

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

# bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 2  
January 2021

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)

## FEBRUARY STATED

# & Valentine's Day Event

Our February Stated Communication and Valentine's Day Event will be held on Tuesday, February 9th. Our regular tiled meeting will open on the E.A. Degree promptly at 7:30 PM and our business will be conducted with alacrity so that we may conclude our work by 8:00 PM, at which time which time we will close and invite our significant others to join us for a Valentine's Social.

Our Lodge has enjoyed several years of Valentine Dance Parties and dessert tastings. This year of course we are not going to be dancing together although you are welcome to dance with your partner at any time. Our Worshipful Master will invite each of us to share our story of how we met our partner. Please be ready to share an early photo from your relationship.

Don't forget to RSVP through evite or directly to the Secretary, [secretary@sgbf45.org](mailto:secretary@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

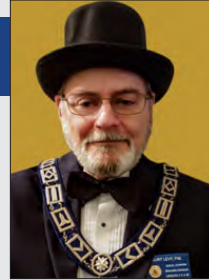
*To learn more about Masonry:*  
**We meet the second Tuesday night  
at Takoma Masonic Center**

Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*, [wm@sgbf45.org](mailto:wm@sgbf45.org)  
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*  
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

2B1  ASK1

## Light From the East

Burt Levy, W.M. 2021



My Brethren:

Well, January 2021 is “in the books” and we are still social distancing and otherwise avoiding the feared Covid-19. I recall that for the first six months of the virus scare, I did not hear of anyone falling ill, let alone dying from it. I began to resent having to wear my mask; being banned from having Lodge meetings; prohibited from restaurants and washing my hands as soon as I touched anything out of my home. All of these doubts were worsened by receiving “mixed messages” from the people we usually depend on for reliable information. The leaders of our country could not agree on wearing masks, closing schools/businesses, etc. and then they even took to politicizing these things. We saw our fellow Americans so frustrated that they fought over these things. But then I did begin to hear about friends and relatives who had contracted the virus. For some, it was no worse than a bad case of flu. Others were hospitalized and dependent on supplemental oxygen, or worse – being put on ventilators. Then inevitably, we began to lose people who were near and dear to us and our Lodge. Among our nearest and dearest were Past Grand Master and honorary member Jerold J. Samet and our very own Past Master and Fidelity Medal Holder, Jerrold Gordon. These losses made the seriousness of the virus clear to us.

As Worshipful Master, I had the responsibility, and the honor of performing the last Masonic Rites for W. B. Gordon. I am certain that a huge crowd would have attended Jerry’s funeral, but we were restricted to no more than 25 for the graveside service. Our Funeral Rites were limited to just three members, so Past Masters Raymond Horn and Jerry Keilsohn assisted me in delivering a very dignified sendoff. That evening, we attended a “virtual” Shiva service ably led by W.B. Allen Wright after which family members and friends paid their respects and shared stories of Jerry. Shirley, Jerry’s widow also contracted the disease but is convalescing at home and is improving. Sometime soon, I intend to hold another Memorial for W.B. Gordon on Zoom where we can share photos and memories of our dear departed Brother.

Our first Stated Communication of the year was enjoyed by all who “logged on.” We dispatched the business of the Lodge with aplomb and efficiency, then opened the meeting to family and friends who were treated to interesting and fascinating presentations of Masonic antiques and collectibles. It seems that our PM. Michael Greenwald is an avid collector of Dudley Masonic Pocket Watches, so much so that I quipped that if he continued to collect them, he would soon have them ALL!

If you are reading this but have NOT attended our Lodge Meetings or the Meet-Ups that Brother Hal Henig does, I have to ask: WHY NOT? I just cannot see any reason to have to skip getting to share some time with your Masonic family and letting us see you and to know that you are an active member. If the reason is that you are unsure of how to avail yourself of the teleconferencing ability of your computer, laptop, or smartphone, then I encourage you to get in touch with me. I have commissioned a Technology and Communications Committee whose members will be tasked with helping you learn how to use these valuable means of maintaining the closeness of our treasured Brotherhood.

Hopefully, you will be “up-to-speed” and able to join us on February 9th when our ‘Stated’ meeting will begin at 7:30 PM and end at 7:50 PM so that at 8:00 PM, we can enjoy an evening of honoring the Lovely Ladies and partners of our Masonic Family. It has been our tradition in February’s past to hold a Valentine’s Celebration of affection and dancing for our significant others and we will look forward to doing just that.

