



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

bulletin

Volume XCVIII • Number 12
December 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)



Please Attend

95TH INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

*Join us for our Open Installation of our
2021 Officers*

Everyone is welcome to attend

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, December 13th, 2020

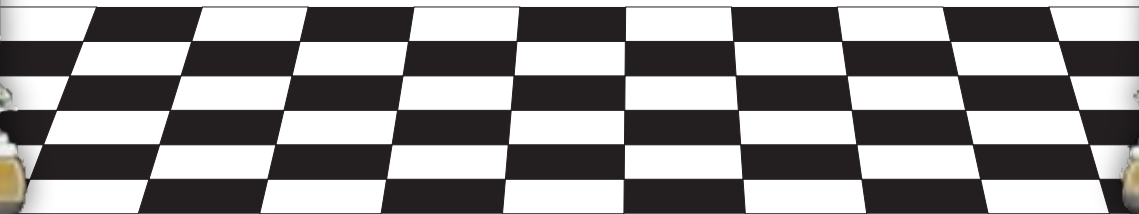
First Ever Virtual Installation

Installation Chair - Allen J. Wright, PM, MA

Dress code for Installation:

Officers in Tuxedo T-Shirts

Brethren in nice shirts.





Light From the East

By Jerry P. Keilsohn

I started writing this column for the Bulletin when I was Junior Steward at the encouragement of several brethren. The first one appeared in the March 2015 Bulletin. It is now many years later, and this is the last one from me sitting in a chair. I have sat in all the line officer chairs

except one.

To say that this has been an unusual year is an understatement. Certainly not the one I planned last summer for this year. That plan worked really well for January, February, and by pure calendar magic, even into March and April (thank you, Moses). By May that schedule went into the trash. By June, it went into the shredder. By July it was just a memory.

We pulled together, reworked what we were doing, and managed to pull off a successful rest of the year. That would not have been possible without all of the rest of the officers pulling together and embracing what is now pretty normal. A Zoom-Masonic meeting. I have attended many of them at other Lodges. Many of them were like us. They struggled in the beginning and then as we started to figure things out, things got better. Even the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master went through the same evolution as the rest of us. His year was not what he planned either and he had some really aggressive plans.

We not only survived but to a very small extent, we expanded in a direction we had not considered. One of my favorite memories from the last few months was that my son was able to join us at that first virtual Lodge meeting. Yet, he was at home 150 miles away. Grand visitation is another one, where we had brethren from all over the world attending.

When I started to get my thoughts together to write this, I was originally going to list all the things we did manage to do. I ended up doing that in my report to the Grand Master, which was in last month's Bulletin. I am really proud of what we accomplished this year even if looks nothing like what I had planned. I am skipping repeating the same stuff over again. My next thought

was to list all the things I had planned that did not happen. That is depressing, so I am going to skip that too.

My one big regret for this year. Something I had exactly zero control over. We were not able to initiate, pass, or raise a single Mason this year.

Next month, this space will be filled by the new Worshipful Master. As each Worshipful Master has taken their turn on spreading some Light for all of us in this space, the style changes, the tone changes, and even the topics change. A true reflection of how we are all different.

It will be interesting to sit on the side-lines and not have to wear a tuxedo. Spoiler alert, actually, neither of these is going to happen. When I started writing this column, I planned to trace my journey as a Mason. Some emphasis on starting at the end of the Officers line, and some emphasis on just learning about and learning from being a Mason. While I have now reached the end of this Lodges' line, the Journey is still far from over.

As I have in the past, I will close with a quote. My first quote was in the November 2015 Bulletin. In the past, finding a suitable quote often takes me longer than writing the rest of this article. My first choice is to try and find one from a notable brother Mason. When that does not work out, I then look for other famous people. Sometimes that works, and sometimes it does not. Often, I have an idea of what topic I want the quote to be about and ask Ms. Google and Mr. Bing for their help. Occasionally I spot one someplace else. One month I got one off a church sign. Another was a Yiddish saying. And even a few from fictional characters.

It took me a while to find an appropriate one for this month. Actually a really long time, as none of the above was even remotely working for me. For this one, I want you the reader to think about it.

"L'Chaim!"

As for the author – me!

INSTALLATION OF OUR 2021 OFFICERS

Installation of our new officers will be held at our Stated Communication, Sunday December 13th and will take place for the first time and perhaps not the last time from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. I say hopefully not the last time as our installation is open to family and friends and we know that a virtual meeting allows many Brethren and family members to participate.

The Lodge will conduct a short meeting following the last opening by our out-going Worshipful Master, Jerry Kielsohn. The Lodge will go to recess so that all family and friends who are present can observe the installation.

This will be a festive event and the number of presentations will be made at the installation. Please plan on including your spouse and family after we open so that we may meet them and we can all participate in the fellowship which will follow.

We are fortunate to have another full and strong line for the ensuing year and we hope you will come out to show your support for success in the new year.

2021 Officer Election results:

Worshipful Master..... **Burt S. Levy, PM**
Senior Warden..... **Jeffrey R. Greenwald**
Junior Warden..... **Allen R. Levy**
Secretary..... **Raymond Horn**

Treasurer **Robert H. Starr, PGM**
Senior Deacon..... **Derek Gould**
Junior Deacon **Aaron Kamerer**
Trustee **Julien P. Hofberg, PM (2023)**

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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

Congratulations!

NEW GRAND LODGE OFFICER ELECTED FROM SGBF No. 45

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia held its first on-line election and Virtual 2020 Annual Communication on Saturday, November 21st, 2020.

Our own Michael K. Greenwald, PM has served as the Grand Marshall this year.

WB Michael is located on the far right side, in the first row of the photograph above of the 2020 Grand Lodge Officers. He was elected as the new Grand Junior Steward and when installed, will step into the Grand Officer line behind the current JGS, RWB Jean-Paul Dongmo who is a frequent visitor to our Lodge. It is good to see another Lodge member in the Grand Line and we look forward to hosting a special party when he advances to the East in the Grand Lodge.

Additionally, our Lodge Chaplain, WB Walter Simon as a new title, Grand Chaplain-Emeritus.



GRAND LODGE INSTALLATION

AT THE THIRD STATED COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

The Grand Master will convene the Third Stated Communication of the Grand Lodge at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 12, 2020 with a virtual component. At this Communication the Grand Lodge will install the Grand Lodge Officers in a ceremony open to the public virtually. As many members and their families of our Lodge should be there to witness the installation of our very own, Right Worshipful Brother Michael K. Greenwald, JGS-elect.

COVID-19 Will Not Stop SGBF No. 45!

On a blustery Saturday evening (November 21st), about 15 of us wore masks and gloves to put together 115 Thanksgiving Baskets for distribution to the neediest of our community. Of course, this is not unusual for the brethren as we do this on an annual basis. This year, however, was like no other due to the pandemic, but it did not stop us from performing one of the most vital aspects of Freemasonry, to provide for others who cannot provide for themselves. We altered our plans somewhat as we usually put together the baskets early on the Sunday morning before Thanksgiving, just prior to distribution to the JSSA drivers who deliver them. Accomplishing this on Saturday evening turned out to be much more efficient as we simply used the covered back parking lot at the Kensington Safeway, where we set up tables and used an assembly line to eventually load the baskets onto the truck. The Safeway workers were very accommodating in bringing the purchased goods to us and we accomplished everything in less than 90 minutes.

Participating on Saturday night: JW Jeffrey R. Greenwald* and his daughter Dara, WM Jerry P. Keilsohn*, SW Burt S. Levy*, PM, Secretary Raymond Horn*, PM, Treasurer Robert H. Starr, PGM, and his wife Vickie, JD Derek Gould* who brought a prospective member, SS Aaron Kamerer* and his wife Shelly*, Bro Thomas Ebilaine, and Bro Joel Van Vollenhoven and his wife Paula and daughters Sammie and Jacky.

Bro David Torchinsky and his wife Laura also came by. Bro Hal Henig and those Brethren listed above with a * by their name participated on Sunday.

Then on Sunday morning (November 22nd), about 8 of us got together at the Kensington Masonic Lodge, where we used the parking lot to stage the baskets, made sure that the frozen turkeys matched each basket, then loaded the Turkeys and baskets into the cars of the JSSA volunteers for delivery. This process took about 2 hours. See the pictures attached as they will help to describe the event in full. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and many needy members of our community received holiday joy.

This year, in addition to the 100 needy families of the JSSA community, we were approached by another needy community at the Eagle Academy in Southeast DC. We gladly helped out and provided them with 15 full baskets and whole turkeys. All in all, even in these most difficult times, the brethren of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 came through once again. Thanks to all of those who volunteered their time and their monetary donation. We will do this again next year, hopefully under better conditions which allow everyone who would have liked to participate to come. Also, we look forward to participating fully in the many other charitable events that we so willingly become participants.

Thank you to Kensington-Bethesda lodge # 198 and Bro Steven Stumpp who came out early to open up the Lodge and make sure we had everything we needed.







NOVEMBER MEETING CELEBRATED VETERANS DAY AND A GREAT GAME OF MASONIC JEOPARDY

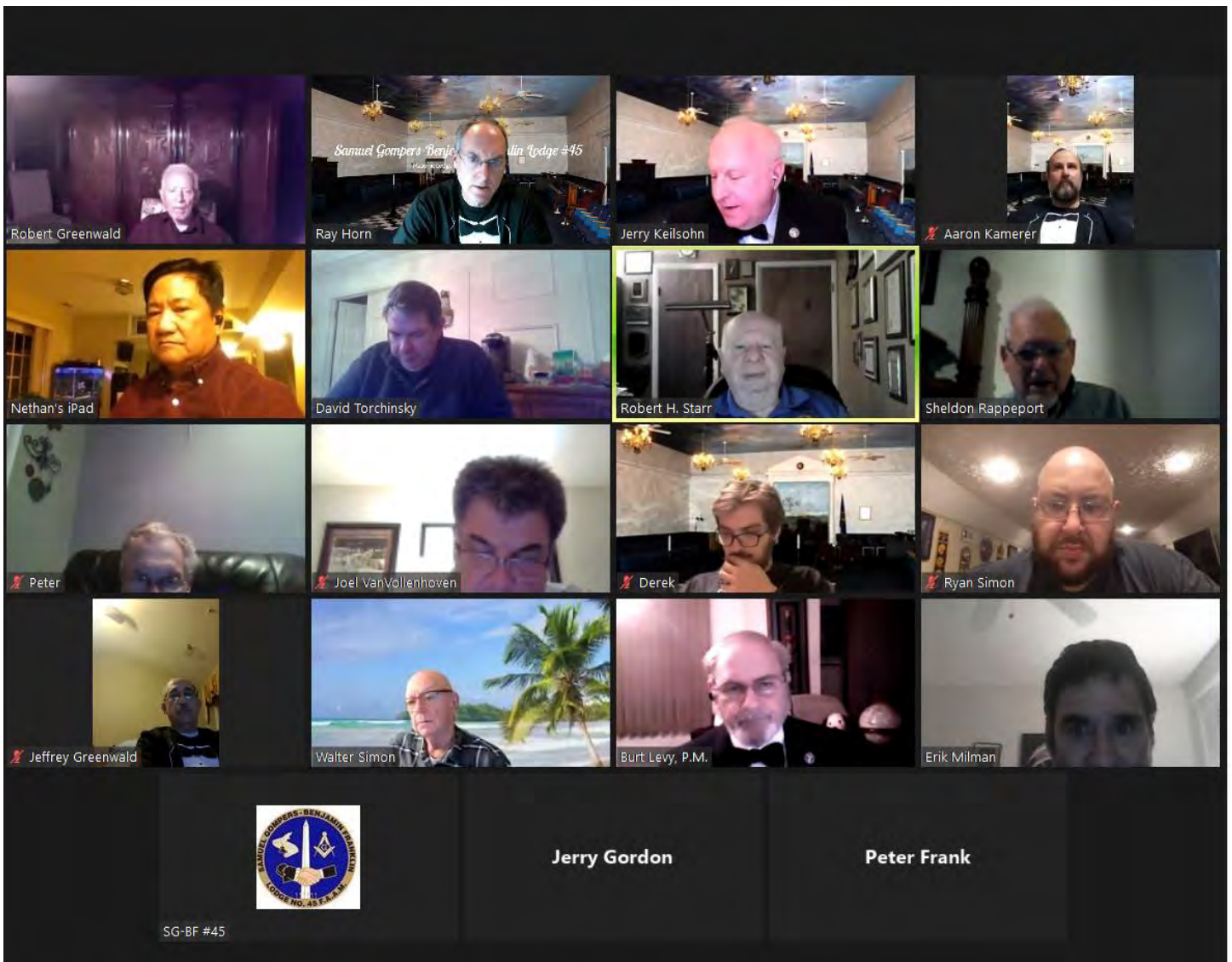
At our November Stated Communication, the WM led a discussion on Veterans Day and asked each of the veterans present to talk briefly about their service. The WM thanked all Veterans for their service to the country. Our Fidelity Medal Recipient Jerrold Gordon, PM started these remembrances of his service in the U.S. Army during WWII. SW Jeff Greenwald served for his career in the U.S. Navy Medical Service. Robert Greenwald, PM served in the U.S. Marines during multiple tours in Vietnam and Cambodia. Chaplain Walter F. Simon, PM served in the U.S. Army in the mid-1950s in Germany and traveled widely in Europe. SW Burt Levy served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was stationed state-side. MC Sheldon I. Rappeport served in the U.S. Army

in the Finance Corps and SS Aaron Kamerer served in the U.S. Marines as a TOW Gunner. Bro. Kamerer has two sons who are now serving, one in the U.S. Navy and one who just entered the U.S. Marines.

Following our vote, WM Jerry Keilsohn hosted an energetic and cleverly designed game of Masonic Jeopardy which made for a fun and engaging meeting. Jerry created a game with a set of appropriate categories: Masonic Presidents, Masonic History, Famous Masons, Famous Business Masons, DC Freemasonry, and Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin. The evening passed quickly with some good sportsmanship being displayed by the Brethren. A good time was had by all.

Masonic Presidents	Masonic History	Famous Masons	Famous Business Masons	DC Freemasonry	Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin
				\$200	\$200
				\$300	\$300
			\$400	\$400	\$400
		\$500	\$500	\$500	

The game board for the Masonic Jeopardy.



The November meeting was well attended.

**What are
Federal No. 1,
Alexandria-Brook No. 2,
Columbia No. 3,
Naval No. 4, and
Potomac No. 5?**

**Named for his daughter,
he is the founder of the
very popular Wendy's
Restaurants.**

Samples of the wildly exciting Jeopardy game.

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND

During the last officers' meeting, David Torchinsky, PM showed a photograph he had of the Samuel Gompers Officer Line of 1961. The tall, Junior Warden to next to the Master is Allen Wright. He became the Master two years later in 1963. His memory still serves him well. If you know the unidentified Brother, please let us know.



The 1961 officer's photo has, from left to right in the front row: Bill Boker, Jerome Saidman. Jacob Sandler, Arnold White, Ben Shendell, Allen Wright. Joe Hurwitz, Joe Hein and Bob Frank.

Rear row left to right:

An unidentified brother, Irv Shwartz, Morris Silberman. Saul Weiss, another unidentified brother, and Ben Suls.

IN MEMORIAM

Bro Donald S. Jacobs, PM (1986)

Born: October 31st, 1931

EA°: April 15th, 1980

FC°: May 13th, 1980

MM°: June 24th, 1980

Died: November 6, 2020

Bro Charles H. Marcus

Born: November 30, 1926

EA°: April 3rd, 1951

FC°: May 15th, 1951

MM°: June 5th, 1951

Died: November 28th, 2019

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2020 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master Jerry P. Keilsohn, wm@sgbf45.org, 301-570-0446
Senior Warden Burt S. Levy, PM, sw@sgbf45.org, 202-409-4449
Junior Warden Jeffrey R. Greenwald, jw@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
Secretary Raymond Horn, rhorn@sgbf45.org, 443-253-0605
6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, secretary@sgbf45.org
Treasurer Robert H. Starr, PGM, treasurer@sgbf45.org, 301-460-3088
Chaplain Walter F. Simon, PM, DSM, chaplain@sgbf45.org, 301-318-2485
Master-of-Ceremonies..... GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
mc@sgbf45.org, 301-598-8379
Senior Deacon Allen R. Levy, sd@sgbf45.org, 703 470-4945
Junior Deacon..... Derek Gould, jd@sgbf45.org, 240-938-6285
Senior Steward Aaron Kamerer, ss@sgbf45.org, 202-510-5181
Junior Steward..... Alex Rieser, js@sgbf45.org, 202-253-9284
Trustees..... Julien P. Hofberg, PM (2020), trustee@sgbf45.org, 301-774-2868
Jerome M. Bauman, PA, MA (2021), trustee@sgbf45.org, 301-593-2478
Jeffrey Greenwald, (2022) jgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
Fidelity Medal Recipient..... Jerrold Gordon, PM, MA
redskinjer1@verizon.net, 301-598-3408
Historian..... Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@sgbf45.org, 301-318-2485
Aide to the Master Hal Henig, hhenig@sgbf45.org, 301-681-3873
Tiler John R. Garrison, PM, johngarrison08@yahoo.com, 301-864-4981
Immediate PM Robert Greenwald, wm@sgbf45.org, 703-960-9039

2019 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation..... Burton Penn, PM, bpenn@sgbf45.org, 202-249-9008
Masonic & Eastern Star Home Jerome Bauman, PM
jbauman@sgbf45.org, 301-593-2478
St. John's Mite Association..... Michael Greenwald, PM
mgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-272-0168

2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Auditing Kevin Stemp, kstemp@sgbf45.org
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock, PM
jbinstock@sgbf45.org, 301-442-4812
Bulletin Editor Raymond Horn, PM, rhorn@sgbf45.org, 443-253-0605
Communications Chair Derek R. Gould, dgould@sgbf45.org, 240-938-6285
Business Manager..... Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@sgbf45.org, 301-318-2485
By-Laws..... Robert H. Starr, PGM, rhstarr@sgbf45.org, 301-460-3088
Degree Director/Catechism Glem Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
srappeport@sgbf45.org, 301-598-8379
Catechism Instructors..... Burt S. Levy, PM, blevy@sgbf45.org, 202 409-4449
Burton Penn, PM, bpenn@sgbf45.org, 202-249-9008
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@sgbf45.org, 301-989-8945
Candidates' Proficiency..... Burt Levy, PM, jw@sgbf45.org, 202-409-4449
Relief W.M., S.W., J.W.
Funeral, Visitations Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@sgbf45.org, 301-989-8945
Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@sgbf45.org, 301-318-2485
Investment..... Jerome M. Bauman, PA, MA, jbauman@sgbf45.org, 301-593-2478
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
Baskets..... SD Jeffrey Greenwald, jgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
David B. Torchinsky, PM, dtorchinsky@sgbf45.org, 301-933-1955
Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation President—Vacant
Sec. Treas..... Michael K. Greenwald, PM
JW Jeffrey Greenwald
Michael J. Rinis, PM, mrinis@sgbf45.org, 301-384-8244

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
December	13 <i>Stated Communication - Installation Virtual Meeting, 1:00 p.m. Open on the EA Degree</i> Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org <i>** Note - Lodge will go to recess after opening. Family & Friends are welcome for the installation.</i>	Everyone
	28 <i>Virtual Meet-Up 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone

Date	Event	Open to
January	12 <i>Stated Communication Virtual Meeting</i> Lodge opens on the EA Degree at 7:30 pm Request link from the Secretary if you plan to attend Secretary@sgbf45.org	Masons
	25 <i>Virtual Meet-Up 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Virtual Meeting</i> see the link or phone number in the App or email	Everyone