



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

bulletin

Volume XCVII • Number 4/5
April - May 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)

VIRTUAL MEET-UP

We are offering all of our members and their families an escape from “cabin fever” by participating in a “Virtual” Meet-Up! With our current quarantine situation, many of us have already learned to use the various video conferencing tools available on our phones; desktop computers; tablets, and – yes – even on “land-lines” (for those few who still have them). I can only guess that when this pandemic is over, many will have learned that it is no longer necessary to leave their homes and drive in what is often aggravating traffic to spend time in a meeting. So – if you haven’t already become a part of the future of communication, here’s your big chance!



It’s really very simple:

Date and Time:

Monday, April 13th at 7:30 PM

To ‘join’ on-line by iPhone, Android, or desktop, or tablet, simply click or type THIS LINK:

<https://Dell.zoom.us/j/7583992915>

To ‘join’ by phone (you won’t be able to see us and we won’t be able to see you):

Dial 1 877 853-5257 and then enter the Meeting ID: 7583992915#

We recently did this for an Officer’s meeting, and it was a wonderful way to connect while we are all supposed to be following social distancing. This will be a unique opportunity for those Brethren who live outside of the Washington area to connect with all of us and participate in a lodge activity.

I have no set plan for the Meet-up and plan to structure it like we do the dinner meet-ups. Where we talk about any and everything. I am looking forward to chatting with all of you.

Jerry Keilsohn

Worshipful Master

wm@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*

2B1  ASK1



Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn

Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

I think my 89-year-old Mom said it best. She has never seen anything like this in her life. If you are like me, every day I get another email from someplace reminding me to Wash My Hands and stay home. I have lost count of how many I have even gotten. There are a few where I wonder where or how they got my name. I Google the name of the company and have no idea what they sell or do, but they got my name from somewhere.

I am following the advice. Washing my hands often, and staying home when I can. Please do the same.

It is unclear when we will get to meet again in person, and complete that big “no-no”, shake hands, and the even more “do not even think about it” a Masonic Hand Shake.

I thought I would take some time and share some of my thoughts. Many of you have been reading about my Masonic journey the last many years in the monthly Bulletin. Like all of you, that journey is taking a slightly different path presently. I would say off the beaten path, but I think at the moment, we are not on any path.

I usually end with a quote, but it seemed better to put this one at the beginning for a change. Here is one from a fictional character.

*The sun will come out Tomorrow
So ya gotta hang on 'Til tomorrow
Come what may - Annie*

Enough on that topic for the moment.

On a happier note, Spring is here. Everything is starting to bloom or is already in bloom. The daffodils I have been planting all over my yard the last few years because the deer do not eat them, are all up and looking terrific through the rain. Thank you Mother Nature for both of those things. Yes, I just wrote that I was happy it rained. It keeps the pollen down. With all the rain and the warmer weather, it looks like I will be doing the first lawn cutting in the next few days.

One of the things a Worshipful Master pledges when he takes office, it to bring light to the Brethren of his Lodge.

Does switching to Daylight Savings Time count? We do get more light in the evening!

I thought not.

How about an interesting piece of trivia about one of our namesakes, Benjamin Franklin?

He is the only politician to have signed all four documents fundamental to the creation of the U.S.: the Declaration of Independence (1776), the Treaty of Alliance with France (1778),

the Treaty of Paris (1783), which established peace with Great Britain, and the U.S. Constitution (1787).

Read the article in which I found this piece of trivia at midnightfreemasons.org. If you have time, there are lots of other interesting articles on The Midnight Freemasons web site.

Searching for our other namesake – Brother Samuel Gompers is an interesting exercise. This Brother dedicated his entire professional career to making life better for American workers. There are tons of material about the work he did. Most of his famous quotes are in relationship to business, unions and their workers. But I found one that seems more appropriate today.



The extremely isolated Thridrangar lighthouse

“Time is the most valuable thing on earth: time to think, time to act, time to extend our fraternal relations, time to become better men, time to become better women, time to become better and more independent citizens.”
- Samuel Gompers

Back to the subject of light. The most isolated lighthouse in the world is the Thridrangar lighthouse which is precariously perched on a rock pillar in the Westman Islands which are in the North Atlantic and are part of Iceland. You have to scale a high, sheer cliff to get to it from a

boat or attempt to land on a very tiny helipad to get to it from a helicopter. It sounds rather dangerous just to change a light bulb.

In 1899, English inventor David Misell invented the first flashlight. It had three D batteries placed in a tube that acted as a handle of the device. Batteries powered a small incandescent electric light bulb and a simple contact switch turned it on and off Portable light!

Obviously, this is not how I envisioned my year as Master would go. Nor are things happening the way I planned. Everything I planned since the middle of March has not happened. We will get through this. To lessen the impact just a little, please bring some light into another Brother's life. To make that happen, I challenge each of the Brethren of the Lodge, to contact one other Brother. At least once a week. One maybe you have not talked to in a while. Just say hello.

If you want to call me, please feel free to do so. But I have a rule. No complaining!

Please Stay Safe and Healthy. I look forward to seeing everybody back in Lodge. When this is over, we will have quite a bit of catching up to do.

Lastly, if there is some help you need in this rather unique time, please reach out to our Virus Coordinator, Senior Warden Burt Levy - sw@sbgf45.org or 202-409-4449.

A Purim Themed Festive Board

We are very blessed to have been able to celebrate a magnificent Festive Board on March 10th – a few days before the COVID-19 virus shut down all Masonic activity and forced us all to be quarantined at home. Fond memories of that event leave us anxious to return to the warmth of our Masonic Brotherhood.

The event was very well attended and featured a combination of Purim traditions along with the enjoyment of Masonic festive board rituals. The usual Seven Toasts were slightly amended to include salutes to Queen Esther and Mordechai. Of course, the toasts were celebrated during a remarkable dinner which was served to the attendees at their tables so as not to disturb the flow of the toasting ceremony with trips to a buffet line. The Purim story began with the reading of the Megillah – not the ‘whole Megillah’ but a condensed version, and – each time Haman’s name was mentioned, everyone boomed and spun their groggers (noisemakers). As the story progressed – so did the serving of the meal. The Hamotzi was recited and the Challah was sliced by Rabbi Randy Schoch, P.M. and it was then shared to all accompanied by

a fresh garden salad. The next course was a hearty chicken soup replete with triangular-shaped kreplach (to remind us of the shape of Haman’s hat. The dinner plate was then served, and it also included baked kreplach (three different fillings yummm) along with roast chicken and creamy mashed potatoes. To complete the “triangular hat theme” – dessert was (of course) Hamantaschen.

It should be noted that our W.M. Jerry Keilsohn created the program for the evening with help from our Bro. Secretary Raymond Horn, P.M. Jerry also produced the excellent printed version of the program. The responsibility of planning; purchasing; and preparing the meal fell on yours truly (Burt Levy, P.M.) and kitchen help was provided by W.Bro’s Allen Wright and Michael Greenwald. Assisting with serving were Bro’s Aaron Kamerer; Allen Levy; and Derek Gould.

The W.M. is planning yet another Festive Board for later in the year “G-D willing.” As of this writing, we are still in the depths of the Corona Virus shutdown – so “stay tuned” for more great Lodge events when this is all behind us.



Michael Greenwald, PM and Burt Levy, PM preparing the excellent dinner.



Walter F. Simon, PM, Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, Raymond Horn, PM, Rabbi Randy Schoch, PM.



WM Jerry Keilsohn reading at the Festive Board.

Celebrating Samuel Gompers

by Hal Henig

Our Lodge is partially named for an important American Labor Leader of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. He was the founder of the American Federation of Labor (AFL).

Samuel Gompers was born in London, in the United Kingdom on January 27, 1850, to a Jewish Family. Samuel Gompers and his family immigrated to the United States in 1863 and lived in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in New York City. His father produced cigars at home and Samuel assisted him in producing cigars.

Samuel Gompers joined the Cigar Makers Local Union No. 15 in 1864, while he was 14 years old and was also involved in union activities. After 17 years of age, he married 16-year-old Sophia Julian and they had several children. However, only six of their children survived infancy.

In 1873, after working for his father as a cigar maker and joining a union, Gompers' was hired by cigar maker David Hirsch & Company. Hirsch was a unionized company which employed German immigrants. Gompers learned to speak German and was admired by former Secretary of the International Workman's Association Karl Laurrell who mentored Gompers. Laurrell took Gompers under his wing, challenging his more simplistic ideas and urging Gompers to put his faith in the organized economic movement of trade unionism rather than the socialist political movement.

In 1875, Gompers was elected president of the Cigar Makers' Union Local 144. The Cigar Makers Union almost went bankrupt during the financial crises of 1877. In response, Samuel Gompers and his friend Adolph Strasser introduced high union dues and programs to pay different types of benefits for members of Local 144 in good standing. Gompers stated that workers needed to organize unions to protect themselves from wage cuts being made by corporate management. He believed that companies were only interested in profits at the expense of their workers, Unions were important in increasing wages for all workers in order for them to make a decent living for themselves and their families.

Samuel Gompers in 1881 helped organize the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions. This Union Federation in 1886 became the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and he became its first president. He remained president of the AFL until his death in December 1924. The AFL was mostly a federation in which unions that represented skilled workers with trades were affiliated.

Under Gompers, the AFL became powerful and undermined the Knights of Labor, which previously was a major labor organization.

The Knights of Labor organization disappeared by the turn of the 20th Century.

Gompers' labor philosophy was higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions and collective bargaining for union workers. He wanted blue-collar workers to earn enough money to enjoy the "American Dream" of a better standard of living for their families. He encouraged union members to participate in politics and vote for their economic interests.

Gompers opposed massive immigration from Europe because he believed it lowered wages for American workers. He also opposed all immigrants from Asia, because he believed these immigrants were incapable of assimilation into American culture. He supported the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that banned Chinese immigrants. The AFL supported laws restricting immigration between the 1890s to 1920s. This union federation supported the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924.

Gompers supported President Woodrow Wilson's World War I war effort. He was appointed by President Wilson to serve on the Council of National Defense and chaired the Labor Advisory Board.

Gompers opposed the radical left Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) known as the Wobblies for their opposition to US Involvement during World War I. He believed the Wobblies were against capitalism, and their methods were similar to the Bolsheviks in Russia. By 1920, Gompers was able to marginalize socialist and communist influences in the labor union movement.

Samuel Gompers was a Mason and he received his Scottish Rite 32 Degree in 1906 at Washington, DC. Gompers visited lodges in many countries and believed that Masonry was the principal means of freedom of conscience, thought, and expression.

Samuel Gompers became sick with influenza in February 1923 and was ill for six weeks. Later, he suffered bronchitis and diabetes and he required further hospitalization. Gompers died on December 13, 1924, in San Antonio, Texas and was buried at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, New York. He was buried close to industrialist Andrew Carnegie.

In 1925, Samuel Gompers Masonic Lodge was established in the District of Columbia and Samuel Gompers' son Henry became the first Worshipful Master of this Lodge, named in honor of his father. This lodge became well known and respected throughout the Washington, DC Masonic Community.



ALEX OVECHKIN MAKES IT 701 GOALS

AND ADDS THE SHOOTOUT WINNER AS THE CAPITALS EDGE THE JETS

Lodge Night at the Cap's Game was a great time. From before the puck dropped to the final moments of the Washington Capitals' 4-3 shootout win over the Winnipeg Jets, Tuesday February 24th was Alex Ovechkin's night.

On the same evening he was honored with a pregame ceremony for scoring his 700th goal in the NHL, he not only posted the contest's opening goal, but he also got the game-winner in the fifth round of the shootout at Capital One Arena. The victory gave the Capitals back-to-



back wins for the first time since a four-game winning streak from Jan. 13 to Jan. 27. Ovechkin's winning goal was a beauty of a backhand. After Ovechkin managed to slip the puck past Jets goaltender Laurent Brossoit, the Capitals' Braden Holtby made the final save, stopping Nikolaj Ehlers before the Capitals hopped

onto the ice to celebrate.

Just talking about the Caps makes me smile. We had a great turnout for the game, having sold out our 20 seats early



WM Jerry Keilsohn, Raymond Horn, PM, Aileen Horn, Sheldon Rappeport, PM, Burt Levy, PM, JW Jeff Greenwald enjoying the meal before the game.



WM Jerry Keilsohn and Michael Greenwald, PM



WM Jerry Keilsohn, Brigham Callam, Michael Greenwald, PM, SS Aaron Kamerer, Raymond Horn, PM and his wife, SD Allen Levy and his wife, SW Burt Levy, Sheldon Rappeport, JD Derek Gould and his brothers, JW Jeff Greenwald, his son Zak and three of his friends.



Zak Greenwald and his crew joined us for the game

Officers of 1948



23rd Annual Ladies Night
 Samuel Gompers Lodge
 No. 45
 F.A.A.M.
 IRVIN FOOTER
 Worshipful Master



TUESDAY, MARCH 16th 1947
 MAYFLOWER HOTEL
 Washington, D. C.

Lodge Scenes from 1948

The Lodge recently received a large envelope of material from the family of Irvin Footer, PM 1948. There were several photographs and Bulletin issues from his year including these images of the Program and Photographs from Ladies Night which was held on March 16, 1948, in the grand ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel.



Program

Master..... JACOB SANDLER, P.M.
 Chaplain..... CHAPLAIN MATHEW TEPPER, P.M.
 Worshipful Master..... IRVIN J. FOOTER
 Worshipful Master..... MYER C. ROSENDORF, P.M.



Committee of Arrangements

Chairman..... Myer C. Rosendorf, P.M.
 Secretary..... Saul Weiss, S.W.
 Chairman of Seating..... Sigmund Ades, J.W.

Menu

Lobster, Crabflakes and Shrimp Salad, marinated with sharp Russian Dressing on tomato on lettuce
 Brown Bread and Cream Cheese Sandwich
 * * *
 Terrapin Soup with Sherry
 Celery
 Olives
 * * *
 Broiled Filet Mignon with Fresh Mushroom Sauce Perigourdine
 Asparagus Tips Polonaise
 Potatoes O'Brien au Gratin
 * * *
 Lettuce, Pineapple and Grapefruit Salad
 Bengal Chutney Dressing
 * * *
 Spumoni Ice Cream
 Crushed Strawberry Sauce
 Chocolate Cake
 Demi Tasse



The cost of the affair was \$15.00 per couple and because of the large number of brethren who wished to attend, the affair was restricted only to the members and their Ladies.

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I think you can guess from the photograph of the Mayflower Grand Ballroom, that this event was Standing Room Only.

TRAVELING *Brothers*

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

These are the masked rangers who picked up and delivered Passover groceries for JSSA. Almost 600 Passover “baskets” were delivered with the help of volunteers throughout the county and beyond. All the efforts were done with Social Distancing standards. The effort was sponsored by JSSA and Project Hope. Our Lodge was well represented as we delivered 100 baskets to the Revitz House lobby to be distributed by the staff at the Revitz House.



Prior to our shutdown, our Lodge made a good showing at Hiram Takoma to hear MWB Akram Elias speak. Attending from our Lodge, SW Burt Levy, SS Aaron Kamerer, WM Jerry Keilsohn, JD Derek Gould, Michael Greenwald, PM, and Robert H. Starr, PGM.

At the Grand Lodge School of Instruction, our Lodge Leadership made the strongest showing. The School of Instruction helps train our Leadership for their path as they work their way up the officer line.



Attending the GL of Instruction, Adam Goldman, PM, RWB Adam Tager, WM Jerry Keilsohn, SD Allen Levy, Michael Greenwald, PM, Robert Greenwald, PM, SS Aaron Kamerer, JD Derek Gould, Bro. Joel Van Vollenhoven.



Representing the Lodge and displaying great courage, JW Jeff Greenwald, WM Jerry Keilsohn, SW Burt Levy.

Please check out our Lodge's website:

<https://sgbf45.org>

which has been updated for the ensuing year!

Do you know that on our website all of the *Bulletins* over the last year are posted without the Trestleboard for your reference?

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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 2020—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 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 Jerry P. Keilsohn about all events (see page 2).

Date	Event	Open to
April	13 <i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Check in with your Brethren on-line meeting – see the link or phone number	Everyone
	14 <i>Stated Communication – Called off – Passover</i>	
	27 <i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Program TBD on-line meeting – see the link or phone number	Everyone

Date	Event	Open to
May 12	<i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Program TBD on-line meeting – see the link or phone number <i>Stated Communication – Cancelled</i>	Everyone
June 9	<i>Stated Communication</i> <i>EA Degree</i> ** Lodge opens at 7:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm **Tentative Date	Masons