



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

# bulletin

Volume XCVIII • Number 10  
October 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)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 PM

“VIRTUAL” MEETING

## WARDENS’ NIGHT

*by Burt Levy, Senior Warden*

Warden’s Night is typically a “preview” of how next year’s lodge will look when the current Wardens (if elected) move up. Our Junior Warden, Jeffrey Greenwald has performed admirably in the stations and places he has occupied and undoubtedly will “do us proud” in the West. As for myself, I am an “old trooper” (verry old). I had the previous high honor of sitting in the East as your W.M. in 1995 when our rallying cry was “Revive ’45 in ’95. Now, 25 years later I am proud to see that our beloved lodge has seen a complete revitalization and a renewed vigor in our pursuits of Brotherly Love and Masonic ideals. The positive impacts of the wise and capable men who have guided this lodge and who, most recently have returned us to a shining example of Freemasonry within the Grand Jurisdiction of the District of Columbia’s Lodges should not go unnoticed.

YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS THIS MEETING!

Most of our members are aware that I have served as a photographer for this lodge as well as for the Grand Lodge for many years. As a result, I have a vast photographic history of our past 30 years. At our October 13th Meeting, and with the magic of Zoom, I will share a representation of these photos with you. If you have attended a meeting or a social event in our lodge, or of the Grand Lodge in those years past, you may very well want to reminisce with us as we review highlights of them. If you are new or have not been active recently, you will enjoy seeing that our Lodge has been well represented at these events. When you see an image of yourself or of someone you remember, you will be enabled to share comments with the other attendees. We may even have a contest to see how many long-ago events or members that you can identify.



*Brother Merv Conn and Brother Elmer “Skinny” Morris who played in the Redskins Band. When we had real musical entertainment during our Lodge meetings.*

The rules for a “Stated” meeting by phone, computer, or laptop require a “provisional” opening and closing which is expected to be viewed by Masons only. But, once we have performed that required opening, we will declare the meeting in recess so that you can invite your family members to enjoy the photographs. When it comes time to resume the provisional ritual, we will ask that only members continue viewing.

I promise that this will be a very enjoyable meeting and look forward to seeing you there. Our Secretary, Raymond Horn will send out the link and instructions for receiving the meeting. Please RSVP to the secretary so that he may extend the link for the Stated Communication. If you need any help in understanding how to “join” a virtual meeting you will have time to seek instruction. Please give me a call or send an email: [Burt753@rcn.com](mailto:Burt753@rcn.com) or 202 409-4449.



## Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn

By the time you read this, Mother Nature will be about to start or have started her second show for the year. This time the changing of the leaves for autumn.

I have a beef with her this year, so I am hoping she compensates some with a spectacular show of changing colors.

Also, by the time you read this, The Holidays will have passed. May I offer all a Happy New Year? Hopefully, this year will be better than the last one.

Several Brethren have asked about when we might be able to meet in person. The honest answer is I do not know. As I am writing this I am planning for virtual meetings for October, November, and December. November is interesting as we usually do Lodge Elections and in the past few years a Master Mason's degree. It makes for a long evening. It is exciting to raise new Masons which makes the long evening worthwhile.

For November, we are going to still hold elections. The Grand Lodge has worked out a way to do it using Grandview. Grandview is the Grand Lodges' management system. Every Brother has a log on. If you have not logged on in a while, or have never tried it, I recommend that you do so before November. The place to start is the Grand Lodge web site (<https://www.dcgrandlodge.org/>) and then look under Member Resources, Member Portal.

This year has been about adapting. We have moved from in-person meetings to virtual meetings. When I go to the grocery store and see everybody wearing masks, I am finally over the thought that the place is about to be robbed. It is pretty funny when I happened to stop at the grocery store at Leisure World, and just about all of the customers are older than me.

Time for a short story. My wife and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary this July. Thirty years ago,

when we were planning a honeymoon, I suggested a cruise to Alaska. Alaska is one of two states that I have never visited. My wife wanted someplace warm. So we went to Greece and had a wonderful time. Five years ago, we thought we would try Alaska again. But my wife was having some medical issues so that trip never happened. Last year with our 30th coming, we thought we would try again. This time we got everything booked and we were ready to go. We had agreed to not do anniversary presents this year, and just save money for the cruise. But of course, we did not go.

My wife and I had a traditional Jewish wedding. At the conclusion, I had read about an ancient tradition where the Bride and Groom, spend a few minutes with each other before greeting everybody. If I remember correctly, one is supposed to share something to eat. A bagel seemed to be the ideal thing. I arranged for a bagel for us in the Rabbi's office and a Miller Lite for my wife (her favorite beer).

So fast forward 30 years. No fancy meal on a cruise ship. Just us at home. But my wife decided to do something special. Dinner was Gyros washed down with a few Miller Lites. I bought her flowers, and she bought a dozen bagels! An anniversary I probably will not forget. We hope to try Alaska again for our 35th. Personally, I think I may never get to Alaska.

It is time to close with a quote. But before I do, I have an observation. I work in IT. One of my many tasks is to make sure that the computer systems I am responsible for have the most recent versions of the software on them. It has been observed by many of us, that if the Year 2020 was a software package, we would all be making a huge effort to go back to the previous version, as the Year 2020 clearly has a virus.

Finding a quote to end with was not easy. But here goes:

*"Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"* - Mary Poppins

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**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](mailto:wm@sgbf45.org)  
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*  
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

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# ANNIVERSARY NIGHT – STRONG TURNOUT

For our first virtual Anniversary Night, WB Jerry Keilsohn had already mailed out the certificates to the many Brethren who were celebrating their Masonic Anniversary this year. As Jerry has done for the last few years when he organized the event, he shared some interesting facts from each Brother's Masonic year. This year Jerry included several photographs of the honored Brethren with their pin and certificates for his presentation.



Brother Howard G. Politzer was the Senior Anniversary Honoree, recognized for 45 years of service, who attended and was able to talk to the Lodge about his journey in Masonry. Howard was raised in Samuel Gompers Lodge when they met at Congregation Tifereth Israel in Washington D.C.. The night he was raised there were so many Brethren in attendance that it was standing room only in the large room. He remembered that Ted Kahn gave the Charge when he was initiated. Brother Chester Katz, recognized for 40 years of service was also in attendance and two Brothers, Maurice Berger and William A. Stein, recognized for 55 years of service sent photographs.

Following the recognitions, Jacob M. Bressman, PM of La France Lodge No. 93 presented his talk "To Unite in One Union with Oneness: The Path to G-d as Taught by King Solomon." During this talk, WB Bressman traced the connections between the Jewish Oral Tradition dating from King Solomon's time with the Esoteric mystery tradition of Hermeticism to the Masonic Degrees and the symbolism of the Lodge Room.



*WB Jacob Bressman giving his lecture at our September Meeting*



**Brother William A. Stein, 55 year Anniversary.**



**Howard G. Politzer, 45 year Anniversary**



**Brother Maurice Berger, 55 Year Anniversary**



**Brother Chester Katz, 40 Year Anniversary**

# COVID or Not. We Still Serve the Community

Once again, along with JSSA, the brethren of SGBF#45 helped to get delivered over 500 Rosh Hashanah “baskets” to needy members of the community. Masked, gloved, and practicing social distancing, the pictures attached can illustrate how things were done, but they don’t reveal the toil and sweat needed to accomplish the task. Brothers Burt Levy PM, Raymond Horn PM, and JW Jeff Greenwald, along with Ray’s son David were the worker bees at JSSA, on Montrose Road in Rockville. WM Jerry Keilsohn, and JD Derek Gould, SS Aaron Kamerer, and Aaron’s wife Shelly, had the duties at Congregation Ohr Kodesh in Chevy Chase. We schlepped bags from the buildings to the cars making the

deliveries, then we toted over 60 bags to the Revitz House to be distributed to the infirmed. We sweated but always had a smile, knowing that this was such an important contribution to our community.

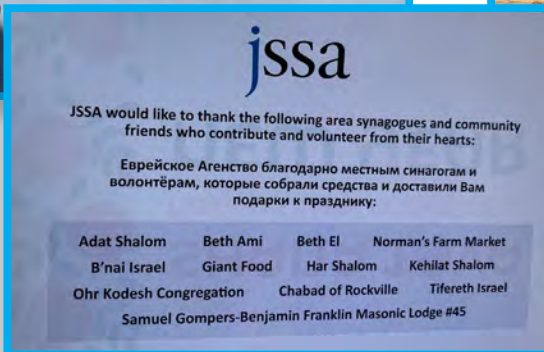
Of course, our contributions never end. While the October Sukkah Build and Deconstruction event with the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes has been canceled, we intend to give a financial contribution to JFGH this year. Then November brings on the main event; the William Boker Annual Thanksgiving Basket Program. More to come on this event in a future Bulletin, but be prepared to help. Monetary contributions are always welcome. Stay Safe.



Diane Hays-Earp from JSSA, Brothers Burt Levy PM, Raymond Horn PM, and JW Jeff Greenwald, along with Ray’s son David were the worker bees at JSSA, on Montrose Road in Rockville



SS Aaron Kamerer, his wife Shelly, WM Jerry Keilsohn, and JD Derek Gould making it happen for JSSA.



JW and Organizer of our Community Service Events, Jeff Greenwald and David Horn

This year’s Card which is included in the baskets includes a thank you for our Lodge.

# LATE AUGUST VIRTUAL MEET-UP AND AQUATIC GARDENS

On Monday Evening August 24, our lodge had our Monthly Virtual Meet-Up on Zoom. Attendees during this Virtual Meet-Up were Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, SW Burt Levy, PM, Bob Greenwald, PM, and Dave Torchinsky, PM.

The discussion focus of this Meet-Up was the relationship of Labor Day to Masonry. This discussion had relevance since our lodge is named for Samuel Gompers, the founder of the American Federation of Labor and an important labor leader during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Also, Brother Gompers was a member of the Scottish Rite and a 33rd Degree Mason. WB Bob Greenwald mentioned that he benefited as a union member while employed at Raleigh's. The Brethren appreciated the labor union movement in enhancing the lives of American Workers and their families.

On Labor Day, the Brethren and guests went on a morning nature walk at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Center in Washington, DC not far from Prince George's

County. We saw flowers, goldfish in a pond, and wildlife on the boardwalk, including blue and white heron birds.

Five Brethren and three guests participated during the walk at the Aquatic Gardens and we stayed for over 90 Minutes. The Brethren who attended: Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, SW Burt Levy, JD Derek Gould, SS Aaron Kamerer, and Brother Sonny Gariby. Our guests were Lisa Henig, Shelly Kamerer, and Hal's good friend Steve Levin. Brother Sonny frequently visits the Aquatic Gardens and has posted several photos on his Facebook Page. Everybody enjoyed the nature walk, the wildlife, and everyone wore masks.

We will not have a Virtual Meet-Up in September, because of the High Holidays, our usual date would fall on Yom Kippur, the most important Jewish Holiday. The next Virtual Meet-Up will be held in late October and a topic will be forthcoming. Finally, I miss our old face to face restaurant Meet-Ups, which were canceled due to the COVID pandemic.



*Brother Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, SW Burt Levy, JD Derek Gould, SS Aaron Kamerer, and Brother Sonny Gariby.*



# Prepare for Lodge Elections and take control of your Masonic information!

Online Lodge Elections are coming soon - and to participate, you MUST be logged into your Grand View account. As our WM Jerry Keilsohn explains in his column, at the direction of the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary has worked with Grand View to host a voting system.

**GrandView** is our membership database. It utilizes an online interface, and is accessed by all members within the jurisdiction of Washington, DC. It is vitally important that you keep your contact information up to date and accurate, so that important information from the Grand Lodge and your constituent Lodge can be communicated to you according to your preferences.

*Please Note:* We **do not** share **any** of your information with outside or third party sources – **EVER**.

**Step 1:** Use the link below to access the GrandView Login Page. (Remember to bookmark the link for future access!)

[https://dc.gvsoftware.com/users/sign\\_in](https://dc.gvsoftware.com/users/sign_in)

**Step 2:** Click on “Sign Up.” (See below)

**Step 4:** Once confirmed, enter your preferred email address and create/confirm your password. And click sign up.

**Step 5:** Confirm your contact information, then sit back and bask in the warm comforting embrace of accurate data. (Remember to write down and save your login information for future use.)

**Step 3:** Confirm your membership in a D.C. lodge by entering your lodge number, your membership ID, and your last name from your dues card.\* (see example below)



**\*Please Note:** when entering your last name it is case sensitive. Also, if you have a suffix after your last name (such as Jr., Sr., or III), you might have some difficulty. No worries, just give us a call or drop a line to [grandlodge@dcgrandlodge.org](mailto:grandlodge@dcgrandlodge.org) and let us know. We'll have you up and running in no time!

## IN MEMORIAM

**Bro Lenard B. Heller**

**Born:** May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1931

**EA°:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1965

**FC°:** March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1965

**MM°:** May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1965

**Died:** May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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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](http://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
October	13 <i>Virtual Stated Communication</i> <i>Warden's Night</i> <i>Virtual Meeting</i> Lodge opens at 7:30 pm Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org	Masons
	26 <i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm <i>Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone
November	10 <i>Stated Virtual Communication</i> <i>Elections</i> <i>Virtual Meeting</i> Lodge opens at 7:30 pm Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org	Masons

Date	Event	Open to
November	22 <i>William Bocker Memorial Thanksgiving Baskets</i> Kensington Lodge - See enclosed article Let Jeff Greenwald know if you can attend jw@sgbf45.org	Everyone
	23 <i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm <i>Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone
December	13 <i>Stated Communication - Installation</i> <i>Virtual Meeting, 1:00 p.m. Open on the EA Degree</i> Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org <b>** Note - Lodge will go to recess after opening.            Family &amp; Friends are welcome for the installation.</b>	Everyone
	21 <i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm <i>Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone