We err. Sometimes these are major errors that require sincere contrition between us as men. This article

is not about those kinds of mistakes; instead, I want to focus on the little mistakes-the ones that require an eraser or delete key, not the bearing of one's soul.

Having grown up in the 1980s and 1990s as the son of a computer programmer, I have had a computer in my home for as long as I can remember. I'm therefore fascinated by people my age or older who didn't get their first PC until the early- or mid-90s. I remember discovering my mother's typewriter that she had used in high school and college and being fascinated at the distinct lack of a delete button! That was when I learned about the miracle fluid: White-Out. (OK, that's technically a lie, because I had known about it for a few years at that point, thanks to the insistence of so many of my middle school and high school teachers that I use a pen on all of my assignments.)

So, how did our typewriter-encumbered secretaries handle mistakes in the pre-correction fluid era? I'm sure that there were many typed pages that found their way into the trash, but the records that were actually left behind in the official records of our Lodge tell a slightly different story... simple strikethroughs

Michael Hurwitz	branch manager, 6004 - 3rd St., N. W.
David Petrushansky.	morohant, 2515 - 14th St., N. W.
Harry Wittenberg,	monchant 220 pl - 14th St., No W.
Loo Braver.	merchant, 329 Rhode Island Ave., N. E.
	S. Special Police, 4015 Georgia Ave., N. W.

or even hand-written messages of the word "delete" were left to correct the record.

The following Brethren were duly nominated and elected as Trustees of the

proposed lodge in the order named.

Brother Sam Bauman for three years.

Delet Brother Adolph Krechel for two years.

Brother I. Levinson for one year.

(By now, I'm sure the brethren reading this who were born before, say, 1975 are chuckling to themselves about how the young whippersnapper writing this is so cute to marvel at the days before Computers. To that, I remind you: there are men who are old enough to join our lodge who do not remember a time before cell phones-and likely many that don't remember the time before smartphones. My middle school students certainly don't remember the days before smartphones, and that, my brethren, is terrifying.)

I'm definitely thankful for my backspace and delete buttons, both of which have gotten some good use as I have been writing this article. It does make me wonder, though, how our ancient operative brethren fared when they realized they had been cutting in the wrong place!

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

DACT MACTEDO

			PAST	MASTE	RS		
1926	Henry Gompers*	1951	Lester Goldberg*	1969	Milton Korn*	1989	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA
1927	Maurice Blum*		E. H. Chayt*		Irwin T. Rosenblatt*		DSM, GL-E
1928	Samuel Feldman*	1952	Arthur Zinnamon*	1970	Robert F. Goldberg*	1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM
1929	A. Ken Armstrong*		Paul Hyman*		Elliott M. Kessler*	1991	Robert W. Husemann
1930	I. Albert Peake*	1953	Irving Schwartz*	1971	Harry L. Levin*	1992	Robert Haber*
1931	Louis J. Raebach*		Samuel Levine*		Nathan Leiderman*	1993	Michael Niddam*
1932	Louis Goldberg*	1954	Robert H. Silberg*	1972	Morris Gevinson*	1994	Joseph N. Snyder
1933	A. D. Abrams*		L. L. Litvinsky*		George G. Jaffe*	1995	Burt Levy
1934	M. A. Goldberg*	1955	Hyman Sandler*	1973	Howard H. Ziegler*	1996	Michael Simon*
1935	Myer C. Rosendorf*		L. N. Palder*		Joseph Sagal*	1997	Adam Forman
1936	Alfred L. Bennett*	1956	Joseph R. Berger*	1974	Aaron S. Teitel	1998	Robert Hixon*
1937	Milton D. Korman, PGM*		N. Norman Engleberg,		Donald M. Stein	1999	Albert Hemmerdinger*
	Joseph Fromberg*		PGM*	1975	L. Paul Cornell*	2000	William D. Boker*
1938	Joseph Hurwitz*	1957	Eugene J. Hellman*		Robert P. Reid*	2001	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA
	A. H. Ostrow*		E. S. Chayt*	1976	Theodore M. Kahn, PGM*		DSM, GL-E
1939	Jacob Sandler*	1958	Morton H. Oppenheim*		Harry Korb, DSA*	2002	Jeffrey Sherman†
	L. T. Johnson*		S. M. Goldstein, DSA*	1977	Jaison I. Green*	2003	Jeffrey Sherman†
1940	Frank Paley*	1959	Morris Silberman*		Ernest Gold*	2004	William D. Boker*
	B. M. Klevit*		Murray L. Wolfe, DSA*	1978	Richard A. Levine*	2005	Stanley Jordan*
1941	Saul G. Lichtenberg*	1960	Jerome W. Golomb*		Morris I. Apple*	2006	Jerrold Gordon, MA, LFM*
	Abe Coonin*		Milton Fields, DSM*	1979	Michael J. Rinis	2007	Merriman F.C. Parkinson*
1942	Harry A. Oliker*	1961	Benjamin Schendell*		Jerome E. Bauman, MA	2008	William J. O'Brien*
	I. P. Bauman*		David Goldberg*		Lodge Fidelity Medal	2009	Jonathan M. Binstock
1943	Samuel B. Block*	1962	Arnold S. White*	1980	Max Beloff*	2010	David B. Torchinsky
	D. E. Snyder*		Arthur Sprintzin, DSA*		Gold Fidelity Medal	2011	Joshua L. Rubin
1944	Michael J. Cohen*	1963	Allen J. Wright, MA		Burton Penn	2012	Erik F. Milman
	W. D. Newrath*		Gold Fidelity Medal	1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM	2013	Erik F. Milman
1945	Bernard Barzune*		M. L. Greenberg, DSA*		Joel Shulman	2014	Adam Forman
	M. A. Ostrow*	1964	Jerome L. Saidman*	1982	Walter F. Simon, DSM,	2015	Randy A. Schoch
1946	Matthew Tepper*		Abe Sperling, DSA*		GC-E*	2016	Leonard Rubin
	L. C. Silverman*	1965	Joseph E. Hein *		Harold Levy*	2017	Michael K. Greenwald
1947	Bernard Easterson*		Harold Levy*	1983	Julien P. Hofberg	2018	Raymond E. Horn
	S. S. Kaltz*	1966	William D. Boker*		Harold Levy*	2019	Robert Greenwald
1948	Irvin J. Footer*		I. M. Engel*	1984	Edwin S. Nachlas	2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn
	D. C. Buchalter, DSA*	1967	Robert A. Frank*	1985	Norman Barshai*	2021	Burton S. Levy
1949	Saul Weiss*		Philip L. Silver*	1986	Donald S. Jacobs*	2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn
	H. R. Wittenberg*	1968	Arthur J. Rappeport*	1987	I. Rocky Rachlin*		
1950	Sigmund Ades*		Harvey I. Chidel*	1988	Ronald L. Forman*		
	C. M. Pascal*						

- HONORARY R. A. Bogley, Sr., P.G.M.*, 1914; I. Rosenthal, D.S.M.*, 1932; J. Lann*, 1940; Renah F. Camalier, P.G.M.*, 1952; George W. Feidt*; Stafford Appel, D.S.M.*, 1962; W. H. Rohrman, P.G.M.*, 1958; J. A. Johnson, Jr., P.G.M.*, 1960; C. B. Gilley, P.G.M.*, 1963; N. Norman Engleberg, P.G.M.*, 1972; Frank A. Kenyon, P.G.M.*, 1973; William E. Eccleston, P.G.M.*, 1975; Charles V. Brewer, P.G.M.*, 1977; Perry A. Lester, P.G.M.*, 1980; Elmer F. Stein, P.G.M.*, 1982; Donald Mallorey, P.G.M., 1983; William Miskovic, P.G.M.*, 1986; Charles S. Iversen, P.G.M.*, 1990; George R. Adams, P.G.M., 1993; Harold Grainger, D.S.M., 1995; Jerold J. Samet, P.G.M.*, 1996, Roman Volsky, PGM, 2018, Jean-Paul Dongmo, Sr.
- AFFILIATED A. D. Abrams*, 1937; Louis H. Lowenstein*, 1940; Edmund L. Oppenheim*, 1953; Melvin Mancher*, 1955; George Cambetes*, 1956; Alexander Teitz*, 1956; Harold Brenner*, 1957; R. B. Harris*, 1957; Albert B. Hemmerdinger*, 1958; Milton S. Fields*, D.S.M., 1960; Baird Michelson*, 1960; John Greenwood*, D.S.M., 1961, 1984; Louis Mesmer*, 1961; William M. Oppenheim*, 1961; Eugene N. Reiser*, 1964; Benjamin Nacht*, 1967; David B. Feder*, 1972; Alex Tobey*, 1973, 1981; Stanley Feder*, 1974, 1984; Blair Lewis*, 1979; Randall A. Schoch, 1979; Dan L Frederick*, 1987, P.G.M.; Raymond Friedman*, 1989, 1992; Alan D. Friedman, 1993; Merriman F.C. Parkinson*, 1994; Moe Lawrence Aitel*, 1995; J. Kenneth Gibala†, 1997; William J. O'Brien*, 1997; Jerold Coffee, 1998; Harold W. Snider*, 2003, 2006; Nathan A. Lewis, 2003; Adam Tager†, 2017.

^{* -} Deceased

^{+ -} Demitted

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

1970 1971	Sam Rodis* Sam Berger*	1983 1984	Eli Berkowitz* David Shapiro*
1972 1973	Ted Rothman* Ted Zinnamon*	1985 1988	Fred Gordon* Phil Berg*
1973	George Zillig, DSM*	1988	Max Smith*
1975	Erich Frank*	1993	Jerrold Gordon, PM*
1976	Jeffrey Rothman*	1999	Frank Gantz*
1977	Stanley Schecter*	2000	Milton VanGrack*
1978	Howard Kouzel*	2017	Allen Wright, PM
1979	Harry Hofberg*	2018	Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM
1980	Benjamin Davis*		DSM
1981	Benjamin Rinis*	2019	Jerome M. Bauman, PM
1982	Arthur Rubinstein*	2022	Jeffrey Greenwald

LODGE SILVER FIDELITY MEDAL

Peter Frank, 2022 Jerome E. Bauman, MA, 2021 Jerrold Gordon, MA*, 2014 Max Beloff, PM*, 2000 Harry Silverstone*, 1988

William P. Jacobs*, 1938

GRAND LODGE GOLD FIDELITY MEDAL

Allen J. Wright, MA, 2021 Max Beloff, PM, 2006 Harry Silverstone, DSA

GRAND LODGE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Walter F. Simon* Sheldon I. Rappeport

PAST GRAND MASTERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Milton D. Korman*, 1969 N. Norman Engleberg*, 1972 Theodore M. Kahn*, 1985 Robert H. Starr. 2002

Jules S. Tepper, 2003 Roman Volsky, 2017 Alan L Gordon 2021

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

1960	Louis Cooper*	1971	Leonard Weissmann*
1961	Abe Rosenblatt*	1972	David C. Buchalter, PM*
1962	Jack Hyman*	1973	M.L. Greenberg, PM*
1963	S.M. Goldsteiun, PM*	1976	Murray L. Wolfe, PM*
1965	Henry Salus*	1978	Jack Rosenthal*
1966	Morrís Dworkin*	1980	Jerry Jablow*
1967	Arthur Sprintzin, PM*	1981	Abe Sperling, PM*
1968	Nat Levinson*	1982	Harry Korb, PM*
1969	Harry Silverstone*		-

EMERITUS LODGE OFFICERS

Secretary Emeritus	Walter Simon, PM, DSM Jacob Sandler, PM*
Treasurer Emeritus	Allen J. Wright, PM, MA Max Beloff, PM* Joseph Hurwitz, PM*
Historian Emeritus	
Editor Emeritus	Harry Hofberg, MA*
Chaplain Emeritus Lecturer Emeritus She	

GRAND FREEMASONRY MEDAL OF HONOR

Presented June 7th, 2019 to Brethren who served in WWII on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day

> **David Applestein Daniel Baer*** Moritz A. Cohen Jr. **Raymond Friedman, PM*** Jerrold Gordon, PM* Jack J. Klawans* **Charles H. Marcus*** Norman G. Schikevitz* Herman Zeitchik*

* - Deceased

Our Post Thanksgiving Meet-Up

Hal Henig, Chairman

On Monday Evening November 28, Samuel Gompers Benjamin Franklin Lodge held its Monthly Meet-Up at "Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant. This Restaurant was located not far from Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, Maryland. Our Meet-Up was highly successful, fourteen Brethren and guests attended.

The Brethren that participated were: Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman; WM Jerry Keilsohn, PM; JW Derek Gould;

SD Aaron Kamerer; Secretary Raymond Horn; JD Jeff Greenwald; Chaplain Burt Levy, PM; Dave Torchinsky, PM; Michael Greenwald, PM; Allen Friedman, PM; Brother Willy Keilsohn; Brother Charlie Meyers. The guests that attended were Lee Silverman and Stuart Zitomer.

Hal's wife Lisa Henig, Sharon Zitomer, and Laura Torchinsky held a women's Meet-Up at the same restaurant. Attached is a photo of our November Meet-Up, the Brethren and guests were enjoying each other company.

"Not Your Average Joe's" Meet-Up is the last Lodge Social held, before the New Year. No December Meet-Ups, due to the Jewish Holiday of Chanukkah. I wish all of our Brethren a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.



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GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2024), srappeport@sgbf45.org. 301-598-8379

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St. John's Mite Association	<u>chaplain@sgbf45.org</u>

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Derek R. Gould, <u>dgould@sgbf45.org</u> . 240-938-6285 Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach

2023 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master	Charles Oshinsky
For the Senior Warden	Ryan Simon
For the Junior Warden	Steven Dekelbaum

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 <u>www.sgbf45.org</u>. 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
January	10	Stated Communication, 7:30pm	Masons
	23	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons

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