



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

bulletin

Volume XCVIII • Number 9
September 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)

SEPTEMBER STATED COMMUNICATION SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

During this communication, we will be having a Guest Speaker with an interesting talk and a celebration of our Brethren who have had significant anniversaries of membership. An exciting presentation will be provided by Worshipful Brother Jacob M. Bressman, Past Master of La France Lodge No. 93 and a representative of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Education & Service. WB Bressman is active in both the York Rite and Scottish Rite, along with various invitational and honorary Masonic side orders. He focuses his Masonic research efforts on the esoteric philosophies, history, rituals and mysticism of Freemasonry. He will be presenting his paper, originally published under the Grand Lodge of DC's Pythagoras Lodge of Research I-REAP Awards Program, titled "To Unite in One Union with Oneness: The Path to God as Taught by King Solomon," which promises a deep examination of the Kabbalah and its relationship to the building of King Solomon's Temple. If you have ever wondered how the Holy Temple is connected to the Universe and the Human Body, or what its role is within the Legends behind Masonic Mysticism, then definitely join us for this exciting presentation!



**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?

We will again hold a virtual meeting. Please reserve the evening of Tuesday, September 8th, we will gather at 7:15 p.m. and the gavel will come down at 7:30 p.m. WM Jerry Keilsohn will be presenting our Anniversary Awards. These Awards which recognize significant membership anniversaries will be mailed out prior to the meeting. The WM would like to recognize each awardee. Please plan on attending. An invitation with the zoom link will be sent prior to the meeting.



Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn

When I started writing a column for the *Lodge Bulletin*, I was the Junior Steward, sitting on the South side of the Lodge. Watching the opening and closing exchanges between the Worshipful Master and the rest of the officers reminded me of being on the sidelines during a tennis match. Now, five years later, I am sitting at my dining room table looking at my laptop and leading the exchanges on Zoom. And it is the Reader's Digest version of the full ritual!

Life has changed. For the good or for the bad, I guess time will tell. I wonder what our Brethren will think about this time in 25 years?

I have written in the past about my journeys, both as a Mason and in traveling to other Lodges. I never would have believed that my dining room was one of the stops on the trip. Nor my home office. Yes, when you see me on Zoom and there is a bunch of junk in the background that is my home office. It is a mess. For our Stated, I rearrange the furniture in the dining room and put up a sheet to cover the doorway. The sheet is green, unfortunately not quite the correct color green to make it a green screen. It works pretty well to close off the space for a meeting and the large table gives me more room for the second monitor, my notes, and agenda.

Time for a shout out to Brother Secretary Ray Horn, PM, who is the Zoom wizard that makes the Virtual meetings happen.

Time for a short story. When my work went to alternate weeks, half the people work one week, the other half the other, I thought I would be at home for a week at a time. I thought it would be a great opportunity to clean up my office, and even make an effort to do some of the same in my basement. Alas, I was marked as an essential employee, and I have to work both weeks in a row without alternating. Which means both my office and basement are still a mess.

My journeys have continued though. I have been privileged to have participated in quite a few other Lodge's Virtual Meetings. It is really easy to participate - Just email the secretary of the lodge when you see the announcement in the Grand Lodge's weekly email. I even filled in as the Junior Warden for one lodge as I knew the special virtual ritual. All of this year's Masters have struggled some, but all of us are pushing ahead and making it happen. I even got to sit in my "chair" for a Scottish Rite Mithras Lodge of Perfection meeting, which was an interesting experience.

Sadly, I have had to participate in one of the saddest tasks a Worshipful Master has. That of a funeral for one of our brothers. In this case, it was Brother Morton "Morty" Davis. It was a graveside service, and we were able to social distance and wear masks. Once again, as is the case at many of our Brethren's funerals, I heard from members of his extended family about the exceptional person he was. Brother Davis was one of the good men Masonry made better. I never had the pleasure of meeting Brother Davis. I wish I had.

Our September Stated will once again be a virtual Zoom meeting. While we miss out on that handshake, that hug, and the five-star dining, it does present some unique opportunities. That is, for Brethren that are unable to travel, your cable-tow is not long enough, you do not drive at night, you broke your [insert a body part here], cannot leave [insert appropriate pet or family member's name here] home alone, or for whatever reason, you now can attend a Lodge meeting. I challenge each and every Brother reading this to join us on Zoom for the September Stated.

I know many of us are Zoomed out. To some extent, I am too. Thankfully, I am not one of those people that are also doing it for work as well. Unfortunately, several of our brethren are. With a break for August, I thought I would give it one more try for September.

The September Stated will be on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 PM. This will be a tiled meeting. We will open on the First Degree. Please Zoom (yes - it is a verb) in between 7:00 PM and 7:25 PM, so that we can start on time.

We have two different programs lined up for the evening. First is a lecture from a special guest speaker. Please see the specifics elsewhere in the Bulletin. I promise no symbols are related to anatomical organs.

The second program is a virtual Anniversary / Years of Service recognition. Over the last few years, we have been doing this in conjunction with the Grand Master's Grand visitation. As that is not going to happen this year, I have decided to just mail all the recipient brethren their awards. Hopefully, by the time the meeting arrives, I will have gotten them shipped out to the appropriate brethren. I will be asking each of them to show the group their award.

I had a challenge this month finding an appropriate quote to conclude with. But I found a quote that was written 250 years after it would have been spoken. This is from the musical *Hamilton*, by the title character.

"Legacy. What is a Legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see"

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**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

OUR LODGE EVENTS KEEP GOING

Our Successful Summer Virtual Meetings and Meet-Ups

During the June Virtual Meet-Up, we shared how much the July 4, Independence Day Holiday means to each Brother and how this holiday relates to Masonry. The Brethren that participated provided their thoughts and recognized that many of our founding fathers and Revolutionary War heroes were proud Masons.

Masonic principles laid the foundations for the establishment of our successful democracy. Our Brethren understood that July 4 means appreciating our country and the role that Masons contributed to our patriotism. Our Brethren of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin are proud Americans and Masons.

During our July Virtual Meet-Up, the Brethren talked about their favorite hobbies. Eight of our Brethren participated during this discussion. Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig mentioned his interest in Aviation. Hal likes to read Aviation Magazines, and serves also as a volunteer at the Air & Space Museum located downtown. The museum is currently closed due to COVID. Also, Hal collects baseball hats and various baseball and team cards.

Dave Torchinsky, PM likes to research Jewish Genealogy. Senior Warden Burt Levy, PM enjoys working on crossword puzzles. WM Jerry Keilsohn as a young man enjoyed collecting different types of coffee mugs. Jerry's daughter purchased and organized display cases for our Worshipful Master's family items. Brother Howard Politzer likes to exercise by playing tennis. One of Raymond Horn, PM's favorite hobbies is working on ceramics and he has taken various classes at Glen Echo.

Bob Greenwald, PM's hobbies include making cufflinks, collecting jewelry, and collecting old baseball cards. Bob mentioned that he has a signed autograph card of famous New York Yankees and later Mets Coach Casey Stengel. Also, Bob has collected old cameras, coins, and enjoys reading books. Bob Starr likes to play golf as long as the weather is not too hot.

Since we were unable to have our usual restaurant Meet-Ups, due to COVID, the virtual Get Together was a perfect alternative. Hopefully, when this health crisis is over, we will be able to return to our regular monthly social meetings.

Stretch your legs. Our Meet-Up Chairman, Hal is organizing an informal hike similar to the earlier informal Sligo Creek Hike. Sunday morning, September 7th, he will hold a nature Hike at the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Center, near the Anacostia Park Aquatic Center at 1550 Anacostia Avenue NE. RSVP hhenig@comcast.net if you intend to participate.

July Virtual Informal Meeting Featured Informative Talk on "UK's Stone Circles"



Our WM Jerry Keilsohn held an informal meeting in July that featured WB Walter Benesch's interesting photo presentation about the Stone Circles in the UK including new information about the recently discovered formations found with the use of ground-penetrating radar. WB Benesch had a detailed set of photos of Stonehenge and several other Stone Circles. He presented images of the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. While the purpose of Stonehenge is not fully known, it is clear that the sun aligns with particular stones in the circle. The Brethren on the call were able to learn about the extreme effort that had to have been taken to quarry and move the stones to their present location. At the end of the talk, WB Benesch spoke about the parallels with Masonry in the formation and finish of the stones in the circle. The meeting was well attended by our Brethren and several visitors.



MASONIC SERVICE FOR CONGRESSMAN JOHN R. LEWIS

The following article about the Masonic Service for Congressman John R. Lewis was compiled from two columns on the website "Freemasons for Dummies" by Christopher Hodapp, www.freemasonsfordummies.com

Illus. Brother John Robert Lewis 33° passed to the Celestial Lodge on July 10, following a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 80 years old. The Hon. John Lewis served as the U.S. Representative for the 5th District of Atlanta for more than three decades, from 1987 until his death, and he was one of the last living "leading lights" of the 1960s civil rights movement.

John Lewis was the last surviving speaker from the famous civil rights "March on Washington" in 1963 (the occasion of Dr. Martin Luther King's celebrated *I Have a Dream* speech) — at the age of 23, Lewis was the youngest person to give a speech that day.

John Lewis was made a Prince Hall Mason "at sight" in 1999 at H. R. Butler Lodge 23 in Atlanta, Georgia, by then-Grand Master Benjamin Barksdale of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Georgia.

In addition to his lodge, Brother Lewis was a Scottish Rite Mason in Atlanta Consistory No. 24-A, Orient of Georgia (PHA). He was coroneted a 33° SGIG in 2011 at the United Supreme Council Session in Atlanta. And he was a Shriner in the Prince Hall-associated Khedive Temple No. 16, and later in Mecca Temple No. 10, in the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

In May of 2008, then-Grand Master Akram Elias of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia honored John Lewis for his lifelong commitment to civil rights. This ceremony took place as part of the 9th World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel.



MW Corey Shackleford, Sr., Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Georgia (PHA), had announced that the last rites for the late Congressman and Mason would take place Wednesday, July 29th, at the Georgia State Capitol in the Rotunda area. Masonic services were performed by the officers and members of H.R. Butler Lodge No. 23 (PHA) under current COVID guidelines and restrictions.

It is no small irony that Lewis' own grand lodge, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, was not then, and is not today, recognized as regular by the 51 U.S. "mainstream" state grand lodges, including the Grand Lodge of Georgia. Masonic protocol dictated then as now that he could not have accepted GM Elias' presentation in an open lodge as a Brother Mason.



There is a post-script to the Masonic funeral service for U.S. Congressman John Lewis in Atlanta. Before the service began, the brethren filed in, and Prince Hall Grand Master Corey D. Shackleford introduced the honored Masonic visitors. In addition to a large number of Masons from the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, there was the Grand Master of the MWPHGL of Tennessee L. Lamont Banks.



Even in death, John Lewis united us! Two Grand Masters ... one fraternity. (MWPHGL GA GM Corey D. Shackleford, Sr. with the GL of GA GM Johnnie Garmon).

And representing the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM were Most Most Worshipful Grand Master Johnnie M. Garmon, Senior Grand Warden Donald C. Combs, and Grand Tyler William T. White. Let us all hope that this brief moment of unity and brotherhood is only the first opportunity for Georgia's brethren to explore greater cooperation and eventual recognition, and not just a momentary, fleeting contact never to be repeated. If recognition came from the seeds planted at this particular funeral, there would be a certain symmetrical, symbolic peropness to it.

Anniversary Celebrations

Please congratulate our Brethren on their significant membership anniversaries. Please make a point of attending our September Stated Communication so that the Worshipful Master can recognize your achievement.

Name	Anniversary	Raised
Francis Paul Boylin III	10	9/14/2010
Joseph P. Gibson Sr.	10	9/14/2010
Raymond E. Horn, PM	10	9/14/2010
Charles G. Meyers	10	11/20/2010
Leonard S. Rubin, PM	10	9/14/2010
Samuel Barr	25	6/27/1995
Allen R. Levy	25	6/27/1995
Lawrence E. Dekelbaum	30	9/25/1990
Frank Silnicki	30	4/24/1990
Donald S. Jacobs, PM	40	6/24/1980
Chester N. Katz	40	6/10/1980
Craig D. Oppenheim	40	6/10/1980
Elliott B. Prissman	40	6/10/1980
Daniel J. Stein	40	4/22/1980
David A. Ulanow	40	4/22/1980
Steven D. Foreman	45	10/23/1975
Howard G. Politzer	45	3/25/1975
Yale J. Wiesberg	50	9/8/1970
Maurice Saul Berger	55	3/30/1965
Zivan Cohen	55	3/30/1965
Gary A. Dorsay	55	2/9/1965
Leonard B. Heller	55	5/3/1965
William A. Stein	55	6/22/1965
Richard A. Trencher	55	3/2/1965
Jacob Louis Dekelbaum	60	9/27/1960
Julian E. Levin	60	5/24/1960
Richard L. Sugarman	60	8/23/1960
Edward I. Weinstein	60	11/1/1960
Jules V. Fink	70	4/11/1950
Raymond Friedman	70	9/28/1950
Harold A. Reznick	70	5/31/1950

ARE YOU READY TO VOLUNTEER?

I am! Time to open up your busy schedules and think about how we can provide service to our community in a safe, socially distant way. The fall will be busy as usual. Firstly, we have again been asked to help out with The Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) for the preparation and distribution of over 500 Rosh Hashanah Baskets on Sunday, September 13th between 7:30 and 10:00 am. There will be two sites of distribution this year at JSSA's Elsie & Marvin Dekelboun Building, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852, and Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

We hope to have enough volunteers (3-5 per site) to help out at both places. We will be tasked to complete the baskets by putting the fresh challahs and honey cakes into the bags between 7:30 and 8:30. Other volunteers will be arriving at the sites between 8:30 and 9:00 to deliver the baskets. We will simply need to help bring the bags out to the cars. Also, we will be responsible for delivering approximately 100 baskets to the Revitz house located on the Montrose campus. Please RSVP JW Jeff Greenwald, jw@sgbf45.org to let him know that you can help.



Our second activity will be the construction and de-construction of Sukkahs for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes. Though the time for this has not been established and it is also possible that this activity may not occur at all, the Lodge has performed this good deed for many years so we are standing by to see if this activity will go forward. More details to follow.

Our third activity will be our annual William Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Basket Program. Plan to be available the evening of Saturday, November 21st for truck loading. Then the main event occurs on Sunday, November 22nd between 7:30 and 10:00 am to fill up the baskets in preparation for delivery by other volunteers provided by JSSA. If the weather is good, we will once again assemble the baskets outside. The Lodge has provided food baskets to those in need for well over 60 years and JSSA has asked us to continue this effort this year in particular. It is also possible to "virtually volunteer" for this event by providing a monetary donation to the lodge to help pay for a basket. Our Lodge donates a full meal including a Turkey and we provide Kosher Turkey's when needed. These baskets whose contents we purchase wholesale cost \$55.00 each. Your donation can be made when you pay your dues or you can make a separate payment.

December has two more potential activities including the Arthritis Foundation 5K Run/Walk on the first or second weekend and the annual Veteran's Administration Nursing Home visitation for the Christmas Service. Our Lodge has historically chosen the Christmas weekend so other Brethren can spend the holiday with their families. More details will follow regarding these activities. Remember, all activities will need to comply with local community regulations and restrictions.

Information about these events will be posted on our App and published in the Bulletin.

RECEIVE ALL THE LODGE UPDATES

Use the New Lodge Application

If you have not had the chance to either download the new App onto your smartphone or set up the Portal on your computer. Signing up for the Lodge App will allow you to participate in conversations and images about our Lodge activities, maintain a calendar, and a directory of members.

As all of our events are currently virtual, you can participate and keep in touch with your fellow brethren where ever you are living now.

These are instructions:

1. Download the app from your favorite app store.
 - Google Play Store (Android phones and tablets) Search on Samuel Gompers Benjamin Franklin Lodge.
 - Apple App Store (iPhones and iPads) The App is named SGBF45
 - To set up on your computer: <https://sgbf45.minsh.com/launch.html>

2. Click on "JOIN" and complete the login information

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Raymond Horn

Secretary

secretary@sgbf45.org



Image of the App
opening screen

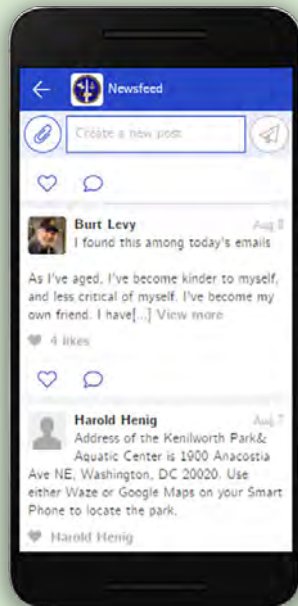


Image of messages
from our Brethren



During a recent trip to Deep Creek Lake, WB Joshua Rubin and Bro. Chester Katz took a trip to Oakland, MD.

This photo was taken outside of the home of Oakland Lodge #192 AF&AM of Maryland.

IN MEMORIAM

Bro Jeffrey Rothman

Born: July 17th, 1944

EA°: November 23rd, 1965

FC°: February 22nd, 1966

MM°: March 29th, 1966

Died: July 15th, 2020

Bro Morton Allen Davis

Born: August 10th, 1930

EA°: October 22nd, 1957

FC°: November 26th, 1957

MM°: February 25th, 1958

Died: August 2nd, 2020

Bro Norman G Schikevitz

Born: August 28th, 1930

EA°: March 12th, 1957

FC°: April 9th, 1957

MM°: July 9th, 1957

Died: February 14th, 2020

Bro Jack J Klawans

Born: May 28th, 1924

EA°: February 14th, 1956

FC°: March 13th, 1956

MM°: April 24th, 1956

Died: July 14th, 2020

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Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig
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Visitations Vacant
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving
Baskets..... SD Jeffrey Greenwald, jgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
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Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation President—Vacant
Sec. Treas..... Michael K. Greenwald, PM
JW Jeffrey Greenwald
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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

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
September	8	<i>Stated Virtual Communication</i> <i>Anniversary Night & Speaker</i> <i>Virtual Meeting</i> Lodge opens at 7:30 pm Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org	Masons
	13	<i>JSSA Rosh Hashannah Baskets</i> JSSA Rockville, Ohr Kodesh Chevy Chase See enclosed article Let Jeff Greenwald know if you can attend jw@sgbf45.org	Everyone
October	13	<i>Virtual Stated Communication</i> <i>Wardens' Night</i> <i>Virtual Meeting</i> Lodge opens at 7:30 pm Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org	Masons

Date		Event	Open to
October	26	<i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm <i>Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone
November	10	<i>Stated Virtual Communication</i> <i>Elections</i> <i>Virtual Meeting</i> Lodge opens at 7:30 pm Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org	Masons
	22	<i>Billy Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Baskets</i> Kensington Lodge See enclosed article Let Jeff Greenwald know if you can attend jw@sgbf45.org	Everyone
	26	<i>Virtual Meet-Up</i> 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm <i>Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone