

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

# bulletin

Volume XCVII • Number 3  
March 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

Our March Stated has been called off to allow for a Festive Board, Open to all Masons and Prospective Masons. As March 10th coincides with the conclusion of Purim and feasting, drinking, giving treats, and charity are all hallmarks of Purim, the WM has called for a Festive Board with a Purim theme.

This will prove to be a memorable and enjoyable time of fellowship. 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Degree, Masons and Prospective Masons Only.

**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, the meaning of which will certainly be hotly debated.**

**Please RSVP the Secretary by March 7th**



## Entered Apprentice Degree -

**Save the Date  
March 31, 2020**



The beginning of light for Masons, the Entered Apprentice Degree. This year we will initiate two candidates at a Special Communication, Tuesday, March 31st, 2020.

As this is a Special Communication, we will begin at a very special early time, 6:30 p.m.

The Entered Apprentice Degree is a series of firsts for all Masons. It is the first time worthy men are brought to light in Masonry. It is the first time they are welcomed into the Brotherhood of Masons and called Brother. It is the first time they get to witness and participate in the ritual, pomp, and circumstance of a Masonic Lodge. The first time they get to wear an apron as a Mason. The first time they take an obligation as a Mason. And the first step on the path to becoming a Master Mason. Come and help our new

candidates begin their journey in Masonry.

Senior Warden Worshipful Brother Burt Levy, PM will don the Top Hat in the East, Junior Warden Jeffrey Greenwald will be in the West, and Junior Deacon Derek Gould,

will be in the South. Senior Deacon Allen Levy will be the Senior Deacon to guide the candidates and conduct them around the lodge room. Rounding out the ritual team will be Master of Ceremonies, Sheldon Rappaport, PM leading the procession, Brother Hal Henig will be watching the door, and Senior Steward Aaron Kamerer will prepare the candidates and bringing up the rear.

**Please plan on attending and assisting these men in their first step in Masonry.**

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  ASK1

## Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn



The other morning, between the raindrops, I happened to look at my front garden. Ok, a garden is stretching it some, and because this is February, all I have is what is left from last summer. And what little of it that is still there, is all brown. What I noticed is that the daffodils are starting to come up.

That means Spring is on the way, and – not too soon for me. Another sign that the dreary winter is maybe about to end.

Spring is my favorite time of year. Everything turns from browns, grays, and blacks to just about every color of the rainbow. And every year Mother Nature seems to outdo herself from the previous year. Or maybe I just have paid more attention the last few years (a sign of getting older, or just more observant), and are therefore just more amazed.

With the days getting longer, I now find myself again driving to work into the Sunrise, or even a little bit after, if I am late getting to work. And the nicest one, I am not driving home totally in the dark. Mother Nature put on one of her outstanding light shows the other night on the way home. It only lasted a few minutes, and had some of the brightest pinks I think I have ever seen in a sunset. Plus, the sunset was much better to look at than the rear end of the car I was stuck behind in traffic. Which actually had me confused for a few minutes. Something seemed off. I eventually realized that I was behind an electric vehicle, so no tailpipes.

Another sign spring is here: baseball's Spring Training started! GO NATS!

This last month had me once again doing a Masonic first, for me. This time it was the installation of officers at Silver Spring Lodge #215. What was different this time, was that the installing officer was the Grand Master of Masons for Maryland, MWB Richard P. Naegele. Many of the Grand Line of Maryland also attended. Again this was an Open installation, and I got asked again to participate in one part of it. And, an interesting trivia item; one of the Past Masters of #215 is this year's Worshipful Master of Harmony #17, WM Richard Mendez.

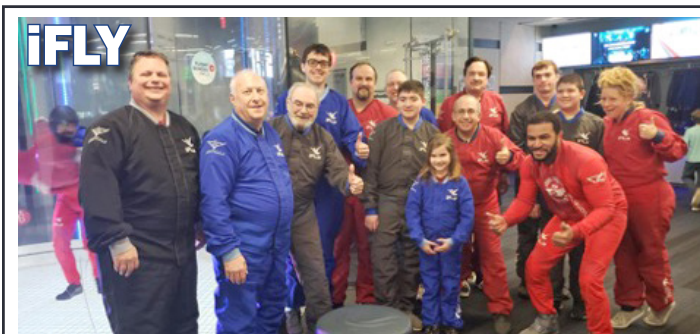
Unfortunately, I was not able to stay for the celebratory lunch after, as I headed off to Almas Shrine for the installation of this year's Potentate, George Perez. I have known Brother George for quite a while, as he was Venerable Master of the Mithras Lodge of Perfection at the Scottish Rite last year, while I sat in the Captain-of-the-host chair. And, one more; this past month, was the installation of Officers at the Scottish Rite. A whole lot of installations at the beginning of the year.

