



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

bulletin

Volume XCVIII • Number 6/7/8
June - August 2020

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)

JUNE'S VIRTUAL STATED COMMUNICATION



On Tuesday, June 9th, our Lodge will hold its second Virtual Stated Communication

The "topic" for June's Stated is in honor of Flag day on June 14th, "A humorous look at the American Flag" which will be presented by our WM Jerry Keilsohn. Our June Stated Communication falls only a few days before Flag Day. The Lodge will have a special magical presentation during the meeting.

In 1916, the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 became a nationally observed event by a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson. However, it was not designated as National Flag Day until August 3rd, 1949, when an Act of Congress designated June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Today, Flag Day is usually celebrated with parades, essay contests, ceremonies, and picnics to preserve the traditions, history, pride, and respect that are due to the nation's symbol, Old Glory. This year, however, most of these activities can not take place in public, so the WM has chosen this topic for our June meeting. Please plan to attend.

Following the Grand Master's protocol for hosting a virtual meeting. Please send the Secretary a note that intends to participate to receive the link for our meeting. Remember that you should participate in a private area, it is suggested you wear headphones if needed and log in early.

**Please check out our Lodge's
website:**

<https://sgbf45.org>

**which has been updated for the
ensuing year!**

Do you know that on our website
all of the *Bulletins* over the last year
are posted without the Trestleboard
for your reference?



Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn

As I am writing this, it is interesting to see how we as Masons have coped with the current situation. We have still managed to meet - not physically - but we still see each other, talk to each other, and for short periods of time interact. Most of us miss the handshake, the hug, and the simple interaction of sharing a meal together. Hopefully, someday soon, we will be able to do those things together again.

I wrote the rest of this a few months ago when the incident happened. I decided to save it for this month as it fits better with Father's Day. My grandfather was a wonderful storyteller. He would often keep us engaged until the very end of the story until we (my sister and I) finally realized he was making it up. He also had plenty of "true" stories too. I often wish 20-year-old me had paid more attention. My Dad was also a good storyteller. Not quite as good a Grandpop, but close. I will never be as good as the two of them.

On to the story. I came home from work and pulled into my driveway in my usual spot. As I am getting out of the car, I look over at the mini-van my wife usually drives. The rear tire is flat. I do not mean 'just needs some air' - I mean flat, as in the rim is just about resting on the ground flat! I take a quick look, and to my surprise, I can see why it is flat. It has a rather large concrete screw sticking out of the tread. Often it is hard to find what caused the flat, but in this case, I have no problem seeing it.

I know some folks would panic at this point. As Wanda on the Magic School Bus would have said: "What are we gonna do, what are we gonna do, what are we gonna do?"

As for me - I went inside, told my wife she had a flat tire on the van, then went and changed my clothes. I then needed to get some tools. The first was a jack. One of the things my Dad and I learned when we used to work on cars a lot when I was a teenager, is the jack that comes with most cars is difficult to use. So he bought a simpler one. In this case a bottle jack. Much easier to use, especially if the task is to just change a tire. I have the one Dad bought as my Mom constantly asks me to take the tools home with me. I get the jack out, and jack up the car, so I can take the tire off.

Getting the tire off is not that difficult, you just remove the five lug nuts. The difficulty is everybody likes to over tighten the nuts. And the last time they were removed on the van was a while back, and the shop that did it used an impact wrench to do it. Knowing that, I went and rounded

up mine. This, with the necessary air compressor, was a gift from my Dad. I do not get to use it that often, but it makes the task much easier. And it is really fun to use. Plus it makes a lot of noise when you use it.

The impact wrench did its thing, and the tire comes right off. One of the things my Dad insisted I know how to do when I learned to drive, was learn to change a flat tire. At that time, not that big a deal for me as I was already doing car stuff, including helping to put the snow tires on in the fall and taking them off in the spring. My sister learned also. Not surprisingly, it has saved her on several occasions. I insisted that my kids learn too.

Back to the story. Once I had the tire off, I took it to the local garage, and they patched it. Every time I am in an auto parts store, I keep forgetting to buy a repair kit. One day I will remember, and then probably never get another flat tire. The whole fix took about 5 minutes as the guy at the garage knew what he was doing and had the correct tools to do it. Fortunately for me, the screw was in the tread, so it was easy to patch.

After getting the tire patched, I schlepped it back home, then reversed the process to put it back on. Total time, from seeing the tire flat to putting the tools away was about 30 minutes.

One of the lessons my Dad always preached was to use the correct tool for the job. A lesson we both learned the hard way over the years. Another of the lessons I learned from Dad was about teaching somebody to do something. Dad always insisted that you do it, not him. That way you learned by doing. He would watch, guide, and only if necessary, jump in to help. We often learned together if it was something new. It took me a long time to appreciate that. I discovered that it is more enjoyable to see somebody do something you taught them, then it often is to do it yourself. My Mom teaches the same way, which is how I learned to bake and cook.

My Dad passed away almost 20 years ago. Thank you, Dad, for teaching me how to change a tire. Thank you, Dad, for buying me the right tools for the job. And thank you Dad for teaching me how to learn.

Happy Father's Day to all the Dads out there.

I already snuck one quote in, but here are two more for Father's Day

"When you teach your son, you teach your son's son."
The Talmud

"The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get."
Tim Russert

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
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Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*, wm@sgbf45.org
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

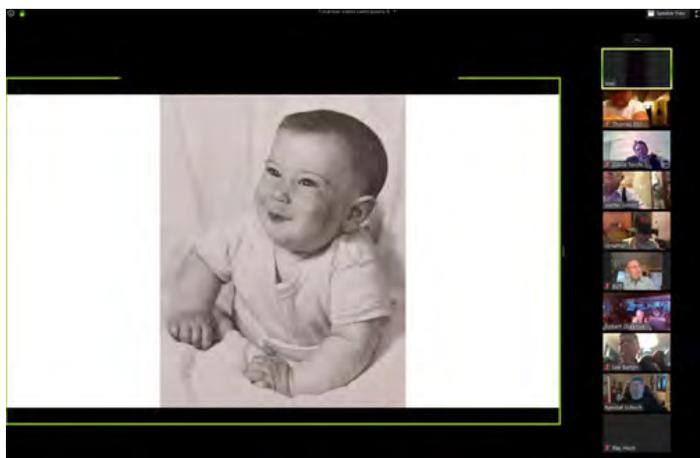
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OUR LODGE HAS GONE VIRTUAL

Our Lodge meetings have gone “virtual” in compliance with the Grand Lodge “social distancing” edict. Since our last Bulletin Issue, we successfully held two “virtual” meetups, as well as the very first Stated Communication using a newly issued Ritual. Our first Virtual Meet-up

On April 27th, WM Jerry Keilsohn hosted the first of three scheduled Virtual Meet-Ups and Check-Ins with our Lodge. We counted 23 Brethren. A real mix of ages, employment, and health situations. Several of our younger members shared experiences of working from home, or in a few cases at their essential business. Others have become more isolated and have been quarantined for an extended time due to their underlying health issues and they certainly appreciated the renewed connection with their Brethren. Lots of stories about how we each celebrated Passover; how homeschooling is going; and the grind of working from home every day. Several Brethren’s adult children who have moved back home stopped in to say hello as they have often participated in our community service activities. A good time was had by all and we moved forward to plan our next Meet-up.

Allen Wright, PM 1963, shared this great photograph of the Lodges’ birthday party in 1963. Several hundred brethren and their guests attended the event held at a large hotel in the district along with a full orchestra. Pictured is Allen assisting Ms. Maryland, 1963 out of the Lodge’s birthday cake. Gene Denati’s orchestra was featured.



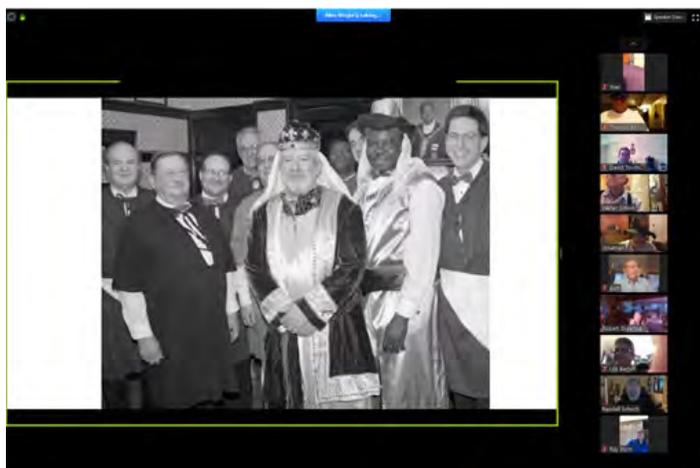
Guess who used to be cute? See the next photo.



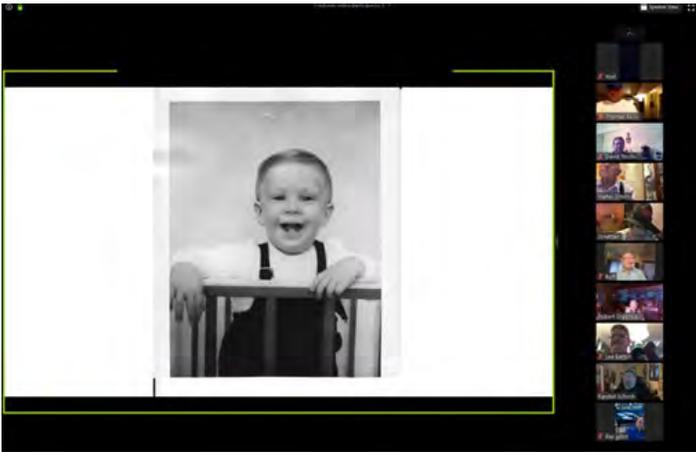
Attending the first Virtual Meetup, WMB’s, RWB’s, WB’s and Brethren all: Jerry Keilsohn, Raymond Horn, David Torchinsky, Howard Politzer, Randy Schoch, Erik Milman, Yoel Gittleson, Hal Henig, Burt Levy, Ryan Simon, Aaron Kamerer Allen Wright, Allen Levy, Julien Hofberg, Michael Greenwald, Alex Rieser, Robert Greenwald, Jules Tepper, Robert Starr, Jerome Bauman, Walter Simon.

THE SECOND MEET-UP

Two weeks later, on Memorial Day, we held our 2nd “virtual” officer’s meeting followed by a Zoom meetup attended by 22 members. W.M. Jerry Keilsohn made it entertaining with a collection of baby pictures, inviting us to guess who they grew up to be! We were also treated to a collection of photos from past Masonic events that our Brethren had contributed. Great stories and fellowship.



2006 Julien Hofberg as King Solomon, during our Lodge’s last full costumed degree.



Our WM at 9 months, crawling out of the crib, he must be looking for his top hat!



Our visit to St. John's Lodge in 1963. Three full busses conveyed our Brethren to Baltimore for the visitation! Attending the second Virtual Meetup, WMB's, RWB's, WB's and Brethren all: Sheldon Rappeport, Erik Milman, Robert Starr, Jerome Bauman, Allen Wright, Walter Simon, Allen Levy, Burt Levy, Jerry Keilsohn, Hal Henig, Robert Greenwald, Yoel Gittleson, David Torchinsky, Randall Schoch, Jonathan Binstock, Julien Hofberg, Lee Barton, Thomas Ebilane, John Garrison, and Raymond Horn.

SGBF45 FIRST VIRTUAL STATED COMMUNICATION

It was a unique night, May 12th when Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 held its Stated Communication. WM Jerry Keilsohn decided to implement the Grand Master's Decision on holding a provisional meeting using the virtual technology. Our membership was very supportive and interested. The Brethren came out in force to participate.

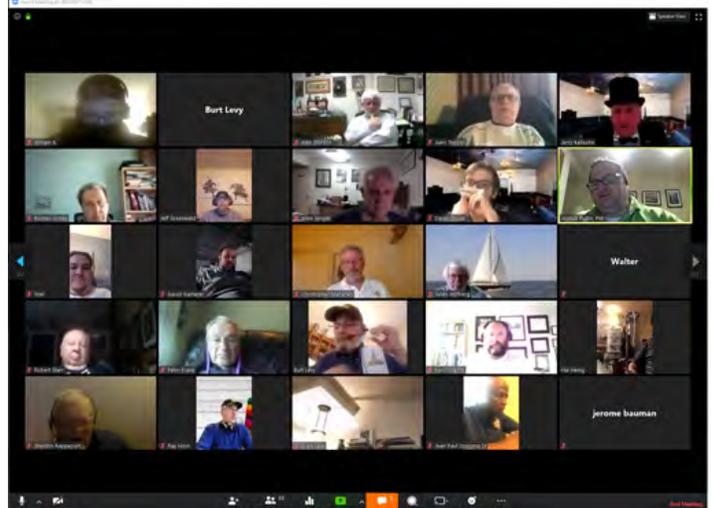
By following the guidance of the Grand Lodge and using the registration, waiting room, and then locking the Zoom meeting we were able to secure the virtual door and proceed with the new Provisional Ritual for opening and closing. WM Keilsohn could then conduct our business and lead a short program. We appreciated the visit by our Deputy Grand

Master, Grand Lecturer, and the Junior Grand Steward as well as recognizing MW Brothers Robert H. Starr, Jules S. Tepper, and Roman Volsky.

We were delighted that many brethren who are not able to travel to Lodge were able to join us remotely and at the end of the meeting many brethren stayed on to talk and catch up. We immediately scheduled our June Stated date to be another virtual Stated Communication. With the additional notice, before our next meeting, we hope to be able to solve some of the technical issues that plagued a few of our brethren who are using older computers or phones or do not know how to use a program like Zoom.



WM Jerry Keilsohn conducting his first virtual Stated Communication.



Attending the Stated Communication, WMB's, RWB's, WB's and Brethren all: Sheldon Rappeport, Peter Frank, Erik, Milman, Robert Starr, Jules Tepper, Jerome Bauman, Roman Volsky, William Keilsohn, Ryan Simon, Christopher Mahaney, Allen Wright, Derek Gould, Kevin Stemp, Jean-Paul Dongmo Sr. Alan Gordon, Walter Simon, Joel Van Vollenhoven, Allen Levy, Michael Greenwald, Burt Levy, Jerry Keilsohn, Joshua Rubin, Hal Henig, Jeff Greenwald, Robert Greenwald, Yoel Gittleson, Julien Hofberg, David Torchinsky, Randall Schoch, Aaron Kamerer, and Raymond Horn.

Happy Birthday

The following Brethren observe their birthdays on the dates shown.

Be sure to wish them well on that day.

June

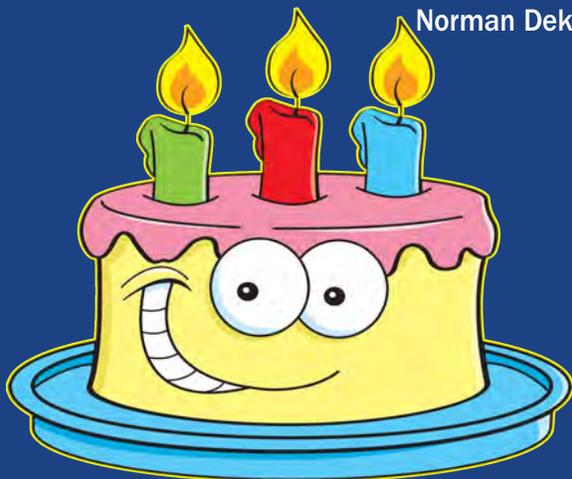
July

August

Stuart Werner2
 David Davis4
 Abraham Genderson..... 12
 Steven Foreman 12
 Walter Simon 13
 Michael Greenwald 16
 Kevin Stemp 18
 Kenneth Cohen..... 19
 William Applestein..... 23
 Daniel Sieger III..... 26
 Larry Bram 27
 Jerrold Gordon 28
 Barton Shapiro 29

Steven Rosner3
 Richard Trencher3
 Derek Gould6
 David Torchinsky..... 11
 Donald Stein 12
 Jeffrey Rothman 17
 Max Dekelbaum 21
 Peter Frank 21
 Michael Cohn 22
 Steven Riemer 23
 Michael Ben Canaan..... 27
 Aaron Kamerer..... 29
 David Kahn..... 29
 Norman Dekelbaum 31

Jeffrey Nadel4
 William Keilsohn5
 Burton Penn.....5
 David Applestein9
 J Frenk 10
 Howard Politzer 10
 Morton Davis 10
 Yoel Gittleson..... 13
 Donald Malloreay 14
 Joshua Rubin 18
 Joseph Snyder..... 19
 John Garrison..... 19
 Adam Forman..... 19
 Leonard Rubin 22
 Julien Hofberg..... 25
 Jacob Dekelbaum 28
 Norman Schikevitz 28
 Edward Weinstein 30



Memories of Fellowship

With all the social isolating, Personal Protective Equipment and way-way too much on-line virtual Meet-ups and Check-ins, it is easy to forget that we usually get together, the more the merrier. Here are three photos provided by our SW, Burt Levy from some of his favorite get together in the recent past. Our Purim themed Festive Table, a Scottish Rite meeting and an outing to a Washington Caps Game.



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Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving
Baskets..... SD Jeffrey Greenwald, jgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
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Sec. Treas..... Michael K. Greenwald, PM
JW Jeffrey Greenwald
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2020 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master Allen R. Levy
For the Senior Warden Derek R. Gould
For the Junior Warden Aaron Kamerer

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

Secretary

6109 Lone Oak Drive

Bethesda, MD 20817



Calendar for Masonic Year 2020—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 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 P. Keilsohn about all events (see page 2).

Date		Event	Open to
June	9	<i>Virtual Stated Communication Flag Day Program</i> Lodge Opens at 7:30 pm, gather at 7:15 pm, Request link before June 9th from the Secretary if you plan to attend, Secretary@sgbf45.org	FC Masons
	22	<i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm on-line meeting – see the link or phone number	Everyone
July		Dark	
August		Dark	

Date		Event	Open to
September	8	<i>Stated Communication</i> Location TBD Lodge opens at 7:30 pm, dinner if we are able to meet, at 6:30 pm	FC Masons
	13	<i>JSSA Rosh Hashannah Baskets</i> Location and Time TBD Details will be provided when available	Everyone
	28	<i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Online meeting, see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone