

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

bulletin

Volume XCVII • Number 2
February 2020

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

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



March Festive Board

Plans are underway for a most unusual and interesting Festive Board to be held on Tuesday, March 10th. Our March Stated Communication coincides with the conclusion of the Purim holiday. Since feasting, drinking, giving treats and charity are all hallmarks of Purim the WM has decided to create a Festive Board with a Purim theme.

This will prove to be a memorable and enjoyable time of fellowship. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend our March Festive Board.

We will have a great meal with some traditional food and of course hamantaschen, poppy-seed-filled pockets. The meaning of which will certainly be hotly debated.



Brethren and ladies. We have a schedule change for February. Tuesday, February 11th is now GAME NIGHT. There will be a brief Lodge meeting, and then the Brethren will move upstairs to the Social Hall and join the ladies and guests.

Then the fun begins with great prizes and refreshments. Back by popular demand, RWB Sheldon Rappeport will return as the BINGO caller for the evening, with WB Burt Levy assisting as the "PRIZE MASTER." Rumor has it that there are going to be some really unique and rarely seen prizes.

Dinner will be at the normal 6:30 pm, with the gavel coming down at 7:30 pm, dessert will be served during the games.

Please RSVP on the APP or to the lodge secretary (secretary@sgbf45.org) by February 6th.

We hope to see you there for an evening of good times.



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*

2B1  ASK1

Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn



It the past the Worshipful Master has used this column to impart light to the Brethren. It is one of the many things the WM is supposed to do. I am going to switch things up some, but hopefully, we will get to the same place in the end.

A new position means the view in the lodge room changed again. This time from the East looking out at the whole Lodge. And as the seat is elevated, if one looks straight ahead, you are looking over the head of everybody else that is seated. It definitely qualifies as an experience change.

In an interesting twist, opening the Lodge for the January meeting does not go on my list of Masonic firsts. I opened the Lodge when the then Worshipful Master Robert Greenwald was ill, back in January. January was my first time to set the agenda, and try and get everything that needs to be done, done as fast as possible, so that we could get to the Bourbon Night program. Which if you missed it, you missed a great event.

For Masonic firsts this past month, that would be attending a Maryland Lodge. Pentalpha #194. They have something I am actually jealous of, they have their own Lodge Hall, in Germantown. This was on the occasion of the installation of their officers for this year. Maryland has a full Open Installation ritual, unlike our DC ritual where we open, go to recesses, do the actual installation, excuse our guests and then go back to Labor to close. As always happens when I travel to someplace new, there was only one person I knew, yet the Brethren

of #194 made me feel right at home. I was even asked to participate in part of the special ritual Maryland does for installing the Worshipful Master.

Traveling to many other Lodges is one of my goals this year. Yes, I intend to keep the Travelling Gavel for another year. Please think about joining me as we visit our other Brethren in Washington D.C. and the surrounding jurisdictions.

I spent months working on our schedule. Ran it by and got the input of the officer line, and asked for advice from lots of folks. I thought we had a great plan for the coming year. "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry" and we have a scheduling change for February. The original plan was for an Entered Apprentice Degree at the February Stated. Instead, we are going to be doing a Family Game Night. In the past, these have been a fun evening, and we will try for the same.

We are planning on doing a Special Communication for the EA Degree, probably at the end of February.

And while I am on the topic of schedule, keep March 10th open on your calendar. It turns out the Purim ends at sundown on the 10th, at just about the time we will open the Lodge. There will definitely be hamantashen.

Something to think about in closing.

"There are no strangers in Freemasonry, only friends you've yet to meet."

-Dave Thomas

Happy Birthday

The following Brethren observe their birthdays on the **February** dates shown. Be sure to wish them well on that day.

Jules Tepper	3	Harry Pomerantz	21
M. Lustig	8	Jerold Coffee	23
Nathan Lewis	11	Ryan Simon	24
Maurice Berger	17	Stephen Costin	25
Sheldon Rapoport	17	Francis Boylin	28
Roman Volsky	19		



A Great Kickoff for our New Master

The January Stated Communication had a little bit of everything. It was the first time our new WM Jerry Keilsohn was responsible for a full meeting including the program. We had an excellent BBQ dinner beforehand arranged by our SD Allen Levy, we installed our Senior Deacon, we received a new Petition, and there were a number of presentations made. All before our Program of the evening about Bourbon.

During the meeting a special dispensation by the Grand Master was read, allowing the Lodge to install our new Senior Deacon who was unable to attend the installation in December. Once our usual business was completed, the WM was able to present Ryan Simon with his Master Mason Certificate which was followed by a special presentation of a Lewis Jewel with four bars that were presented by WB Walter Simon, Ryan's Grandfather. The four bars indicate that Ryan is now a fourth-generation Mason.

Then it was time for our Past Master Robert Greenwald to be presented with his Past Master Jewel. Michael Greenwald, PM made the presentation along



A good turnout for a very cold January meeting



The new Master and his 2020 Officer Line. JW Jeff Greenwald is not pictured.

with Raymond Horn, PM. As Michael brought his father into the Lodge and had encouraged him to follow in the officers' line, this made the second multi-generational award of the night.

Robert Greenwald, PM then presented to the Lodge two awards he had recently received from the Master and Warden's Association (MWA) on behalf of the Lodge. For this presentation, John-Paul Dogmo, PM who was the current President of the MWA was called up to the Alter with Bob.

"Brethren, It is my pleasure to announce that our lodge was awarded The traveling Gavel at the Grand Lodge 3rd Communication and Installation. This award is not given out every year, the last time this was awarded was to East Gate Lodge many years ago. We are the first to have it since it has made a comeback to the Jurisdiction. It was awarded to our Lodge for the year 2019 and we get to keep it for a period of 1 year unless some other lodge tops

Great Kick Off/Continued on Page 5



Bro Ryan Simon receives his Master Mason Certificate from WB Jerry Keilsohn and WB Walter Simon



WM Jerry Keilsohn receives the Traveling Gavel from Robert Greenwald, PM and John-Paul Dogmo, PM while MC Sheldon Rapoport looks on.

us in visits. We now have a goal to strive for. We need to join our Worshipful Master Keilsohn as he announces his traveling agenda for the year.”

“We were also awarded the Builders plaque for our Outstanding Community Service Out Reach programs. Our thanks to the outstanding job of Brother Jeff Greenwald in leading our many service programs. As I have said before, this is our time, let’s strive to make it the greatest time ever and help our Worshipful Master achieve even greater moments for 2020.”



Bro. Ryan Simon is presented with his Lewis Jewel by RWB Walter Simon



Robert Greenwald, PM receives his Past Master Jewel from Michael Greenwald, PM and Raymond Horn, PM

April is Community Outreach Month for our Lodge

These coming months of March and April we have a series of events to make a positive impact on our community. There are three chances to participate in our continued engagement.

April 26th is Good Deeds Day, 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 JW 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.



April 5th, 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>

Brethren, our next visitation to the VA Hospital in Washington, DC will occur on Easter Sunday this year. Our VA Hospital Visitation is scheduled this



year for Sunday, April 12th, 9:15 am-12 noon. As always, we will again gather early at the VA Hospital for the opportunity to greet the Veterans, gather them for the service, participate in the service and then accompany the Veterans back to the residential area. For those Brethren who have participated in these special visitations, this is always rewarding to enable a number of those Veterans who are living at the VA to participate in their religious service.

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, jw@sgbf45.org. We look forward to your participation.



On the bourbon trail,

Our program for a cold January night

Rabbi Charles Arian, our Bourbon expert for the night started his program by stepping through the manufacturing process, describing each step and answering questions as he went. He told stories about the mash cooker, mash fermentation, different kinds of stills, barrel preparations, aging, and bottling. He was very knowledgeable, having visited a number of Bourbon distilleries and was able to describe which large liquor hold companies owned the various brands and relayed many interesting stories about the history of the brands.

If I remember correctly, the five bourbons that were sampled were Evan Williams, Woodford Reserve, Maker's Mark, Knob Creek, and Wild Turkey Kentucky Spirit. The reason for conducting the tasting in that order is that it's generally advisable to taste from lowest to highest proof because the higher alcohol content can deaden the palate. Actually, Woodford has a slightly higher alcohol content than Maker's Mark but not enough to make a real difference.

For the tasting, we supplied Lodge shot-glasses which the Brethren kept as a memento of this event. It's best to use actual glass rather than plastic.



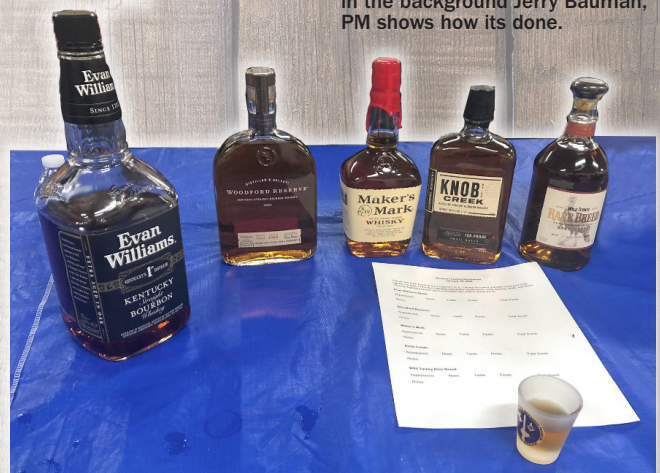
Pot Still, Woodford Reserve



Mash cooker, Woodford Reserve



WB Jerry Keilsohn deep in study, in the background Jerry Bauman, PM shows how its done.



Barrels Waiting to be Filled, Woodford Reserve



A large turnout and committed attendance stayed for the program.

Freemasonry in Industry

Compiled by Jason Van Dyke and Chris Ruli

Freemasonry in Industry

By Bro. SAMUEL GOMPERS, President, American Federation of Labor

FREEMASONRY had its origin in the desire to dignify and protect the crafts in the masonry industries. From the beginning the thought has been impressed upon us that men should have the right to travel in foreign lands and receive masters' wages.

Freemasonry has built around the early tenets a great ideal of life and service. We find the division of the day into three periods: eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, eight hours for rest, a necessity of modern industrial life which members of the Masonic Fraternity were quick to understand and urge.

I think the struggle of the toiling masses for a freer, better life, for better citizenship and fuller understanding must find among Masons an immediate,

We are, as individuals, no better and no worse than others. But we have put our collective force behind certain high aims in which we believe and which have proven their worth through the most severe tests.

The trade union movement did not come into being because someone wanted it. It came into being as an economic necessity. Coming as a necessity, it has sought to function to the best advantage and in a manner to bring the largest possible good to the largest possible number of men and women.



SAMUEL GOMPERS

When individual handicraft gave way to factory production, the individual workman lost his power to stand on anything like an even footing with the employer. It became necessary for the wage earners

Freemasonry in Industry

By Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor

(From *The Master Mason*, Vol 1 No. 4, April 1924.)

The following article was written by Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor (the AFL part of the now AFL-CIO) and member of Dawson Lodge No. 16. In it he connects the philosophies of trade unionism and Freemasonry. It was published in the Masonic Service Association's "The Master Mason" magazine shortly after his death in December of 1924. In fact, the idea for a Lodge in his name was conceived by several of his Brethren the day after his death, and became a reality when Samuel Gompers Lodge No. 45 held their first meeting 94-years ago, on the night of January 26, 1926. - Compiled by Jason Van Dyke and Chris Ruli. Reprinted by permission of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

FREEMASONRY had its origin in the desire to dignify and protect the crafts in the masonry industries. From the beginning the thought has been impressed upon us that men should have the right to travel in foreign lands and receive Masters' wages.

Freemasonry has built around the early tenets a great ideal of life and service. We find the division of the day into three periods (eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, eight hours for rest) a necessity of modern industrial life which members of the Masonic Fraternity were quick to understand and urge.

I think the struggle of the toiling masses for a freer, better life, for better citizenship and fuller understanding must find among Masons an immediate, intelligent sympathy.

After all, there is much in common between all groups which are organized around great ideals. The same passion for fair dealing, for justice, for the development of the individual, for greatness and freedom of opportunity is found in the trade union movement and in the Masonic Fraternity.

If men everywhere could bring themselves to do no unfair thing, we should find a measurable fulfillment of Masonic ideals, of trade union

ideals, and of the ideals of the great religions of the world.

We have in the labor movement the abuses that are common to humanity. We are, as individuals, no better and no worse than others. But we have put our collective force behind certain high aims in which we believe, and which have proven their worth through the most severe tests.

The trade union movement did not come into being because someone wanted it. It came into being as an economic necessity. Coming as a necessity, it has sought to function to the best advantage and in a manner to bring the largest possible good to the largest possible number of men and women.

When individual handicraft gave way to factory production, the individual workman lost his power to stand on anything like an even footing with the employer. It became necessary for the wage earners to organize and to function as collective units. With organization came the practice of joint negotiation between powerful employers and great groups of wage earners.

This practice has resulted in maintaining a comparatively high standard of life and work in

American industry. We have light where we would otherwise have had darkness. We have freedom where we would have had bondage. We have uprightness and courage where we would have had crouching and cringing. Nothing else has contributed more toward the making of manhood and womanhood fit for America than the labor movement of our country.

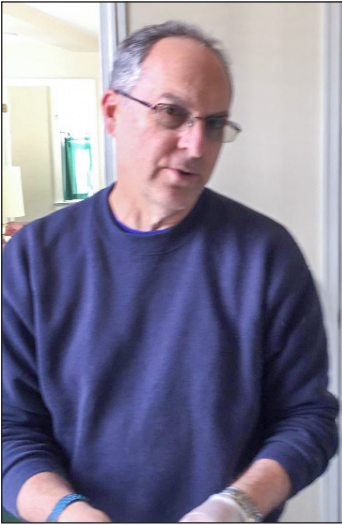
We are as proud as any of the industrial life of our country and of everything about it that makes for good leadership in a world which has in it so many dark places. We ask for understanding and helpfulness, and we also seek to possess them in our dealings with others.

Our practice must of necessity fit the needs of our time, but our goal is afar down the road, at a point which has not yet come within the range of our vision. We desire for humanity all of the good that is possible, and we are not presumptuous enough to pretend to know how much there may be in the future.

Brethren, some of you may have seen this article which was recently circulated by the Grand Lodge in one of the weekly activity emails. As Samuel Gompers is one of our namesakes, I thought it would make a good contribution to our count down to a 100th Anniversary.

Raymond Horn, PM

TMC: Day of Service at the Takoma Masonic Center



WB Raymond Horn

Thank you my brethren for coming out and supporting us with the cleaning today. Your help was much appreciated.

Neal F Jarvis

Ditto. Thank you so much to all of you from Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin for showing up and helping out today! The lodge and building are so much cleaner. It is days like today — when great men (and women) come together to contribute to their community, in this case, our meeting house — that demonstrate the strength of our fraternity.

You all are amazing. Thank you so much!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Justin D. Rattey, Worshipful Master
Hiram-Takoma No. 10



Bud Michaels, Secretary of Hiram Takoma Lodge



WB Jerry Keilsohn



WB Michael Greenwald



WB's Jerry Keilsohn and Michael Greenwald

Have You Seen The Traveling Gavel

By PM Robert Greenwald

If you have never laid eyes on it, you should! It could even be yours to claim for our lodge. We were awarded the Traveling Gavel Award due to our Lodge's large number of visitations during the last Masonic year. The Traveling Gavel Award was revived by the Masters and Wardens Association to be once again at the forefront of a Lodge's' bragging rights.

The purpose of the Traveling Gavel is to promote Brotherly Love and Fellowship among the Brethren of our Jurisdiction. It is to instill enthusiasm and interest in Freemasonry, Brotherhood and the Craft in general. It is also intended to increase attendance of Lodge meetings by increasing visitors and members who would vie to take the gavel and keep it for their Lodge. Many other jurisdictions have similar awards. This one will encourage visitation within the District for fellowship,

education and degree conferrals. It will propagate knowledge of the Craft and share experiences of Masonic philosophy and history with all the Brethren. Mainly, it is to have fun and instill healthy competition among lodges for bragging rights and excellence.

There are a set of rules that must be followed prior to capturing the gavel and being able to keep it as well as certain protocols to be followed. At the present time, we have the Traveling Gavel and it will be on display for all to see each at every meeting. So please take a moment of your valuable time and join us and hear about what is needed to keep it in our lodge.

I appeal to you to join us "This Is Our Time" and to be proud that you are a member of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45.. Help our Worshipful Master keep the Traveling Gavel in our lodge.

The Washington Capitals are having another winning season!



Lodge Night with the 2018 Stanley Cup Champion Washington Capitals

The Details:

February 25th, Washington Capitals vs. Winnipeg Jets, Game time 7:00 p.m. Section 427 and 426, \$60 a person.

Last chance to book your tickets with the Lodge event of the NHL season!

