

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

bulletin

Volume XCVIII • Number 3
March 2023

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)



M A R C H S T A T E D C O M M U N I C A T I O N

Masonry Outside of the Lodge

A Roundtable Discussion

When: **Tuesday, March 14th** Dinner: **6:30 pm**
Where: **Takoma Masonic Center** Meeting: **7:30 pm**

Please join us for a roundtable discussion led by Worshipful Master Allen Levy on the topic of Masonry Outside of the Lodge. If you read this month's Light from the East, you will know that this is a topic that Allen is greatly interested in discussing and he would like to hear from other Brothers to get their perspective on how the teachings of Masonry has influenced their lives outside the walls of the Lodge.

The format of this discussion will be very open and informal to ensure that everyone and anyone will be comfortable with contributing their thoughts. How has Masonry contributed to making you a better man, how have you used something learned from Masonry in your regular life, and what being a Mason means to you.

This will be an enlightening and thought-provoking evening in our brotherhood. Please RSVP to: secretary@sgbf45.org or respond to the Evite when you receive it.

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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Light From the East

WM Allen Levy 2023



I had attended the Grand Lodge Leadership Conference these past two summers in preparation for assuming the East. During last year's conference, I attended a session titled "The Masonic Ethos - A Mirror Into our Souls". It was an interactive session, and we were put into groups and asked to come up with responses to several topics related to Masonry and how it influences a man's character. That session left an impression on me and made me think about how Masonry has influenced my character.

As I mentioned in January's Bulletin, one of the overall aspects of Masonry I most appreciate is the concept that within the walls of a Lodge we are all Brothers, despite any differences we may have. I thought about that concept during that conference session. What about outside the walls of the Lodge?

Brotherhood is one of the main characteristics that

Masonry instills in its members. And I thought about how that characteristic should affect the way Masons conduct themselves outside the Lodge, in the world of the "profane".

In my view, there should be no difference, of course. We should extend Brotherhood to all, not just our Brothers.

As a Mason, this is something I think about a lot, and I want to know what you think. That is why I would like to conduct a roundtable discussion about how we apply what we learn as Masons outside the walls of the Lodge. I hope you'll join us at our next Stated Communication as we dive into this topic. I'm hoping that hearing the perspective of our Brothers will expand our appreciation of these core concepts of Masonry.

Allen

Bernice Leah Dekelbaum

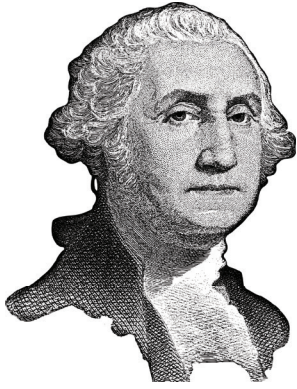
I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge a terrible omission from our recent editions of the Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Bulletin.

Bernice Dekelbaum passed away on December 11, 2022. I want to express the Lodge's condolences and apologize for not recognizing her and her loved ones in the Bulletins issued since her passing, especially our newly appointed Junior Steward Steven Dekelbaum. Bernice was Steve's mother and the wife of Brother Jacob Dekelbaum.

The Dekelbaum immediate and extended family have had a long-standing history and important impact on our lodge. I was particularly moved to learn from Jacob how he knew my grandfather, Morris Levy, and how Masonry has been intertwined in our families for many years.

May Brinnie's memory comfort the Dekelbaum family during this time of mourning.

Allen Levy



The 2023 George Washington Birthday Parade

By Allen Levy

On Monday, February 20, 2023, the city of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia hosted a parade in honor of George Washington's 291st birthday, which included Brothers representing Grand Masonic Lodges from all over the United States, including the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.



(alexandriava.gov Facebook)



It was also a day that the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association celebrated the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the monument that is so prominent in the skyline of Old Town Alexandria. The rededication ceremony included a reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone



(Screen captures from the livestreamed event courtesy of the George Washington National Memorial Association)



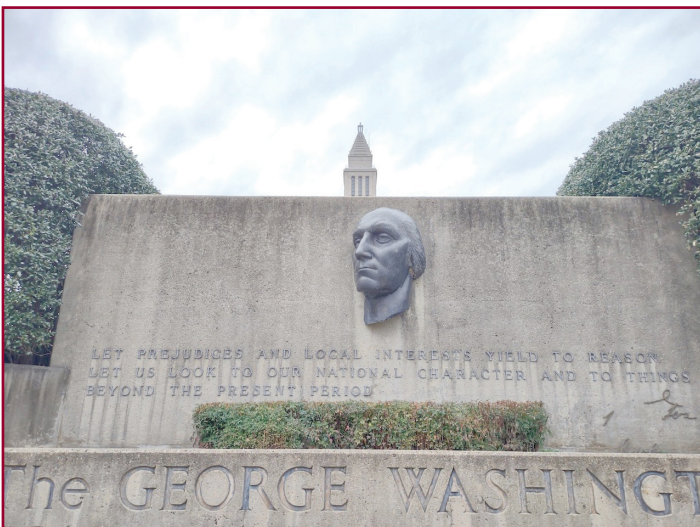
Hal Henig and I were there. This is us at the staging area before the parade



WM Allen Levy with the Standard Bearer



Finally, from the City of Alexandria Facebook page, see if you can find your WM, looking overjoyed to be in my first parade. (I swear I was smiling every moment before this picture was taken) (alexandriava.gov Facebook)



Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin





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	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA DSM, GL-E
1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM
1994	Joseph N. Snyder
1995	Burt Levy
1997	Adam Forman
2001	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA DSM, GL-E
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
2021	Burt Levy
2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn

The Newlywed Game: A Recap

By Allen Levy



For those of you who were not able to attend last month's Stated Communication and Valentine's Day Gala, here is a quick recap of the festivities.

First, we had a lovely Italian dinner provided by our Senior and Junior Wardens, Derek Gould and Aaron Kamerer. The refectory was decorated with candles and festive balloon centerpieces provided by PM Robert Greenwald, and he and his wife Roberta arrived early to set up these decorations.

After dinner, I think we had one of the quickest Stated Communications in recent memory. After hearing my wife Jessica complain in years past about how long she and the other wives have waited for the men to return from the meeting, I wanted to be sure not to upset her on this special day.

Finally, for the first time, we conducted a version of the Newlywed game to commemorate marriage and Valentine's Day. We had four couples volunteer (vol-un-told?) to participate: Leah and Jerry Keilsohn, Charlie and Dawn Meyers, Hal and Lisa Henig, and Howard and Marilyn Politzer.

Sonny Garibay provided the music that was especially appreciated by the ladies as they waited upstairs for us. But more especially Sonny added production values to the game itself with the use of the actual Newlywed Game theme song to open the show. And what a show it was.

As a reminder, the Newlywed Game allows our couples to find out how much they do, or do not, know about each other by asking them to predict their spouses' responses to questions about their relationship.

The flow and fun of the game would not be possible without the amazing work my wife and Executive Producer Jessica Levy did. As she has often said, I always go with the flow, and she is the flow! She did all the preproduction tasks of assembling the contestants and getting their name tags, and then during the show, she recorded the spouses' responses on cards just like on the TV show.

The game was pretty close down to the end with everything hinging on the final 25-point bonus question, which was asked of the wives:

"Ladies, if you and your husband could pick up and live anywhere in the world, where would your husband say that would be?"

Marilyn said Howard would say Hawaii, and Dawn said Charlie would say Florida. Lisa said Hal would say both Florida and Israel, and when we asked her to pick one, she said he would say both, so we made an exception that to get the question correct, Hal had to say both. And finally, Leah said, "where the kids are".

The scores before the bonus round were close: Lisa and Hal with 20 points, both couples Leah and Jerry, and Dawn and Charlie had 25 points, and leading the pack was Marilyn and Howard with 35 points. Answering the bonus question correctly was going to determine our winner.

We first went to Lisa and Hal, and Hal said Fantasy Island! We asked if there was anywhere else, and he did say Florida, but to correctly respond, he had to say both Florida and Israel. Then we asked Jerry, and he responded "on a lake somewhere" to which I said "are the kids living on that lake?" when Leah showed her card.

Charlie instantly said Florida and he and Dawn took the lead with 50 points. It all came down to Howard's response. If he and Marilyn could pick up and live anywhere in the world, it wouldn't be far, just 45 minutes north on Interstate 95, because he responded "Baltimore", which is a long way from Hawaii. That crowned Dawn and Charlie our winners and they received a grand prize selected especially for them: a nice gift basket including a comfy blanket, two bottles of wine, and some Dolce and Bean chocolates.

All the ladies left with a beautiful long-stem rose. I want to thank everyone for helping create such a special and fun evening (especially Jessica!).



The Newlywed Game





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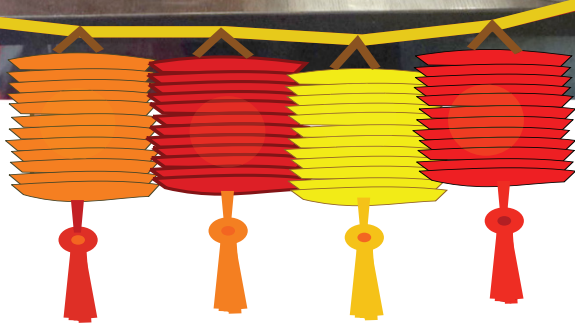
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CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT PF CHANG'S

by Hal Henig



Our January 22nd Meet-Up coincided with the Chinese New Year, so we celebrated the “Year of the Rabbit” by dining at the PF Chang’s restaurant in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Strangely enough, among the dozen who attended – there were three Alan’s and

one Allen: Our Worshipful Master, Allen Levy and his wife Jessica; Past Grand Master, Alan Gordon and his wife Iris; Brother Alan Karpas and his wife Arlene; and Brother Alan Friedman. Also attending were Tiler and meet-up chairman Hal Henig and his wife Lisa; Past Masters Burt Levy and Sheldon Rappeport and potential new member, Phillip Taylor.

The food and camaraderie were very much enjoyed by all who attended – see all the smiling faces in the photo!

Twelve Brethren and guests participated in this dinner social event. Participants were Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, and his wife Lisa, WM Allen Levy, and his wife Jessica, RWB Alan Gordon, PGM, and his wife Iris, Burt Levy, PM, Allen Friedman, PM, Sheldon Rappenport, PM, and Alan Karpas and his wife Arleen.

Phillip Taylor was also another guest that joined us at the Restaurant. Mr. Phillip Taylor is interested in joining our lodge. However, he has recently moved to Pennsylvania.

Happy Birthday

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

Joel A. Van Vollenhoven..... 4
David H. Sadugor..... 6
Steven E. Dekelbaum 8

Alexander Rieser.....15
Robert J. Greenwald20
Ronald Rubin.....20

Ronald L. Fishbein23
Lawrence E. Dekelbaum 25
Jacob S. Garibay.....27

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Worshipful Master Allen R. Levy, wm@sgbf45.org. 703-470-4945
Senior Warden Derek Gould, sw@sgbf45.org. 240-938-6285
Junior Warden Aaron Kamerer, jw@sgbf45.org. 202-510-5181
SecretaryRaymond Horn, secretary@sgbf45.org. 443-253-0605
6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
TreasurerRobert H. Starr, PGM, treasurer@sgbf45.org. 301-460-3088
ChaplainBurt S. Levy, PM, chaplain@sgbf45.org. 202 409-4449
Master-of-Ceremonies ...Robert J. Greenwald, PM, mc@sgbf45.org. 703-624-9085
Senior DeaconJeffrey R. Greenwald, sd@sgbf45.org. 301-869-1915
Junior DeaconRyan A. Simon, jd@sgbf45.org. 240-475-3935
Senior Steward Steven E. Dekelbaum, ss@sgbf45.org. 301-367-3488
Trustees Julien P. Holberg, PM (2023), trustee@sgbf45.org. 301-774-2868
GL-E Sheldon I. Rapoport, PM, DSM, MA, (2024), srapoport@sgbf45.org. 301-598-8379
Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025), jd@sgbf45.org. 301-869-1915

Fidelity Medal Recipient.....Peter H. Frank
HistorianJoshua L. Rubin, jrubin818@gmail.com, 240-277-5355
TilerHal Henig, tiler@sgbf45.org. 301-681-3873
Immediate PMJerry P. Keilsohn, jkeilsohn@sgbf45.org. 301-570-0446

2023 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation.....JGS Michael Greenwald, PM,
mgreenwald@sgbf45.org. 301-272-0168
Masonic & Eastern Star Home Raymond Horn, rhorn@sgbf45.org, 443-253-0605
St. John's Mite AssociationBurt Levy, PM, chaplain@sgbf45.org

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AuditingKevin Stemp, kstemp@sgbf45.org
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock, PM
jbinstock@sgbf45.org. 301-442-4812
Baskets Jeffrey Greenwald, jd@sgbf45.org. 301-869-1915
David B. Torchinsky, PM, dtorchinsky@sgbf45.org. 301-933-1955
Bulletin Committee Raymond Horn, PM, rhorn@sgbf45.org. 443-253-0605
Business Manager Open
By-Laws Robert H. Starr, PGM, rhstarr@sgbf45.org. 301-460-3088
Catechism InstructorsBurt S. Levy, PM, chaplain@sgbf45.org. 202 409-4449
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@sgbf45.org. 301-989-8945
Centennial Planning Aaron Kamerer, jd@sgbf45.org, 202-510-5181
Education and Degree Committee GL-E Sheldon I. Rapoport, PM, DSM, MA
srapoport@sgbf45.org. 301-598-8379

Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation:

Michael Greenwald, PM, mikzak1@yahoo.com
Michael J. Rinis, PM, michaeljr1@aol.com 301-384-8244
Jeffrey R. Greenwald, sd@sgbf45.org.

Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care Allen J. Wright, PM, MA
awright@sgbf45.org. 301-989-8945
Burt S. Levy, PM, 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. 301-681-3873
Technology and Communications Aaron Kamerer
sd@sgbf45.org. 202-510-5181
Derek R. Gould, dgoald@sgbf45.org. 240-938-6285
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach Jeffrey Greenwald

2023 PROXIES

For the Worshipful MasterCharles Oshinsky
For the Senior WardenRyan Simon
For the Junior WardenSteven Dekelbaum



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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
March	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	27	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons

Date		Event	Open to
April	2	JSSA Passover Basket Distribution, The Hebrew Academy, Rockville, MD, 8:00 am	Masons and Friends
	11	Stated Communication, EA Degree, 7:30 pm	EA Masons
	22	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons