

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

bulletin

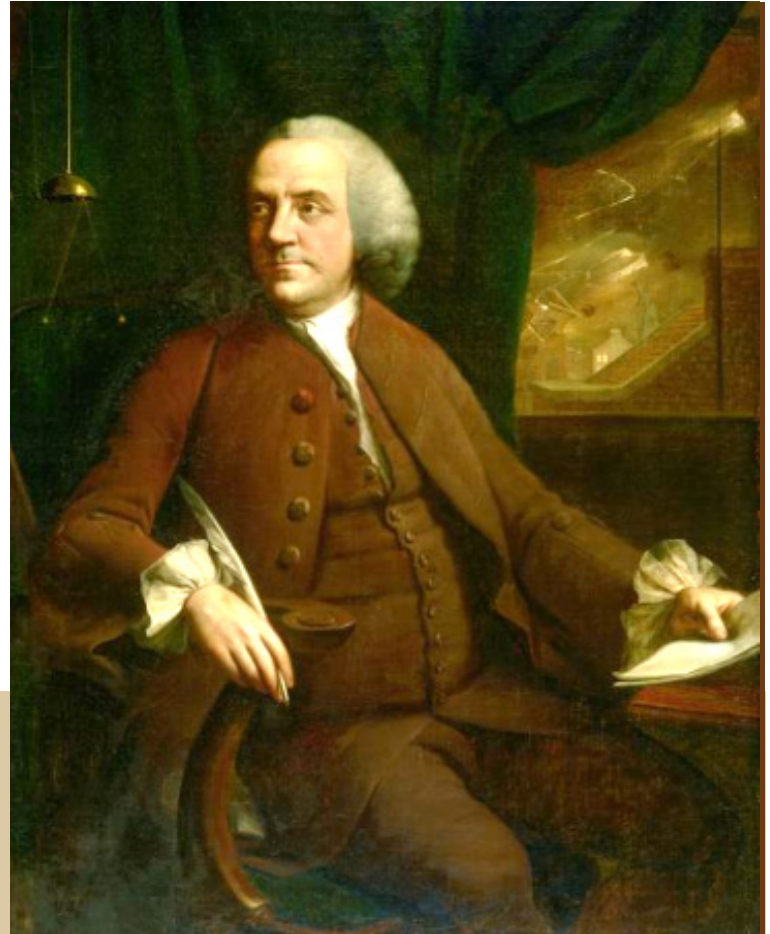
Takoma Masonic Center
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012

Volume XCVIII • Number 9
November 2023

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



NOVEMBER Stated Communication



Our November Stated Communication will be a **DOUBLE HEADER!** First, you can observe the conferral of the Master Mason Degree on our Brother Lee Silverman, and then you can take part in choosing the Officers who will assume leadership responsibilities for 2024.

Nominations are open for all elected positions. Any Brother interested in running for election must notify the Secretary. Our JW Aaron Kamerer is our apparent nominee for W.M. and would like to hear from any Brother interested in the Jr. Steward position.

Our November 14th Stated Communication will be a not-to-be-missed, combining the Master Mason Degree and Elections. The Master Mason degree is the third- and last-degree ritual of the lodge. During the degree, the new Master Mason is taught the importance of living a life true to the principles of morality and virtue. The officers have been working hard on their parts, a fabulous dinner will be served beforehand and the evening promises to be a strong event for our Lodge and the fellowship of our brethren.

Please RSVP to your eVite or the Secretary, secretary@sgbf45.org

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



I went to the movies this weekend and saw the film directed by Martin Scorsese named “Killers of the Flower Moon”. It was a very good film and very long, nearly 3 ½ hours. It was about the sudden wealth per capita of the Native Americans in the Osage Nation when oil was discovered on their land very early in the twentieth century, and the terrible plots and schemes against them by white men to wrestle control of their headrights that earned lucrative royalties from that discovery.

I went with two of my friends who are very aware that I am a Mason. So when an exterior shot in the movie showed the character portrayed by Robert De Niro standing on an Oklahoma street outside a Masonic Lodge, both my friends elbowed me in recognition of that fact.



To our surprise, the next scene actually takes place in that Lodge. The scene does not depict a meeting or any ritual. It was just a setting in which the De

Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio characters could meet privately. During the scene, De Niro exclaims that he is a 32nd-degree Mason, to which I whispered to my friends “So am I”.



But I had to strongly deny what happens next in the scene, as it in no way depicts any of the rituals of Freemasonry. I will not spoil it here, but I found it embarrassing. Depictions of Freemasonry like this in the media lead many to misunderstand the Craft.

And to top it off, the De Niro character is an evil man, and his behavior is contrary to the tenets of Freemasonry. Sadly, his character is based on a real person who was a Mason, but he was expelled after his arrest for his part in the schemes. But this still propagates the notion that Masons are secretly scheming and plotting to take control with overarching conspiracies when the character’s membership in the Craft had nothing to do with the evil that he perpetrated.

Anyway, I still thought the movie was great.

Allen

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THANKSGIVING BASKET CALL TO ACTION!!!!

“There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him, and then shame upon him who will not stretch out the helping hand to his brother.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Brethren,

The leaves are changing, we did have some cold weather, and the year is mostly over. It is time to anticipate our Lodge’s Signature Event. For well over 40 years Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 has helped feed needy families in the metro area. Our charity baskets have been going on for so long, that no one actually knows the exact year we started the program!

At this point, we have provided close to 5,000 baskets. The force behind this charity was William D. Boker, PM. A few years ago, we officially named this “The William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program”. Having worked for many years at the Chevy Chase Super Market, Bro. Boker was very passionate about feeding those who needed help. It started as a grassroots effort with the love and support of our lodge and quickly became one of the premier events of any Worshipful Masters year. This year will be no different as we plan to make an even greater impact

than ever before. In partnership with JSSA (Jewish Social Services Association) and the Eagle Academy in Washington D.C., we will again be supplying Thanksgiving baskets.

Once again, we will streamline the effort to ensure we have a significant impact. Through the generous donations we have received from our members and other lodges, we are now able to provide approximately 160 baskets or pre-made meals.

As In previous years, JSSA’s and The Eagle Academy’s volunteers will deliver the baskets in the morning. This year we would like to deliver the pre-made meals ourselves with help from the Sisterhood of Bnai Tzedek later in the day of the 19th. This is an opportunity to see how our efforts are appreciated firsthand. WE NEED YOUR HELP to make this happen. Please contact Bro Jeffery Greenwald and let him know that you can commit to either assisting in making the baskets or delivering the pre-made meals.

If you are unable to do either and

have not donated to help keep this program going, please consider making a financial donation to help defray the costs.

Here is the information for the events:

Basket Making:

When: November 19th, 7:00 am

Where: Kensington Safeway,
downstairs parking area
(next to the loading
dock)
10541 Conn. Ave.,
Kensington, MD 20895

Basket Distribution:

When: November 19th, 9:00 am

Where: Kensington Masonic
Lodge
4315 Howard Ave.
Kensington, MD

Following basket pickup we will preparing for pre-made meal pickups at noon.

Chairman: Jeffery Greenwald,
Cell 240-401-1261, Email: Jrg57@comcast.net**Breakfast foods will be provided to volunteers

The September Steakhouse *Meet-Up*

Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman



On Monday Evening September 18 after the Rosh Hashanah Weekend, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge had its Monthly Meet-Up at Outback Steak House in Silver Spring, Maryland. I decided to have the Meet-Up a week sooner than usual, due to the Yom Kippur Holiday.

Nine Brethren and guests showed up to this September Dinner Social to enjoy Masonic Fellowship. Brethren present were Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, WM Allen Levy, SW Derek Gould, JW Aaron Kamerer, SD Jeffrey Greenwald, Brothers Steve Deklebaum, and Lee Silverman. Guests attending were Hal's wife Lisa and Phillip Taylor.

The Brethren and guests ordered a variety of entrees and as expected, a good time was had by all. Meet-ups will return to either the fourth Sunday or Monday.

Tiler Hal Henig, WM Allen Levy, SW Derek Gould, JW Aaron Kamerer, SD Jeffrey Greenwald, Brothers Steve Dekelbaum, and Lee Silverman. Guests attending were Hal's wife Lisa and Phillip Taylor

Happy Birthday

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

Paul C. Cohen3	Joseph P. Gibson, Sr. 14	Chester N. Katz..... 20
Jay A. Torchinsky4	Jules V. Fink 15	John F. Buchanan 22
Allen R. Levy6	Jerome Barry 16	Aaron S. Teitel 23
Erik F. Milman8	Jeffrey R. Greenwald..... 16	Howard L. Blum..... 30
Jerry M. Robbin 11	Zalmon J. Chelec..... 20	



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DELI – BINGO Night

Allen Levy

At our last Stated Communication in October, we had a combined Deli and Bingo Night, plus a special Dress Code Dispensation from the Grand Master that allowed for casual dress, including colorful socks and Hawaiian shirts. The deli portion of the night was a generous spread of deli meats and salads procured from the Parkway Deli. The platters included corned beef, pastrami, roast beef, and turkey.

The salads included potato and coleslaw.

There was a wide variety of breads and rolls, plus condiments and pickles.

Then after our meeting - which I tried to finish quickly a couple of snags in procedure, we rejoined our guests in the refectory for Bingo. RWB Sheldon Rappeport called our many Bingo games that evening, and I helped confirm the winning Bingo cards. Each Bingo player received two bingo cards to play simultaneously.

There were several prizes, including:

- Washington Commanders Poster
- Blender Bottle
- Neck Massager w Batteries
- Salted Caramel
- Foot Massager Pillow

- Union Jack Tea Set
- World Beers
- Popcorn Popper
- Vacuum Cleaner

The first prize of the football poster was won by Brother Allen Wright. Phil Taylor, a prospective member, won the selection of teas. The Robert and Roberta Greenwald household won a combined four prizes, including the Beer and Popcorn popper for Bob, and the Neck Massager and Blender bottle for Roberta.

The grand prize of the evening was a \$50 Visa gift card, and it was won by none other than our Bingo caller Sheldon Rappeport. You may be asking how Sheldon could call the games and still play and win a Bingo game?

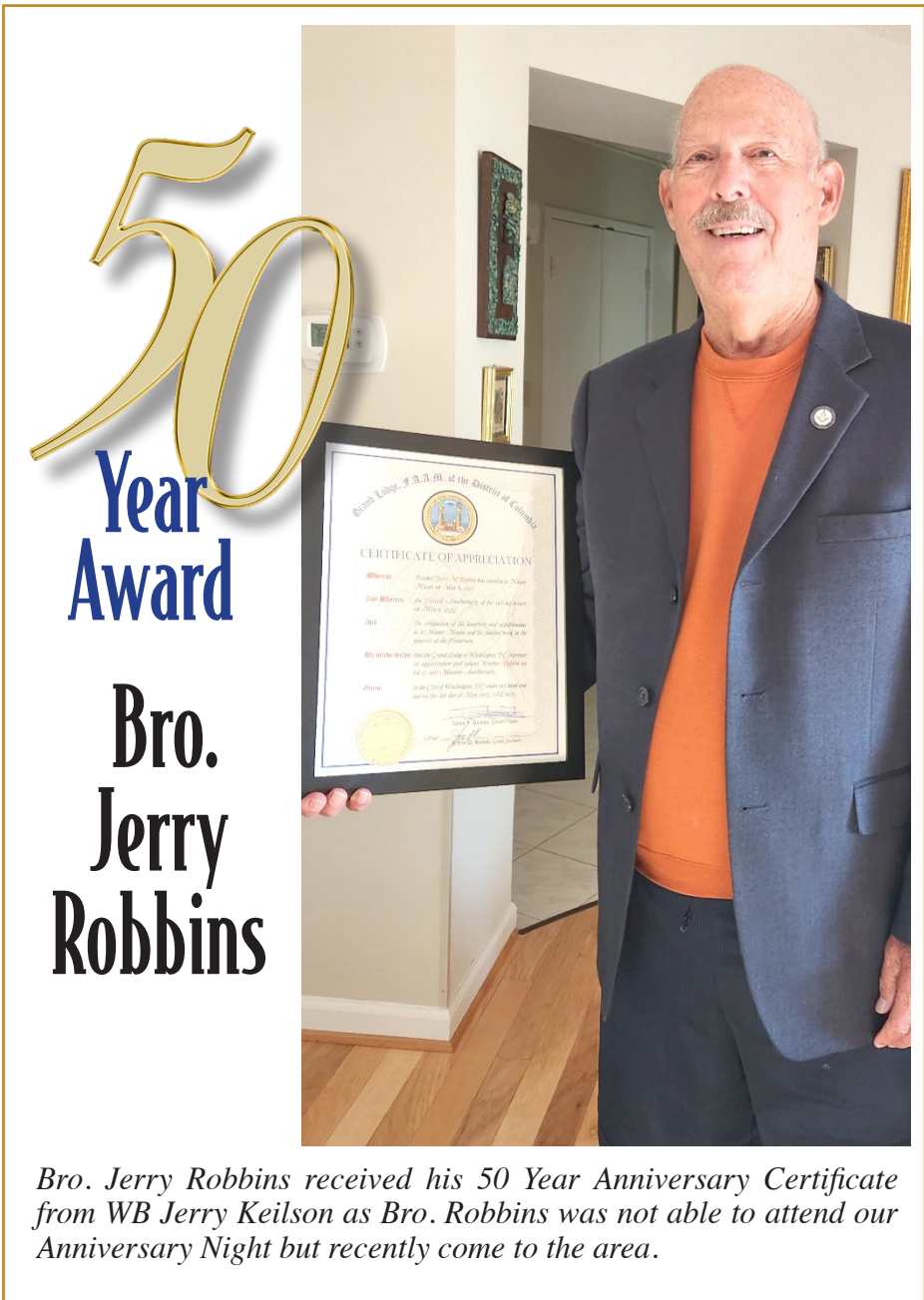
Well, I was playing both of his cards while also playing both of mine. The last Bingo game for the grand prize was a full-card bingo, meaning every square had to be covered. Sheldon deferred checking his winning card, so I made sure the numbers drawn were correctly on the card.

A fun time was had by all!



Attending Bingo night: WM Allen Levy, SW Derek Gould, George Perez, PM, SD Jeffrey Greenwald, Julien Hofberg, PM, JD Ryan Simon, Robert and Roberta Greenwald, PM, Burton Levy, PM, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Tiler Hal and Lisa Henig, Allen Wright, MA, GLGFM, Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA, DSM, GL-E, Chester Katz, Alan and Arlene Karpas, Howard and Marilyn Politzer, Lee Silverman, WM Dennis Apeti (East Gate Lodge # 34)

DELI – BINGO Night



Bro. Jerry Robbins received his 50 Year Anniversary Certificate from WB Jerry Keilson as Bro. Robbins was not able to attend our Anniversary Night but recently come to the area.

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 S. Levy, HPSGD
2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn

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Worshipful Master Allen R. Levy, 703-470-4945
Senior Warden Derek Gould, 240-938-6285
Junior Warden Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
SecretaryRaymond Horn, secretary@srgb45.org, 443-253-0605
6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
TreasurerRobert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
ChaplainBurt S. Levy, PM, JGD Hon., 202 409-4449
Master-of-CeremoniesRobert J. Greenwald, PM, 703-624-9085
Senior DeaconJeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915
Junior DeaconRyan 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
HistorianJoshua L. Rubin, 240-277-5355
TilerHal Henig, 301-681-3873
Immediate PMJerry 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 AssociationBurt S. Levy, PM

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AuditingKevin 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
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By-Laws Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
Catechism InstructorsBurt 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 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 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
November	14	Stated Communication, Master Mason Degree, Elections, 7:30 pm	Masons Only
	19	William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Basket Program 7:00 am	Masons and prospective Masons
	27	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