



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

bulletin

Takoma Masonic Center
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012

Volume XCVIII • Number 7
September 2023

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

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Honoring our Brethren who have passed to the
Celestial Lodge: 2022 to 2019*

On September 12th, 2023, the Lodge will hold its September Stated Communication and the program will honor the memory of the following brethren who passed away since our last Memorial program. Due to the pandemic and the passing of our Memorial Chairman, WB Walter Simmons, it has been several years since our last Memorial Program.

Following our opening, the Lodge will go to recess, and a presentation will be made, and candles will be lit for each name called. Families who are present will be asked to light a candle for their loved ones. This will be a special memorial event that is open to family and friends and will be fully focused on our brethren who have passed on to the celestial lodge.

A dinner will be served to Brethren and family preceding our Communication on the third-floor dining room.

Brethren who have passed and will be honored:

Richard A. Trencher	Jeffrey Rothman
Jerold Coffee	Jack J.Klawans
Abraham Genderson	Harvey Horwitz
Edward Hinkle	Leonard B.Heller
Yale J. Wiesberg	Harry I. Pomerantz
Maurice Saul Berger, PM	Norman G. Schikevitz
John Raymond Garrison, PM	Charles H. Marcus
Jerome Morris Bauman, PM	Victor A. Obadia
Norman G. Dekelbaum	Stanley Feder, PM
David Applestein	William S. Orlove
RWB Walter Franklin Simon, PM	Solomon A.Danzig,
Raymond Friedman, PM	Ralph P. Silverman
Herman Zeitchik	Morris Gevinson, PM
Jerrold Gordon, PM	Gerald Tolpin
MWB Jerold Jay Samet, PGM	Irving L.Torchinsky
Donald S. Jacobs, PM	Maurice Joseph Curcio
Stuart L. Werner	Sol Aleskow
Morton Allen Davis	Joseph B. Spund



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*

2B1  ASK1

Light From the East

WM Allen Levy 2023



For me, the arrival of September is bittersweet. It marks the end of summer and the realization that it went by too fast. On the other hand, cooler weather is welcome along with the start of the football season. The Commanders look pretty good if the preseason is anything by which to judge (it's not). They broke the Ravens' meaningless preseason winning streak, and it was somehow just as exciting as winning the Super Bowl.

As many of you know, and we have talked about this, September used to have a Masonic significance to me as a young person. As it was the month of the Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge Labor Day picnic. That event truly marked the end of summer for me because the next day was the start of school. (School seems to start so early these days, I never went to school before the Labor Day weekend).

In an effort to bring back a tradition such as the

Labor Day picnic without all the major planning and effort and Grand Lodge Picnic conflict, we started the first (hopefully annual) Worshipful Master's Cookout during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. I think it was a great success and if continued in the future, it might have a different emotional effect: It would mark the beginning of Summer instead of the end.

September also brings about the home stretch of my time in the East. This is a tentative schedule of our upcoming Stated Communication programs that we have planned to give you a heads-up:

- September 12th - Memorial Night
- October 10th - Wardens Night
- November 14th - Election of Officers and Master Mason Degree
- December 10th - Installation of Officers

I am looking forward to this Fall season and finishing out our Masonic year in a strong, positive manner!

Allen

SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M. LIVING PAST MASTERS

1963	Allen J. Wright, MA, Gold Fidelity Medal	1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM	2014	Adam Forman
1974	Aaron S. Teitel	1994	Joseph N. Snyder	2015	Randy A. Schoch
1974	Donald M. Stein	1995	Burt Levy	2016	Leonard Rubin
1979	Michael J. Rinis	1997	Adam Forman	2017	Michael K. Greenwald, SGS
1979	Burton Penn	2001	Sheldon I. Rapoport, MA DSM, GL-E	2018	Raymond E. Horn
1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM	2002-2003	Jeffrey Sherman	2019	Robert Greenwald
1981	Joel Shulman	2009	Jonathan M. Binstock	2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1983	Julien P. Hofberg	2010	David B. Torchinsky	2021	Burt S. Levy, HPSGD
1984	Edwin S. Nachlas	2011	Joshua L. Rubin	2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1989	Sheldon I. Rapoport, MA DSM, GL-E	2012-2013	Erik F. Milman		

WM Memorial Day BBQ!

WM Allen & Jessica Levy opened their home to the Lodge and friends of the Lodge to start a new tradition, in our 98th Year. The Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 - WM Memorial Day BBQ! Brethren, Family, and prospective members were invited to relax together at their home. Our WM manned the grill and Jessica graciously made everyone feel at home. We look forward to attending our second annual WM BBQ!



