

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

bulletin

Volume XCV • Number 7
October 2019

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

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

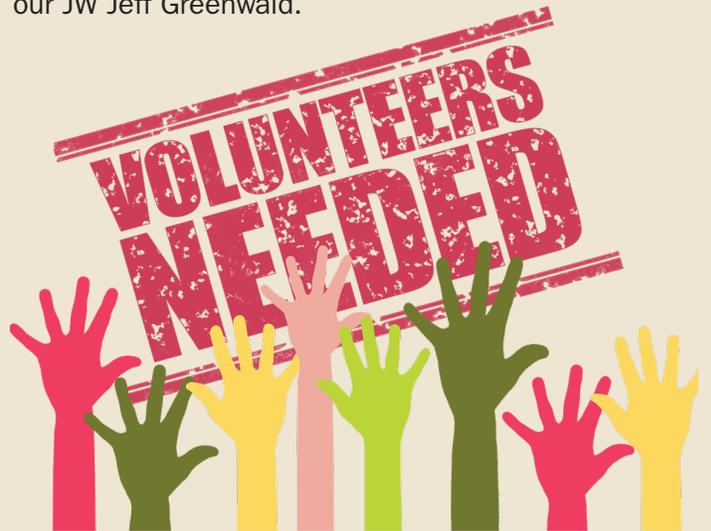
Let the **VOLUNTEER!** Season Begin.

We have already started! We kicked off the season with the JSSA sponsored Rosh Hashanah Basket program on September 29th. As part of this program, we also did a lunch Mitzvah by visiting brethren at the Hebrew Home. The experience was amazing for all.

October continues to be busy with our commitment to the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH). On October 13th, we will construct Sukkahs. We will then deconstruct the Sukkahs on October 27th. Then comes November with our signature Thanksgiving Basket program. We will load the truck on the evening of November 23rd, then put the baskets together on the morning of the 24th at the Kensington Lodge.

We then support the Arthritis Foundation by participating in the Jingle Bell Run on December 14th. Rounding out the year, we will do our annual Christmas visitation at the DC VA hospital on December 22nd. More events will occur in 2020. Hope to see many of you involved in all the various activities.

Please RSVP for these activities through our App or our JW Jeff Greenwald.



**Next Stated
Communication is
November 8th**



Please take due notice that our next Stated Communication will be in November as the October meeting has been called off. During the November meeting, we will hold elections for the ensuing year as well as confer the Master Mason Degree. Please plan on attending and be sure to make your dinner reservation by November 8th to JS Allen Levy at JS@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

By Robert Greenwald, WM



For the past nine months, our lodge has been very active in Masonic adventures and activities. One may ask how did this happen? Well, there is a small group of brethren who through their efforts have put our Lodge on the Masonic Map for all to see and hear about. We are a traveling lodge. Not only that, when we travel we show up in force when we attend the activities.

For example, we had the strongest showing among the Lodges in our Jurisdiction at the recent Leadership Conference, which was noticed by the Grand Lodge. For the first time at the Leadership Conference, both sitting Masters and Past Masters were encouraged to join in. A total of 9 brethren from our Lodge attended the conference to benefit from the program and enjoy fellowship with the Grand Lodge.

If you had not taken notice by now there is excitement brewing in our lodge. Now is the time to get on board because this is our time. Open up your windows and doors and shake out the cobwebs. I guarantee you won't regret it. In November, our Lodge will hold elections and advance the line. There are committee roles to fill and opportunities to participate more fully in all the activities we are engaged in. Please let me know that you are ready

to help even if it is only part of the time.

You know if it wasn't for this small group of engaged brethren your lodge would cease to exist. Therefore, I say this with gratitude Thank you Brethren for a job well done.

To continue this exciting time, congratulations are also to our Secretary Past Master, Brother, and of course my son, Michael Greenwald. The Deputy Grand Master announced that he has asked Michael to join the Grand Lodge in the position of Grand Marshal for the year 2020. This was announced during the Grand Master's visitation on Tuesday, September 10th, which by the way was a great success. Many of the empty seats we often see at our meetings were filled for our September Stated Communication. The food was plentiful and enjoyed by all who attended. Also, after the lodge was closed our families and friends were invited to join in for the continuance of our awards ceremony.

Past Master Brother Jerry Gordon received the prestigious 70 years in Masonry Award. There were many other awards given out that evening by the Grand Master Charbel T. Fahed. Congratulations to all the brothers who received awards. A job well done once again by Brother Senior Warden Jerry

See "Short Talk" Continued on page 4



Brethren attending our Grand Visitation who stayed for the awards ceremony.

Keilsohn who chaired the program and to all the brothers involved in setting up the lodge and the delicious meal we had. Again with gratitude, thank you for your assistance in making the evening enjoyable. Hopefully, this excitement will continue and we encourage all of you to join in causing our lodge to grow to even bigger heights.



RWB Christopher K. Mahaney and GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM enjoying the dinner before the meeting.



SW Jerry Keilsohn receiving his award from the Grand Master and Worshipful Master.



Allen Wright PM and Jerry Gordon PM at the Grand Visitation.



The Grand Master and his Officers assemble for the Grand Visitation

In the past few years, this month's article has always been the hardest one for me. At this point, we have been dark for the summer and have had only one meeting. Last month, I filled up my article with everything that happened over the summer. Which leaves me with practically nothing to write about this month.

I have only a few bits to add. So here goes. As I wrote last month, I have continued attending Warden's nights at other Lodges. I did it again last month and I will do it again by the time you read this. It is a great experience to travel to other lodges and get a glimpse of how things work in other lodges.

I attended the Grand Lodge Leadership conference. This year was a little different. It was over three days. Started Friday evening, all day Saturday, with a nice dinner Saturday evening, and then a short wrap up session Sunday morning. It was more structured this year. I am not a big fan of group discussions, and this year there were significantly fewer discussions and more presentations with question and answer periods. Plus, plenty of opportunities to hang out with the brethren of the other 40 plus Lodges that make up our jurisdiction.

Maybe there is some way to connect the Jewish holidays with something Masonic? The holidays once again will be occurring on the night of our Stated Communication this year as it was at Passover. Anything I came up with some type of connection, was way too esoteric for me. And I think everybody knows I am an engineer, and the esoteric stuff just about never works for me.

Maybe, we should consider that October is the height of fall. Or is it autumn? The time of year when Mother Nature puts on one of her most spectacular light shows. Some folks say it is better than the one she puts on in the spring when everything blooms. Oranges, reds, yellows and every shade in between OR whites, pinks, reds, yellows, oranges, blues, purples, and just about every color in between? A really hard choice.

Maybe, an obscure Masonic fact. The moon is in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Because, Brother and Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second person and the first Mason to walk on the moon, was a member of Clear Lake Lodge #1417 in Texas and had with him a special deputation from his Grand Master to claim the moon. Google Tranquility Lodge #2000 for more of the story.

Maybe, a plug for our next Stated. This one will be in November since we are skipping October. That night we will elect the officers for next year and raise a few Masons to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

The last few months, I always seem to close with a quote, so as I do not want to disappoint anyone, I found one that reflects our Lodge Leadership team over the last few years:

"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

WB Harry S Truman



Born Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Jr. January 20, 1930, Montclair, New Jersey. Later, legally changed his name to "Buzz Aldrin". On July 20, 1969, two American Astronauts landed on the moon of the planet Earth, in an area known as Mare Tranquillitatis, or "Sea of Tranquility". One of those brave men was Brother Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., a member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417, AF&AM, Seabrook, Texas. Brother Aldrin carried with him SPECIAL DEPUTATION of then Grand Master J. Guy Smith, constituting and appointing Brother Aldrin as Special Deputy of the Grand Master, granting unto him full power in the premises to represent the Grand Master as such and authorize him to claim Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction for The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, on The Moon, and directed that he make due return of his acts. Brother Aldrin certified that the SPECIAL DEPUTATION was carried by him on the Moon on July 20, 1969.

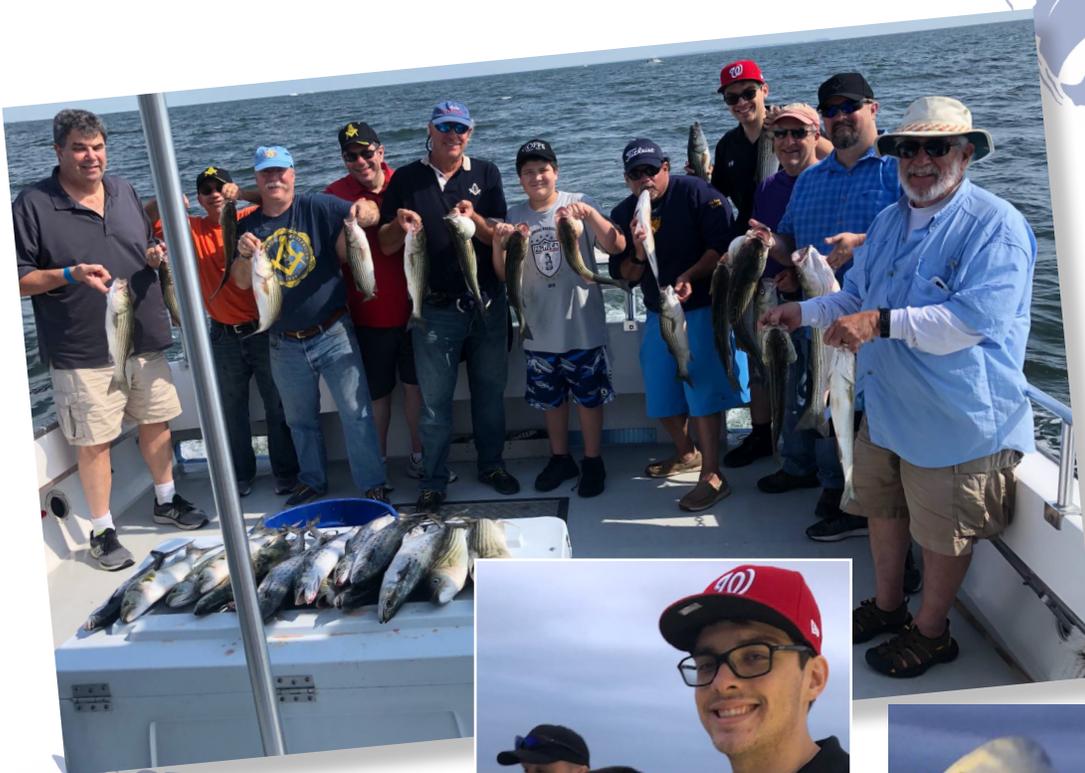
Chesapeake Bay Fishing Report for September 15th –

Outstanding!!

September is an exciting month for those of us who love the outdoors and fishing pops to the top of the list for what outdoor activities are active fun. A great chance to build fellowship in our Lodge and ample material for tall tales. Except for this year, all our wishful thinking about what a great fishing trip entails came true! We just cleaned up from the start. Everyone caught fish, everyone caught keepers and despite the very early morning

effort to get out and to the dock on time, everyone had a great time. With the same boat and charter captain as last year, we left the dock at 6:10 am and stopped in Herring Bay to catch baitfish. The fish were hungry and we quickly filled a large barrel with live baitfish. After a short ride, we changed gear and started fishing for Stripped Bass. We were catching both Rock Fish and Blue Fish using live baitfish and by 9:15 am we had

caught our limit of 2 fish over 19" per person. With 11 attendees, the boat's cooler was filling up. As there has not been a lot of rain recently, the salinity of the bay has increased and that has brought mackerel into the bay. We finished up our trip by trolling for mackerel and managed to bring in yet more fish. Everyone who wanted to went home with a big bag of fish fillets.



Attending this year's fishing trip: Raymond Horn PM, David Torchinsky PM, Michael Greenwald PM, Bro. Aaron Kamerer, SD Jeff Greenwald, Bro. Derek Gould, Bro. Joel Van Vollenhoven, Julien Hofberg PM, Bro. Alan Karpas our guests this year, Steven Dekelbaum and Alan Gould. Aaron Kamerer won our contest for the largest fish by bringing in the two largest Rock Fish that were well over the 24" gauge and our youngest participant, Derek Gould's brother Alan just kept bringing them in all day.



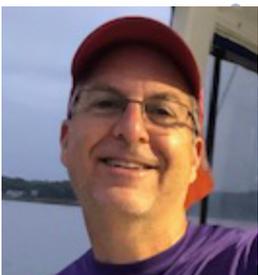
Bro Derek Gould and his brother Alan



Julien Hofberg PM



David Torchinsky PM



Raymond Horn PM



Michael Greenwald PM



Steven Dekelbaum



Aaron Kamerer



SD Jeff Greenwald



Bro. Jerry Bauman PM receiving his award from the Grand Master and Worshipful Master.

Jerome Morris Bauman PM Awarded the 2019 Lodge Merit Award

The final award that made during the award ceremony that followed the Grand Visitation was the Lodge Merit Award. This award was established in Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge, No. 45, F.A.A.M., for presentation to its worthy members in recognition for faithful and meritorious service to the Lodge over an extended period of time.

Jerry is a native Washingtonian, born January 4, 1930, in the District of Columbia. He graduated from Eastern High School in 1948 and still has many friends from his AZA High School Fraternity. He became a Mason in June of 1951 in Benjamin Franklin Lodge #50 and served as Worshipful Master of Benjamin Franklin Lodge in 1979.

Jerry enlisted in the United States

Air Force in 1953 at age 23 and served as a radar operator during the Korean War. He was trained at the United States Air Force Base at Lake Michigan during 8 weeks (Jerry insists it was 48 weeks) of sub-freezing weather.

Jerry is the 1977 Past Commander of the Jewish War Veterans. During his tenure, his chapter donated \$30,000 to the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department and a photo of the presentation appeared in the Jewish Weekly Publication.

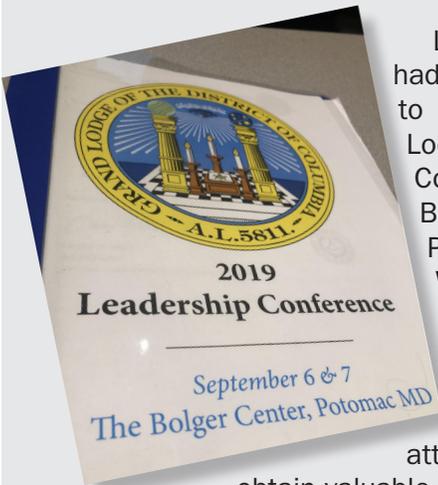
He owned and operated a liquor store on Capitol Hill for 13 years and had several members of Congress as frequent customers. He later had a liquor store at 5th and Kennedy Streets, NW in the District for another 13 years. Now in retirement, he owns and man-

ages several business properties in the District.

Jerry has been our Lodge Representative to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home since 2001 and serves on their Real Estate Committee. His tireless participation is finally beginning to assist in improving better financial return on their investments. He has been Chairman of our Lodge Investment Committee since 2003 and his advice has reaped extensive benefits for our Lodge. He regularly attends our Lodge meetings, participates in Emergent Communications for funerals and goes out of his way to assist in providing transportation for our Tiler, John Garrison. Jerry's long term participation in lodge activities deserves our highest form of recognition.

Grand Lodge Leadership Conference Report

Derek Gould



Last weekend, I had the opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge Leadership Conference at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland. When I first heard about it, I immediately knew only good could come out of attending. I would

obtain valuable skills that would not only benefit me within my Lodge but benefit me outside of Freemasonry as well. Our Lodge had one of the greatest turnouts as nine of our Brethren were in attendance. I took this opportunity to strengthen my leadership skills under the fellowship of my fellow Brothers. I met very interesting people from neighboring Lodges and learned that a lot of their interests aligned with my own. We contributed collective knowledge and innovative ideas for the Future of our lodges.

One of the discussions that sparked a lot of interest in me was the discussion on Lodge Visitor investigations. A topic that seemed so mundane and boring was actually quite interesting. I never knew there was such a thorough vetting process if somebody were to show up at one of our lodge meetings and nobody could vouch for them.



Summer Travels

Brothers Hal Henig and Aaron Kamerer attended the meet-up at the Spy Museum

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to our own Illustrious Rabbi Randi Schoch, PM. The 33rd degree is an honorary degree bestowed for meritorious service to craft



WM Robert Greenwald and Hal Henig attended the Grand Master's Picnic on Saturday August 25th.



Robert H. Starr, PGM and Burt Levy, PM enjoyed the warm hospitality of St. Jon's Lodge #11 in July for a great evening of crab cracking and socializing. Notice that WM Parkhurst used a crab mallet to gavel the meeting and that our own Burt Levy PM is always the best dressed man in every crowd.

This year, Laura's Army will be participating in the Jingle Bell Run that will take place on Saturday, December 14 at Seneca Creek Park in Gaithersburg.

Thanks so much for your continuing support. I truly appreciate it.

<https://events.arthritis.org/team/laurasarmy.com>



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**SGBF
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EVENTS
2019-2020**

Sept 29th – Rosh Hashanah Baskets with JSSA
8am – JSSA Montrose office, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville, Md
Help fill bags, then distribute to needy neighbors

Oct 13th – Sukkah Construction with JFGH
11am – meet at Torchinsky Group Home, 1028 Cresthaven Drive, Silver Spring, Md
Put together between 1 and 4 sukkahs at various group homes in Montgomery County

Oct 27th – Sukkah Deconstruction
11am – meet at Torchinsky Group Home (see above)
Deconstruct 3-6 sukkahs at various group homes in the county

Nov 23rd – Truck Loading at Safeway for Thanksgiving Basket Program
6pm – meet at Continental Pizza, 10532 Connecticut Ave, Kensington, Md

Nov 24th – Put together and help to distribute Thanksgiving Baskets
7am – Kensington Lodge, 4315 Howard Ave, Kensington, Md

Dec 14th – Jingle Bell Run/Walk
5K walk/run to benefit the Arthritis Foundation
8:30am – meet with Laura's Army at Seneca Creek Park in Gaithersburg, MD,
to register: <https://events.arthritis.org/team/laurasarmy2019>

Dec 22nd – Annual Christmas Visitation at the DC Veterans Hospital
Escort Veterans to the church service
9:30am – Veterans Hospital, 50 Irving St NW, Washington, DC

Jan 20th – MLK day of service event
Individual participation at various events in DC

Feb 2nd – Souper Bowl Sunday with JFED
Creation of breakfast and lunch for Women at N Street Village
8am – N Street Village, 1333N St NW, Washington DC

Mar 29th – Good Deeds Day
Socks for Veterans Program; create bags of socks and other clothing for homeless veterans
11am – Bender JCC, 6125 Montrose Rd, Rockville, Md

Apr 5th – Passover Baskets with JSSA
Help to distribute baskets to needy families
9am – Berman Hebrew Academy, 13300 Arctic Ave, Rockville, Md

Apr 12th – Easter Visitation at DC Veterans Hospital
Escort Veterans to church service
9:30 am – Veterans Hospital, 50 Irving St NW, Washington DC

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2019 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master Robert Greenwald, wm@srgb45.org, 703-960-9039
Senior Warden Jerry P. Keilsohn, sw@srgb45.org, 301-570-0446
Junior Warden Burt S. Levy, PM, jw@srgb45.org, 202-409-4449
Secretary Michael K. Greenwald, PM, 301-272-0168
2900 Covington Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910-1206, secretary@srgb45.org
Treasurer Robert H. Starr, PGM, treasurer@srgb45.org, 301-460-3088
Chaplain Walter F. Simon, PM, DSM, chaplain@srgb45.org, 301-318-2485
Master-of-Ceremonies GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
mc@srgb45.org, 301-598-8379
Senior Deacon Jeffrey R. Greenwald, sd@srgb45.org, 301-869-1915
Junior Deacon Jacobo "Sonny" Garibay, jd@srgb45.org, 202-528-1385
Senior Steward Alex Rieser, ss@srgb45.org, 202-253-9284
Junior Steward Allen R. Levy, js@srgb45.org, 703 470-4945
Trustees Jeffrey Greenwald, (2019) jgreenwald@srgb45.org, 301-869-1915
..... Julien P. Hofberg, PM (2020), trustee@srgb45.org, 301-774-2868
..... Jerome M. Bauman, PM (2021), trustee@srgb45.org, 301-593-2478
Fidelity Medal Recipient Jerrold Gordon, PM, MA, redskinjer1@verizon.net,
301-598-3408
Historian Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@srgb45.org, 301-318-2485
Aide to the Master Hal Henig, hhenig@srgb45.org, 301-681-3873
Tiler John R. Garrison, PM, johngarrison08@yahoo.com, 301-864-4981
Immediate PM Raymond Horn, rhorn@srgb45.org, 443-253-0605

2019 Representatives

Masonic Foundation Burton Penn, PM, bpenn@srgb45.org, 202-249-9008
Masonic & Eastern Star Home Jerome Bauman, PM,
jbauman@srgb45.org, 301-593-2478
St. John's Mite Association Michael Greenwald, PM,
mgreenwald@srgb45.org, 301-272-0168

2019 Committee Chairmen

Auditing Kevin Stemp, kstemp@srgb45.org
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock, PM
jbinstock@srgb45.org, 301-442-4812
Bulletin Editor Raymond Horn, PM, rhorn@srgb45.org, 443-253-0605
Photographer Bulletin Assistant Jacobo "Sonny" Garibay
Communications Chair Vacant
Business Manager .. Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@srgb45.org, 301-318-2485
By-Laws Robert H. Starr, PGM, rhstarr@srgb45.org, 301-460-3088
Degree Director/Catechism GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
srappeport@srgb45.org, 301-598-8379
Catechism Instructors Burt S. Levy, PM, blevy@srgb45.org, 202 409-4449
Burton Penn, PM, bpenn@srgb45.org, 202-249-9008
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@srgb45.org, 301-989-8945
Candidates' Proficiency Burt Levy, PM, jw@srgb45.org, 202-409-4449
Relief W.M., S.W., J.W.
Funeral, Visitations Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@srgb45.org, 301-989-8945
Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@srgb45.org, 301-318-2485
Investment Jerome Bauman, PM, jbauman@srgb45.org, 301-593-2478
Membership David B. Torchinsky, PM, dtorchinsky@srgb45.org, 301-933-1955
Masonic Historian Erik Milman, PM, emilman@srgb45.org, 301-651-8879
Masonic Education Joshua L. Rubin, PM, jrubin@srgb45.org, 301-920-0789
Refreshment JS, SS, JD, SD
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, hhenig@srgb45.org,
301-681-3873
Visitations SW Jerry P. Kielsohn, kielsohn@srgb45.org, 301-570-0446
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiv-
ing
Baskets SD Jeffrey Greenwald, jgreenwald@srgb45.org, 301-869-1915
David B. Torchinsky, PM, dtorchinsky@srgb45.org, 301-933-1955
WebmasterSec. Michael Greenwald, PM, mgreenwald@srgb45.org, 301-272-0168
Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation President—Vacant
Sec. Treas—Michael K. Greenwald, PM
SD Jeffrey Greenwald
Michael J. Rinis, PM, mrinis@srgb45.org, 301-384-8244

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For the Worshipful Master Michael K. Greenwald, PM
For the Senior Warden Derek Gould
For the Junior Warden Allen Levy

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin



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 Secretary
 2900 Covington Road
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-1206



Calendar for Masonic Year 2019—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 Robert Greenwald about all events (see page 2)

Date	Event	Open to
October	8 Stated Communication – Called Off	
	13 Sukkah Build– 10:00 a.m.	
	23 Meet up –TBD location 7:30 p.m.	For Masons and Potential Masons
	27 Sukkah Take Down– 10:00 a.m.	

Date	Event	Open to
November	8 Stated Communication Lodge opens 7:30 p.m. dinner at 6:30 p.m	MM Masons welcome
	16 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia - 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	
	23 Thanksgiving Baskets, Truckload at Safeway — 6:00 p.m.	
	24 Kensington Lodge, Assemble and deliver Thanksgiving Baskets — 7:00 a.m.	
December	8 Lodge Installation of Officers	
	15 Jingle Bell Run — 9:00 a.m.	
	22 VA Visitation — 9:30 a.m.	