

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

bulletin

Volume XCIV • Number 4
May 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)

MAY MEETING Notice

The Masonic Initiation – A First Step on the Path Towards Freedom

May 14th Meeting

Guest Speaker

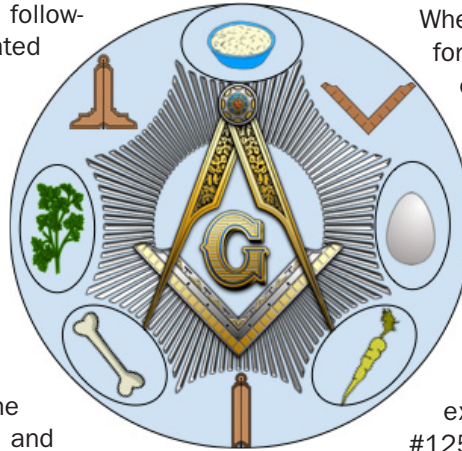
**The Most Worshipful
Akram R. Elias, PGM**

The topic of the evening is “The Masonic Initiation - A First Step on the Path Towards Freedom.”

This talk is directed at our new Entered Apprentice Masons who are encouraged along with all Brethren to attend.

The Freemason’s SEDER

The Freemason’s Seder, held immediately following our April Stated Communication on April 9, 2019 was attended by approximately thirty six Brethren, filling our refectory for a program that was dedicated to drawing parallels between the story of Exodus and our Masonic teachings.



After a very brief business meeting which was accelerated by the welcome presence of RWB Michael Nicholas, the Deputy Grand Master of Masons for the District of Columbia, who was acting that night for the Grand Master and assisted our Worshipful Master by opening and closing in Ample Form. We quickly assembled upstairs where our SW Jerry Keilsohn and his committee had prepared a full Seder dinner and had prepared the room as if it was a traditional Seder.

The Seder was conducted like a home service by having everyone in attendance read a short portion which helped keep everyone engaged. The program was based on the program written by our Past Masters, Lenny Rubin and Josh Rubin for a similar event two years ago. We had a good number of visitors and some of our Brethren who are not Jewish and for many this was

their first exposure to a Seder.

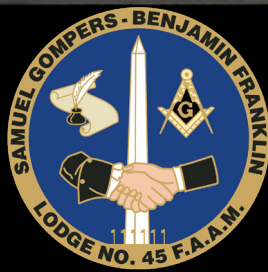
When I was preparing for the Seder I discovered another Lodge, Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 125 A.F. & A.M. in Connecticut who also holds an annual Seder in their community. As their PM Jerry Gruenbaum explained, Lodge #125 was formed 100

years ago from the Jewish members of two Lodges who were frustrated that they were not allowed to become officers. Ever since, they hold a community Seder which is about half Masons and the others are members of the community. However, they conduct a traditional Seder without Masonic references, so I believe we are unique in conducting a Masonic Seder.

Some of you may be familiar with a Journal published in Israel, Biblical Archeology, which publishes articles of archaeological work with biblical references. While their article about the Exodus has some obscure references to the historic record of the Exodus, we took the liberty to note that the ancient Israelites have been called by some scholars the first in a line that led to modern Freemasonry. As the operative masons who built the cities of the Pharaohs and would have passed their knowledge to the Israelites who are also described

See **Seder** continued on page ??

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

It is again my privilege as your Worshipful Master to extend warmest greeting to all my fellow Brethren on the occasion of the wonderful festival of Passover.

The story of Passover is as fresh and appealing today as when it was first told in ancient times. Its message of freedom is no less moving and significant for the struggle against tyranny and oppression which Passover commemorates. Its message is as old as the ruins of the Pharaohs and as new as the latest newspaper headlines.

On April 9th we held a Masonic emulation of the Passover Seder. The turnout of our Brethren was great. We had many visitors from other lodges join us and we also had the honor of hosting Right Worshipful Brother Michael Nicholas, Senior, Deputy Grand Master of the District of Columbia for the festive occasion. The evening was full of Brotherly love and fellowship. All enjoyed an interesting and informative evening of how Masonry and Passover ideals relate.

To all those Brethren who were involved in the preparation and execution of the evening events I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your time and efforts for a job well done. A special thank you for SW Jerry Keilsohn for organizing an

amazing full Seder dinner in our lodge building and PM Raymond Horn for leading the program.

April has been a busy month for us especially in our outreach programs. Once again our Senior Deacon Jeff Greenwald comes through with a job well done. Here are some of the activities we were involved with and will be involved moving ahead. Good Deeds Day, JSSA Passover baskets for the needy, and a VA Hospital visitation on Easter Sunday. Please come out and join in. Just contact our Senior Deacon Jeff Greenwald and let him know you will join us. His contact phone number is in the *Bulletin*.

As a reminder our May meeting we will have a guest speaker, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia, The Most Worshipful Akram R. Elias. The topic of the evening is "The Masonic Initiation—A First Step on the Path Towards Freedom." Please reserve the date and join us for this occasion, we are again looking forward to a great turnout. Additionally those interested in going to a Washington Nationals baseball game please contact our Past Master Sheldon Rappeport for more information.

WORKSHOP ON Masonic Education

On March 9, 2019, the Grand Lodge held a Conference on Masonic Education at the Scottish Rite Center in Washington DC.

The Conference was a great success, but only a **first step** in the right direction of dissecting the deeper meanings and teachings of the Craft and contemplating on their practical applications in our daily lives.

Our next move is to hold a

Workshop on Masonic Education

Saturday, May 18 (9:00 am – 1:30 pm)

Location Announced Later.

The workshop's focus will delve deeper into the six specific areas of Masonic Education for 2019, namely Masonic conflict management; Candidate education; Masonic protocol/etiquette; Masonic program management; Signs, symbols, and tools; and Lodge governance.

Complimentary light breakfast refreshments and lunch will be served. **Registration is open.**

*There is no cost to this event, but you **MUST** register on the Grand Lodge website.*

March Evening Meet-Up MiRancho Tex Mex

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge held its Monthly Meet-Up at Mi Rancho Tex Mex Restaurant on Monday Evening, March 25. The restaurant is located in downtown Silver Spring not far from the Metro Station.

Three Brethren and one guest enjoyed a delicious Mexican Meal and pleasant fellowship at Mi Rancho. The attached photo shows the attendees at the restaurant: Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, Senior Warden Jerry Keilsohn, Walter Simon, PM and guest Stuart Zitomer. As many of you know, Stuart Zitomer is the son of our late Brother Marty Zitomer who passed to the Celestial Lodge last September. Stuart has



been a frequent attendee at our monthly Meet-Up. He is wearing a red sweat jacket and is always a good addition to our Monthly Meet-Ups.

We have our evening Meet-Ups mostly on the fourth Monday of each month, except when there are Holidays or special events. I recommend that Brethren should always check our lodge app for our upcoming Meet-Ups or text Chairman Hal Henig.

Another Successful VA Hospital Visitation

By Michael Greenwald

Another successful VA Hospital visitation, Sunday March 21st, Easter Sunday and the Second Day of Passover. A special thank you to the Brothers who participated! This event was very moving to me as I had the honor of escorting David, a Marine who lives at the VA Nursing Home. David had taken three bullets in his stomach while performing his recon duty in Vietnam. David also suffered from other physical afflictions which did not prevent him from singing his heart out at Easter Service. He also asked me to help him access his wallet because he wanted to make a \$5.00 offering to the church. His



wallet did not contain very much more than his offering. It was an honor to sit with him on Sunday for the church service. Participating



in this event were Brothers Sonny Garibay, John Garrison, Allen Wright PM and Michael Greenwald PM.

The last month has been interesting Masonic wise. Early in the month I once again attended Harmony Lodge #17's Table Lodge. There was a good showing of Brethren from #45, as there was from other lodges. This is becoming an annual event, and always happens right around the official start of spring. A wonderful evening of Brotherhood was had by all. And the food was pretty good also.

Next up this past month was one of our many volunteer events. This one was Good Deeds Day which was held at the Rockville JCC. Look elsewhere in the *Bulletin* for more on this event.

I am going to skip the next event I attended chronologically, but come back to it in a moment. Moving to one that even surprised me. I chose to attend the Reunion at the Scottish Rite. There is only one Reunion this year due to construction at the DC Scottish Rite Temple in the coming months. As I have written before, I struggle with a lot of the symbolism associated with the Scottish Rite Degrees. But I keep trying to get something out of them. I do enjoy the Reunions more for a chance to once again meet and talk with so many other Masons than observe all the degrees. Many Brethren I would never ever have had a chance to meet if it was not for us all being Masons and my attending the Scottish Rite. To be honest, I seem to learn something each time I either hear the lectures of some of the degrees, or see the performance of the others. This time was slightly different.

About 30 minutes before the last degree, I was approached by another Brother. "How would I like to help out with the degree?" No speaking part, just do what I do. I am always interested in doing something new. So I said yes. And now I have done another Masonic first for me. I participated in one of the Scottish Rite degrees.

To the one I skipped above. Our SG-BF #45's Masonic Seder. I made a deal with WB Horn a few months ago, when we first discussed doing this. If he agreed to be the Seder leader, and take care of updating and revising the Masonic Haggadah that had been used for the same event a few years ago, I would take care of feeding everybody. I think we both nailed it!

Several have asked about the chicken soup and matzo balls. Because the hour was getting late, we mixed things up some and served the soup in the middle instead of waiting to the normal dinner break to serve the whole meal. I made both the soup and the matzo balls. The recipes came from my mom who assures me that the chicken soup recipe came from her mom, my Grand mom Rose.



SW Jerry Keilsohn at the Scottish Rite Reunion

There were quite a few Brethren from other lodges present. Many of them are not Jewish, and were just interested in the Seder tradition. At dinner, I sat next to RWB Michael Nicholas, the Deputy Grand Master of Masons for the District of Columbia, who I do not think had ever been to a Seder before. He told he enjoyed himself, the food was great, and he learned something too. I heard the same from quite a few other Brethren. Three for three in my book.

Having the Deputy Grand Master open the Lodge when he was also the acting Grand Master sure changed my part as Senior Warden in the Lodge Opening and Closing. I sure hope I got it correct every place where I needed to make the changes.

And I will finish with a couple of oddities from the Seder. Normally, at a Seder, the youngest child is asked to ask the four questions. In this case it was the youngest member of our Lodge, Brother Gould who is a couple of months shy of being 20! Another unique twist. Normally the children are sent to look for the Afikoman. But WB Horn chose Brethren under the age of 40 for the cutoff of who went and searched. Of course, the reward for finding the Afikoman was rather different than I can ever remember from any Seder I previously attended, a really nice bottle of wine.

Finally something to think about. Our Ancient Masonic Brethren link the first Masons to the time of Moses and the building of Pharaoh's pyramids. Could they be on to something?

No quote this month, because I could not find one that seemed to fit.

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SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN #45 VISITATIONS



A Knight of the Holy Temple of Solomon, JW Burt Levy preparing for the Scottish Rite Reunion.



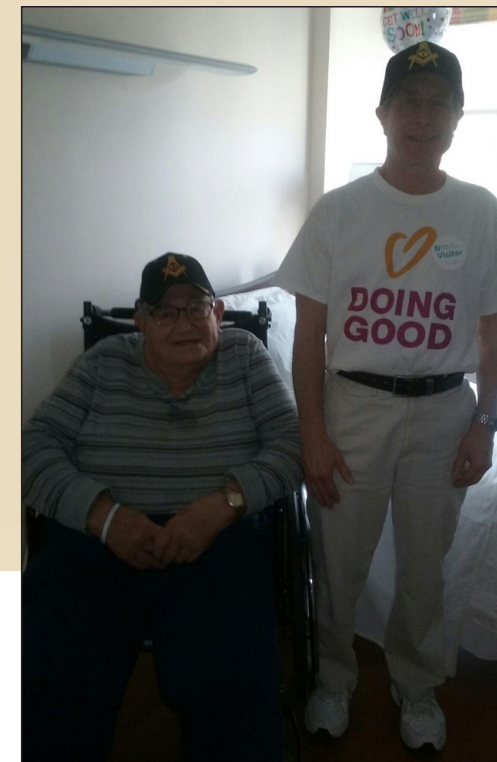
Bro Derek Gould receiving his 32nd Degree at the Scottish Rite Reunion



Bro Derek Gould, WB Michael Greenwald, WB Jason Lebowitz, WM Singleton Lodge, WB Burt Levy, and our newly initiated EA Aaron Kamerer attended Singleton's EA Degree.



The Grand Master gives a toast at Harmony's Table Lodge



Bro Hal Henig visited Bro Harry Pomerantz at the Wasserman Hebrew Home. He was there for rehab.



SGBF#45 was well received at Harmony's Table Lodge



WM Robert Greenwald gives a toast at Harmony's Table Lodge

Socks for Veterans **Good Deeds Day**

Dear Veteran,

Please accept this gift of socks and other items as a token of our appreciation. From the Brethren of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Masonic Lodge #45.

Thank you for your service.

Once again, we took the bull by the horns and helped to create many bags of clothing items and toiletries for homeless Veterans. On Sunday, April 7th, during the Sara and Samuel Lessans Good Deeds Day sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, the Brethren staffed a booth allowing family volunteers to put together the bags of goodies. (See pictures).

This year we had our own room

at the Rockville JCC and the task was completed in record time thanks to the young volunteers who enjoyed putting together the bags (and who received a Krispy Kreme donut for their help). SS Allen Levy and his wife Jessica, along with EA Aaron Kammerer, JS Derek Gould, WM Robert Greenwald (no relation), Ray Horn PM, Brother Hal Henig PM, SW Jerry Kielsohn, JW Burt Levy and SD Jeff Greenwald helped to staff and prepare the booth by folding t-shirts and socks, along with displaying the other items to include water bottles, soap boxes, playing cards, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant.

Thanks go out to David Torchinsky PM and SD Jeff Greenwald for

purchasing the items in advance. These items were placed in shopping bags (25 in all) and were distributed to homeless veterans at the Community Resource and Referral Center (CCRC) which is an offshoot of the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The CCRC staff was very appreciative for the baskets. This was our second year doing this most worthwhile project called "Socks for Veterans" and we plan to continue this tradition for many years to come.



The Good Deeds Day Crew: JW Jeff Greenwald, SW Jerry Keilsohn, JW Burt Levy PM, Raymond Horn PM, Bro Allen Levy, Bro Aaron Krammerer, Bro Derek Gould, Bro Hal Henig, WM Robert Greenwald.



Bro Jeff Greenwald with the fruits of our labor.



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Dear Passover Basket Team,

Although we had a small group this year from JSSA, you still delivered over 60 baskets! Thank you so much for

Coming out year after year to help with this wonderful project. The basket programs are my favorite time of the year mainly due to your commitment to the programs and to the community. I have had wonderful notes and messages of thanks from the recipients.

Thank you so much and I want to wish you all a very Happy Passover!

Sincerely,

Diane Hays-Earp,, JSSA Program and Volunteer Coordinator

WE DID GOOD AGAIN ... AND AGAIN

Once again the Brethren of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge#45 came through to help JSSA with their Passover Basket Program. On Sunday, April 14th, we took part in the delivery of 55 bags of goodies, containing the usual Passover fare to include Matzoh, Gefilte Fish, Apples, Macaroons, Horse Radish, and Kosher Wine. The recipients were identified by JSSA as having medical, social or financial needs and they were all quite appreciative of our deliveries. When we arrived at our meet up point, Diane who runs the JSSA volunteer programs exclaimed, "Here comes the Gompers – Guys!"

The morning started off with SD Jeff Greenwald loading his car up with 28 bags and taking them to Kehilat Shalom Synagogue in Montgomery Village. Members of Kehilat Shalom would then distribute the bags to families in the Germantown, Boyds, Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village areas. Then Brother J. Greenwald met the rest of the crew back at the Melvin Berman Hebrew Academy. This included Brothers Hal Henig, Sonny Garibay, Ray Horn PM, Michael Greenwald PM (no relation), Derek Gould, and Jerry Keilsohn. We then met Brother Burt Levy PM at the Revitz House, an assisted living facility on Montrose Road



Bro. Hal Henig visited with Bro. Jeffery Rothman and gave him a hat which he proudly wore.

in Rockville where we distributed 21 additional bags to families residing there.

To top off the day, our gang of eight Brothers then walked to the Hebrew Home, a nursing facility located adjacent to the Revitz House where we surprised Brother Jeffrey Rothman with a much appreciated visit (see pic-

tures). Brother Rothman was wearing the Masonic hat given to him by Brother Hal Henig earlier in the month when he made a Sunshine visit. We spent about 30 minutes with him regaling us with his great memories of Masonic Brotherhood. This visit was a spur of the moment idea by Hal and everyone involved experienced the utter joy of the moment.

Of course, we could not have ended an event without food, so we then went to Bagel City for a delicious brunch meal. Once completed, there were still six more bags to deliver. Brother Keilsohn delivered 3 to the Silver Spring/Olney area and Brothers Gould and M. Greenwald delivered the last 3 in the Rockville area. This has been an annual event for several years and we will continue to support JSSA in the years to come. Thanks go out to everyone who participated.



Our visit with Bro Jeffrey Rothman who was still wearing his hat.



The Gompers – Guys as Diane at JSSA called us, ready for action. Bro Derek Gould, Raymond Horn PM, JD Sonny Garibay, Bro Hal Henig, SW Jerry Keilsohn, Michael Greenwald PM, SD Jeff Greenwald

SEDER *continued from page 1*

as operative masons. The Free Masons who built King Solomon's Temple have a clear lineage then to the builders of Egypt.

From our program:

Similarly, we can explain Freemasonry in four different ways, depending on our audience.

1. The Master Mason (the wise son). To the Master Mason, we say, you have now been given all the light that can be given in a blue lodge. Take this knowledge and become a better man.
2. The Entered Apprentice (the simple son). To the Entered Apprentice, we say, Brother! How wonderful to see you this evening. You still have much light that you need to receive, but know that we hold you in high regard!
3. The Cowan (the wicked son). To the Cowan, we say that Freemasonry is an exclusive organization, made for good men to be turned into better men. Your attempts to understand our Fraternity will only get you so far, because the true secret of Freemasonry is not in our words or our ritual, but in the bond between Brothers, which only a Mason can understand.
4. The Non-Mason (the son who does not even know how to ask). To the Non-Mason, we say that Freemasonry



Conducting the Seder, RWB Adam Tager, RWB Chetin Durak, WM Robert Greenwald, Raymond Horn PM, RWB Michael Nicholas

is a fraternity of men: friends and Brothers all, whose mission is to take good men and turn them into better men.

We made some other adjustments by having our youngest Mason, Bro. Derek Gould read the traditional four questions which proceeded the above Masonic Four Questions. I was able to hide the middle matzah in the refectory so that the younger Brethren, those 40 years and younger could search for it. Fortunately, our Bro. Adam Teager is a multi-talented Mason and we were able to finish after ransoming the Afikoman for a bottle of Pinot Noir. In the second half we sang a few traditional songs as well as a Masonic song. To better enable our guests to understand the Masonic concept of the four glasses of wine, we were able to take advantage of our Lodge Shot-Glasses which were made for last year's table lodge although we used a more traditional blessing.

The meal was a huge success, and for a number of people, they were learning about matzah balls and gefilte fish. Brother Jerry out did himself with Soup, Salad, Gefilte Fish, Salmon, Chicken, Asparagus and a Vegetable Passover Kuggle along with Harroset, the Seder Plate, etc. We had many hands help with our setup and clean-up. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped.

Fortunately, the Deputy Grand Chaplin, our own Burt Levy PM was with us to lead off our Seder and at the end to close us out with a Masonic Prayer. Next year in Jerusalem!



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



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 Secretary
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 Silver Spring, MD 20910-1206



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 |
|------|----|---|-----------------------------|
| May | 18 | Grand Lodge Workshop on Masonic Educ. Scottish Rite—9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | EA Masons welcome |
| | 27 | Meet up—TBD location—7:30 p.m. | Masons and Potential Masons |

| Date | | Event | Open to |
|------|----|---|-----------------------------|
| June | 11 | Stated—FC Degree—Lodge opens 7:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. | |
| | 24 | Meet up—TBD location—7:30 p.m. | Masons and Potential Masons |