This year to help celebrate the unbelievable season the Caps had last year we have reserved 20 passes for the Cap's Devil's Backbone Group Pack. This package includes an entrée with a side from Rocklands BBQ, unlimited beer, wine, soda and water, and a Caps t-shirt courtesy of Custom Ink. The Devil's Backbone BBQ & Beer Pack will start an hour before puck drop and run through the start of the 3rd period in our 400 level lounge area located behind section 429/430. We can enjoy the food and drink in the Lounge or take it back to our seats.

This is a great event to invite a prospective member to. Please let the WM know if you are inviting a potential candidate.

This event will be open to friends and family. Your check holds your seats. Please send your check to Secretary SGBF#45, 6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.



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2020 Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin #45 Calendar

- February 2020
 - o 2nd - JEWISH FOOD EXPERIENCE® AT N STREET VILLAGE
 - o 11th – Stated Communication & EA Degree
 - o 24rd – Meet-up
 - o 25th – Social - Hockey Game
- March 2020
 - o 10th – Stated Communication – Purim themed Festive Board
 - o 30th – Meet-Up
- April 2020
 - o 5th – Passover Baskets
 - o 12th – VA Visitation (Easter)
 - o 14th – Stated Communication – Called off - Passover
 - o 26th – Good Deeds Day
 - o 27th – Meet-up
- May 2020
 - o 12th – Stated Communication – Healthy Mind/ Healthy Mason w/ GL
 - o 13th - GL Semi-Annual Communication
 - o 25th – No Meet-up – Memorial Day
- June 2020
 - o 9th – Stated Communication – FC Degree
 - o TBD - Skeat Event
 - o 29th – Meet-up
- July 2020
 - o 12th - Memorial Afternoon
 - o 14th - Dark
- August 2020
 - o 11th - Dark
- September 2020
 - o 8th – Stated Communication – Warden's Night Festive Board for all DC Wardens
 - o 13th – Rosh Hashanah Baskets
- October 2020
 - o 11th, 12th, 18th or 19th – Anniversary Night @ a restaurant
 - o 13th – Stated Called Off
- November 2020
 - o 10th – Stated Communication – Elections & MM Degree
 - o 21st – GL Annual Communication
 - o 22nd – Thanksgiving Baskets

Out and About In January

Even without the Traveling Gavel Award, our Brethren are Traveling Men.



WM Raymond L. Tayse of Pentalpha Lodge #194 in Germantown, MD and WM Jerry Keilsohn and Robert H. Starr, PGM at their recent visitation.



Artwork from our JW Jeff Greenwald who contributed this work during MLK day of service at an elementary school in Washington D.C.



A good crowd attended the Olney Theatre for the one man show, A Christmas Carol



Our Brethren turned out in force for our Christmas Visitation at the VA Hospital



The full crowd from our visitation to the VA Hospital

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Refreshment JS, SS, JD, SD
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman..... Hal Henig
hhenig@sgbf45.org, 301-681-3873
Visitations Vacant
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving
BasketsSD Jeffrey Greenwald, jgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
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Engleberg-Korman Charitable FoundationPresident—Vacant
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For the Worshipful Master Allen R. Levy
For the Senior Warden Derek R. Gould
For the Junior Warden Aaron Kamerer

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Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M.
 Secretary
 6109 Lone Oak Drive
 Bethesda, MD 20817



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
February	2 Super Bowl Sunday with the Jewish Food Experience – N Street Village, 8:15 am to 12:00 noon	Open to all
	11 Stated Communication – Lodge opens 7:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm, Game Events begin approximately 8:30 pm and are open to family and friends	Masons
	24 Meet up – 7:00 pm location TBD	Masons
	25 Lodge Social, Capitals Game with Dinner, Dinner 6:00 pm, Faceoff 7:00 pm	Open to all
March	10 Stated Communication – Purim themed Festive Board – Lodge opens 7:30 pm, Festive Board begins approximately 8:00 pm and includes dinner	Masons

Date	Event	Open to
March	30 Meet-Up – 7:00 pm, location TBD	Open to all
April	5 Passover Baskets, Rockville JSSA Offices, 9:00 am	Open to all
	12 VA Visitation (Easter), Washington VA Hospital, meet in the lobby 9:30 am	Open to all
	14 Stated Communication – Called off - Passover	
	26 Good Deeds Day, Rockville JCC, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Family and Guests welcome	Open to all
	27 Meet-up – 7:00 pm, location TBD	Open to all