Please stay well, wear your mask, wash your hands, and get immunized as soon as you are eligible. I was thrilled to have received my first Covid-19 vaccination on January 23rd and I want to report that it was painless and entirely free of any side effects.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

*Burt*

# Masonic Antiques Roadshow

## CAPTIVATED OUR MEMBERS



Gavels presented by Robert H. Starr, PGM



Allen Wright, PM presents his mini working tools

An excellent series of presentations were made by our Brethren during our Masonic Antique Road Show which followed our January Stated Communication. Our kickoff Roadshow presenter was our own Michael Greenwald, PM who presented his Dudley Masonic Watch Collection. Michael gave the story of the Dudley Watch company while he presented a great selection of watch models with unique dial engravings and visible works that incorporated a multitude of Masonic symbols. He explained the different models and collectible attributes of this fascinating Masonic antique. A separate article about the Dudley Watch Company and images of Michael's watch collection is in this *Bulletin*.

Robert H. Starr, PGM displayed various masonic items that he has collected including a set of gavels made of stone from Solomon's quarries with olive wood from Jerusalem, a 100 year old Meerschaum Masonic Tool Set bought in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar and the gift of a Dudley watch from his wife Vickie when he left his role as Grand Master. Allen Wright, PM displayed a set of miniature Ivory working tools. The last major presentation from Joshua Rubin, PM of a number of highlights of scanned Lodge Records that he has made. He scanned historic bulletins, correspondence, minutes, and other records. Some of these records include the first minutes as a lodge under dispensation before we were chartered which was called to order by Bro. Henry J. Gompers, the son of Samuel Gompers. At this first meeting, Bro. Gompers was nominated to become the first Master of the Lodge. A

*Antiques Roadshow continued on page 5*

Antiques Roadshow continued from on page 4 number of interesting items included Field Day stories, Blood Drives, Our current Master's Petition, Kiddies Day notices, Cruise Programs, and many interesting photos from important events.

There was so much interesting content that prompted a lively discussion that WM Burt Levy promised to hold another event to explore our antiques.

**Cover of our First Bulletin**

**Merger Announcement, Effective June 14, 1983**



**Blood drive from 1943**

A few of the Blood Donors who went in a group on April 26th, and who will repeat this month

# The History of Dudley Timepieces

BY BROTHER C. JULIUS CLARK

FROM HIS BOOK "MASONIC TIMEPIECES, RINGS, BALLS & WATCH FOBS"

William Wallace Dudley was born in 1851 in St. John, New Brunswick Canada. He began his career as a horologist at the age of 13, when he became an apprentice to a maker of ship chronometers in Canada. Some years later after completing his apprenticeship, he moved to the United States and joined

the Waltham Watch factory in Waltham, Mass., where he was employed as a model maker.

Dudley moved around from one watch factory to another gaining knowledge and experience. He went to Springfield, Ill., where he was connected with the Illinois Watch Company, and later moved to South Bend, Indiana, where

he joined the South Bend Watch Company as superintendent. His next move was back east to Chambersburg, N.J., to work for the Trenton Watch Company. From 1906 to 1920, he was designer and superintendent of manufacture at the Hamilton Watch Company, Lancaster, Pa., but left at the age of 69 to fulfill

*Dudley timepieces continued on page 7*

**Photographs are of watches presented by RWB Michael Greenwald for our Masonic Antique Road Show.**



*A Model 2 which includes a Bible among the Masonic Symbols*



*One of several examples of the front dial*



*The Model 3 which came after Dudley left the Company*



*A different example of a front*



*An engraved front dial*



*A variation of the engraved dial*

his dream of establishing a watch factory. It is believed Mr. Dudley had seen the The M. Tobias & Co. watch made in England with the two Masonic emblems in the balance cock.

Deeply interested in Freemasonry, he was a member of both York and Scottish Rites, the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Tall Cedars of Lebanon. According to his daughter, he started working on his first Masonic watch 15 - 20 years before he patented his design.

In 1918, Dudley started to work on a Masonic watch with its bridge plate in the form of Masonic symbols (a slipper, plumb, trowel, level, square, compasses, the Letter "G" and a Bible). These emblem parts were machined by Brother Willis R. Michael. Dudley later applied for and was granted design patents dated June 29, 1923.

George W. Adams and John D. Wood, local retail jewelers and both Masons, became Dudley's partners.

Property was acquired at South West End and Maple Ave., Lancaster, Pa. The original project of the company was to design and build a 14 size, 19 jewel, 14kt. solid gold watch, which is referred to as a Model 1. By 1923, the Dudley Watch Company, faced with dwindling sales and heavy competition from other companies producing smaller watches, decided to go ahead with the development of a 12 size, 19 jewel, 14kt. gold filled watch, which was referred to as a Model 2. The Model 2 differs from its forerunner by having a silver colored Bible mounted, so as to cover the bevel pinion which was previously exposed. This watch used the wheels and escapement design from the Hamilton models.