One of my goals this year is to travel to other Lodges. We are going to keep doing that all year long, so please feel free to join me.

Something to think about in closing:

*"I never worry about the problem. I worry about the solution."*

- Brother Shaquille O'Neal



This high flying group of brave sky divers joined with WM Jerry Keilsohn for an awesome experience.



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# TRAVELING Brothers

This past month, our officers and other members of the Lodge traveled to a number of Masonic events:



Laying a wreath at the tomb of our Brother George Washington in Mount Vernon, Virginia, SW Burt Levy and WM Jerry Keilsohn.



The volunteers for Souper Bowl Sunday at the N Street Kitchen where we helped Prepare Lunch. SS Aaron Kamerer, Raymond Horn, PM, SW Burt Levy, PM, WM Jerry Keilsohn, JD Derek Gould, and our volunteer leader JW Jeff Greenwald. Not pictured Hal Henig.



The Chicken Man: JW Jeff Greenwald



On the Grand Master's Visitation to the Grand Lodge of Israel, Adam Goldman, PM, Michael Greenwald, PM, and Rabbi Kenneth Cohen, overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.



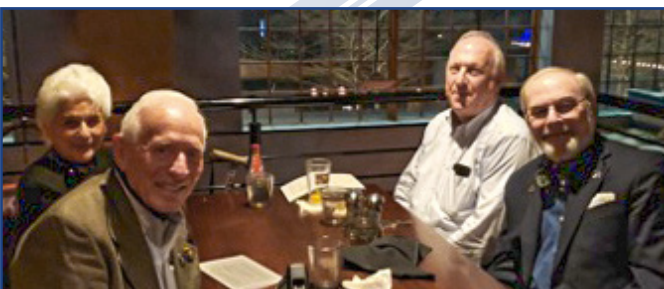
These 11 Brothers of SGBF Lodge #45 were all in attendance at the Scottish Rite Installation of Officers which was a first-class Masonic event! Brethren in attendance: Michael Greenwald, PM, Robert Greenwald, PM, Jonathan Binstock, PM, Adam Tager, PM, WM Jerry Keilsohn, Sheldon Rappeport, PM, Burt Levy, PM, SD Allen Levy, Walter Simon, PM, Robert H. Starr, PGM, and Jerome Barry.



The Salad Men of SGBF Lodge #45: JD Derek Gould and SS Aaron Kamerer.



Our WM Jerry Keilsohn with the other 2020 Officers of the Scottish Rite Mithras Lodge of Perfection. Jerry will become Venerable Master in five years!



Attending the Master's and Wardens Association Meeting at Kirwan's Restaurant on the Wharf. Robert Greenwald, PM and Roberta, WM Jerry Keilsohn and SW Burt Levy, PM.



Attending the Installation of Officers on Saturday, January 25th at Silver Spring Lodge #215. SW Burt Levy, PM; the Master of Silver Spring Lodge #215, Justin Alan Sayre, WM Jerry Keilsohn, and Robert H. Starr, PGM.



## February Stated Update

During the February Stated Communication, our new Brother Joel Van Vollenhoven received his Master Mason Certificate.



WM Jerry Keilsohn and Bro Joel Van Vollenhoven



The answer to Bro Joel Van Vollenhoven's question, but is this Samuel Gompers or Benjamin Franklin?  
**OUR NEWEST BROTHER ASKED HOW OLD OUR LODGE WAS... WE SHOWED HIM A PICTURE OF OUR FIRST MASTER.**



Scenes from Game night which followed our February Stated Communication. Clockwise from the top left: Jerome M. Bauman, PM and John R. Garrison, PM; SS Aaron Kamerer and his wife; SD Allen Levy and JD Derek Gould; David Torchinsky, PM and his wife, Hal Henig and his wife; Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM calling the Bingo game; and WM Jerry Keilsohn and Robert Starr, PGM.

## MEMBER OF SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45

### Honored During Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of Knight Masons, USA

**Most Worshipful Bro. Robert H. Starr** was awarded the rank of Right Excellent Honorary Past Senior Grand Knight by the Most Excellent Great Chief, Joseph S. Crociata, the presiding officer of the Knight Masons, USA. A description of the Knight Masons is below. Most Excellent Joseph S. Crociata is also a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. MWB Starr has also been reappointed as the Very Excellent Grand Superintendent of the Chesapeake Region and is, therefore, the Most Excellent Grand Chief's Representative for the Knight Masons Councils of Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.



