



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

# bulletin

Volume XCIII • Number 9  
December 2018

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

Meets Second Tuesday of Each Month (Except July and August—no meetings;—December—first Tuesday)



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

## **VA Visitation December 23**

This year we have again scheduled our Lodge's VA Hospital Visitation to the Sunday before Christmas. For those of us who have participated in this activity know that our help is greatly appreciated in aiding the veterans to participate in religious services and getting a chance to know this important community.

**Location:** VA Hospital  
50 Irving Street., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20310

**Time:** Meet in the lobby at 9:00 AM, we will go up together at 9:15 AM

We usually go out for brunch afterward.

To participate in this event, please contact Bro. Jeff Greenwald [jgreenwald@sgbf45.org](mailto:jgreenwald@sgbf45.org).

## **93rd Installation OF OFFICERS**

**Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45, F.A.A.M.**



*Please Attend*

Join us for our Open Installation of our  
**2019 Officers**  
Everyone is welcome to attend  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Sunday, December 9th, 2017**  
1:00 PM  
Takoma Masonic Center  
115 Carroll Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC

Installation Chair ..... Sheldon I. Rappeport, P.M., D.S.M.  
Program.....Burt Levy, P.M.

Dress code for Installation: Officers in Tuxedo, Brethren dark suit suggested, alternatively shirt tie sport coat and slacks accepted

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



Your father or uncle  
may have been a Mason

Your grandfather probably was a Mason

*To learn more about Masonry:*  
**We meet the second Tuesday night  
at Takoma Masonic Center**

Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*, [wm@sgbf45.org](mailto:wm@sgbf45.org)  
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*  
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

**2B1**



**SK1**

## Light From the East



What a delight and honor to complete my term as Master of this Lodge by participating in two truly outstanding events that showcased the strengths and future of our fraternity. This month, of course was our Master Masons Degree and The William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program. Our degree conferral which included courtesy degrees for four other Lodges pressed the limits of how many degrees can be granted in one night. And our charity food program in cooperation with The Jewish Social Services Agency provided and delivered 120 baskets, pushed us to find a way to make it possible to assemble so many baskets. Both events drew on brethren from other Lodges and involved many of our own brethren, included many who do not regularly participate in monthly Lodge activities.

While there was a lot of concern in taking on four courtesy degrees because of the time and added stress, the degree team did an excellent job of providing a high-quality experience for both the new Masons and their own Lodge Brethren. We had help with conductors, fellowcrafts, ruffians and a Senior Steward from our courtesy Lodges. In hindsight, having the added degrees made the effort of learning the degree parts feel really worthwhile as we made a difference for our Brethren. I personally found the large ceremony put added emphasis on the content of the degree and heightened the sense of engagement by everyone. I want to thank everyone again who participated in the degree and particularly our Degree Director, Sheldon Rappeport, PM who always gets the most out of our cast by having multiple rehearsals at his home.

The other exceptional event is of course our Thanksgiving Basket Program. When one of JSSA's

partner volunteer organizations backed out of a commitment for adding 20 baskets just days before the event, Bro Jeff Greenwald and his team were able to step up to fill the gap and allow JSSA to meet their commitment to those families. Really, I was very proud of our community engagement in our largest charity event of the year. I lost count of everyone who participated but we received support from Friendship Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star, District of Columbia, Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14, District of Columbia, and No. 198, Kensington – Bethesda Lodge. Thank you for everyone who came out to participate which included friends of our Lodge as well as a number of prospective members. Thank you to those members who provided financial support for the baskets along with their dues. And a special thank you for our Chairman, Bro. Jeff Greenwald, who really had this event organized exceptionally well. We completed the 120 baskets, had picked up and cleaned up by 10:30 am!

The next major event will be Installation. A Special Communication has been called for Sunday, December 9th at 1:00 pm. Please make the effort to come out as we install the WM elect, Robert Greenwald and the new officer line and Trustees.

It is my firm belief that our fraternity enjoys a special engagement in our community and with our fellow brethren. This month's outstanding activities were a great example of the strength of our Lodge.

Sincerely & Fraternally,  
Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*



This is my last article as Junior Warden. As I have been elected to be Senior Warden for next year. This year has certainly been exciting as I look out at the Lodge from the South.

For the last few months, I have been working on the Worshipful Master's part for the Master Mason Degree we conferred on November 13th. I also learned the King Solomon part for the second half. I pretty much did nothing else, using just about every free minute I had during the day and evening to practice and try and memorize all the pieces. I am pretty sure my co-workers think I discovered religion, as I am sure they have seen me looking at the cipher all of my free time, which is a little black book could easily be mistaken for a Bible.

My commute both ways, to and from work is between 30 and 40 minutes. I discovered that if I started just as I made the turn from Georgia Avenue to the ICC, I would be finished just a few seconds before I had to go through the guard gate where I work. I normally make a cup of coffee just before I walk out of the house to drink on the way. I know exactly where on the trip, I can safely take that first sip. On many days in the last few weeks, I arrived at work, to realize I had a full cup of rather cold coffee, as I had not touched it at all. I am sure that least one person in another car either thought I was crazy talking to myself or just liked to sing along with the music.

We raised five new Masons! One from our Lodge and four courtesies from four other Lodges. Details about who, what and where are in the article about the degree in this *Bulletin*.

Being raised as a Master Mason is a very emotional experience for the Brother being raised. What really crept up on me without any real warning, just as we finished the first section and sitting in the East, was how emotional it is to make new Ma-

sons. I was relieved that I got through the whole part with only a few errors, and no major misstep. At the same time, I felt really excited that we had just raised a bunch of new Masons. With all the months of practice, I had never really stopped to think about what we were preparing to do. When that all sank in, as I was doing my last set of lines, it truly touched me.

Then we slipped elections in between the sections, and I was elected to be the Senior Warden for next year. It is a humbling experience as the Brethren have entrusted in me to be the second in command of the Lodge for the next year. We have an outstanding line for next year that is building on the exceptional leadership from the Masters of the last several years. A very hard act to follow, but all of us are dedicated to keep doing the same great things we have been doing.

After the elections, we started the second section of the degree where I got to do the King Solomon part. Once again the emotions really crept up on me by the end of the section. I was emotionally drained as I ran the slides for the lecture.

We did not finish and close the lodge until just before low 12. As has become our usual custom, several of us stopped on the way home to get something to eat. By the time I got home, it was 2 AM, but it took me over an hour to relax enough to finally fall asleep.

The next morning I slept in some and got to work quite a bit later than normal. I actually listened to the radio on the way to work and finished the cup of coffee too.

I will close with a quote from Brother George Washington:

*"Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company"*

## Special Communication

**The Worshipful Master has called a **Special Communication** of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 at 1 pm on Sunday, December 9, 2018 for the purpose of the Installation of Officers for 2019, and approval of appropriations.**



## Arthritis Foundation, Jingle Bell Run

Lace up your sneakers, button up your coats, and put on your gloves, because Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge is participating in the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run.

The Jingle Bell Run is an annual winter-themed 5k run that raises money to find a cure for the many forms of arthritis. Laura Torchinsky, wife of PM David Torchinsky, was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis in her early 20s. Over the last few years, Laura has gotten very involved with the Arthritis Foundation and the American College of Rheumatology. In 2016, she formed Laura's Army, a team of runners and supporters



who participate in the Jingle Bell Run, by running, walking or simply cheering.

This year's event was on December 1 at Pentagon Row in Arlington, VA, at 9 am. Please join us! If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then come on out and cheer us on. If you can't make it, feel free to make a donation.

If you have further questions feel free to email me at [ltorch@gmail.com](mailto:ltorch@gmail.com), to register or contribute to this event, please go to <https://events.arthritis.org/team/LaurasArmy>

## Monthly Lodge Meet-Up at Greek Village



On Monday, October 22nd, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 had its Monthly Meet-Up at the Greek Village Restaurant in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Meet-Up Dinner took place during the evening from 6:30 pm to 8 pm.

Seven men attended and enjoyed the food and fellowship. Attendees present were Brother Hal Henig, Membership Chairman, WM Raymond Horn and his son David. Also present were JW Jerry Keilsohn, SD Burt Levy, PM, Dave Torchinsky, PM, and Brother Jeff Greenwald. The table was neatly clothed and we enjoyed the service and pleasant hospitality.

Attached is a photo of us enjoying a nice evening Greek Dinner. Look forward to the next Meet-up.





All of the new Masons with WM Raymond Horn and JW Jerry Keilsohn who was in the East for the Degree

## Master Mason Degree

During our November Stated Communication there was a meaningful expression of the Master Mason Degree for five new Masons. The degree cast did an excellent job performing the degree and keeping their energy up for all five of the degree candidates. The evening started with an Italian dinner and ended with a group from the Lodge going to The Taste Diner in Silver Spring.

The meeting began sharply at 7:30 pm and we closed just before midnight. There was tremendous participation from the Lodges for whom we were performing a courtesy degree, as well as a number of Brethren from Maynilad Lodge who served as our Senior Steward and Fellowcrafts.

Our own Brother Derek Gould received the honor of being the last Brother raised.

Here is the list of brethren that were raised:

Seth Frederick	The Eagle Lodge No. 1893
Derek Gould	SG-BF #45
Camillo Morales	The Colonial Lodge #1821
James Pender	Anacostia #21
Douglass Thornell	Temple Noyes Cathedral Lodge # 32



Michael Greenwald PM and newly raised Bro. Derek Gould



All of the new Masons receiving The Charge from Allen Wright PM



Visiting Sitting Masters who attended the Master Mason Degree



The large crowd that gathered for dinner prior to the Master Mason Degree

## The assignments for the degree:

### 1st Part

East – Jerry Keilsohn  
 West – Robert Greenwald  
 South – Burt Levy  
 SD – Jeff Greenwald  
 JD – Hal Henig  
 SS – Tony from Maynilad  
 JS – Paul Boylin  
 MC – Sheldon Rappeport

### 2nd Part

East & KS – Jerry Keilsohn  
 West – Robert Greenwald  
 South – Burt Levy  
 SD – Sheldon Rappeport  
 Seafaring man – Hal Henig  
 SS – Tony from Manilad  
 JS – Paul Boylin  
 MC – Raymond Horn  
 Ruffians – Burt Levy,  
 Raymond Horn, Joshua  
 Rubin  
 Lecture – Burt Levy and  
 Sheldon Rappeport  
 Charge – Allen Wright  
 GL Warning – Dominador  
 Carreon

12 Fellow crafts – visiting  
 brethren from Maynilad,  
 Eagle, Anacostia and  
 Temple Noyes Cathedral  
 Lodge as well as Roman  
 Volsky PGM

And lastly – Douglas  
 Thornell was raised by his  
 father Paul Thornell



# 120 BASKETS!

## ... Are You Kidding Me?

This year on November 18th, we outdid ourselves and accomplished the task of creating 120 Thanksgiving baskets for 120 needy families in the metropolitan DC area. And...we did it in record time owing to the numerous volunteers that helped out (see pictures). While we originally planned for 100 baskets, a harrowing call from JSSA came on Wednesday, November 14th, stating that another group who had promised to supply 20 baskets bailed out. Through various calls, we were able to add these baskets to our list. Then on Saturday evening, November 17th, 10 brethren and family members met to load up the truck after a pizza dinner at Continental Pizza. Finally on Sunday morning, November 18th, starting at 7:30 am, we were able to create the food baskets within 1 hour. Then, we helped to load up cars for distribution. All 120 baskets were loaded up into cars by 10 am for distribution to the needy families. Then 10 of us went to the Daily Dish for brunch and brotherhood.

If you were there, you realized how efficient we have become in doing this main event. Many people were involved in the background, but kudos go out to everyone who contributed either by donating time or money. We look forward to doing this again next year and maybe we will reach for 150! Speaking of doing things again, hope to see many of you for the VA Hospital Visitation on Sunday, December 23rd. See details on the app.



Here is the crew from the end of the activity, we had twice as many people helping out during the event. JSSA really appreciated our stepping up to handle the extra baskets this year.



Bro Jeff Greenwald and Diane Hays-Earp, BSW, the Program and Volunteer Coordinator for Senior Services and the Jewish Social Services Agency and our long-time point of contact at JSSA for the Basket Program coordinating the delivery routes



Allen Wright PM and JW Jerry Keilsohn



Turkey Patrol



Derek Gould's sister helped to make sure every basket had a letter from the Lodge in four languages: English, Spanish, Russian and Yiddish.



WM Raymond Horn and one of Derek's brothers loading the cars





Michael Greenwald PM showing off his PM Jacket



Bro Kevin Stemp making sure every basket is filled correctly



What 120 baskets looks like and our volunteer from Eastern Star who also made deliveries for us.



Derek Gould's younger brothers helped with the Turkeys and baskets



Bro Jeff Greenwald who really did an excellent job organizing the event with Burt Levy PM and JW Jerry Keilsohn and one the four Brothers from Kensington Lodge who came out to help.



Catching bags of stuffing



Michael Greenwald PM and David Torchinsky PM managing the Kosher Birds





# How to Grow & Strengthen Your Lodge:

- Attend as many meetings & functions as possible.
- Show up early. Stay late
- Support & participate.
- Read. Study. Learn. Drill. Discuss. Teach. Grow. Improve.
- Be Prepared; Be off book; Know the ritual and duties of 3 chairs; Learn the one above you; Know the one you occupy & the chair subordinated to you; Teach this same practice to all officers.
- Strengthen the chain. Commit to improving the lives of every single officer and brother you meet.
- Live Masonry outside and inside the lodge 24/7 - 365.
- Accept an office. Take a role. Volunteer. Do your best!
- Roll up your sleeves. Help out; Stay humble. Give back.
- Abandon all ego & foolish pride.
- Invite & involve candidates and brethren alike. Encourage them to take ownership of the lodge & their journey.
- Avoid the "rumor mill." Avoid gossip.
- Build on the strengths of others. Encourage passion & new ideas.
- All hands on deck! Many hands make light work.
- Never speak negatively about an officer or committee member.
- Build up the officers or committee members to the brethren.
- Pay your dues in advance. Donate often.
- Treat each other like family; with the highest regard, esteem, & respect.
- Plan, practice, prepare, persevere.
- Honor the past, preserve the traditions and culture of the lodge.
- Ask not what Freemasonry can do for you, but what you can do for Freemasonry.
- Follow the code: the great light, the obligations, charges, old charges, ancient landmarks, trial code, grand lodge code, by-laws, monitors, ceremonies, lectures, and several rituals of Freemasonry should be your constant guide; your modis operandi; & your standards of operating procedures. If you disagree, study the Code and take the proper steps within the proper venue to change them.
- Be positive. Never see a situation as impossible. Accept the challenge, overcome every obstacle, and produce positive results that benefit everyone.
- Embody due order and decorum. Follow proper protocol and etiquette. Avoid private conversations during meetings & degrees.
- Never harbor piques or quarrels against any brother. Go to him. Solve the issue. Make amends. Heal all wounds. Strengthen the bond.

## Communication of the Grand Lodge

Our Lodge was well represented at the recent November 17th Communication of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. Burt Levy PM, JW Jerry Keilsohn, Michael Greenwald PM, SW Robert Greenwald and Burton

Penn PM were in attendance along with Robert Starr PGM. Congratulations to Bro. Adam Tager on his election as Senior Grand Steward.

SW Robert Greenwald receiving his Certificate of Proficiency to sit as our next Worshipful Master





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 Secretary  
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**Calendar for Masonic Year 2018—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45**

For the most up-to-date information, please check the Trestleboard or [www.sgbf45.org](http://www.sgbf45.org). If anyone is interested in any of these events and wishes to obtain more information, please contact WM Ray Horn about all events (see page 2)

Date	Event	Open to
December	1 Charitable—Jingle Bell Run	
	4 Stated—CALLED OFF	
	9 Special—1:00 PM—Installation	Everyone
	23 Charitable—9:00 AM—VA Hospital Visitation	Everyone

Date	Event	Open to
January	8 Stated—Masonry and the Jews	MM Only
February	12 Stated—Ladies Night & Valentine's Day Dance	Everyone
March	12 Stated—Entered Apprentice's Degree	MM Only