At full production the company employed 18 - 20 men including Arthur and Clifford Dudley, sons of the founder. As it was primarily an assembly operation, the employees were all high-skilled watchmakers, most of whom had worked in the Hamilton Watch Company.

The price of the watches varied with the styles cases, top line ranged from \$125.00 to \$250.00. By late 1924, the company was heavily in debt and management was trying desperately to find a solution to its problem. On February 28, 1925, a petition was introduced in the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia that the Dudley Watch Company be adjudged bankrupt. After leaving the Company, Dudley was in serious difficulties. He had invested all his available capitol in his brain-child and at the age of 74 found himself out of work and nearly broke. He accepted a job at Hamilton Watch Company as a mechanic where he continued to work until 1931, retiring at the age of 80.

On February 8, 1938 Dudley died at Lancaster, Pa. Nearly 60 years after Brother Dudley's business was declared bankrupt, his dream has come true and today his watches are considered very rare and it's a privilege to be an owner of a Dudley pocket watch. In the 15 years that Dudley watches were produced in Lancaster, less than 2,600 watches of the Masonic design were made.

## Recognitions of Service to the Fraternity

*MESH awarded RWB Michael Greenwald the Volunteer of the Year Award. It came with a beautiful plaque and a \$2,000 donation to the charity of his choice. Our Brother donated the funds to healthcare workers.*



*Robert H Starr, PGM received a special Meritorious Service Award from the Grand Lodge in recognition of his work supporting committees of the Grand Lodge.*

# Eulogy for Jerry Gordon, PM

JANUARY 2021



Jerry Gordon, PM



Jerry Gordon, PM, his wife Shirley, Allen Wright, PM on the day of the 75th Memorial of D-Day

Eulogy for Jerry Gordon, PM. Delivered by Arlene Karpas, Jerry Gordon's niece and Bro. Alan Karpas' wife.

Our lives are molded by the people we meet on life's journey.

Jerry may be gone physically, we cannot see or hear him, but he has touched our lives which will live within us forever. A gentle spirit, his kind actions, and words we will hold close to our hearts.

Here is a snapshot of what we know and love of Jerry:

He was born in Norristown, PA. He moved to Baltimore, MD one month later.

### **Jerry loved family.**

After finishing military service, Jerry met Shirley at a JCC dance in Washington, DC. Shirley was one of five children and her mother was one of seven, so with all of their spouses and kids, Jerry was

blessed with a large, loving family.

I was a flower girl at their wedding, not quite two years old, not quite 71 years ago. Last year we celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Riggs Park – Bagel Beach Day trips to the beach on the Chesapeake Bay, Friday night dinners, holidays, etc.

Howard Lee came and put a big smile on our faces; a mischievous child who loved to play.

Grandchildren special to him, Jeremy, Kristi, and Britteny were close to each other as young children and now as young adults.

### **Jerry was a hard worker.**

He had his own small business – DGS in Petworth Market on 7th St NW. He was a manager of a food distribution center for United Wholesalers for almost 20 years.

### **Jerry enjoyed sports.**

He was the quintessential Redskin

fan, he watched all the games and had all the paraphernalia.

### **Jerry was a patriot.**

He served in the Navy, he served during Pearl Harbor and Guadalcanal, and was decorated for his service. He received a special award from the Masons for his service in World War II.

### **Jerry believed in brotherhood and community service.**

He was devoted to the Masons for 72 years.

Served in leadership capacities and believed in and acted to give back to others in the community less fortunate than he was.

He ran the brunches for the monthly brunch/program for Jewish Residents of Leisure World.

There is a destiny that makes us brothers; none goes his way alone.

All that we put into the lives of others comes back into our own.





Some examples of the flashcards made by SW Jeff Greenwald for the MLK Day of Service Project. They will be used at a Washington DC Public School.

# A Dream Worth Believing.....

BY S W J E F F G R E E N W A L D

When the late Reverend, Martin Luther King Jr orated his “I Have a Dream” Speech in the ‘60s, there was much strife in America, but are times much different now? We have a divided country and racism is prevalent. Can we still achieve the dream? As an optimist, I will definitely say yes. But achieving the dream of a more unified country with equality for all is going to be hard. Some of you will say it is impossible. I challenge all of you to help the needy; give of your time and financial support if necessary. Follow the basic tenet of Freemasonry to lend a hand. This is not Socialism. This is simply doing what is right.

Fortunately, the Brethren of SGBF#45 seem to always come through. In January, the Lodge donated to CityYear, a subdivision of Americorps to help beautify several of the DC public schools. Also, several Brethren along with their families and friends participated in the MLK day of service on January 18th. It was an easy way to give back to our community in a virtual “Covid” way. More of these opportunities will arise over the next several months. If you feel you have the ability, please participate in any way that you deem fit. Looking forward to going back to our non-virtual ways!

## 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	Sheldon Rapoport.....	17	Ryan Simon.....	23
M. Lustig.....	8	Roman Volsky.....	19	Stephen Costin.....	25
Nathan Lewis.....	11	Jerold Coffee.....	23	Francis Boylin.....	28
Maurice Berger.....	17				

# To all brethren who are Veterans

BY ROBERT GREENWALD, PM

As a reminder now is the time to insure that your DD214 document is in a safe place. The DD Form 214 is a document that verifies a service member's proof of military service. This Certificate of Release or Discharge form is issued through the Department of Defense and is typically issued at the final out processing appointment prior to retirement or separation. It is a valuable document and you never know when you may need it.

Here are some of the steps needed when a Veteran dies. The DD214 is needed to ensure proper military honors can be conferred.

1. Report the death to the financial office of your service branch (if you are receiving any monies)
2. Report Survivor Benefit Plan Election (if your wife and or family receives any monies)
3. If you are retired your wife needs to update their military ID card
4. Contact the VA 1-800-827-1000 for burial and other VA benefits
5. Contact the Office of Personnel Management 1-888-767-6738 if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay
6. Notify Social Security Administration at 1-800-SSA-1213 to apply for the \$255.00 death benefit if applicable
7. Contact Arlington National Cemetery to request Military Funeral Honors (if applicable)
8. Copies of your discharge certificate and DD 214 can be requested from your branch of service as you will need to provide important information concerning the death of the Veteran.

9. Agencies are available to provide aid and assistance to surviving spouses. They are listed below:

**Arlington Cemetery - 703-607-8000**

**Gold Star Wives of America -  
1-888-751-6350**

**Military Funeral Honors - 1-866-826-3628**

**Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society -  
703-696-4904**

**National Military Families Association -  
1-800-260-0218**

**Society of Military Widows - 1-800 842-3451**

**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors -m  
1-800959-8277**

Additionally some things you will need to do:

- Gather important documents for claim processing (birth certificate, will etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements
- Start claim process for applicable benefits (SBP, Life Insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (credit cards, bank home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor's own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)

NOTE: Usually the funeral home can be of assistance for some of the above.



**a community of empowerment  
and recovery for women**

*Donate or volunteer...if you can!*

February has recently been an excellent volunteer month for SGBF #45. Over the past 4 years, we have helped to provide a nutritional breakfast and lunch at the N-Street Village Women's Shelter via the "Souper Bowl Sunday" event sponsored by the Jewish Food Experience. The team approach of creating the feast with brethren was always an "experience," but somehow the actual food not only looked good but tasted good as well. After creating the feast, we would mingle among the down-trodden as we served and catered to their nutritional needs. This year, of course, was different as the event could not be safely done during the pandemic. Instead, a monetary or in-kind donation was solicited and SGBF #45 came through to help support the shelter. A donation like this is vitally

important, especially during the cold winter months to help provide shelter and nourishment for those less fortunate. As always, SGBF #45 will strive to be a beacon of light. Individual donations are always welcome.

If you would like to make your own Souper Bowl donation to the N Street Village you may do so directly from their website: <https://www.nstreetvillage.org/make-a-donation/>.

For the month of March, our next event will be to support the Passover Baskets, created and distributed through JSSA. As Passover starts on March 27th, it is likely that Sunday, March 21st, will be the date of this event. If anyone has any other volunteer events or donation recommendations, please contact SW Jeff Greenwald.

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For the Worshipful Master..... Derek R. Gould

For the Senior Warden..... Aaron Kamerer

For the Junior Warden..... Yoel Gittleson



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 Secretary  
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 Silver Spring, MD 20910-1206




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**Calendar for Masonic Year 2021 – 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
February	9 Stated Communication A Valentine's Salute to our Ladies Open on the EA Degree Virtual Meeting, 7:30 pm Valentine Program, 8:00 pm	Masons & Significant Others
	11 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Masons
	15 Masonic Education Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Masons
	22 Virtual Meet-Up	Everyone

Date	Event	Open to
March	9 Stated Communication Open on the EA Degree Virtual Meeting, 7:30 pm	Masons
	11 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Masons
	15 Masonic Education Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Masons
	21 JSSA Passover Baskets	Everyone
	22 Virtual Meet-Up	Everyone