

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

bulletin

Volume XCIV • Number 4
April 2019

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

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

Grand Lodge Education

ETHICS, EDUCATION & EMPATHY

By JW Burt Levy

M.W. Brother Charbel T. Fahed has dedicated his year as Grand Master of our Grand Lodge to strengthen the Masonic principles of Ethics, Empathy, and Education. In order to “set the Craft to work” on these values, members of DC Lodges were invited to participate in a



Conference on Masonic education which was held on March 9th at the Scottish Rite Temple. More than 148 Masons registered for the event. Unfortunately, the D.C. Government had different plans for the streets leading to the Temple that morning! Police had closed down 16th Street and Columbia Road, N.W. to allow participants in the “Rock’n’Roll” Marathon the right-of-way for their race! As a result, only 84 of the registrants were able to complete their trip to the Temple.

See **Education** continued on page 10

Save the DATE - APRIL 9

For Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45’s “The Freemason’s Seder”



The goal of “The Freemason’s Seder” is to present in the context of a Passover Seder, the telling of the story of Exodus in a new interpretation based on the values of Freemasonry. We invite all Brothers who are interested to join us as we celebrate at our Lodge for Passover. This event is open to all Masons including EA’s, no special knowledge or experience of a Passover Seder is required, everything will be explained.

The Lodge will open at 7:30 PM sharp on the EA Degree

The Seder Program will immediately follow a short Lodge meeting and will include a participatory program which follows the structure of a traditional Passover Seder with dinner, including the four cups of wine.

Please RSVP prior to April 4th. For reservations contact SW Jerry Keilsohn, sw@sgbf45.org

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



Your father or uncle
may have been a Mason

Your grandfather probably was a Mason

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

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

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Light From the East



By Robert Greenwald, WM

On March 12 we conferred an Entered Apprentice Degree and for the first time in a long while we had 7 candidates, two of whom were from Freedom Military Lodge #1775. It made me feel so proud to see and hear our Brothers perform this degree. They did an outstanding job. Those brothers who were involved in taking care of the evening meal, JS Allan Levy, did a fabulous job. Everything was delicious.

Now for a quick look at what is happening for April. This is one of those moments that you will not want to miss. We are going to perform a Masonic Seder for Passover! Make your reservations now - It is very important we get an accurate account on attendance to ensure we will have enough food for all. In the past, some Brethren have RSVP'd with good intentions and then failed to show up without indicating regrets. Others do not RSVP by the date specified and show up anyway. This creates waste and additional costs. I ask you to please show your Lodge the courtesy and RSVP in order for things

to run smoothly. For our April Stated, please RSVP to sw@sgbf45.org or notify SW Jerry Keilsohn.

I am going to start making it a practice to engage our strong group of active Past Masters by asking for one PM at our upcoming meetings to give a 5 to 10-minute short talk either on a subject in Masonry or their personal reflections on their experience in Masonry. As I have said before our PM's are a treasure of information and that information should be shared and not put aside never to be heard from. That is a waste.

We also engaged in a number of Outreach Programs this month with a great deal of success thanks to our Brother SD Jeff Greenwald who does an outstanding job. By the way, he could use some help. So let's get out there and make an effort to help our community and continue the success of these events. Contact Bro. Greenwald to participate in our April public service activities.

May Meeting Speaker ANNOUNCED

The Masonic Initiation: A First Step on the Path towards True Freedom

Why get initiated into Freemasonry? How does an Entered Apprentice discover and learn from the hidden teachings of initiation? What are the practical implications of the lessons of initiation?

Join us for an interesting discussion of the mysteries of initiation with
MWB Akram R. Elias, Past Grand Master.

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

"It is my pleasure indeed to speak at SGBF 45 on Tuesday, May 14th. The Worshipful Master had informed me that the Lodge would have 5 Entered Apprentices by then. In order to make it meaningful for them, I intend to speak about certain aspects of Freemasonry limited to the lessons of the First Degree."

— MWB Akram R. Elias

Brother George Washington REMEMBRANCE



On February 18, 2018, Washington Daylight Lodge #14 continued their long tradition of laying a wreath at Brother George Washington's tomb at his Mount Vernon Estate.

Attending the procession from our Lodge, RWB Harold Grainger, JW Jerry Keilsohn, WB Robert Greenwald, RWB Robert Starr, WB Burt Levy and Bro. Hal Henig. The procession went from the front entrance of Mount Vernon to the tomb and back. The procession was led by a bagpiper. Following the ceremony of laying a wreath, the Brethren returned in procession to the Mount Vernon Visitor's Center.

Afterward there was time to tour the grounds before lunch in the Mount Vernon Inn. Lunch was compliments of Washington Daylight Lodge.

Silver Spring Lodge No. 215 VISITATION

In late February, Brother Hal Henig visited the Silver Spring Lodge No. 215 located off University Blvd, Silver Spring, Maryland. Brother Hal met the Brethren and received a friendly fellowship and enjoyed a chili dinner, before the Lodge meeting. Hal met Worshipful Master Justin A. Sayre and the other Lodge officers.

Hal participated in their lodge meeting and noticed that their procedures were different from the Washington, DC Lodges. The Silver Spring Lodge has two meetings each month. As a visitor, he was examined by reciting some of the catechism to the Tyler before entering the Lodge. In addition while this Lodge opens on the third degree, the Brethren are required to salute the east in four steps, rather than three steps in our lodge. Hal introduced himself as a Brother of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 of the District of Columbia.

The Worshipful Master talked about their upcoming programs to be held by their lodge.



Hal Henig and WM Justin A. Sayre

Last month, I missed the deadline for getting my article into the *Bulletin*. Totally my mistake, as I forgot about doing it until too late. This month I have two months of items to write about, including some Masonic firsts for me.

The first of these firsts was in February (and in March), I finally got to sit in the West as the Senior Warden. I had expected to have lots of things to write about being in the West for the first time. The truth is, I have very little to write about. In February, we had a really short meeting. Took care of the things that needed taking care of, and then closed. I think I did pretty well on the Ritual part and did not make any really big mistakes. I am working on the parts I know I can improve on. March was more interesting. We opened on the Entered Apprentices degree, and while I made some of the same mistakes I keep making in practice, I did pretty well for the most part. There is always room for improvement.

Another first for me, I sat in the East for the Entered Apprentices Degree. The entire team had been practicing for months, and the whole team did an outstanding job. Being in the East meant I got to obligate seven new brethren. Yes, you read that number correctly, seven new brethren. There were five from our lodge and two as a courtesy for Freedom Military Lodge # 1775.

Because of the way our Lodge rotates all of the degree parts through all of the officers, I have now been the Worshipful Master for all three degrees. In the process, I have contributed to making lots of new Mason's. A little bit surprising to me, is how emotional the experience is. One of the things that really moved me just as I had finished this time, as we just made new Mason's using a tradition that is hundreds of years old, and has not really changed very much in those hundreds of years. Quite a humbling experience. One change, I am pretty confident in, that when MWB Benjamin Franklin knelt at the altar, the room was illuminated by candles and oil lamps. For our newly made Masons, the light was halogens and LEDs.

Spring is finally here, and Mother Nature is putting on her best show of the year. The daffodils are

just about, or by the time you read this, in bloom. Many of the cherry trees are strutting their stuff in those beautiful shades of pink. In the fall I had to take down a few dead trees in my yard. They were beautiful Ash trees but had gotten some disease that is killing all of the Ash trees. Instead of waiting for one of the now dead trees to fall on the house, I spent quite a bit of money to have them taken down. As a result, my side yard changed. Capitalizing on the new space, I planted a bunch of flower bulbs. And now have an explosion of flowers.

The other morning, as I was walking out of the house to get to my car to go to work, I heard a sure sign of spring. Birds singing. I am not a birder, but this one I recognized. It was a Caroline Wren. It is a small bird, about 4 or 5 inches long, with a tail feature almost as long. But it has a really loud and distinctive song. They hang around all summer, and I have seen them nest under my deck, and in some of my trees. One even tried to build a nest in the garage on a day I left the door open all day. I always wonder how such a small bird can make such a loud sound. And I have to admire his (only the males' sing) determination. He will sing for hours at a time. Chirping about once every 30 seconds or so. Another one of Mother Nature's wonders.

I will finish with a quote from Brother Mark Twain:

"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

And a bonus quote I cannot resist from Robin Williams

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party.'"

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Visitation to Union Lodge No. 6

On Saturday, February 23, WB Ray Horn, and SW Jerry Keilsohn had the pleasure of attending Union Lodge #6's quarterly Stated Communication. Union #6 is one of the unique lodges in our jurisdiction, as they only meet once a quarter, their membership is made up of Past Masters. Their mission is to provide service to the Grand Lodge. Although the Lodge was created in 1811, the original Union Lodge did not operate for long. On May 5th, 1835 the Lodge placed its charter in the keeping of the Grand Lodge, under a resolution that granted it a right of restoration upon application of seven or more "original" members of Union Lodge No. 6. The original members of Union Lodge No. 6 have been called to the Celestial Lodge. Acting in their stead, a body of Past Masters petitioned the Grand Lodge in 2011 for the right to restore the Lodge to Labor as a Past Master's Lodge in the service of the Grand Lodge

WM Jean-Paul Dongmo opened his Lodge in the Georgetown Masonic Hall. If you have never been to this hall, it is one of the more interesting ones, and certainly worth a visit. The actual Lodge meeting was relatively short, and pretty much to just take care of business. The membership of Union #6 is made up entirely by Past Masters, many of whom are not from Washington. There were brethren from Texas, Oklahoma, New York and several other locations who had come to town for the meeting.

During the short meeting, WB Michael Greenwald and WB Ray Horn's petitions to affiliate with Union #6 were presented and accepted as were several others.

After the meeting, the brethren adjourned to a local Georgetown restaurant, where the most important part of the evening took place. A loosely done table lodge, where the real purpose was to have a great time and share some wonderful fellowship.

After drinks were served, and while we were waiting for dinner to arrive, the guest speaker for the evening was given the floor. The speaker was WB T.S. Akers from Oklahoma and his topic was "Freemasonry Among the Five Tribes." The five tribes are the Indian tribes of Oklahoma.

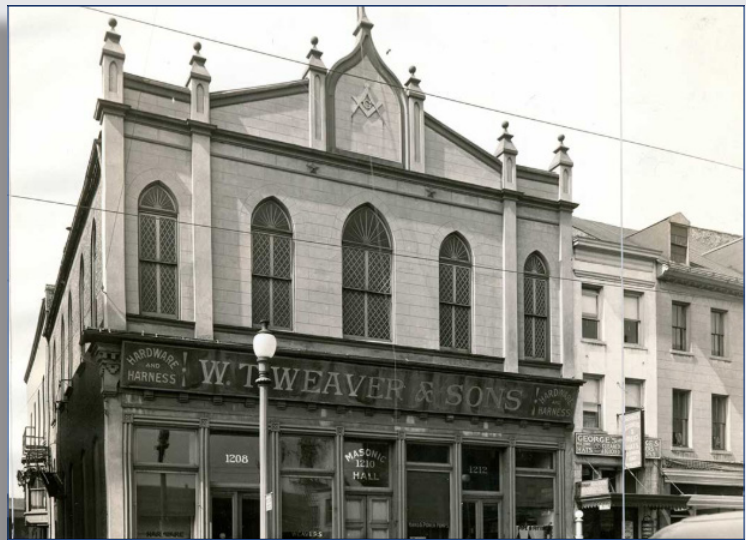
When asked during some of the post-talk discussion, about what he preferred as an identity, Native American, Indigenous person, or American Indian,

WB Akers said "Indian." He even referred to the part of Oklahoma he was from, as Indian Country.

WB Akers gave an interesting history lesson and as he is the descendant of one of the major leaders of a tribe, we got to hear about some of the politics and decision making from a very personal perspective.

His talk was riveting. We learned that many of the Indian leaders from well before the Civil War came to Washington, DC to negotiate, and were Initiated, Passed and Raised as Freemasons. Many of them did it as a way to connect with the people they were "working" with. An interesting and unique way to lobby for your cause.

These leaders took Masonry back to Oklahoma. Free Masonry was exceptionally strong among Indians before the Civil War. There are Lodges today that can date their existence to these pre-Civil War



The old Lodge Building located above W.T. Weaver & Sons on Wisconsin Ave in Georgetown. The building was rebuilt in the 60's and the second floor is still used as a Lodge Hall.

Lodges. We learned that the Indians sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War, and as WB Aker noted, that association "did not work out too well."

We learned that Masonry is still going strong in Oklahoma, and is seeing the same issues we see locally.

Dinner eventually arrived and was a wonderful meal as the discussion around the tables continued all through the evening.

The whole evening was truly a fascinating and unique experience.

Our New BRETHREN

Our March Stated Communication was a busy night. The Lodge voted to confer the degrees of Free Masonry on three of the candidates and then conferred the Entered Apprentices degree on a total of seven candidates. Five from our Lodge and two courtesy degrees. The cast was well prepared but with so many candidates it took some creative traffic flow and an interesting assist from RW Chip Mahaney in organizing the obligation. Our new Brethren are: Bro's Thomas Archimedes Evalle Ebilane, Aaron Alan Kamerer, Joel Alan Van Vollenhoven, Ryan Andrew Simon and Gregory Byron Welch

The cast list for the EA Degree:

- Worshipful Master - SW Jerry Keilsohn
- Senior Warden - JW Burt Levy, PM
- Junior Warden - JD Sonny Garibay
- Senior Deacon - SD Jeffrey Greenwald and RW Chip Mahaney
- Junior Deacon - SS Alex Rieser
- Senior Steward - JS Allen Levy
- Junior Steward - Derek Gould
- Lecture - MC Sheldon Rappeport, PM, MA, DSM
- Charge - JW Burt Levy, PM



A large turnout for the E.A. Degree at our March Stated Communication. Although not everyone who attended the meeting is pictured, we had three PGM's including PGM Richard Batista, PGM Roman Volsky, and PGM Robert Starr, and two sitting Masters, our own WM Robert Greenwald and visiting WM Robb Mitchell of Freedom Military Lodge #1775



WM Robert Greenwald with our new Brethren, Bro's Thomas Archimedes Evalle Ebilane, Aaron Alan Kamerer, Joel Alan Van Vollenhoven, Ryan Andrew Simon and Gregory Byron Welch



WM Robert Greenwald and visiting WM Robb Mitchell of Freedom Military Lodge #1775 for whom we provided courtesy degrees for two of their candidates.

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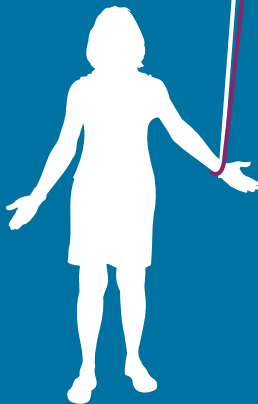
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Visit: **[shalomdc.org/
bendergdd2019](http://shalomdc.org/bendergdd2019)**



April is Community Outreach Month for our Lodge

This coming month we have a triple header set of events to make a positive impact on our community. There are three chances to participate in our continued engagement.

April 7 — Good Deeds Day

Join Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45, in support of The Jewish Federation, and the Greater Washington community, along with more than two million volunteers from around the world, for this fun and meaningful day of service. Once again with the leadership of SD Jeff Greenwald we have a participatory

project for creating gift bags for disabled veterans at the DC Veterans Hospital. Items to donate include toiletries, clothing, laundry detergent, bottled water, coffee, condiments, and gift cards for groceries and gas stations. For more information about the event: <https://www.shalomdc.org/bendergdd2019/>

April 14 — JSSA Passover Baskets

April 14th, our Lodge will again be assisting JSSA with their Passover Baskets. For this activity we are helping JSSA and families in need during the holiday of Passover. Whether we are helping assemble the more than 300 baskets, loading cars of the volunteers who deliver the baskets or personally delivering baskets, JSSA

needs our help. We can't remember how many years we have been helping JSSA with this event but this is one of our most satisfying volunteer activities. To make a donation towards our Passover Holiday Basket program: <http://bit.ly/2nBTXCB>

April 21 — First VA Hospital Visitation

Brethren, we will be gathering on Sunday in the Lobby of the VA Hospital at 9:00 am to assist in escorting and visiting with the Veterans at the Medical Center as they attend religious services. As you know, we take part in this important activity twice a year. Please plan on attending.

Of course with all of our community activities, we usually follow our activities with time for fellowship at a local restaurant for lunch. Please RSVP on the Calendar in our App or reach out to Bro. Jeff Greenwald, sw@sgbf45.org. We look forward to your participation.