Fellow Craft Degree Diligently Delivered



On the afternoon of July 30th, we held a Special Communication to provide further light to our new Fellow Craft, Lee Silverman. Our officer line has been practicing during our summer recess and provided a meaningful experience for both the candidate and all who were in attendance.

Following the Degree, the Brethren retired to Bus Boys and Poets to reclaim our status as best-dressed Sunday afternoon guests. Congratulations to our cast for an excellent degree.

Candidate: Lee Silverman

Cast:

WM Jeff Greenwald
SW Derek Gould
JW Aaron Kamerer
SD Ryan Simon
JD Allen Levy
SS Burt Levy, PM
JS Jerry Keilsohn, PM
Sec: Raymond Horn
Trea: open

Lecture: Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM

Charge: Burt Levy, PM



Brethren,

You should now have received both a mailed and an emailed dues notice. The emailed notice will have come directly from the Grand Lodge – Grand View program.

Please pay your dues notice by check or electronic payment by the end of September 2023. Please alert the Secretary to any change of address, phone number, or preferred email. This year we are not increasing our dues.

It will be our 99th year and we are set to have a memorable one! We have an active Lodge with Monthly Communications, Meet-Ups, Social and Community Service event.

Please consider including a contribution to this year's

Dues Notices and Request for *Thanksgiving* Food Basket Donations

William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program. The need of food insecurity does not go away and as we have done in the past, we will partner with JSSA and the Eagle Academy of Washington D.C. to distribute baskets to those in need.

Our September Stated Communication will be held on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, at the Takoma Masonic Center. Please save the date and plan on attending our first meeting of the fall.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Raymond Horn
Secretary
Past Master, 2018
secretary@sgbf45.org



WILL I SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER?

Jeff Greenwald

That's when it all starts again. Volunteer Season.

First up - Rosh Hashanah Baskets on September 10th. That is when our annual partnership with JSSA begins as we help to finalize the contents of over 500 baskets for distribution to the needy in metropolitan DC. A group of us will meet at the JSSA Montrose offices in Rockville and another group at Congregation Ohr Kodesh in Silver Spring at the wee hours of the morning. The addition of fresh Challah and Honey Cake to an already bulging bag will help many in our community celebrate the Jewish New Year. Other volunteers from various synagogues and organizations will then distribute the bags to clients of JSSA.

But this is just the beginning of the season. Two weeks later, our partnership with Makom, formerly known as the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes starts up with the annual Sukkah Build at various group homes in the community.

But yes, there is more...what goes up must come down. . We will follow up our construction project by taking them down when the holiday is over, so they are ready to go the following year.

Obviously, none of this happens without your support. So, consider helping out in any way you can. Then, be on the lookout for the main event in November.....our annual Thanksgiving Basket Program. More information will follow in subsequent bulletins and mass e-mails. See you there!

Please let me know if you will assist with the Baskets on September 10th.

To donate directly to JSSA to assist with their Rosh Hashanah Baskets, go to: <https://www.jssa.org/donate/> then select "Program to Support", and scroll down to select "Holiday Baskets". To donate directly to Makom, go to: <https://www.makomlife.org/donate/ways-to-give/>.

What I did on my summer vacation!



Hal Henig, our Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman along with his wife Lisa had the opportunity to visit Niagara Falls, NY, and visit the famous falls including taking a ride on the Maid of the Mist. Along with their photos of the falls and vistas were these two photos that I could not resist including. No barrels were harmed in the taking of these photographs.

Largest *Meet-Up* Attendance Ever at Parkway Deli

Tiler Hal Henig , Meet-Up Chairman



On Monday Evening July 24, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 had its July Monthly Meet-Up at Parkway Deli. Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig arranged to reserve outside tables for the 21 Brethren and Guests that participated in the Meet-Up. The July Meet-Up was the largest of our gatherings since I have been organizing these social events and there was a great spirit and fellowship as we enjoyed a summer evening.



Brethren that attended were Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, WM Allen Levy, SW Derek Gould, JW Aaron Kamerer, Burt Levy, PM, Julien Hoffberg, PM, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Michael Greenwald, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Alan Gordon, PGM, and Allen Friedman, PM. Our Guests were Stuart Zitomer, Philip Taylor, Greg Hicks, Lisa Henig, Jessica Levy, Laura Torchinsky, Rina Torchinsky, Iris Gordon Sharon Zitomer, and Renie Zitomer.



As you can see in the photos, our Brethren and guests enjoyed eating outdoors during the nice sunny weather. This was the first Meet-Up at Parkway Deli the Lodge has held, since 2019, before the COVID Pandemic.

Happy Birthday

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

Jonathan D. Cohen1
 Steven N. Saidman2
 Elliott B. Prissman.....6
 Richard L. Sugarman.....6

Leslie J. Silverstone8
 Stephen S. Kremer..... 12
 Charles Stopak 14
 Frank Silnicky 20

George R. Adams 23
 Thomas T.Henry..... 25
 Robert H. Starr 28

Annual June *Meet-Up* Mission BBQ



On Monday Evening June 26th, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge held its June Monthly Meet-Up at Mission BBQ located in Rockville, Maryland. Since June 2021, we have made a tradition of holding our late June Meet-Up at this restaurant. Since this is the week before Independence Day on July 4. I organized a Meet-Up at this restaurant to honor the men and women who serve in the US Military, the Police, and Firefighters who place themselves in harm's way to defend the country and our citizens.

Fourteen Brethren and guests attended the June Meet-Up at Mission BBQ. Brethren present were Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, WM Allen Levy, Secretary Raymon Horn, PM, Derek Gould, SW, Aaron Kamera, SD Jeff Greenwald, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Julien Hofberg, PM, Burt Levy, PM, Brother Charlie Meyers, and Brother Steve Dekelbaum. Guests who attended were Lisa Henig, Jessica Levy, Dawn Meyers, and David Horn.

The Brethren and guests always loved the BBQ, and we had a good time. The Meet-Up was held eight days, before the July 4th, Independence Day Holiday. Please find the photo of the Brethren and guests enjoying themselves at the restaurant. Hopefully, everyone was able to celebrate their patriotism by watching the fireworks or participating in either the Mason's Parade in Takoma Park or Washington, DC. Thank the Brethren and guests for attending the Mission BBQ Meet-Up.



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2023 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master Allen R. Levy, 703-470-4945
Senior Warden Derek Gould, 240-938-6285
Junior Warden Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
Secretary Raymond Horn, secretary@srgb45.org, 443-253-0605
6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
Treasurer Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
Chaplain Burt S. Levy, HPSGD, 202 409-4449
Master-of-Ceremonies Robert J. Greenwald, PM, 703-624-9085
Senior Deacon Jeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915
Junior Deacon Ryan A. Simon, 240-475-3935
Senior Steward Steven E. Dekelbaum, 301-367-3488
Trustees Julien P. Holberg, PM (2023), 301-774-2868
GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2024), 301-598-8379
Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025), 301-869-1915

Fidelity Medal Recipient.....Peter H. Frank
Historian Joshua L. Rubin, 240-277-5355
Tiler Hal Henig, 301-681-3873
Immediate PM Jerry P. Keilsohn, 301-570-0446

2023 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation.....JGS Michael Greenwald, PM, 301-272-0168
Masonic & Eastern Star Home Raymond Horn, 443-253-0605
St. John's Mite Association Burt Levy, PM

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Auditing Kevin Stemp
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock, PM
301-442-4812
Baskets Jeffrey Greenwald, 301-869-1915
David B. Torchinsky, PM, 301-933-1955
Bulletin Committee Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0605
Business Manager Open
By-Laws Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
Catechism Instructors Burt S. Levy, PM, 202 409-4449
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, 301-989-8945
Centennial Planning Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
Education and Degree Committee GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
301-598-8379
Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation: Michael Greenwald, PM
Michael J. Rinis, PM, 301-384-8244
Jeffrey R. Greenwald
Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, 301-989-8945
Burt S. Levy, PM, 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, 301-681-3873
Technology and Communications Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
Derek R. Gould, 240-938-6285
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach Jeffrey Greenwald

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 2023—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 Allen Levy about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
Sept	10	Rosh Hashanah Basket Distribution 8:00 am	Family and Friends
	12	Stated Communication, Memorial Night, 7:30 pm	Masons and Family
	18	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and Prospective Masons
	24	Sukkah Build, Makom, 9:00 am	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
November	14	Stated Communication, Master Mason Degree, Elections, 7:30 pm	Masons Only
	19	William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Basket Program 8:00 am	Masons and prospective Masons
	27	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and Prospective Masons

Date		Event	Open to
October	10	Stated Communication, Founders Night, 7:30 pm	Masons Only
	23	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and Prospective Masons

Date		Event	Open to
December	3	Past Masters Degree, 1:30 pm	Open only to Past Masters, TMC
	10	Stated Communication, Installation, 1:00 pm	Family and Friends