

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



**75**



# **A HISTORY**

**1925 — 2000**

**Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin  
Lodge, No. 45, F.A.A.M.  
Washington, D.C.**

**William D. Boker, P.M.**  
*Worshipful Master*

**Harry Hofberg, M.A.**  
*Historian/Editor*

**Julien P. Hofberg, P.M.**  
*Co-Editor*



## **AS TIME GOES ON**

From our first Worshipful Master, Henry Gompers, to our seventy-fifth, Worshipful Master William D. Boker, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge has been fortunate in having dedicated men serve in the East. The large number of committees and brethren involved in the Masonic, humanitarian and social work of our fraternity is impressive. In consonance with the many Gompers-Franklin workers, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, like the conductor of an orchestra, provides direction, organization, stimulation and guidance in the course to be followed during his tenure in the East. Since its beginning, our Lodge has flourished in Masonic circles, has instilled loving pride in its members, and its good deeds have earned us the respect of the entire community.

Although we attempted to note all the outstanding events in each Masonic year, space does not permit discussion of the many efforts and personal sacrifices of Masters and Sideliners who brought these events to fruition.

A noted philosopher once said that "history never embraces more than a small part of reality." The history of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge falls into this category. Our Lodge has flourished to become one of the most active, and respected lodges in this jurisdiction. It was the enthusiastic leadership of its officers and both the dedication and support of its membership that made this possible.

The lapse of time, the changing life style, and the aging of our members, has resulted in the normal depletion of our membership. This situation prevails in Masonry as a whole, as well as fraternal organizations in general. We are trying to adjust ourselves to the new prevailing conditions, and are looking forward to an upswing in activities.

Our officers have become more active in the Grand Lodge. Three Past Grand Masters and two Grand Lodge line officers are from our Lodge, namely R.W. Bro. Robert H. Starr, Sr. Grand Warden; R.W. Bro. Jules S. Tepper, Jr. Grand Warden. In addition, W. Bro. Walter S. Simon, serves as Deputy Grand Chaplain, and W. Bro. Sheldon Rappeport, as Deputy Grand Lecturer. It is obvious that our Lodge is well represented in Masonry in this jurisdiction.

Your attention is directed to the title of this booklet, "A History of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge," with special reference to the word "A." It is not "The" history, but rather "A" history. "The" history would be one which contains a full and complete account of the history of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge from its inception to the present date. It would include the telling of many little stories, the recounting of numerous incidents as the heart-clutching sight of a newly installed Master inviting his father, with whom he had been Raised, to the East, and the father's sincere and faltering praise of his son; or the comical sight of the candidate, in a loud shouting voice, refusing to give the "secret word" or the sad plight of the Master who had dedicated a night to the honorary members realizing on that night that he had forgotten to send them invitations; ad infinitum.

However, such a history, "The" history of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge would be a real tome, which, notwithstanding the fact that a Lodge with a three-fourths of a century behind it, has established a tradition and heritage and deserves a true and full account of that period, would be costly beyond the approval of the powers that be.

La Rochefoucault, the French philosopher and philanthropist, has aptly said, "History never embraces more than a small part of reality." This, then, is "a" history of Saueel Gompers-Benjmain Franklin Lodge, and embraces the account of only such facts as space permits.

Theodore Rothman, M.A.  
Dr. Maurice A. Goldberg, P.M.

Harry Hofberg, M.A.  
Julien P. Hofberg, P.M.

## **THE SEED GROWS**

The first meeting of the proposed Samuel Gompers Lodge was held at the home of Harry Coleman, 1321 7th St., N.W., on February 24, 1925. John F. Kimmerling, Past Master of National Lodge No. 12 opened the meeting. Thirty-one men, all Masons in good standing, were present. This was the crystallization of the idea of memorializing Samuel Gompers by naming a new Masonic Lodge for him, and the first manifestation of a definite plan after weeks of consideration and discussion, of investigating and examining the rules and requirements, of decisions and plans.

The chair was turned over to Henry J. Gompers, who was acting chairman, while Louis Rosenberg was acting Secretary. It was determined by motion to form a new Masonic Lodge and to name it the Samuel Gompers Lodge. The following were nominated and elected as the officers: Master, Henry J. Gompers; Sr. Warden, William P. Jacobs; Jr. Warden, Maurice Blum; Secretary, Louis Rosenberg; Treasurer, Frank Foer; Sr. Deacon, Samuel J. Feldman; Jr. Deacon, A. Kenneth Armstrong; Sr. Steward, Joseph Schrot; Jr. Steward, Isadore A. Peake; Master of Ceremonies, Harry Lewis; Trustees, Joseph A. Wilner, Jacque Heidenheimer and Clay A. Armstrong.

Two weeks later, on March 10, 1925, the second meeting of the proposed Lodge was held at the Gavel Club, 719 9th St., N.W. At this time it was announced that new rules had been promulgated by the Grand Lodge which required the officers of a new lodge to be able to confer all three degrees before a dispensation could be granted. P.M. Albert A. Haas of Columbia Lodge No. 3, P.M. Marquis T. Albertson of Hiram No. 10 and Gail T. Judd, an officer of National Lodge No. 12, were assigned official instructors for the officers by the Grand Lodge; Christian Hansen, of Albert Pike Lodge No. 36, also assisted. At this meeting it was decided that the fee for Degrees would be \$60, the annual dues would be \$6, and the regular meetings would be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

At the 3rd meeting, held at the Gavel Club, March 24, Wm. P. Jacobs resigned as Sr. Warden and Joseph Schrot resigned as Sr. Steward. their places were filled by advancing the other officers and by the appointment of Louis J. Raebach and Louis Goldberg as Sr. Steward and Jr. Steward, respectively.

The 4th meeting, on April 13 and the 5th on April 27, were both held at the Gavel Club, and both consisted mainly of discussion of reports and strengthening of plans. At the 1st meeting members of the proposed Lodge pledged \$1,100 for Temple Heights, and at the 2nd meeting it was announced that the officers would appear before the Grand Lodge Committee on Work and Lectures on April 29 for their final examination of proficiency. It was also determined that the meetings should be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

## **UNDER DISPENSATION**

The officers had passed the examination with flying colors, and at the Grand Lodge meeting on May 14, 1925, on the recommendation of National Lodge No. 12, Grand Master Roe Fulkerson issued a Dispensation. Consequently, for the first time, Samuel Gompers Lodge, U.D., met at the Masonic Temple building at 13th and New York Ave., N.W. The meeting was held in Lodge Room No. 3, on Tuesday, May 26, 1925. The officers wore jewels and aprons borrowed from Hiram Lodge No. 10, and aprons for members were used which had been made by several of the wives of the officers from material presented by Grand Lecturer Bert V. Wolfe. The Grand Master was present, accompanied by Senior Grand Warden Gratz E. Dunkum, Grand Chaplain John C. Palmer, and Past Grand Master Charles C. Coombs. Also present was Frank Morrison, long time Secretary of the American Federation of Labor and co-worker of Samuel Gompers. Nineteen petitions were presented that night, among which were two from applicants who were to become future Masters, Maurice A. Goldberg and Alfred L. Bennett. The first petition was read by the Grand Master. It was from Alexander Gompers, son of the Master, and grandson of Samuel Gompers.

During the succeeding months the Lodge was busily engaged in ritualistic work. The first Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred on June 29, 1925, the first Fellowcraft Degree on July 28, 1925, and the first Master Mason Degree was conferred August 25, 1925. Sixty-nine petitions were received before the Lodge was chartered, of which there were seven rejections. Twenty-four members were Raised, twenty-nine were Passed, and thirty-five were Initiated.

Among the petitioners was another who was to become a Master in the future, Milton D. Korman. The Grotto presented the Lodge with a set of resolutions commemorating the passing of Samuel Gompers, and William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, presented the Lodge with a gavel used by Samuel Gompers. The Lodge held its first Memorial Services on Sunday, December 13, 1925, at the Elks Club Auditorium, on the first anniversary of the passing of Samuel Gompers.

At a meeting held December 16, 1925, the Grand Lodge voted Samuel Gompers Lodge its Charter.

## THE MEMORABLE NIGHT: CHARTER

The culmination of 10 months of tense labor of learning, practicing, rehearsing and applying, arrived on the night of Tuesday, January 26, 1926, when Samuel Gompers Lodge, No. 45, held its first meeting as a duly constituted Lodge. For the occasion, the large Lodge room, number one, was borrowed, and the room was filled to overflowing. Grand Master Sydney R. Jacobs, accompanied by all of the officers of the Grand Lodge, three Past Grand Masters, seven Past Masters, and the entire Masters Association, in a body, were present. The Charter was read by Grand Secretary J. Claude Keiper, and the officers of the Lodge were installed by the Grand Master. Worshipful Master Judd presented the Lodge with a set of Jewels on behalf of National Lodge, No. 12. P.M. Haas presented the Seal to the Lodge. On behalf of Mrs. Henry Gompers and the Gompers family, Samuel J. Gompers presented a set of Working Tools. P.M. Babcock presented a 24-inch gauge on behalf of Theodore Roosevelt Lodge, No. 44. P.G.M. Roe Fulkerson presented the Lodge with a case for the Charter and the Masters Association presented the Master with a basket of flowers.

The Lodge voted the following Honorary members: P.G.M. Roe Fulkerson, P.G.M. Charles C. Coombs, Grand Secretary J. Claude Keiper, Grand Lecturer Bert V. Wolfe, Past Masters Harry Sherby, Marquis T. Albertson, Edward Burkholder, Dan C. Vaughan, Albert Haas, John W. Tiffany, Henry Stein, John A. Colburn, Grand Master Sydney R. Jacobs, and Brothers Christian Hansen and Samuel J. Gompers.

*CHARTER MEMBERS OF SAMUEL GOMPERS LODGE, No. 45 — On the night of January 26, 1926, the list was closed with the following 181 Charter members:*

Harry Abelman	Samuel J. Fishman	Max Kassan	Charles Rich
Abraham Abelman	David Felstein	Milton W. King	Carl Rosen
A.D. Abrams	William A. Finkel	Emanuel Kingsbury	Bert J. Rosenberg
Dave Alpher	Samuel J. Fishman	John A. Korman	Louis Rosenberg
Kenneth Armstrong	Samuel M. Flax	Isidore Kramer	Max Rosenberg
Clay A. Armstrong	Frank Foer	Harry M. Kraus	Reuben Rosenberg
Joseph Atkins	A.J. Fogel	Abraham Krupsaw	Nathan Rosenblatt
Oliver Atlas	Robert Fox	Herman Kur	Isidore Rosendorf
Benjamin Auerbach	Jacob N. Freedman	Morris Kushner	Myer C. Rosendorf
Paul F. Bachschmid, Jr.	Simon S. Freedman	Gilbert Leventhal	Charles M. Rosenthal
Jacob Bass	Joseph FUNGER	Amanuel Levin	Louis M. Rosenthal
Oscar H. Basseches	Isaac Furman	Joseph Levin	Samuel Rosenthal
Charles Basseches	Phillip J. Garfinkle	Joseph Levy	Max C. Rubin
David Becker	William Gildenhorn	Lewis L. Levy	Morris Rodis
Louis Becker	Samuel Gittleman	Sam Levy	Leo Schlosberg
Alfred F. Bennett	Louis Goldberg	Harry Lewis	Joseph Schrot
Israel Bers	Maurice A. Goldberg	Joseph Lewis	Harry S. Schulman
Edward Bilon	Samuel Goldberg	Robert Lewis	Isadore Semsker
David Blum	M.J. Goldstein	Samuel Lidoff	David Sheer
Maurice Blum	Alexander Gompers	Louis H. Lissowitz	Harry N. Sheer
Samuel Blumenthal	Henry J. Gompers	Ben Litman	Henry Sheer
Kalman Bochenek	Chester Gordon	Nathan Lubar	Frank Shipman
Harry Brisker	Frank Gordon	Maurice Luria	Jake Shulman
Louis Brooks	Louis J. Grant	Samuel Luria	Harry Siegel
Louis S. Brown	Maurice Greenbaum	Benjamin Madden	Morris Silverman
Bernard Buchantz	Jack Grober	Emmet L. Malicoat	Morris J. Silverman
Harry L. Cappel	Abram Grudd	Louis A. Malinsky	Joseph Simon
Harry Capton	Maurice M. Grudd	Philip G. Mandell	Norman N. Smiler
Nathan Cayton	David Glassman	Benjamin L. Munitz	Max E. Snyder
Harry S. Chidakel	David Hakim	Charles K. Murr	Samuel Sperling
Barnett Cohen	Myer M. Hakim	Maurice Narcisenfeld	Maurice Stearman
Ben Cohen	Jacque Heidenheimer	Sam Narcisenfeld	Charles J. Stein
Joseph Cohen	Morris Hershowitz	Ferdinand Ney	Morris Stein
David Davis	Herman Hertzberg	Amos C. Nicholas	Philip Stein
Samuel Dechelbaum	S.A. Himmelfarb	Herman Oshinsky	Sherry Stein
Milton H. Diamond	Zuse Honikman	Edward C. Ostrow	Alfred Steinberg
Abraham Dinowitz	Albert Hubschman	Meyer Ostrower	Isidor Suser
Daniel Dobbin	Moses Jacobs	Henry Oxenberg	Barney Susser
Abe Dresner	William P. Jacobs	Isadore A. Peake	Mark E. Towers
E.M. Edlavitch	Isaac Jacobson	Philip B. Pittle	Bernard Trupp
M.E. Edlavitch	Harry Jaffe	William Pomerantz	Joseph A. Wilner
Fred Ehrlich	Henry A. Jaffe	Joseph Portner	Simon A. Wiseman
Nathan Fanoroff	Norman C. Kal	H.J. Racoosin	Edward Witkowsky
Samuel J. Feldman	Samuel Kay	Louis J. Raebach	Louis Wolf
David Felstein	Robert Karmel	Isadore Reff	Max Wolf
William A. Finkel	Albert Kassan	Benjamin Rich	Morris Wolf



## **Samuel Gompers**

*“God bless our American institutions and may they grow stronger day by day.”*

Last words of Samuel Gompers

### **BRO. SAMUEL GOMPERS**

of Dawson Lodge, No. 16  
(1850-1924)

Entered Apprentice February 8; 1904

Passed March 28, 1904

Raised May 9, 1904

Samuel Gompers was born on January 27, 1850 in London, into a very poor family of mixed Dutch and Jewish ancestry. Their circumstances forced him to leave school at age 10, to earn a living at a trade. His father, wearying of his poverty, emigrated to America when Sam was 13 years of age. They came to New York City in the very hard times of the sixties, to live in extreme poverty. He followed his father's trade and joined the cigar maker's union. Because he was anxious to learn, he attended Cooper Union College, became an avid reader and debater. In those days the unions concealed their weaknesses and lack of discipline by becoming debating societies.

In 1873, he became a naturalized citizen and in 1877 he became president of his union. In that office he reorganized the union so that it became a model for other unions. His life work was to improve the working conditions of the working man and insisted that a union should have only economic objectives. By 1882, he and his associates formed the Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions with Samuel Gompers as president. This organization became the American Federation of Labor in 1886, and with the exception of the year 1894, Gompers was its President until he died in 1924.

Samuel Gompers was a firm believer in moral persuasion, negotiation and collective bargaining. He was successful in his dealings with management because he had the firm conviction that labor could never displace the capitalist in business. He developed the techniques and formulae used by the labor movement. Although the modern American labor movement used more political intervention and utilized industrial unionism more positively than Gompers did, “the House of Labor” has not moved from the foundations laid by Samuel Gompers.

He insisted on the elimination of racial differences among the affiliates; he fought for the interests of women and children; he was influential in the creation of the Labor Department; he swung Labor behind the war effort of WW1; he served on the Council of National Defense under President Wilson; he represented the U.S. at the World Peace Conference; he was an internationally known labor leader with a reputation for conservatism. The idea of a Masonic Lodge, to be named after him, was conceived the day he died in San Antonio, Texas in 1924.



## BRIEF RESUME OF LODGE HISTORIES

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, at a meeting held on December 16, 1925, voted to approve the Charter of Samuel Gompers Lodge.



*The first line of officers of Samuel Gompers Lodge in 1926, front row (left to right): Christian Hansen, Instructor; I. A. Peake, Jr. Deacon; Samuel J. Feldman, Jr. Warden; Henry J. Gompers, Worshipful Master; Maurice Blum, Sr. Warden; Louis Rosenberg, Secretary. Back row: Louis Goldberg, Jr. Steward; Marquis T. Albertson, Instructor; A. Kenneth Armstrong, Sr. Deacon; Amos Nicholas, Tiler; Louis J. Raebach, Sr. Steward, and Louis Lissowitz, Captain of the Fellowcraft Team.*

### **1926 — Henry J. Gompers, First Worshipful Master**

Twenty-three brethren were raised on one day. The meeting began at 2:00 p.m., and lasted until past midnight. The Lodge held its first Ladies' Night at the Raleigh Hotel, its first Masonic Trial, as well as the first Masonic funeral during this year. The first religious services by the lodge were held at the Adas Israel congregation.



### **1927 — Maurice Blum, Worshipful Master**

Thirty-eight members were raised during this year. Ladies' Night was again held at the Raleigh Hotel. The fee for degrees was raised to \$75. A picnic was held at the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. A bowling team was organized which entered the Masonic Bowling League. Eventually, this team became the top team in the League. At the Grand Visitation, the Grand Master was very impressed with the progress of this Lodge.



### **1928 — Samuel J. Feldman, Worshipful Master**

The emphasis during this year was placed on social activity. Ladies' Night was held at the Hotel Washington, featuring a great vaudeville show. Twenty-five members were raised. Fees for degrees were raised to \$100. There were no deaths during this year. The Fellowcraft Club moved its headquarters to the Ebbitt Hotel. Kallipolis Grotto visited the lodge with all units in regal uniform.



### **1929 — A. Kenneth Armstrong, Worshipful Master**

This Master, being a strict ritualist, demanded perfection in the ritual from his officers, and he received it. W.M. Armstrong had earned a Ritualistic Certificate. The annual Ladies' Night was held at the Willard Hotel. Twenty members were raised during the year, and one affiliated. Memorial services were held in December and dues were raised to \$10 per year.



## **1930 — I. Albert Peake, Worshipful Master**

This year started two months after the fateful stock market crash. Petitions fell off, only eleven were received. Five hundred dollars had to be withdrawn from the reserves to meet Lodge expenses. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel. Two professional nights were held, one for physicians and dentists, and the second was a legal night honoring the attorneys in the Lodge. A picnic was held during the summer at the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. W.M. Peake also earned a Ritual Certificate of Proficiency.



## **1931 — Louis J. Raebach, Worshipful Master**

The year 1931 was a very active year. Twenty men were raised, and ten affiliated. The Lodge held two Ladies' Nights and for the first time, St. John's Lodge of Baltimore paid a visit to our Lodge. Two hundred members of St. John's Lodge came, and before half of them could get in, Grand Master Cook, who was in the room, granted permission to move the Lodge to the auditorium on the ground floor. A return visit to St. John's Lodge in Baltimore was held later that year. A Master Mason Degree was held in full costume during the year.

## **1932 — Louis Goldberg, Worshipful Master**

The sixth anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated on January 20, establishing the custom of holding annual birthday parties. The annual Ladies' Night was held at the Shoreham Hotel. In April, our Lodge was host to Amicable Lodge of Baltimore, with more than 600 brethren present. A Master Mason's Degree in full costume was conferred that evening. During the year, we took part in the dedication of the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. Our Lodge paid a return visit to Amicable Lodge in Baltimore, in which 172 members attended.



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## **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE #50**

**1937 — Joseph Fromberg, Worshipful Master**

**1938 — A. Harry Ostrow, Worshipful Master**

**1939 — L.T. Johnson, Worshipful Master**

**1940 — B. Max Klevitt, Worshipful Master**

**1941 — Abe Coonin, Worshipful Master**

**1942 — I. Paul Bauman, Worshipful Master**

**1943 — David Snyder, Worshipful Master**

**1944 — Walter Newrath, Worshipful Master**

**1945 — Maxwell Ostrow, Worshipful Master**

Some would call this a merger, but it is more like a marriage because love and friendship (in this case Masonic brotherly love) has joined our two lodges, Benjamin Franklin #50 and Samuel Gompers #45. This merger of two giants into one was the transition which soon led other Masonic lodges into joint ventures.

The history of the youngster, Ben Franklin, was auspicious. Born in 1937 at a meeting attended by a number of brethren of St. John's Lodge #11 and led by Judge Joseph Fromberg, a prominent local jurist, this embryonic lodge grew into one of the most active lodges in the jurisdiction, boasting over 900 members. The formative years bustled with the excitement generated by many applications, degrees and social and charitable functions.

By the early '40's with America's entrance into World War II, Benjamin Franklin Lodge #50 took a most active part in buying, promoting and selling war bonds for Uncle Sam. Much pride was exhibited when this young lodge with its group of most active officers and members inaugurated a blood bank with a register of blood types in conjunction with Children's Hospital. This life saving venture became the prototype of other lodge's blood banks. Soon after, the Grand Lodge created the Grand Lodge Blood Bank of this jurisdiction.



### **1933 — Abraham D. Abrams, Worshipful Master**

This year was considered the lowest point in the depression. The Lodge finances were in such serious condition that some funds were withdrawn from the Lodge reserves, and an effort was made to get the Brethren to pay dues in advance. Attendance had fallen off, and only \$140 was spent during the year for refreshments. The annual Ladies' Night was held at the Sheraton Hotel. Thirteen members were raised and two came in by petition.

### **1934 — Dr. Maurice A. Goldberg, Worshipful Master**



The economy was starting to improve and a feeling of confidence was beginning to prevail in all directions. Sixteen brethren were raised, among them, Samuel B. Block, who later became Master, and 17 affiliated, the largest number in the history of the Lodge. There were a number of memorable first time events in Lodge this year, as for the first time, a Masonic play was put on, a Veterans Night, a B'nai Brith Night, and a Charter Member Night were all well attended, and we are happy to report that there were no deaths of Brethren of Samuel Gompers Lodge during the year.



### **1935 — Myer C. Rosendorf, Worshipful Master**

The Grand Master visited our Lodge nine times during the year. Ladies' Night was held at the Willard Hotel. The ballroom became so crowded that the Fire Marshall closed the doors and refused to admit any more people as a safety measure. At the occasion of the Grand Visitation, the Grand Master of Delaware, Harris Samonsky, was the guest speaker. Our Master was appointed a special Deputy Grand Master for this occasion to open the Lodge in ample form. A Legal Night was held for those in that profession.

The early years were legendary, beginning with the first Master, Judge Fromberg in 1937, followed by A. Harry Ostrow in 1938, L.T. Johnson, '39, B. Max Klevitt, '40, Abe Coonin, '41, Paul Bauman, '42, David Snyder, '43, Walter Newrath, '44 and Maxwell Ostrow, '45, saw an explosive growth both in membership and participation. Members leaving for the armed forces and their obligation to their country, saddened all, but laid the foundation for the ground swell of the late '40's when our Worshipful Brother Louis Silverman presided over degrees which began at 3:00 p.m. and ended after midnight.

### **1946 — Louis Silverman, Worshipful Master**

### **1947 — Sid Kaltz, Worshipful Master**

### **1948 — David Buchalter, Worshipful Master**

### **1949 — Hy Wittenberg, Worshipful Master**

In 1946, during the reign of Worshipful Brother Silverman, there was one class where three Entered Apprentices eventually became Worshipful Masters in later years – Sidney Goldstein, Harold Levy and Abe Sperling.

Sold out Ladies' Nights, dazzling dances and Masonic pride were the mode of the day. W. Bro. Sid Kaltz, '47 followed by David Buchalter, '48 and Hy Wittenberg, '49 presided over the years as the lodge grew from a youngster to a young adult.

### **1950 — Charles Pascal, Worshipful Master**

### **1951 — Eli Chayt, Worshipful Master**

### **1952 — Paul Hyman, Worshipful Master**

### **1953 — Sam Levine, Worshipful Master**

### **1954 — Leonard Litvinsky, Worshipful Master**



### **1936 — Alfred L. Bennett, Worshipful Master**

The Lodge participated in the 125th anniversary of the Grand Lodge. Worshipful Master Bennett was on the planning committee. For the first time, a DeMolay degree was conferred in our Lodge. Our Worshipful Master being a lawyer, he held a Legal Night. Guests were Judge Cayton, Judge Pine, Past Grand Master Regar, Assistant District Attorney Irving Goldstein, and Judge Walter Bastian. Ladies' Night was at the Mayflower Hotel. The cost was \$10 per couple. Grand Visitation was held at the Willard Hotel, and the Birthday Party at the Hamilton Hotel. Thirty-one members were raised and six brethren affiliated.

### **1937 — Milton D. Korman, Worshipful Master**

During his year as Worshipful Master, Bro. Korman was elected President of the Masters' Association. He was a member of the Grand Lodge Committee of Grievances. He was the fifth member of our Lodge to receive the Certificate of Proficiency from the Grand Lodge Committee of Proficiency. Thirty-seven members were raised during this year, and seven affiliated. The Fellowcraft Club was reorganized. Exchange visits between St. John's Lodge of Baltimore again took place. Life memberships to Past Masters of our Lodge were voted. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel. An elaborate Grand Visitation was also held at the Mayflower Hotel. Honorary member Congressman Sol Bloom was the guest speaker. Bro. Korman was later appointed a Judge in the Circuit Court and was also elected Grand Master.



### **1938 — Joseph Hurwitz, Worshipful Master**



His deep interest in ritual earned him a Certificate of Proficiency, the sixth member in our Lodge to do so. He served in various offices in our Lodge for over forty years. On March 25, 1972, Bro. Hurwitz was elected Treasurer Emeritus. The Lodge entertained St. John's Lodge of Baltimore at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. A return visit was paid to St. John's Lodge. Ladies' Night was held at the Willard Hotel. The cost was \$1.50 per couple. There were twenty-five members raised, and seven brethren affiliated.

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Entering the decade of the '50's led by W. Bro. Charles Pascal, '50 and Eli Chayt, '51, Paul Hyman, '52, Sam Levine, '53, Leonard Litvinsky, '54, and Lou Palder in '55, the brethren witnessed further dynamic growth with each Master personifying true Masonic brotherhood among the brethren and their families. It seems each Master has always designated the tenet of "Charity" as a major focus of his year, be it cancer aid, muscular dystrophy, National Children's Center, Hebrew Home or Children's Hospital, just to name a few. We bought out the entire Earle Theatre (remember?) and under the chairmanship of Sid Goldstein sponsored the movie, "My Fair Lady," to a sold out audience. All proceeds went to Children's Hospital.

### **1955 — Louis Palder, Worshipful Master**

### **1956 — N. Norman Engleberg, Worshipful Master**

In 1955, under the leadership of W. Bro. Palder, the lodge welcomed, for the first time in America, the Grand Master of the State of Israel. The year 1956 saw the lodge enter into manhood as W. Bro. N. Norman Engleberg was sworn in. He became the only Past Master of the lodge to enter the chairs of the Grand Lodge which eventually led to the Oriental Chair in the East of the Grand Lodge.

### **1957 — Ed S. Chayt, Worshipful Master**

### **1958 — Sidney M. Goldstein, Worshipful Master**

### **1959 — Murray L. Wolfe, Worshipful Master**

### **1960 — Milton Fields, Worshipful Master**

### **1961 — David Goldberg, Worshipful Master**

### **1962 — Arthur Sprintzin, Worshipful Master**

### **1963 — Martin L. Greenberg, Worshipful Master**



## 1939 — Jacob Sandler, Worshipful Master

Bro. Sandler was elected to the line of officers in our Lodge the year after he was raised. He was elected to the office of Secretary in December 1946, and resigned that office in 1972. In 1939, a feeling of tension and uncertainty prevailed throughout the world. That feeling of insecurity was reflected in the planning of activities. The Birthday Party for that year was cancelled. An Honorary Member Night, Quiz Night, and an exchange visit with St. John's Lodge of Baltimore was again held. Carl Claudy's play, "Judge Not" was again put on. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel, the cost was \$2.00 per couple. On Sunday, April 30, religious services were held at Adas Israel Synagogue.



## 1940 — Frank Paley, Worshipful Master

The Birthday Party was held at the Almas Temple. An Athletic Night, which included a jiu-jitsu demonstration, was held with members of the Fellowcraft Club dressed in tuxedos serving an overflow crowd. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel. Thirty-two members were raised, one of whom, Matthew Tepper, later became a Worshipful Master.

## 1941 — Saul Lichtenberg, Worshipful Master

There was an air of uneasiness as the war had started in Europe. Under the direction of the Grand Lodge, each meeting was opened with the presentation of the flag. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel. The charge was increased to \$4 per couple. A Lodge picnic was held during the summer. A quiz was held with five sideliners against five Past Masters. The Past Masters won. Twenty-eight members were raised, one of those raised was the Master's father. Bro. Lichtenberg was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Fudda Nabi Grotto.



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Ed Chayt, '57 soon followed with Sid Goldstein, '58 close behind. Murray Wolfe, '59, Milton Fields, '60 carried the Benjamin Franklin Lodge forward to enter the swinging '60's and what a decade that was. David Goldberg, '61, Arthur Sprintzin, '62, Marty Greenberg, '63, Abe Sperling, '64, and Harold Levy in '65 all continued the order of business as established in prior years—Past Masters Night, Temple Chapter of Eastern Star Visitation and greeting Fudda Nabi Grotto whose cast was made up of many of our own brethren. We had Charter Members Night, where all original members were honored, Fellowcraft Night, Memorial Night, Birthday Night, all this plus regular and special degree nights. The year always began with an installation of officers, with ladies attending the ball afterwards that included five star entertainment.

From its inception, there was always one night during the year when the ladies of the officers and members of the lodge were honored. The spouses who endured many lonely evenings while their husbands attended rehearsals, committee meetings, Lodge meetings, Fellowcraft meetings, etc., were singled out as the true supporters of this great Lodge.

The annual event, "Ladies' Night," so memorable as an outstanding dignified evening always included the introductions of all officers and their ladies, all Grand Lodge guests, and their escorts, and all other dignitaries and special visitors. This gala occasion brings back so many memories to all who attended the most popular social event which included dinner and dancing.

Top Broadway entertainment, among whom were included Sam Levenson, Red Buttons, Myron Cohen, Emil Cohen, Alan King, Joey Bishop and Jan Murray, helped make the evenings memorable.

On Monday, May 8, 1950, during the Masonic year of W. Bro. Charles Pascal, a special communication was called at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. This was for the purpose of meeting with the brethren of Amicable Lodge #25, of Baltimore. Most Worshipful Bro. Carl H. Claudy, PGM, attended this meeting. In his honor, Ben Franklin Lodge performed one of his Masonic plays, "To Entertain Strangers." What a great night! ! Before a capacity crowd the following thespians performed: N. Norman Engleberg, Gerald Bernstein, Ben Parsons, Sig Price, Sid Goldstein, Hyman Bernstein, Larry Gross, Jack Posner, Sig Meyerhoff, Harold Moskowitz and Harold Levy.

In the years following 1950 our lodge traded visits with Baltimore's Amicable Lodge, which exemplified a true example of fraternal brotherhood.



### **1942 — Harry A. Oliker, Worshipful Master**

The United States had entered the war, and Lodge meetings took on a subdued and solemn air. There was a sober contemplation as to how our Lodge could help in this dark crisis. On motion, it was voted for the Lodge to purchase defense stamps and war bonds. Blackout practices were frequent, and the “brownout”, the dimming of street lights and signs were applied. This made it difficult for members to be on the street and to attend meetings. By the end of the year, twenty-five members were in the service. There was still some social activity. The annual Birthday Party was held at the Mayflower Hotel, an occasion for the sale of War Stamps and Bonds. Ladies’ Night was cancelled, but instead there was held a little Ladies’ Night, at which the admission was \$1.00 in War Stamps.



### **1943 — Samuel B. Block, Worshipful Master**

The election of officers was held on December 8th, but the installation of officers was held on the 18th, the first time the officers were not installed the same night. Grand Master Carl Claudy established three goals for the year: the sale of War Bonds, collections for the Masonic War



Chest, and donations of blood for the Red Cross. Quotas were set up for each Lodge. Our Lodge ended the year with \$1,135,375 in War Bond Sales, 436.68% of its quota. It sold enough Bonds to buy a bomber. Samuel Gompers Lodge sold one-fourth of the \$4.5 million sold in all the Lodges. The Blood Donor Committee reported that 221 pints of blood had been donated by our Lodge. On one occasion, 68 members went in a body to donate blood. Ladies’ Night was held at the new Statler Hotel and was a War Bond rally. The rally resulted in the sale of a quarter of a million dollars worth of War Bonds. Twenty-five members were raised and three came in by affiliation. W.M. Block was later appointed a judge to the Circuit Court.

### **1944 — Michael J. Cohen, Worshipful Master**

The Lodge was now beginning to feel the surge of men into Masonry. Sixty-seven members were raised, among which were future Masters Sigmund Ades and Saul Weiss, and thirteen members affiliated. On one occasion, sixty men were waiting for ballot and degrees and another night, twenty petitions were received. The War

The furthering of this Masonic friendship occurred March 17, 1964, when during the year of W. Bro. Saidman of Samuel Gompers, the Past Masters of our sister Lodge, exemplified the Master Mason degree for the members of Franklin. What a cast that was! The participants were:

- |                              |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Allen Wright, Master         | Bob Silberg, Sr. Deacon      | Joe Hurwitz, Lecture    |
| Milton Korman, Master        | Hy Sandler, Jr. Deacon       | Jerry Golomb, Charge    |
| Arnold White, Sr. Warden     | Morris Silberman, Jr. Deacon | Hy Sandler, Ruffian     |
| Irv Schwartz, Sr. Warden     | Luck Goldberg, Sr. Steward   | Sig Ades, Ruffian       |
| Morris Silberman, Jr. Warden | Irv Footer, Jr. Steward      | Bernie Barzune, Ruffian |
|                              | Mort Oppenheim, Chaplain     |                         |

All of the above Past Masters were true masters of efficiency, which is shown as some performed in both sections.

- 1964 — Abe Sperling, Worshipful Master**
- 1965 — Harold Levy, Worshipful Master**
- 1966 — Isadore Engel, Worshipful Master**
- 1967 — Phil Silver, Worshipful Master**
- 1968 — Harvey Chidel, Worshipful Master**
- 1969 — Irwin Rosenblatt, Worshipful Master**

The year 1964 saw many joint activities with Samuel Gompers, under the leadership of W. Bros. Jerry Saidman and Abe Sperling, two lifelong friends. The lodges had a bowling tournament, a golf outing and degree visits. Invitations to all social functions of both lodges were always extended to each other.

Harold Levy led the lodge into adulthood in 1965, followed by W. Bro. Engel, '66, W. Bro. Silver, '67, W. Bro Chidel, '68 and W. Bro. Irwin Rosenblatt in '69, all following procedures and events as in the past and all laying the ground work for the “golden years” of the '70's.

Bond Committee accounted for over a million dollars during the year. The Blood Donor Committee was responsible for 148 pints of blood being donated, over 300% of its quota. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel and the Lodge received citations from the Treasury Department.

### **1945 — Bernard Barzune, Worshipful Master**

The Lodge War Bond Committee did a masterful job as it sold \$1,452,852 in Bonds to lead this Masonic jurisdiction. Ladies' Night at the Mayflower was again dedicated to obtaining blood donors and did very well. Dues were raised to \$15 per year and the fee for Affiliation was raised to \$50. The Lodge moved to Stansbury Temple and the 100th Special Communication was held during this year. Seventy-eight brethren were raised, of which Arthur Zinnamon, who later became Master, was a member.



### **1946 — Mathew Tepper, Worshipful Master**



The war was over and matters were returning to normal. Attendance at meetings was increasing, and the mood was light-hearted. More social functions were planned. The Birthday Party was held at the Wardman Park Hotel and featured a Minstral Show. A theater party held at the Lisner Auditorium with the George Washington University players performing. A Night Club party was held at the Nightingale Club. A Halloween costume party was held at the Hotel 2400. A Dr. I.Q. quiz was held in the Lodge, and Ladies' Night was held at the Willard Hotel. Election night in December was the scene of the largest attendance of Samuel Gompers Lodge in our history; 416 members voted in a hectic and turbulent meeting. Past Master Jacob Sandler was elected Secretary. Sixty-four members were raised, and six members affiliated.



### **1947 — Bernard Easterson, Worshipful Master**

After the hectic and very close election with the largest attendance ever, the Lodge settled down for a peaceful and active year. The Birthday Party took place at the Statler Hotel. Charter Member Night was a grand get-together. W.M. Easterson was made Grand Chairman of the "Night of Thrills." He was the second Master of our Lodge to be so honored. The first was P.M. Myer C. Rosendorf. Ladies' Night was held at the Mayflower Hotel. Thirteen members were raised, and one

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### **1970 — Elliot Kessler, Worshipful Master**

### **1971 — Nate Leiderman, Worshipful Master**

### **1972 — George Jaffe, Worshipful Master**

### **1973 — Joseph Sagal, Worshipful Master**

Elliot Kessler began this decade as Worshipful Master and was followed by Nate Leiderman, '71, George Jaffe in 1972 and Joseph Sagal in '73. As a further indication of this brotherhood, which existed in our lodges, each year saw a reunion of the brethren who had moved south. It was always a great social event and eventually, after our merger, two Past Masters, one from each lodge. Saidman from Gompers, and Leiderman from Franklin, were instrumental in making this event a highlight of the Masonic year. At this time a number of brethren still up north, trek to Florida to meet socially with their brethren.

During the years of its infancy, there were many brethren who assisted in the growth of the institution far above and beyond the call of duty. A Distinguished Service Award was instituted and its recipients over the years were Lou Cooper and Abe Rosenblatt in 1960, the only year two brothers were elected. Following was Jack Hyman, '61, Samuel Bauman, often referred to as the father of the lodge, in 1962, W. Bro. Goldstein in '63, Henry Salus in '65, Morris Dworkin, '66, Artie Sprintzin, P.M. in 1967, Nat Levenson in 1968, Harry Silverstone, '69, Leonard Weismann, the perennial chairman of the Visit the Sick Committee, in 1971, David Buchalter in 1972, and W. Bro. Marty Greenberg in 1973. W. Bro Murray Wolfe, Jerry Jablow, Jack Rosenthal and P.M. Abe Sperling soon followed these brethren

### **1974 — Donald Stein, Worshipful Master**

### **1975 — Robert Reid, Worshipful Master**

### **1976 — Harry Korb, Worshipful Master**

### **1977 — Ernest Gold, Worshipful Master**

joined by affiliation. An Amateur Night with home talent was held, which provided an evening of fun. A Master Mason degree was conferred by a cast of P.M.'s. The picnic was held in Rock Creek Park and drew a crowd of over 2000 members and their families. Four special meetings were called during the summer to accommodate all the candidates in waiting for degrees. The Halloween Costume Party held at Indian Spring Country Club was a huge success with large participation in costume. Two years after leaving the East, P.M. Easterson earned the ritualistic Certificate of Proficiency.



**1948 — Irvin Footer, Worshipful Master**

The Birthday and Halloween Parties were held at the Shoreham Hotel and Ladies' Night at the Mayflower Hotel. The summer picnic was held at Rock Creek Park, and drew a very large crowd. Forty pints of blood were contributed to the Red Cross Blood Bank. A Carl Claudy play, "He Who is Accused" was performed in Lodge. P.M. Myer Rosendorf was the first Master to raise his son. Forty-seven members were raised and five came in by affiliation, future Masters Joseph Berger and Hy Sandler were in this group.

**1949 — Saul Weiss, Worshipful Master**

Samuel Gompers Lodge reinstated the exchange of visits with St. John's Lodge of Baltimore at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, with the presentation of a Carl Claudy Masonic play. Also during the year the Birthday Party at the Shoreham Hotel, Ladies' Night at the Mayflower Hotel, an Amateur Night, and a Halloween Night costume party were held. The summer picnic was again a large and enjoyable affair. On one occasion, the Master Mason Degree was conferred in full regalia. A DeMolay Degree was conferred by the Robert LeBruce Chapter of the DeMolay and a Past Masters Night was held, at which the Past Masters were presented with Past Masters aprons. Grand Master Carl Claudy established a Masonic Blood program, and offered a bible to the Lodge that contributed the highest percent of its quota. Samuel Gompers Lodge contributed 77 pints of blood, the highest in the jurisdiction, and was awarded the bible. Forty-four members were raised, and eight members affiliated. The Lodge had a very outstanding year in Masonic ritual, as four of the officers went on to earn the coveted ritualistic Certificate of Proficiency. Eventually, the entire line of officers earned their Certificate of Proficiency. After leaving the East, Past Master Weiss served as Degree Director for 20 years, following this service with 20 years as Lodge Secretary.



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- 1978 — Morris Apple, Worshipful Master**
  - 1979 — Jerry Bauman, Worshipful Master**
  - 1980 — Burton Penn, Worshipful Master**
  - 1981 — Joel Shulman, Worshipful Master**
  - 1982-83 — Harold Levy, Worshipful Master**

Donald Stein became Worshipful Master in 1974, followed by Bob Reid in '75, Harry Korb in '76, Ernest Gold, '77, Morris Apple, '78, and Jerry Bauman in '79, W. Bro. Burton Penn in 1980, Joel Shulman, 1981, and twice elected W. Bro. Harold Levy in 1982 and 1983.

As auxiliaries assist most successful organizations, so this lodge was most fortunate to have as its right arm, a hard working and active Fellowcraft Club. Each degree consisted of a degree team who prepared a group of its members for Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason degrees. The enthusiasm exhibited by those in attendance had the members clamoring to participate.

The picnic on Labor Day, which started the Masonic year, always drew a great crowd of brethren and their families. The Fellowcraft Club also sponsored a Master's Dinner in December culminating the year at a dinner reception for all members. Suffice it to say, many Lodge officers had their beginnings in the Fellowcraft Club.

At its close, the lodge had a number of distinguished Honorary Members including:

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| C. B. Gilley, PGM          | George Feidt, PM   |
| Elmer Stein, PGM           | Stafford Appel, PM |
| Honorable M.D. Korman, PGM |                    |



## 1950 — Sigmund Ades, Worshipful Master

Samuel Gompers Lodge, in 25 years, grew from a small group of approximately 200 brethren, to 1,015. This phenomenal growth is attributed to an active membership in all aspects of the organization. The year started with a New Year's Party that was attended by over 700 brethren and their wives. The Birthday Party was held at the Statler Hotel and Kiddies Night was enjoyed at Turner's Arena. Ladies' Night was again at the Mayflower Hotel. An exchange of visits with St. John's Lodge of Baltimore took place. They were entertained with a Masonic play at the George Washington Memorial Lodge in Alexandria. We held two Master Mason Degrees in costume during the year. The annual picnic was held in Rock Creek Park. Fifty-one men were raised and in the blood drive, our Lodge donated 330 pints. Charter member night culminated the activities of the Silver Anniversary year.



## 1951 — Lester Goldberg, Worshipful Master

The year started off with the Birthday Party at Indian Spring Country Club, featuring square dancing. The Kiddies Day was held at Turner Arena, and it featured boxing and wrestling. Ladies' Night was again held at the Mayflower Hotel. A testimonial dinner dedicated to Bros. Sam Rodis and William Blumberg, for their continued services to the Lodge was held. A Master Mason Degree was given by Sideliners, with the candidates standing examination in open Lodge. The annual picnic was held in Rock Creek Park. Our blood program delivered 542 pints of blood to the Red Cross. The Halloween Masquerade Ball was very well attended at Wardman Park Hotel. The installation of newly elected officers was held at B'nai Israel Synagogue.

## 1952 — Arthur Zinnamon, Worshipful Master

As a result of the Korean War, special emphasis was placed on blood donations. Well over 600 pints of blood were donated. The Birthday Party was held at the Wardman Park Hotel in cabaret style. A Certificate of Proficiency was presented to Senior Warden Irving Schwartz. Samuel Gompers Lodge officers have earned more such certificates than any other Lodge. Worshipful Master Zinnamon was appointed General Chairman of the Night of Thrills for the Grand Lodge. He set a record of \$413,000 for the benefit of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home. The Sideliners conferred the M.M. Degree in full costume and make-up. Cornerstone Lodge was our guest at the George Washington Memorial Shrine in Alexandria. The Lodge picnic was held in Rock Creek park and it required a committee of 40 to take care of all its needs. The Halloween Party was a success at the Shoreham Hotel. Eighty candidates were raised and the year closed with a Past Masters Night.



Having lived through the nonage of our membership, we were now focusing on the dotage. Age was taking its toll and in 1980 the wheels were grinding to a halt. As in every lifetime, we start to slow our pace in later years. We move slower, our energy dissipates at different rates and we soon admit to getting older with a need to rethink our goals. In 1983, a consensus among our members was to do an investigative survey regarding a merger. A committee was appointed to discuss a consolidation with Samuel Gompers #45. W. Bro. Levy, in accordance with the wishes of his brethren and Julien P. Hofberg, Worshipful Master of Samuel Gompers, with the recommendation of his committee, and later of his lodge, and with the permission of the Grand Lodge, merged their respective Masonic groups into one organization and thus was born on June 1983, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45.

In the sports world we are told that the Yankees were the "team of the century." But with its rich history of superstars and legends, with its traditions of brotherhood and achievement, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge stands as a true embodiment of the Masonic world, and more importantly, is poised for continued greatness in this new century.



## 1953 — Dr. Irving Schwartz, Worshipful Master

This year was marked with heavy accent on ritual. Eighty-three members were raised during the year. Our humanitarian effort in collecting blood yielded more than 400 pints. The Birthday Party was held at the Shoreham Hotel and featured a fashion show. A Kiddies Day was held at Turner Arena for the delight of more than 1,000 children. Ladies' Night was again held at the Mayflower Hotel. With Cornerstone Lodge as our guest, Sideliners put on a Master Mason Degree at the Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria. An evening honoring P.M. Joseph Hurwitz, Treasurer Emeritus, was held for his work on behalf of Samuel Gompers Lodge. A very successful costume ball took place at the Shoreham Hotel. The annual picnic was held at Rock Creek Park with over 1,675 attending.



## 1954 — Robert H. Silberg, Worshipful Master

The 29th Birthday Party took place at B'nai Israel Synagogue. A Men's fashion show at the Eig Auditorium and Kiddies Day was at the Sheridan Theater. Ladies' Night was again at the Mayflower Hotel. For the first time in the history of the Lodge, our ladies not only attended a Masonic play, but also took part. The Sideliners conferred the Master Mason Degree in costume and make-up. Sixty-seven Brethren were raised and 350 pints of blood were donated during the year. The Brethren paid an official visit to Cornerstone Lodge. A Halloween Costume Party and Dance was held at the Sheraton Park Hotel.

## 1955 — Hyman Sandler, Worshipful Master

The installation of officers was held at the Eig Auditorium of B'nai Israel Synagogue. A highlight of the evening was a visit of Most Worshipful Brother Doctor Abraham Shaoni, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Israel. His entrance in full Masonic Regalia was his first visit to a Blue Lodge in America. He was warmly received by about 500 Brethren. More than 1,000 people attended the Birthday Party held at the Willard Hotel. The song "A Samuel Gompers Man" was introduced at this affair. Kiddies Day was attended by a record crowd. Ladies' Night was again held at the Mayflower Hotel. For the first time, a charity ball was held with proceeds going to Deborah Sanitarium and Children's Hospital. The Samuel Gompers Bowling team won the Masonic League Championship. An entertainment night honoring the ladies of Temple Chapter No. 13, Order of Eastern Star was held. The donation of 350 pints of blood was donated to the Red Cross. This figure was 225 percent over our quota and we had a successful Halloween Party. The Lodge voted to move our future meetings from Stansbury Temple to the banquet hall of B'nai Israel Synagogue.



## 1956 — Joseph R. Berger, Worshipful Master

The social season was started with the 31st annual Birthday Party at the Willard Hotel during a blinding snow storm. A Kiddies' Day was held at the Allen Theater, and proved to be a huge success. The highlight of the year proved to be the Ladies' Night, held at the Sheraton Park Hotel. The sideliners degree was conferred in full costume and became an annual affair. Worshipful Master Berger was chairman of the advertising committee for the Night of Thrills. A Charity Ball for the benefit of the Society for Crippled Children and the Jewish Social Service Agency with a donation of \$550 was earned for each. Fifty-four brethren were raised. A Masquerade Ball was held at the Willard Hotel and proved very successful. Upon the official opening of Cornerstone Lodge in Maryland, Samuel Gompers Lodge presented them with a public address system.

## 1957 — Eugene J. Hellman, Worshipful Master

During this year, 64 members were raised, bringing the total membership to 1,415. Our 32nd annual Birthday Party was held at the Statler Hotel and was attended by more than 600 brethren and their ladies. A Kiddies' Day was held again to a capacity crowd at the Allen Theater. The annual blood program raised 493 pints of blood. Ladies' Night was at the Mayflower Hotel and more than 1,000 guests attended. A cast of sideliners in costume presented the M.M. Degree. Samuel Gompers Lodge played host to St. John's Lodge of Baltimore at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Temple in Alexandria. The main feature of the evening was Carl Claudy's play, "Rose Upon the Alter." The third annual Charity Ball was held at the Norbeck Country Club, at a cost of \$5.00 per couple. The entire proceeds of \$2,597 was contributed to the Workshop for Retarded Children. More than 1,000 people attended a Hawaiian Party at the Statler Hotel. The annual picnic at Fort Hunt in Virginia had about 2,500 attendees, and they consumed more than 4,000 hot dogs as well as other refreshments.



## 1958 — Morton H. Oppenheim, Worshipful Master



The social season started with the 33rd Annual Birthday Party at the Shoreham Hotel with over 500



brethren and their ladies attending. During the year, 30 brethren were raised. The Blood Committee collected over 500 pints of blood. Ladies' Night was held at Indian Spring Country Club with 1,000 brethren and their ladies dancing the night away. Samuel Gompers and Cornerstone Lodges played host to M.W.G.M. of the State of Israel, Dr. Jonah Row. Three hundred brethren of St. John's Lodge of Baltimore travelled over to present a colonial drama. More than 2,000 Brethren and their families attended our annual picnic at Fort Hunt, Virginia. A huge masquerade ball was held to raise money for Children's Hospital.

## 1959 — Morris Silberman, Worshipful Master

The social season opened with a cabaret-style Birthday Party featuring Latin and American dance bands. In a very festive affair held at the Mayflower Hotel, more than 900 guests attended. The blood program was quite successful with over 500 pints being donated. Thirty-five brethren were raised during the year. Our ritual continued to be outstanding with 13 members receiving the coveted Grand Lodge Certificate of Proficiency. Ladies' Night was the highlight of the social events and was held at Indian Spring Country Club, with more than 1,000 guests. The annual picnic was held again at Fort Hunt, in Virginia, with over 1,000 people attending. A Charity Ball, which raised \$1,500, was held at the Statler Hotel for the benefit of the Hebrew Home for the Aged.



## 1960 — Jerome W. Golomb, Worshipful Master

The sixties were started with a party that was a tribute to the times from the Roaring '20s to the Soaring '60s. Over 400 guests were entertained at a dance at the Willard Hotel. A Kiddies' Day was held at the Allen Theater. During the year, over 400 pints of blood, well over quota, were donated by the brethren. Membership of our Lodge was increased to over 1,450 brethren. More than 800 brethren and their ladies attended Ladies' Night at Indian Spring Country Club. Picnic time was held at Fort Hunt, Virginia, and was crowded at an estimated 1,000 brethren and their families. Forty-three men were raised during the year. Twelve brethren received the coveted Proficiency Certificate. The Samuel Gompers Lodge bowling team won the championship of the Masonic League.

## 1961 — Benjamin Schendel, P.M.

The year started with the 36th Annual Birthday Party that had an attendance of about 1,000 at the Presidential Arms in D.C. The feature of the party was an original musical called "Those Wonderful Years." The Master was the recipient of the Certificate of Proficiency in an effort to keep the quality of ritual at a high standard. Twenty-eight brethren were raised during the year. The bloodmobile gathered over 500 pints of blood for the year. More than 1,000 brethren and their ladies gathered at Indian Spring Country Club to enjoy an all-star variety show Ladies' Night. Kiddies Day was held in an open amusement park this year. Another great event was our picnic at Fort Hunt with Bozo the clown; the huge park was jammed. The Charity Night theme was "A Night in the Catskills" with the Jewish Foundation for Retarded Children as the beneficiary. It was held at Indian Spring Country Club with more than 2,000 people attending, and over \$3,000 donated.







## 1962 — Arnold S. White, Worshipful Master

The 37th Birthday Party of our Lodge was held at the Arlington Towers with 700 dancing brethren and their ladies. With Cornerstone Lodge as our guest, our sideliners conferred the Master Mason degree in costume. Our Ladies' Night was held at Indian Spring Country Club with over 1,100 guests attending. Kiddieland Park was enjoyed by a world of children as we played host. The Jewish Home for Retarded Children was helped by \$3,500, when about 1,600 people paid to see the musical hit "Heaven Help Suburbia" at our Charity Ball. During the year, the bloodmobile collected over 900 pints of blood.

## 1963 — Allen J. Wright, Worshipful Master

After raising 29 brethren, the ritual proficiency of the officers was sharper than ever. More than 500 pints of blood were donated. The social season began with our Birthday Party held at the Sheraton Park Hotel. Ladies' Night provided a satisfying evening for 970 guests. The Jewish Foundation for Retarded Children received \$600 from our 9th annual Charity Fund. A visit from St. John's Lodge of Baltimore revived an old and successful custom. A Father and Son Night featured a DeMolay group presenting their degree work. The sideliners conferred a Master Mason degree in costume and 25-year Masons were awarded recognition.



## 1964 — Jerome L. Saidman, Worshipful Master



The installation took place in the Masonic Temple at 13th and New York Avenue and followed with a fashion show with the ladies at the Presidential Arms a few blocks away. During the year, 16 brethren were raised and over 500 pints of blood were donated. One of the highlights of the year was the formation of the Masonic Aid Association for financial relief of families of departed brethren. Kiddies' Day was attended by more than 500 children. Ladies' Night at Indian Spring Country Club was another wonderful evening spent with our lovely ladies. Twenty brethren died during the year, but our membership still increased to 1,462. A large number of our members attended a dinner dedicated to P.G.M. Harry S Truman and the Masters Association.

## 1965 — Joseph E. Hein, Worshipful Master

This year, Memorial Services were particularly poignant because of the death of 28 brethren. The 40th Birthday Party was held at Indian Spring Country Club. Ladies' Night was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel and for the first time was on a Saturday night. More than 1,500 brethren and their ladies attended. Twenty-five brethren were raised. An Educational Masonic Night was held with dignitaries answering all questions from the audience. Our humanitarian effort collected more than 300 pints of blood during the year. The picnic was held at Fort Hunt, where it drew a record crowd of over 800 brethren and their families.



## 1966 — William D. Boker, Worshipful Master

The social season started with a warm and wonderful Lodge Birthday Party featuring a huge birthday cake. Imagine my surprise when my daughter



popped out of the cake. The ritual highlight of the year was the visit by the “Kilties” of Kilwinning Lodge of New York in full regalia, bagpipes and kilts. Over 300 brethren gave them a standing ovation. Our ladies came out in all their finery to enjoy a fabulous “Ladies’ Night” at the Mayflower Hotel. The annual picnic at Fort Hunt entertained young and old alike with a Rock “n” Roll band and the sudden appearance of “Batman and Robin.” The Lodge approved my request and funded the establishment of an Investment Committee to work with the Trustees and increase investment income for the Lodge. No one could foresee the impact this committee would have on the continued financial strength of our Lodge. The year 1966 was a great year and full of wonderful memories for my family and me.



## 1967 — Robert A. Frank, Worshipful Master

The Lodge Birthday Party was again held at Indian Spring Country Club and Ladies’ Night was back to the Shoreham Hotel for a change in venue with a full house in attendance. The Blood Committee continued its wonderful work by collecting 750 pints of blood, well over our quota. Fort Hunt was the scene of a wonderful, well-arranged picnic. Kiddies Day at Kiddieland Park for the benefit of the National Children’s Center was initiated this year with hopes of continuing this humanitarian gesture. P.M. Milton D. Korman was sworn in as an Associate Judge and Brother Sheldon Cohen received the prestigious Flemming Award.

## 1968 — Arthur J. Rapoport, Worshipful Master

In an impressive ceremony, with an Honor Guard of Fellowcraft Past Presidents, Worshipful Master Arthur Rapoport was escorted to the East by his son, Sheldon, who eventually became Worshipful Master 21 years later. The Birthday Party at the Willard Hotel had more than 700 brethren and their ladies celebrating the first social of the year. Fudda Nabi Grotto and Allah Vieber, in their colorful costumes, provided a fine evening of fraternal friendship. Ladies’ Night at Indian Spring Country Club was sold out to an overwhelming and enthusiastic crowd of brethren and ladies. Kiddieland was the scene of fun, rides and refreshments for the kiddies, and the Bloodmobile collection was double our quota.



## 1969 — Milton Korn, Worshipful Master



For the first time in the history of Samuel Gompers Lodge, one of its Past Masters, Milton D. Korman, became Grand Master of Masons of

the District of Columbia. The Bloodmobile secured approximately 300 pints of blood to be well over our quota for the year. “Salute to the ’30s and ’40s” was the theme of the Birthday Party at Indian Spring Country Club. Ladies Night at the International Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in downtown D.C. was dedicated to our beautiful and sophisticated ladies in all their glamour and beauty. Theodore C. McKeldin, Governor of Maryland, was the guest speaker at a Testimonial Dinner honoring Grand Master Milton Korman. The Gompers Aid Association had close to 500 members enrolled at the end of year 1969.





**1970 — Robert F. Goldberg, Worshipful Master**

P.M. Louis "Luck" Goldberg, one of our Charter members, installed his son, W.M. Robert Goldberg in



the East to mark the occasion of a first in Samuel Gompers history. Indian Spring Country Club was the scene for a huge attendance at our Birthday Party. We had a Charter Member Night with over 20 Charter members of the Lodge attending. A "Night in Israel" was the theme of Ladies Night with over 750 brethren and their ladies present. It was necessary for more than 100 volunteer workers to pitch in and lend a hand for the success of this extravaganza. The Gompers blood donors brethren, along with family and friends came through, as usual, with over 500 pints of blood. The Charity Halloween Ball for the benefit of Children's Hospital and the National Children's Home, was a great success at the Silver Spring Armory. St. James Lutheran Church on Eastern Avenue was our home for one year only, and Brother Sam Rodis was the first recipient of the Merit Award Certificate.

**1971 — Harry L. Levin, Worshipful Master**



The 46th year of our Lodge began with a Las Vegas Carnival at Indian

Spring Country Club. Past Master Bernard Easterson made a slide presentation of an interesting and educational grand tour of Europe. Another successful bloodmobile year was recorded as more than 300 pints were donated. Ladies' Night at the Versailles Ballroom in the new Holiday Inn attracted a large group of celebrants. Our Lodge was forced to move again as the church was sold and we moved into Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Kiddies Day at Kiddieland for Children from the National Children's Center was enjoyed by the many children who attended, and the brethren who helped in making this another well planned project. The second Merit Award recipient was Brother Sam Berger, and P.M. Jack Sandler Night was held to honor him with the first time title of Secretary Emeritus.



**1972 — Morris Gevinson, Worshipful Master**



For the first time, our Lodge had an Open Installation, displaying the ritualistic beauty of Raising a Master Mason to the East. The 47th Birthday Party was held at St. Judes Church featuring horse racing, prizes and deli platters. Blood donors amassed a total of 310 pints of blood. Samuel Gompers DeMolay received its Charter and over 300 brethren and their ladies journeyed to Columbia to celebrate Ladies' Night

at the Garland Theater. Kiddies Day and a Sports Night with one of the best Redskin players, as the interesting speaker and delicious refreshments, brought out a great and enthusiastic crowd. The third well-deserved Merit Award was presented to Brother Theodore Rothman.





### **1973 — Howard Ziegler, Worshipful Master**

Twenty-four Past Presidents of the Fellowcraft Club formed the Honor Guard as Worshipful Master Howard Ziegler was installed before a record crowd of brethren. A Samuel Gompers Lodge Forest was begun in the State of Israel. Children’s Hospital received a donation of \$35,000 as a result of one of the most ambitious and successful projects ever undertaken by our Lodge. The Variety Show, featuring comedian Milton Berle and political satirist Mark Russell, was a gala event before a sold out audience at the Kennedy Center. Brother Shelly Fischer did an amazing job as Chairman of this event. The Birthday Party in January and Ladies’ Night at Indian Spring Country Club in June were both outstanding affairs which the brethren and their ladies celebrated enthusiastically.

### **1974 — Aaron Teitel, Worshipful Master**

The social season began with over 300 brethren and their ladies attending the Birthday Party at St. Judes Church. Ladies’ Night had the Honorable John Nidecker, special assistant to the President, as the feature speaker at a “Night in Italy” theme at Indian Spring Country Club. The Annual Field Day was enjoyed by a huge crowd and Kiddies Day at Kiddieland, always a favorite with fun and refreshments for all, was another fine day for the brethren and their families. A great Bloodmobile Drive collected 240 pints of blood to go far above our quota for the year. Masonry in Australia was demonstrated as special permission was granted for Australian Embassy personnel to open and close the Lodge in Australian fashion. We were honored to host many dignitaries as we welcomed members of the Almas Shrine Scottish Rite.



### **1975 — Paul Cornell, Worshipful Master**



To mark the start of the 50th year of our Lodge and with an Honor Guard of Fellowcraft Past Presidents, Worshipful Master Cornell was auspiciously installed in the East at the Scottish Rite Temple. Congresswoman Bella Abzug and radio announcer Joseph McCaffrey were our speakers during the year, and the Golden Anniversary Ladies’ Night at Indian Spring Country Club was packed to capacity. The blood program yielded over 400 pints of blood and Gompers Grove in Israel had more than 1,350 trees planted. Fudda Nabi Grotto Night featured Carl Claudy’s Masonic play, “To Entertain Strangers,” and W.M. Paul Cornell was proud to see his son, Michael become Master Councilor of Samuel Gompers Chapter of DeMolay.

### **1976 — Theodore M. Kahn, Worshipful Master**

More than 200 Brethren were present as the Officers for the Bi-Centennial year ‘76 were installed by P.M. Morris Gevinson in Cornerstone Lodge, the first time a regular meeting was held in Maryland. W.Bro. Kahn was one of the last Masters to serve seven



years in the officers line, starting as Junior Steward. There were 14 men raised, among them W.Bro. Jules Tepper, W.Bro. Walter F. Simon, W.Bro. Edwin S. Nachlas and W. Bro. Julien P. Hofberg. Lou Tepper raised his 3 sons, Jules, Burton and Stanley, in April. W.Bro. Kahn was instrumental in forming a Bi-Centennial degree team, which conferred the Master Mason degree ten times throughout the jurisdiction. Recordings were made of music for the three degrees. A successful Ladies’ Night was held at the newly-opened L’Enfant Plaza Hotel in D.C., chaired by W.Bro. Hyman Sandler. Fourteen brethren, including Sam Rodis (1st Merit Award recipient) and M.Wor.Bro. Milton Korman were awarded 50 year pins. After a lapse of 9 or 10 years, the lodge held a Labor Day picnic for brethren and their families. The blood drives netted 386 pints, or 225% of the quota. Dues were raised from \$25 to \$30. In 1984, as Deputy G.M., Rt.Wor. Bro. Kahn conferred all three degrees from the East on his son, David, and W.Bros. Robert H. Starr and W.Bro. Robert Husemann. He served as Grand Master in ‘85, and during his term started the “Voice of Freemasonry” and “Solomon II” programs. He was elected a trustee of Grand Lodge and is still serving in the year 2000.



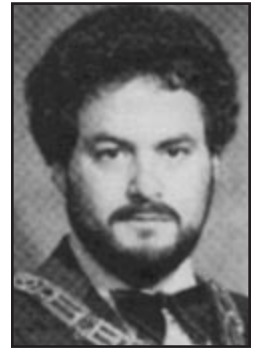


## 1977 — Jaison I. Green, Worshipful Master

An Open Installation of the Samuel Gompers Chapter, Order of DeMolay took place at our first meeting of the year and was well attended. Memorial Services were observed for our Brethren who passed away in 1976. The 52nd Birthday Party celebration was a smash hit with great attendance despite a bitter cold night in February. Phyllis Richman, Washington Post Food Columnist, gave the Brethren and their wives a delightful dissertation on where and what to look for when dining out, and five candidates advanced to the degree of Fellowcraft at the 2nd communication in March. Our Sports Night in April had two celebrities, Pete Wysocki of the Washington Redskins, and Tim Brant, WMAL sports announcer, who related their most interesting experiences in their respective fields. Bloodmobile exceeded its quota by more than 200% and the Labor Day Picnic at Adelphi Park brought out over 500 brethren and family members who took part in games and excitement, plus consuming many hot dogs and hamburgers. Past Masters conferred one of the finest Master Mason degrees ever as witnessed by P.M.'s with over 500 years of combined Masonic experience, and a huge representation of workers from 29 committees was honored at the following meeting in November. The donation of over \$2,500 to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, and several other deserving organizations, plus the planting of more than 2,000 trees in the Samuel Gompers Forest in Israel, demonstrates the charitable ideals of our Lodge.

## 1978 — Richard A. Levine, Worshipful Master

For the second time in its 52 year history, Samuel Gompers Lodge was honored by having one of its brethren elected to the Grand Lodge when P.M. Theodore M. Kahn was installed as Junior Grand Steward. M.W. Bro. Milton D. Korman was Grand Master of Masons of D.C. in 1969 . . . The year was off with a bang as the Singing Cedars, a 40-man orchestra and chorus, entertained at our first communication in January . . . A super 53rd Birthday Party took place at the White Oak Armory with a full capacity crowd attending on a bitter cold night in February . . . Eighteen Past Masters were present for a nostalgic Past Masters Night in February and close to 200 youngsters were entertained by clowns and movies and gifts at a typical Kiddies Day at Tifereth Israel Auditorium. "A Night in the Caribbean" was a night to be long remembered as Chairman P.M. Morris Gevinson, ably assisted by many, many brethren and their wives, put on a show that was truly outstanding from start to finish early in the a.m. The new B'nai Israel Ballroom was the tropical scene of this "Sold Out" event . . . Everybody pitched in to make the Labor Day Picnic at Riverdale Rec Center one of the best ever . . . and in conclusion, a perfect Grand Visitation as Howard Kouzel, P.P. was the Merit Award honoree, and Grand Master Morris Hewitt praising our Lodge for an excellent report of many great events throughout Worshipful Master Richard A. Levine's term in the East.



## 1979 — Michael J. Rinis, Worshipful Master



Michael began his year by having Bro. Benjamin Rinis, P.P., M.A., and Bro. Samuel Miller, (his father and uncle) escorted to the East to share his first evening as Worshipful Master. Our first meeting featured newsman and humorist, Henry Tenenbaum, from WTOP. Our annual birthday party, organized by Bro. Walter Simon, had a Mardi Gras theme with costumes galore. At 25 Year Night W.Bro. Irving Schwartz brought his dad, Max (88 yrs. old) and his brother-in-law, W.B. Milton Korn to the altar. At the Florida Luncheon, \$7.50 would have bought you lunch, music, entertainment, tax, and tip in Miami. An overwhelmed Harry Hofberg received the prestigious Merit Award. Does anyone remember the hustle lessons we got one night? W.Bro. Morris Gevinson was the roastee at a roast given in his honor. Ladies' Night was at the new Bethesda Marriott and featured comedian Jack Eagle and his wife. We had 2 discos for your younger set. The Sweet Adelines harmonized some lovely tunes. The premier sportscaster in town, Glen Brenner was the star of a sports night. Bro Ed Nachlas thrilled both young and old with his hot air balloon at our summer picnic. An Honor Night was

held to celebrate some unsung hard workers of the past.





## 1980 — Max Beloff, Worshipful Master



Many Masonic dignitaries and the entire Grand Lodge Line officers attended the Installation of W.M. Max Beloff and his line for the year 1980 . . . Barbershop singers, including our own P.M. Bob Silberg, entertained at the first communication of the year, and the annual Memorial Services were held at our second meeting in January . . . An outstanding 55th Birthday Party took place at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad on February 16th and a Bloodmobile was held a week later . . . Eden Roc Hotel in Miami Beach was the scene of the Florida Gompers Reunion with 250 people attending . . . Fellowcraft Club had a successful Inaugural Ball in February and 14 candidates passed the Fellowcraft Degrees to receive their Master Mason Degrees in June . . . The Marriott in Pooks Hill was filled to capacity as another great Ladies' Night was enjoyed by everyone in June . . . We had the annual Labor Day Picnic, and shortly afterwards held our first meeting at our new location, Beth Sholom Synagogue . . . The Bloodmobile coupled with a Health Fair, brought out over 150 people . . . Grand Master Perry Lester, along with his Line of Grand Officers, made their Grand Visitation a great event . . . the year was closed out with a Workers Appreciation night and the Fellowcraft Club Birthday party in November.

## 1981 — Jules S. Tepper, Worshipful Master

I look back with a feeling of pride, to the wonderful achievements of Samuel Gompers Lodge in 1981. The very first open installation in the history of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the donation of close to 300 pints of blood to the Red Cross, distribution of 50 Thanksgiving Day food baskets to needy immigrant families, a substantial donation by our Fellowcraft Club to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, reconstitution of visits to and from St. John's Lodge of Baltimore, a highly successful Fellowcraft Club, an active and successful DeMolay Chapter, continued improvement of our Degree work, tremendous social activities and continued receipt of applications for membership in our wonderful Lodge, are but a few of our many notable achievements. As I had emphasized in my message to the Grand Master, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of you, the brethren of Samuel Gompers Lodge. I would therefore, like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to you, not only for your faithful and generous assistance, but for the confidence you had shown by extending to me the privilege of serving as your Worshipful Master in 1981. I will always treasure the memory of that wonderful year in the East.



## 1982 — Walter F. Simon, Worshipful Master



Like rich old wine, 1982 was a vintage year. It was the last full year that Samuel Gompers Lodge No. 45 was a separate entity. For in 1983, the Lodge merged with Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 50. The year was very memorable — at the Lodge's Birthday party, the Master's son walked through a plate glass panel surrounding the coat room causing a good deal of excitement. W. Bro. Norman Barshai was elected as "Mr. Little" or Junior Deacon, the bottom of the elected line. Bro. Charles S. Lazar was elected president of the Fellowcraft Club. The Lodge held one of the last Ladies' Nights at the Pooks Hill Marriott that year with entertainment by Mal Z. Lawrence, an outstanding humorist. That year 14 men were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, including four Senior DeMolays in one class in March. Of the four Senior DeMolays, one, Michael Simon, became Worshipful Master of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge and one, Dan L Frederick became Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia in 1999. During the year we had four Bloodmobiles and collected 336 pints of blood. The Lodge delivered 50 over-stuffed Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. The Lodge's annual Labor Day Picnic was held at Riverdale Recreation Center with over 300 in attendance. We lost 39 brethren during that Masonic Year. The 1982 Merit Award recipient was Arthur Rubinstein.

## 1983 — Julien P. Hofberg, Worshipful Master



The most recent full-chair succession (all seven chairs) Worshipful Master, Julien began his reign by being installed by his dad, Harry Hofberg, M.A. We enjoyed the Hometown Singers (S.P.E.B.Q.S.A.)

at our first meeting. The Florida luncheon was moved north to Pompano Beach and feted 175 guests. W. Bros. Morty Oppenheim and Sidney Goldstein, who were the Masters in 1958, hosted our 25 year night. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting and listening to Bill Gold formerly of the Washington Post. A CPR demonstration prepared us for action to take in an emergency of a heart attack. The Blood Committee collected over 450 pints of blood. Ladies Night was moved to Sunday Night at Indian Spring Country Club and drew a crowd of nearly 400 to celebrate with our Worshipful Master. During the summer, we held a Tennis/Golf Outing at Indian Spring Country Club. Brethren viewed a Trial of the Ruffians and we shared visits with St John's Lodge. Mal Campbell was a delight at a Sports Nite. The major highlight of the year was the merger of Samuel Gompers No. 45 with Benjamin Franklin No. 50 which was unanimously approved. Over 600 brethren and their families enjoyed the picnic. and 3,500 pounds of food was distributed to over 50 needy families during our Thanksgiving Basket Program. On June 1983 the Bulletin headline was "We are One!"

## 1984 — Edwin S. Nachlas, Worshipful Master

Serving as the first elected Master of our combined Lodge was a rewarding and at times a humbling experience. It doesn't take a Master long to realize that nothing gets done without help. My officers were the best and along with the help of scores of PM's and sideliners we had a year that included over 400 at Ladies Night, 500 at the Labor Day Picnic, a fashion show, a cabaret night. Golf and Tennis outing and trips "to the beach" in Atlantic City, delivered over a ton of food and collected 396 pints of blood. Jerry Yager's leadership of an active Fellowcraft Club along with the greatest Bulletin Staff in existence and all the other events we had, made for a successful and very busy year. Our Lodge has been called the noisiest Lodge anywhere. The noise, to this Past Master, is the sweetest chorus in existence. It is music composed of Officers. Past Masters, and countless sideliners. The noise is brotherhood and Masonry lives here and is alive. I have had the honor, privilege and pleasure, for one incredible year of orchestrating that chorus and being its conductor.





## 1985 — Norman Barshai, Worshipful Master



Our first communication of 1985 presented Grand Master Theodore M. Kahn as the featured speaker. The Lodge's Birthday Party with a "South of the Border"

theme included tacos with all the trimmings and great dancing music. Meanwhile, in Florida, Many of our brethren and their ladies gathered for the 9th Annual Masonic Get-Together where over 400 guests enjoyed good food and dancing and where, for the first time in the Lodge's history, its current Worshipful Master and Grand Master were also present. We honored Fudda Nabi Grotto and followed that event with a testimonial Dinner for our M.W.G.M. Theodore M. Kahn. Another of the year's highlights was "A Midsummer Night's Dream," our Ladies' Night at Indian Spring Country Club. Ritualistically, we conducted two sets of degrees while Wardens' Night tested our Lodge's future leaders. We traded visits with St. John's Lodge of Baltimore during which each Lodge passed their Fellowcrafts in their own particular ritual. Our bloodmobile collected 500 pints of blood and our Thanksgiving Basket Program distributed over one ton of food to needy families. The annual Labor Day picnic was a huge success as we did away with boiled hot dogs and introduced, for the first time, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. The Golf and Tennis outing at Indian Spring Country Club was equally successful. Other activities such as Sports Night, 25 Year night, presenting Carl H. Claudy play, "The Greatest of These" and Game Night rounded out a spectacular year. The history-making event of the year occurred when, for only the 2nd time in the Lodge's history, one of our Past Masters, becoming Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, paid his lodge a Grand Visitation. It was a night to remember and a year to cherish.

## 1986 — Donald S. Jacobs, Worshipful Master

The year of 1986 was one which truly represented the true meaning of our Masonic order; our meetings were both stimulating and interesting and included such as Memorial Night, Game Night, Sports Night, DeMolay Night and a



special program on hearing problems. These and the several meetings for our degrees made for an interesting year. Our bloodmobile drive was extremely successful as we raised over 430 pints of blood. This effort was dedicated to the memory of our Senior Deacon, Eli Berkowitz, who passed away to the Celestial Lodge above. Our social program for the year was as always in Gompers-Franklin style, busy and exciting. My wife Sandy and I had the pleasure of attending the Florida reunion where over 400 Masons and their wives and friends attended. Our birthday party was great and of course our Ladies' Night, chaired by Worshipful Brother Irv Schwartz was an evening to be remembered. The end of summer brought out over 500 of our brethren their families and friends for our Labor Day Picnic. Not to be forgotten was the filling and delivering of over 50 baskets to needy families at Thanksgiving time. A word of thanks also to our Fellowcraft Club for their support and great social evenings.



## 1987 — I. “Rocky” Rachlin, Worshipful Master



What could bring us closer at the beginning of a Masonic year than tango lessons from Brother Leo Rishty and his partner, Rona. Merger anniversary night commemorated a truly momentous event, the joining of two Masonic powerhouses. The Engleberg-Korman Charity Fund

was established. Our 61st birthday party was held at the Tall Cedars Lodge. A Valentine’s dance was held in February and for the first time Passover Food Baskets were prepared for those who were in need. The brethren shared each other’s company while visiting Atlantic City by bus. Ladies’ Night was again at Martin’s Crosswinds. The Deputy Grand Master was welcomed at a night in his honor. W.Bro. Walter Simon was honored at a night sponsored by our DeMolay.

## 1988 — Ronald L. Forman, Worshipful Master

The year began with a Youth Night meeting starring our Chapter of DeMolay boys and the Rainbow girls. We moseyed up to the tables for our “Whoopie-Ki-Ya-Ki-Yai” western theme birthday party. Wardens’ Night was special with a “Test your Masonic knowledge” program. Ted Rothman, M.A., was appointed Editor of the Voice of Free Masonry. Ladies’ Night was held at beautiful Indian Spring Country Club. A CPR demonstration was an educational life-saving treat. Our annual picnic was set at the Riverdale Recreation Center with over 400 brethren and their families consuming many hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. Several bus loads of brethren visited St. John’s Lodge in Baltimore. The brethren and their ladies enjoyed a cruise wear fashion show in the Fall.



## 1989 — Sheldon I. Rappeport, Worshipful Master

The Installation of Officers at the Scottish Rite Temple was very well attended. We had a blood-mobile and Memorial Services in January, and the Lodge Birthday Party took place in March as well as a successful Wardens’ Night. We raised six Master Masons. We had a great Birthday Party and a fabulous Ladies’ Night in May at the Bethesda Naval Officers Club. We had another good Labor Day Picnic. We distributed more than 50 Thanksgiving baskets to the needy of our community. The highlight of the year, however, was the night when we honored our 25, 50 and 60 year Brethren. W.Bros. Jerry Saidman and Abe Sperling, our 1964 Worshipful Masters, planned a wonderful evening. The planning was only part of what made this a memorable event. They called so many people that the attendance, including ladies and guests was approximately 300 people. Everyone had a wonderful time.

## 1990—Robert H. Starr, Worshipful Master

The year started off with a flurry as the installation occurred in the middle of a blizzard. The Engleberg-Korman Charity fund donated over \$15,000 to worthy, deserving charities and the Aid Association distributed \$17,000 to our widows. We also hand-delivered over 50 baskets of food to needy families at Thanksgiving. Our members and families donated 317 pints of blood, exceeding 200% of our quota. Worshipful Master Starr visited our members who were in the Hebrew Home. The Lodge held a well-attended Sweetheart Dance and Birthday party. In February, the Master traveled to Fort Lauderdale to attend the Florida Reunion of more than 350 Florida Brethren, snowbirds and ladies. We celebrated Ladies’ Night at Martins’ Crosswinds. The entire line of Officers of Temple Chapter No. 13, OES attended the OES Night and were entertained by a puppet show. The Labor Day picnic brought out over 500 Brethren and their families at Riverdale Park. Truly, the highlight of our social scene was a fantastic Masonic Concert, which we co-hosted at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It starred Bro. Jerome Barry, a noted baritone, in a magnificent performance of Masonic music. This event raised over \$3500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Center at Children’s Hospital. Our Fellowcraft Club continued their entertaining operations culminating in their Annual Fellowcraft Ball. A very unusual and delightful program was the “Trial of the Ruffians” presided over by the Honorable Judge Charles S. Ritchey, a Brother of Potomac Lodge. A busload of members traveled to Baltimore to attend a Table Lodge for St. Johns Lodge No. 34. Other events included a moving Memorial Service for our departed Brethren, a Scottish Rite Night, and a Wardens Night where we saw that the future of the Lodge was in good hands. We raised nine Brethren and Grand Visitation, which brought many honors and recognition to the Lodge was attended by over 200 Brethren. W.Bro. Starr was appointed in 1991 to the Office of Grand Sword Bearer and in 1994, elected Junior Grand Steward.





## 1991 — Robert W. Husemann, Worshipful Master

January was a pretty hectic month as inclement weather was a dominating factor at both of our meetings, with one cancelled and the other attended by a very meager number of hardy brethren . . . The 15th Annual Florida Reunion, on the other hand, had a huge crowd of almost 400 at the Holiday Inn in Ft. Lauderdale, and the Lodge's 65th Birthday Party was a glorious event in March with another capacity group of Brethren and their wives enjoying the festive occasion . . . Memorial Services were rescheduled from the cancelled January meeting to April and impressively conducted by Rabbi Lyle Fishman and Bro. Cantor Jeffrey Nadel, of Ohr Kodesh and Beth Shalom Congregations, respectively. A Mid-Summer Night's Dream came true as we held our first ever Ladies' Night in the new magnificent ballroom of Almas Temple in downtown Washington. It would be putting it mildly if we called this evening a social extravaganza, as the Toronadoes entertained for a night of dancing and listening pleasure to almost 200 of our Brethren and their ladies, who were resplendent in their beautiful gowns . . . Summer was concluded with our Annual Labor Day Picnic at Riverdale Recreation Center featuring sodas, hot dogs, hamburgers, clowns, a caricaturist, and lots of fun and games. The Fellowcraft Club's 47th Anniversary Ball at Claude's in Gaithersburg was another successful social evening that was well attended . . . The pomp and ceremony of Grand Visitation was again an evening that the Brethren enjoyed with a special dinner and most impressive program as Worshipful Master Robert Husemann made an eloquent report to the Grand Master of Masons of D.C. . . . The usual Thanksgiving Basket assembling and delivering took place again as a number of our Brethren, with the aid of their wives, put together baskets of food for over 50 needy families in time for a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner.



## 1992 — Robert Haber, Worshipful Master



A year of many successful ventures was begun in January with a quota reached at the Bloodmobile, followed by a fine turnout at Memorial Services in memory of 40 of our Brethren who had passed on to the Celestial Lodge during the Masonic year . . . Worshipful Master Robert Haber and wife Audrey, attended the Annual Florida Reunion and had a wonderful time along with over 200 brethren and their wives . . . A sensational 67th Birthday Party took place at the Silo Inn as the food, music and dancing was non-stop for an overflowing crowd . . . Ladies' Night at Indian Spring Country Club, an evening of elegance and charm as the Brethren dined, danced and spent the night socializing in a most pleasant atmosphere . . . Five Fellowcrafts out of a class of nine, received their Master Masons degree in May, and the other four were installed at the 2nd communication in June at the Takoma Masonic Hall as a huge crowd attended a peerless presentation of ritual work with the 2nd Section performed very colorfully in costume . . . Labor Day Picnic, relocated to

Summit Hall Farm in Gaithersburg, proved to be an outstanding move as a fabulous turnout of brethren and their families enjoyed an afternoon of delicious food, drinks, fun and games . . . 25/50 Year Night was a "night to remember" as we honored Secretary Emeritus W.B. Saul Weiss with a roast, and recognized other brethren who received their degrees in 1967. Thanksgiving food baskets were assembled and delivered to over 50 needy families by a hard working group of volunteers. 1992 was hectic, rousing and fun-filled and we also were saddened by the loss of P.M.'s Hy Sandler, Archie Zinnamon and Irwin Rosenblatt.

## 1993 — Michael S. Niddam, Worshipful Master

The first meeting of the year was a Security Awareness Demonstration. After a number of degree meetings the lodge reserved the entire Silo Inn for its annual birthday party. The brethren enjoyed a Table Lodge with all of its trappings. Young Clog dancers really tapped their hearts out at our May meeting. Ladies' Night was held at the newly remodeled Almas Temple ballroom. We enjoyed fun, games and food galore at our summer picnic at Summit Hall Farm with over 500 brethren and their families attending. Western square dancing night completed the year.



## 1994 — Joseph N. Snyder, Worshipful Master

Presenting interesting and informative programs for our brethren to increase attendance in Lodge was a key in 1994. The year started with a very interesting program presented by the U.S. Capitol Police concerning personal safety and security. Another program of interest was a karaoke night. A tribute to honor and roast Ben Davis, P.P., M.A., for his 50 years of dedicated service to his Lodge was another event that was well attended. International night proved to be a rousing success with foods from the Middle Eastern region and song and dance from that part of the world. Another activity that took place was a Table Lodge that all present enjoyed. A performance of "The Trial of the Ruffians" was presented. We were treated to a spirited presentation by the Fire and Rescue Squad of Gaithersburg. The annual birthday party, had a theme of "A Night in Madrid," with the cuisine of Spain, along with Spanish dancers and, of course, a bull fight. Our annual Ladies' Night, was held at Martins Crosswinds in Greenbelt. The Florida Reunion took place in Boca Raton in January and it was a pleasure to be there. Seven brothers were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason Thanksgiving baskets totaled 101, were made up and delivered to the needy. We attended and helped with the ceremonies held at the Holocaust Memorial Museum and at Arlington National Cemetery in commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day on June 6. We went to the VA Hospital for our annual Christmas visit and the Lodge blood drive program was a success with our attainment of over 200% of quota. Our Fellowcraft Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at Indian Spring Country Club.



## 1995 — Burt Levy, P.P., Worshipful Master



Traditions that somehow were beginning to fall to the wayside were picked up and otherwise restored to the excellence intended for our proud lodge during this Masonic Year. The solemnity and splendor of the installation of officers started off the year with all receiving the charge to "Revive 45 in '95." Among the revitalized programs was the "Sunshine Committee" which became a very active group that year. Much attention was also given to the importance of providing a dignified and meaningful Masonic Funeral Ceremony. Social programs for Masonic Year '95 were among the best seen in years. All who attended the Valentine's Day Social can tell you that Cupid actually showed up wearing nothing more than his wings and a diaper - bow & arrow at the ready. Costumed Arabian Knights greeted those who attended the Lodge Birthday Party and welcomed all to enjoy a feast of Middle Eastern foods, the talents of a magician, and dancing. Ladies' Night at Martin's Crosswinds was extraordinary. A first-rate band provided a perfect accompaniment to delectable food, and casino type games yielded prizes the likes of which have not been offered by this lodge since. A joint Table Lodge with our brothers at Cornerstone Lodge was another winner, a Labor Day Picnic that set the standard for all to follow, and a Warden's Night dinner should also be remembered. A full set of Masonic Degrees was conferred and the Master even had the high honor of raising his own son. 1995 was truly a memorable year.

## 1996—Michael Simon, Worshipful Master

The year began with a philatelic presentation of Holocaust postcards and stamps. The brethren and their ladies were made more aware of car repairs: Are you being ripped off? W.Bro. Jules Tepper was elected to the Grand Lodge Line. W.Bro. Saul Weiss along with the Masters of Potomac Lodge No. 5 and Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. presented a Masonic Concert at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial featuring Bro. Jerome Barry. The brethren and their ladies enjoyed a wonderful Ladies' Night at Martins Crosswinds. The summer picnic was held at Summit Hall Farm in Gaithersburg. There was a Grand Social at B'nai Israel attended by over 200 brethren and their ladies, featuring borscht belt comedienne and beautiful fruit platters. Finally let's not forget the Table Lodge meeting, Sports Medicine report and fun-filled square dancing lessons.





### **1997 — Adam L. Forman, Worshipful Master**

For the first time in the history of our Lodge, we are going to meet once a month instead of the regular 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month . . . A Table Lodge meeting was a joyous occasion for all attending Brethren . . . The early “Sold Out” sign was there as Ladies’ Night was a Royal Banquet and Cotillion in the motif of King Arthur and his Knights in shining armor and their lovely ladies resplendent in their beautiful gowns . . . B’nai Israel was the scene as 25, 50 and 60 year men received their certificates and pins as a capacity crowd witnessed the awards . . . The annual Labor Day Lodge Picnic was fantastic, as usual, with over 600 people joining for an afternoon of fun and refreshments . . . In October we had a Wardens Night along with the first ever Annual Reports night when Worshipful Master Adam Forman made his Report to Deputy Grand Master of Masons of D.C., Eldon J. Brown . . . The Fellowcraft Club held its 53rd Anniversary Ball in the popular Leisure World Ballroom and it was a well attended great success. The year was rounded out with the Open Installation of the 1998 Officers at the Kensington Masonic Temple on December 7th. That is with the exception of Worshipful Master-Elect Robert N. Hixon who was too ill to attend and was installed at a later date.

### **1998 — Robert N. Hixon, Worshipful Master**

A fun-filled Table Lodge meeting with traditional toasts and an abundance of fellowship gave the Brethren another evening of pleasure . . . The Party Social with apron tying, dinner, and games and prizes, succeeded in accomplishing its purpose as everyone pitched in . . . Summit Hall Park in Gaithersburg was the scene as the brethren, family, kids and friends had a fantastic afternoon . . . What may be the beginning of an annual event which was the first time that Gompers-Franklin Lodge joined with Cornerstone Lodge of Maryland in presenting an outstanding Ladies’ Night in May at Indian Spring Country Club. Needless to say, it was a great evening . . . Memorial Night at Har Tzeon Synagogue was the final tribute to the Brethren who had passed on to the Celestial Lodge above during the year . . . The last big social of the year, the 25, 50 and 60 Year Night at B’nai Israel Synagogue, drew many Brethren and their wives to an enjoyable evening of entertainment and sociability . . . 90 needy families received baskets and boxes of food as a result of our annual Thanksgiving Basket program. Many brethren, along with their wives, and the youths of Brandeis Chapter of AZA, did a terrific job of assembling and delivering these baskets . . . Election and Installation of Worshipful Master P.M. Al Hemmerdinger and his line of officers for the year 1999, took place in December to round out an interesting year.



### **1999 — Albert B. Hemmerdinger, P.M., Worshipful Master**



The lodge finally moved to the Takoma Masonic Center providing a newly refurbished lodge room and an elevator. The Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Festive Board replaced the usual Table Lodge and allowed the ladies to be present for a packed house. Grand Master Dan Frederick, who attended two other events this year, was on board offering his costumed version of the Hula Dance. Wardens Night was attended by Masters, Wardens and Past Masters from numerous lodges. At a somber Memorial Night service, candles were lit in final tribute to the brethren of our lodge who had laid down their working tools for the last time during the past year.

A joint Ladies’ Night was held with Cornerstone Lodge at Indian Spring Country Club. Highlights included a fabulous feast and a magnificent dance. Our picnic crowd of 400 brethren and families had a great time at the Summit Hall Farm. A super social honoring 25-50-60 year members was held at Leisure World. Pomp and ceremony heralded the annual Grand Visitation where the Grand Master congratulated members of the Lodge on their achievements during the year and pinned the Merit Award Medal on Frank Gantz, P.P. The Fellowcraft Club celebrated their 55th anniversary with a dinner and dancing in the ballroom at Leisure World. The tremendous team work of many of the brethren, their wives, children, and grandchildren culminated in the production of numerous Thanksgiving food baskets for needy families. The donations of the Lodge again far exceeded quota to the Masonic Blood Bank.







## 2000 — William D. Boker, P.M., Worshipful Master

This year is unique in two ways. By serving as Worshipful Master this year, I became the first Past Master raised in Samuel Gompers to serve two terms. This being our 75th anniversary year is icing on the cake. Special emphasis has been given to programs including our ladies and the use of the latest technology for record keeping and communicating. I have been afforded the opportunity to examine the achievements of the Investment Committee. So far, I can see no way that I can implement any program that will come close to the benefits and service to the Lodge as this outstanding committee. A five-year plan is in the formative stages to aggressively market our Fraternity and to recruit new members by exposing them and their families to our product—"making good men better men." Time will tell if we are successful.

Happy Anniversary – SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE No. 45



*Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Year 2000 Board of Directors, front row, left to right: Robert N. Hixon, P.M., Sr. Deacon; Walter F. Simon, P.M., Secretary; Burt S. Levy, P.M., P.P., Sr. Warden; Worshipful Master William D. Boker, P.M.; Sheldon I. Rappeport, P.M., Jr. Warden; Max Beloff, P.M., Treasurer; and Stanley D. Jordan, Jr. Deacon. Back row: Harry Hofberg, M.A., Historian and Editor; Jerrold Gordon, M.A., P.P., Jr. Steward and Asst. Secretary; Allen J. Wright, P.M., Chaplain; Robert Haber, P.M., Master of Ceremonies; Mark S. Hein, Sr. Steward, and Julien P. Hofberg, P.M., Trustee.*





**The Officers of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45, F.A.A.M. — 2000**



William D. Boker  
*Worshipful Master*



Burt Levy, P.M., P.P.  
*Senior Warden*



Sheldon Rappeport, P.M.  
*Junior Warden*



Walter F. Simon, P.M.  
*Secretary*



Max Beloff, P.M.  
*Treasurer*



Bob Hixon, P.M.  
*Senior Deacon*



Stanley Jordan  
*Junior Deacon*



Mark Hein  
*Senior Steward*



Jerry Gordon, P.P., M.A.  
*Junior Steward/Trustee*



Allen J. Wright, P.M.  
*Chaplain*



Robert Haber  
*Master of Ceremonies*



Harry Hofberg, M.A.  
*Historian/Editor*



Julien P. Hofberg, P.M.  
*Trustee*