Education *continued from page 1*

I am proud to relate that your W.M. Robert Greenwald as well as Secretary W.B. Michael Greenwald, SW Jerry Kielsohn, W.B. Sheldon Rappeport, and I were all able to find our way to the conference.

After a light breakfast, participants broke out into several discussion groups to explore the following topics:

- Masonic Protocol and Etiquette
- Masonic Program Management
- Signs, Symbols and Tools
- Lodge Governance
- Masonic Conflict Management
- Candidate Education

A lunch was provided, during which M.W.B. Akram Elias called upon participants of each group to provide a synopsis of their discussions. The resulting exchange was very valuable, and many



Attending the conference: WB Michael Greenwald, WB Sheldon Rappeport, WM Robert Greenwald, WB Burt Levy.

suggestions were heard. Members of the Grand Lodge Education Committee took copious notes and

will use the submissions and recommendations given to further the basic tenets of our institution.

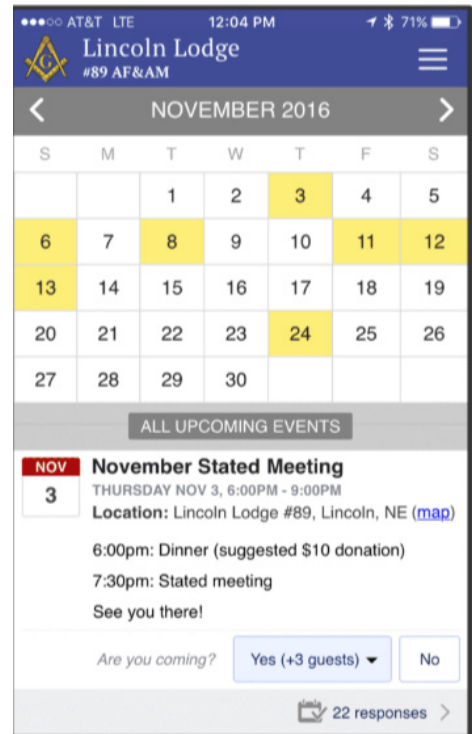
Don't Forget to RSVP

Brethren, we are using our *Bulletin*, emails, Grand View Notices, evites and our Smart Phone App to provide notices and updates about events. This can be helpful as a reminder, or way to electronically add the event to your calendar but it can also be confusing. Which one should I respond to? Do I need to respond to every kind of notice? Who is keeping track of this craziness? How do we ensure there is enough to eat?

According to our Smart Phone App's activity report, of the 122 Lodge Members for whom we have an email address, 57 members have now installed the App! This is roughly half the members with emails and about one-third of our total membership. We do mail our *Bulletin* to the remaining members.

While there is a lot of interaction of our members through the App, including making new posts, sharing photos, posting replies to these notices either by text or a "like," we know that RSVP's are still a problem for getting an accurate count of attendees.

The Event Chairman does receive a list of who sends an RSVP regardless of how it is sent, however responding to evites, which we use for our major events and/or responding to the calendar on our Smartphone App is the most efficient way to respond. Evites are sent by email and have a simple Yes, No, response. Every calendar notice in the App has the ability to post an RSVP.



This is an example of a calendar notice in the App for a Stated Communication. At the bottom of the meeting description, is a Yes / No RSVP button. Anyone can check who is coming and see the count. At the same time you respond, there is an option to "add it to your calendar." This option will automatically add the event to your own Smartphone calendar.

We know that getting guests to RSVP to a Lodge meeting is like getting your cat to cook dinner, rare but appreciated.

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For the Senior Warden..... Derek Gould
For the Junior Warden..... Allen Levy

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Calendar for Masonic Year 2019—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45

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

Date	Event	Open to
April	7 Good Deeds Day, Rockville JCC	Everyone
	9 Stated Communication—Lodge opens 7:30 pm, Dinner and Freemason's Seder to follow a short program	Masons Only
	14 Passover Baskets—JSSA	Everyone
	21 VA Hospital Visitation—9:15 am	Everyone
	22 Meet-Up—TBD location—7:30 pm	Masons & Potential Masons

Date	Event	Open to
May	14 Stated Communication—Lodge opens 7:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 p.m.	Masons Only
	27 Meet-Up—TBD location—7:30 pm	Masons & Potential Masons