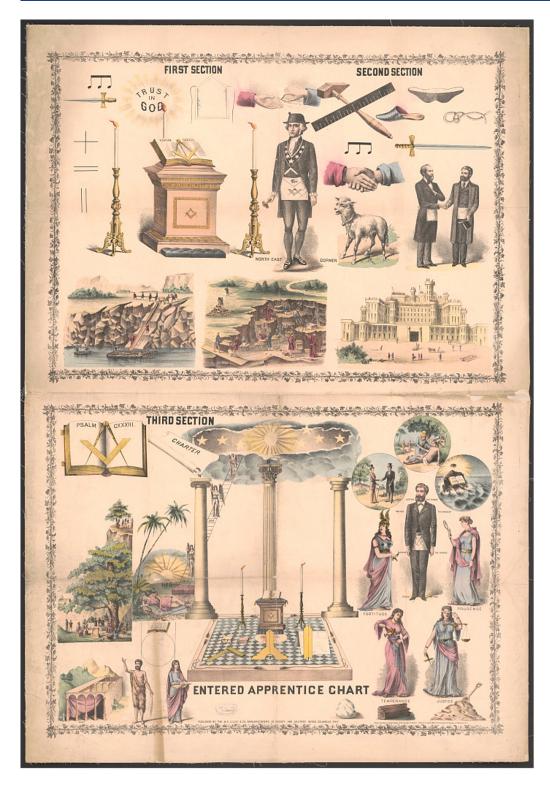


Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M

# bulletin

Takoma Masonic Center 115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 Volume XCIX • Number 5 May 2024

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



# ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

Save the Date May 14th, 2024. The beginning of light for Masons, the Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred at the May Stated Communication. Our Lodge will be balloting on our Lodge's candidate, and if elected, conferring the degree on him as well as two Courtesy Candidates for Hiram-Takoma Lodge No. 10.

The Entered Apprentice Degree is a series of firsts for all Masons. It is the first-time worthy men are brought to light in Masonry. The first time they are welcomed into the Brotherhood of Masons and called Brother. The first time they get to witness and participate in the ritual, pomp and circumstance of the operation of a Masonic Lodge. The first time they get to wear an apron as a Mason. The first time they take an obligation as a Mason. And the first step on the path to becoming a Master Mason.

Come and help our candidates begin their journey in Masonry.

Please be sure to RSVP to the Secretary or the eVite to ensure our count for dinner is accurate.

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



2B1 ASK1

### **Light From the East**

WM Aaron A. Kamerer 2024



## The Masonic Obligation

The Masonic obligation is a solemn promise made by us as Freemasons during our initiation into the fraternity. It is more than just a commitment to uphold the principles and values of Freemasonry, such as brotherly love, relief, and truth, as well as to support and assist fellow members.

The importance of the Masonic obligation has several key aspects:

Symbolism and Tradition: Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on symbolism and ritual. The obligation is a symbolic act that binds the initiate to the fraternity and its values, connecting them to a long tradition of Freemasonry that dates back centuries.

Commitment to Moral and Ethical Principles: By taking the Masonic obligation, members pledge to conduct themselves in accordance with the moral and ethical teachings of Freemasonry. This includes practicing virtues such as honesty, integrity, and charity in their personal and professional lives.

Unity and Brotherhood: The obligation fosters a

sense of unity and brotherhood among Freemasons. By making a mutual commitment to each other, members form a bond of trust and support that transcends differences in background, occupation, or social status.

Accountability: The obligation serves as a reminder of the responsibilities that come with membership in Freemasonry. Members are accountable to each other and to the fraternity, and the obligation encourages them to strive for personal improvement and to act in the best interests of the craft.

Continuity and Continuation: By taking the same obligation that countless Freemasons before them have taken, initiates become part of a continuous chain of tradition and brotherhood that stretches back through history. This sense of continuity adds depth and meaning to the Masonic experience.

The Masonic obligation is an integral aspect of Freemasonry, representing a solemn commitment to uphold its values, support fellow members, and contribute to the betterment of oneself and society.

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

### LIVING PAST MASTERS

| 1974 | Aaron S. Teitel                    | 1994      | Joseph N. Snyder                   | 2015 | Randy A. Schoch           |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1974 | Donald M. Stein                    | 1995      | Burt Levy, HPSGD                   | 2016 | Leonard Rubin             |
| 1979 | Michael J. Rinis                   | 1997      | Adam Forman                        | 2017 | Michael K. Greenwald, SGD |
| 1979 | Burton Penn                        | 2001      | Sheldon I. Rappeport, 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. Rappeport, MA, DSM,GL-E | 2012-2013 | Erik F. Milman                     | 2023 | Allen R. Levy             |
| 1990 | Robert H. Starr, PGM               | 2014      | Adam Forman                        |      |                           |



# B L A N D E N S B U R G Waterfront Boat Tour

On Sunday, April 21, one day prior to the first night of Passover, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 took a Boat Tour along the Anacostia River. For a spring day, the weather was pretty cold. We met at the Boat House in Bladensburg Waterfront Park, part of Prince George's County Parks and Recreation system.

Brother Sonny Garibay arranged a private Boat Tour with Captain John. Captain John io a retired US Marshal of the US Court System. Brother Sonny gifted the cost of the tour for the Lodge as he visits the waterpark frequently for his nature photography. Captain John gave us a tour along the river and pointed out the various wildlife and their habitats. Also, we watched high school athletes competing in

canoe races on the river.

Brethren attending this enjoyable event were Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, Brother Sonny Garabay, JW Jeff Greenwald, Burt Levy, PM Jon Binstock, PM, and Brother Steve Reimer. Attending guests were Lisa Henig, Sharon Zitomer, Renie Zitomer, Stuart Zitomer and Hal's good friend Steve Levin. Total of eleven people enjoyed the Boat Tour along the Anacostia River.

After the tour, some of us had lunch at the Station 202 Restaurant. Again, Brother Sonny had knowledge of this restaurant and he made reservations. The lunch was enjoyable and delicious.



# Community Service Project - Passover Baskets

Once again, SGBF #45 came through to help JSSA and Bnai Brith with the Passover Baskets program on Sunday, April 14th. JSSA's food baskets help address food insecurity in our community, and these holiday food baskets supplement their regular meals on wheels and other programs.

Over 500 bags had already been staged for delivery at the Melvin Berman Academy, in Rockville. We met there early, and loaded the baskets into the cars that would distribute the baskets to needy families of Montgomery County. Participating: Brothers Jeffrey Greenwald, Raymond Horn, PM, his son David, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Brothers Lee Silverman, Hal Henig, Thomas Ebilane and Allan Levy, PM provided the muscle, and the task was completed in record time.

Now we have a little break until the Rosh Hashanah Baskets in September, Sukkah construction in October, then the main event, the Thanksgiving Basket Program in November.



Thomas Ebilane



David Horn with Jeffrey Greenwald in the background.



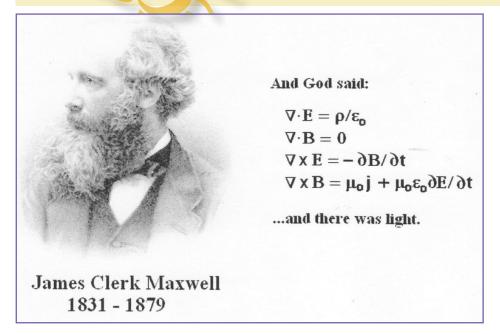
Jeffrey Greenwald, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Brothers Lee Silverman, Hal Henig, Thomas Ebilane and Allan Levy, PM



Jerry Keilsohn, PM

# View from the Door

May 2024



Spring is my favorite time of year. The world goes from grey and gloomily to colorful and green. Everything blooms. This year, at my house, we had an explosion of daffodils blooming. This is a result of my son buying several hundred bulbs last fall, and he and I spending many hours planting them. He bought the grab bag of varieties. We had all types, everything from the large all yellow ones, to the miniature ones with multiple blooms on one stalk. Intermixed with the daffodils were many Hyacinths. Why Hyacinths? They are one for the few flowering bulbs that have a strong and pleasant smell. Plus they, with the daffodils, are not eaten by the deer and squirrels. Several years ago, we planted about 100 tulips. Only two of them bloomed. Many, most just disappeared.

I travel to work going east, and coming home going west. Depending on the timing and the time of year, I often get to see another one of Mother Nature's light shows. Sunrises and Sunsets. Over the years, I have seen some pretty spectacular displays of light and color. Nobody outperforms the Sun.

Recently I got to see a once in a life time event courtesy of the Sun and Moon. RWB Burt Levy and I traveled to just outside Cleveland Ohio to see the Total Eclipse of the Sun. We found a spot that was not only in the path of totality but dead center in the middle.

This is actually the second Total Eclipse I have seen, as Brother Burt and I traveled to South Carolina several years ago to see one there. My fuzzy memory remembers a partial eclipse when I was a teenager.

It is hard to describe the feeling one gets as the moon moves over the sun, just at the time the astrophysicists predicted. I was surprised how moved I was watching the universe do its thing.

As the sun peaked out at the end, there is a huge flash of light. Where we were, the crowd cheered and they were lots of oohs and aahs. In my quest for light, I even got a mild sunburn on my face and arms.

Nice job Mother Nature!

I find it interesting how deeply our Masonic ritual depends on the sun. The Worship Master sits in the East, where the Sun rises from. It even creeps into the Masonic funeral service "the sun at meridian is the beauty and glory of the day". Our ritual even describes celestial events such as an eclipse. "By geometry... we may discover how the planets move in their different orbits and demonstrate the various revolutions".

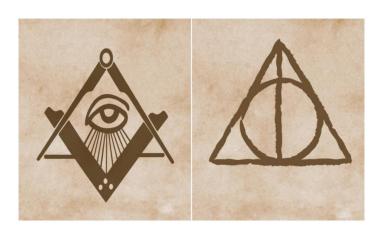
And lastly, there is the ultimate explanation of the Sun's purposes from the first chapter of the Bible that is used in our rituals.

# Is Harry Potter a Master Mason?

If you attended our April Stated Communication, you would know the answer to this critical question as well as some interesting ideas about Star Trek. For the program at our April Stated, Walter Benesch, PM presented a fascinating program which explored first the importance of the number of the Star Ship Enterprise 1701; and then a most important topic, "Was Harry Potter a Master Mason."

If you really want to find a rabbit hole, try googling "Harry Potter and Freemasonry." There are any number of thoughts on this subject.

WB Benesh explained that author JK Rowling has gone on record to say that the symbol of the deathly hallows from her Harry Potter series of books may have been subconsciously inspired by the Masonic Square and Compass. Although Harry Potter is filled with a plethora of interesting symbolism, a lot of r symbols used in Harry Potter have connections with Freemasonry.



While drawing an initial version of the herbology teacher late one evening, Rowling was watching The Man Who Would Be King, John Huston's adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's work, starring Michael Caine, Sean Connery, and Christopher Plummer. The next day, Rowling took a phone call saying her mother had died.

"The Masonic symbol is very important in that movie," said Rowling. "And it was literally 20 years later that I looked at the sign of the Deathly Hallows and realized how similar they were.

"When I saw the movie again and saw the Masonic symbol, I went cold all over and I thought, 'Is that why the Hallows symbol is what it is?'

"And I've got a feeling that, on some deep, subconscious level, they are connected. So I feel as though I worked my way back over 20 years to that night, because the Potter series is hugely about loss, and – I've said this before – if my mother hadn't died I think the stories would be utterly different and not what they are."

There was a lengthy discussion of the hero's journey in the book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. In this book the journey that Harry Potter takes is similar to a Mason's own progress through the degrees.



WB Walter Benesch and WM Arraon Kamerer at our April Stated Communication.

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#### 2024 OFFICERS

| Worshipful Master        | Aaron Kamerer, 321-431-1064                   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Senior Warden            | Derek Gould, 240-938-6285                     |
| Junior Warden            | Jeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915            |
| Secretary Raymond        | Horn, PM, secretary@sgbf45.org 443-253-0605   |
|                          | 6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817       |
| Treasurer                |   |
| Chaplain                 | Burt S. Levy, PM, JGD Hon., 202 409-4449      |
| Master-of-Ceremonies     | Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945               |
| Senior Deacon            | Ryan A. Simon, 240-475-3935                   |
| Junior Deacon            | Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM, 301-570-0446           |
| Senior Steward           | Pending appointment                           |
| Junior Steward           | Pending appointment                           |
| TrusteesGL-              | -E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2024), |
|                          | Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025),                    |
|                          | Julien P. Holberg, PM (2026)                  |
| Fidelity Medal Recipient | To be selected                                |
| Historian                | Joshua L. Rubin, PM, 240-277-5355             |
| Tiler                    | Hal Henig, 301-681-3873                       |
| Immediate PM             | Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945               |

#### **2024 REPRESENTATIVES**

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

#### **2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

| AuditingKevin St  | emp  |
|---|------|
| Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock   | , PM |
| 301-442-4   | 4812 |
| BasketsJeffrey Greenwald, 301-869-1                             | 1915 |
| David B. Torchinsky, PM, 301-933-                               | 1955 |
| Bulletin Committee Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0                  | )605 |
| Business Manager  | )pen |
| By-LawsRobert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3                          | 3088 |
| Catechism InstructorsBurt S. Levy, PM, 202 409-4                | 1449 |
| Centennial Planning Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5                    | 5181 |
| Education and Degree Committee GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, D | SM,  |
|   | 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 | 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

#### **2024 PROXIES**

| For the Worshipful Master | Ryan Simon                   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| For the Senior Warden     | Lee Silverman                |
| For the Junior Warden     | Alan Karpas<br><b>Page 8</b> |

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 <a href="www.sgbf45.org">www.sgbf45.org</a>. 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               |
|------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| May  | 14 | Stated Communication, 7:30 PM | Masons only           |
|      | 27 | Meet-up 6:30 PM               | Family and<br>Friends |

| Date |    | Event                         | Open to               |
|------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| June | 11 | Stated Communication, 7:30 PM | Masons only           |
|      | 24 | Meet-up 6:30 PM               | Family and<br>Friends |