The Knight Mason Degrees have their origins to the earliest records of Masonry, in fact, there is some indication that the Knight Mason Degrees may have been developed even before the degree of Master Mason! There are three degrees; Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West. These "Green" degrees are ancient and are in essence "Old Testament." They are to some extent similar to the 15th, 16th, and 17th degrees of the Scottish Rite and are based on the legend of Zerubbabel. To be eligible to be a Knight Mason, one must be a Royal Arch Mason and be invited as it is an honor to be asked.

# Our Lodge Social Meet-Up Events

Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge sponsors and organizes various monthly Meet-Up events. Most of our Meet-Ups are held in popular restaurants in Montgomery County Maryland.

Typically, our Meet-Ups are held on the fourth Monday evening of each month. Each month the Brethren and guests gather for fellowship and an informal dinner. The evening Meet-Ups usually run from 6:30 pm. to about 8:45 pm. Our guests include not only members but also our male friends and family. The Meet-Ups offer prospective new candidates a chance to meet the Brethren of our lodge in a friendly atmosphere. By encouraging prospective members to attend, you are helping them gain an important entry to start their exploration of Masonry. It is at our Meet-Ups where prospective members can create their initial ties to our members and their continued participation in our social activities will demonstrate their interest in our fraternity.

Our Last Meet-Up was held at Mamma Lucia Restaurant in Olney, Maryland on Monday Evening, January 27. We had a good turnout of 11 men during the first Meet-Up of the new decade. Brethren, guests, and one of our candidates were in attendance including Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, WM Jerry Keilsohn, JW Jeff Greenwald, JS Alex Rieser, Dave Torchinsky, PM, Allen Friedman, PM, and Walter Simon, PM, and a new Candidate Steve Dekelbaum. Other guests include Stuart Zitomer, Dave Zemel, and Bro. Richard J. Sincoff, PP.



**Our first Monthly Meet-Up of the year at Mamma Lucia Italian Restaurant in Olney, Maryland.**

This was one of the most highly successful Meet-Ups, because eleven Brethren and guests participated during that evening. Also, I saw eight positive responses of this Meet-Up on the app, including several Brethren that were not able to participate.

The attached photo shows the attendees enjoying each other's fellowship making this Meet-Up highly successful. We had no December Meet-Up, due to the Chanukah Holiday. Since Lisa and I will be at Disney World, during the last week of February, we did not have a Meet-Up this month.

Other Meet-Up events entailed bowling, visiting exciting museums, such as the new Spy Museum, and attending local cultural events. During these local events, family members were invited.

One upcoming event that I am interested in is Maryland Fleet Week, which will be held in Baltimore in the middle of September the weekend, before the beginning of the High Holidays. The next scheduled Meet-Up will be scheduled on Monday, March 23.

## The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Sara & Samuel J. Lessans Good Deeds Day

### Project Plans

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. The

bags will be filled with socks, t-shirts and toiletries items for homeless Veterans. Then the bags will be taken to the Community Resource and Referral Center, which is a satellite of the DC Veterans Affairs Hospital. It provides services to homeless and distressed Veterans. Items to donate include toiletries, clothing, laundry detergent, bottled water, coffee, condiments, and gift cards for groceries and gas stations.



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## 2020 Proxies

For the Worshipful Master ..... Allen R. Levy  
 For the Senior Warden ..... Derek R. Gould  
 For the Junior Warden ..... Aaron Kamerer



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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](http://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	Date	Event	Open to
March	10 Purim themed Festive Board – 6:30 pm, Festive Board includes dinner	Open to all	April	26 Good Deeds Day, Rockville JCC, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Family and Guests welcome	Open to all
	30 Meet-Up – 7:00 pm, location TBD	Open to all		30 Meet-up – 6:30 pm, Bacchus of Lebanon, 7945 Norfolk Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814	Open to all
	31 Special Communication - EA Degree and Approval of Appropriations - 6:30 pm, Dinner, 7:00 pm, Degree	Masons Only	May	2 Grand Lodge Visitation, Scottish Rite, 4:00 pm, Festive Board 6:30 pm	Open to all
April	5 Passover Baskets, Rockville JSSA Offices, 9:00 am	Open to all		12 Stated Communication – Dinner 6:30 pm, Lodge opens at 7:30 pm	Open to all
	12 VA Visitation (Easter), Washington VA Hospital, meet in the lobby 9:30 am	Open to all		13 GL Semi-Annual Communication	Open to all
	14 Stated Communication – Called off - Passover	Open to all		30 No Meet-up - Memorial Day	