

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

bulletin

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March 2021

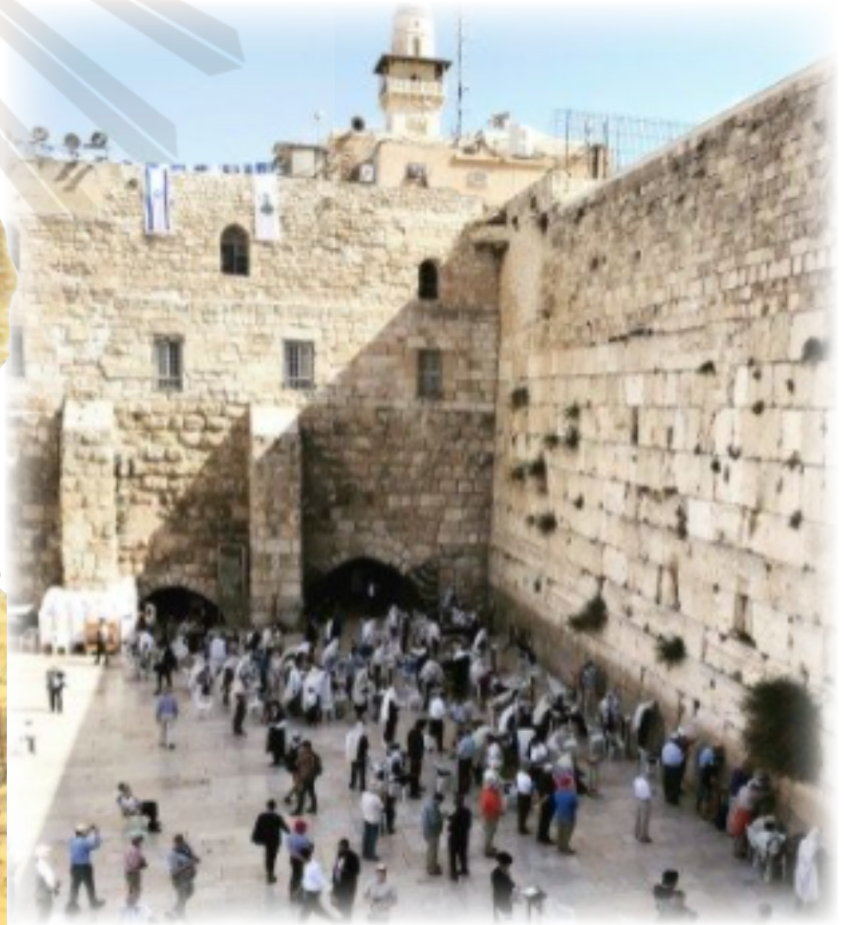
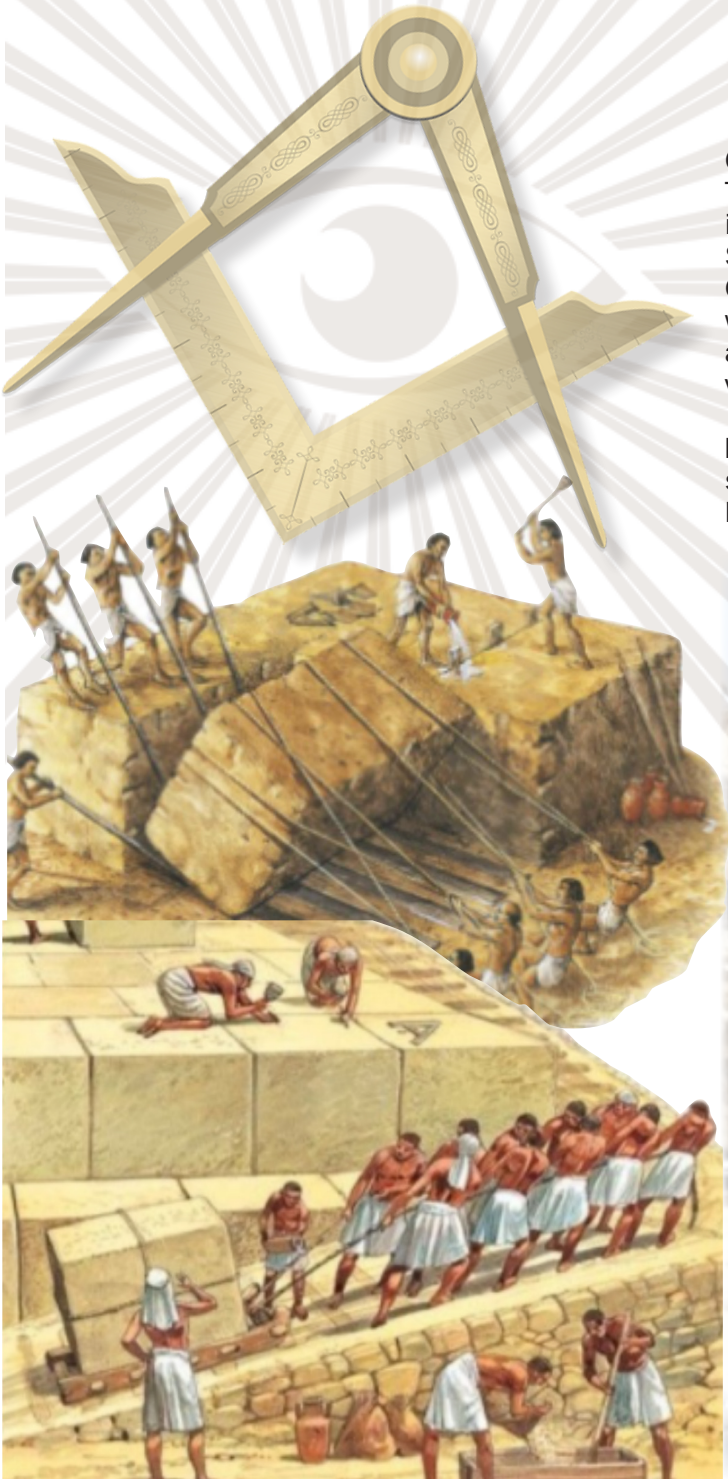
Takoma Masonic Center
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012

Meets Second Tuesday of each month except July (no meeting), and December, (second Sunday)

LEGEND OF FREEMASONRY

Our March 9th Stated Communication will explore our own legends. This will be an interesting examination of a Fraternity that began in London in 1717, but which has roots in the construction of King Solomon's Temple and maybe even back to the building of the Great Pyramids of Giza, some 4,500 years ago! The presentation will make use of our own symbolism and imagery. It will include a PowerPoint presentation with illustrations, pictures, and even a video or two.

Please plan on joining your Brethren as we explore these important stories. March 9th, 7:30 pm. We will open on the EA Degree, all Masons are welcome.



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

Burt Levy, W.M. 2021



Worthy Brethren:

We are busily building a magnificent Temple! Our workmen are toiling, and their labors are not going unnoticed. The quarries are turning out perfectly polished ashlar and our stoneworkers are fitting them with precision. As a representative of King Solomon, I must say that the Master Craftsmen are earning their wages. HOWEVER – a large percentage of our artificers are not even showing up for their Stated Communications. Now, it is possible that since the working tools of the Craft have changed to include the laptop, the desktop, or the cellular and an application known as Zoom. Since you cannot apply the square, compasses, plumb line, or level in this new world without also first learning how to use the Zoom tool, I beg you to reach out to our Technology & Communications Committee, ably chaired by our Brother Aaron Kamerer. You can phone or text him at 202-510-5181 or send him an email at aaron.kamerer@gmail.com.

Please, Brethren, we will be in the “world of Covid” for at least the next few months. I dearly want to see all of you at our meetings, so overcome your reluctance to realize the joys of teleconferencing and become an active member of your Lodge from the comfort of your own home.

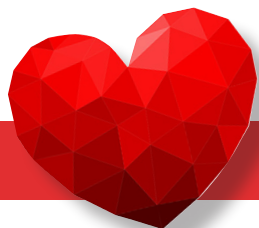
Our February meeting was followed by a Pre-Valentine’s Day social where we enjoyed seeing wedding photos of our members and were treated to wonderful romantic stories of how they met the love of their lives. Now, here is the best part. Prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 were to be offered for the

best love stories. When it became obvious that finding an impartial judge to decide who should win the money, someone suggested that the prizes should be donated to the Grand Master’s Charity which is “Bread for the City.” Immediately, everyone agreed to do just that! We were honored to have the Grand Master in attendance, and he was most impressed with the generosity of our members.

Our March 9th Stated Communication will include a look at “The Legend of Freemasonry.” This will be a very interesting and entertaining probe into the origins of a Fraternity that has existed as we know it today, since 1717, but which may have roots all the way back to the construction of the Pyramids in Giza 4,500 years ago! So, I implore you to learn how to use your Zoom tool and be sure to tune in and enjoy the evening with your Brethren. This will be a tiled meeting, so be sure to log-on from a secure location.

PS. Our Secretary, W.B. Raymond Horn, and your Lodge need just one member to step up and volunteer to take on the responsibility of editing and producing this Bulletin. This is not a difficult job, but it does require a bit of time to get all the content in, edited, and then off to the printer. I think many of our members may have a lot more spare time than our hard-working Secretary who also holds down a full-time career. Please call, text, or email W. B. Horn and seize this opportunity to help your lodge. Ray can be reached at 443 253-0605 or email secretary@sgbf45.org.

Burt



Love Stories of Our Members and Their Ladies

Our February Stated Communication and Valentine's Day Program

During our February Stated Communication, the Brethren passed a standing resolution, which begins the process of preparing for our Lodge's 100th Anniversary by setting aside funds for each of the next five years so that we may enjoy and conduct a special celebration of this important achievement. The time will pass faster than we realize and it is good to know that we are beginning our plans.

the virtual Lodge Platform opened up to include a number of guests to help us share and celebrate the Love Stories. A number of Brethren sent in wedding photographs and shared the stories of how they met and some fun remembrances of their wedding ceremonies. Almost everyone stayed for the full presentation and several Brethren including our Grand Master Alan Gordon, who had not sent their photos in were kind enough to also share their stories. As they say, "a good time was had by all."

Following our brief February Stated Communication,



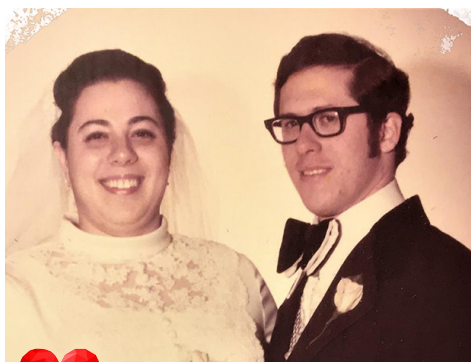
WB Raymond Horn and Aileen



WB Jerry Keilsohn and Leah



Hal Henig and Lisa



Bro Howard and Marilyn Politzer



WB David Torchinsky and Laura



MWB Robert H. Starr and Vickie



WB Walter Simon and Bonnie



JW Allen Levy and Jessica



Aaron Kamerer and Shelly

Another Successful Virtual Meet-Up

By Hal Henig

On Monday evening, January 25th, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin held the first Virtual Meet-Up for the New Year. The Theme of this Meet-Up was Brother George Washington and President's Day.

I used Brother George Washington as a theme, even though Brother Washington's Birthday is on February 22th and President's Day was held on February 15th.

Thirteen Brethren participated in this Meet-Up, which lasted close to 90 minutes. Participants were Co-Host and Chairman Hal Henig, Co-Host

and Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, WM Burt Levy, PM, Master of Ceremonies Jerry Keilsohn, PM, SW Jeff Greenwald, JW Allen Levy, JD Aaron Kamerer, Treasurer Robert H. Starr, PGM, Robert Greenwald, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Julien Hofberg, PM, Brother Alan Karpas, and FC Thom Ebilane. Due to COVID, FC Ebilane is waiting to receive his Master Mason Degree. As we know, there are no degree rituals in the Grand Lodge of The District of Columbia until our Grand Master is satisfied that it will be safe. Hopefully, we will be able to hold our degrees before the end of the year.

The Brethren talked about our First President, Brother George Washington, their COVID Vaccine Registrations, Baseball Great Henry Aaron. Also, we remembered Julien Hofberg's father, Brother Harry Hofberg. WM Burt reported that he received his first COVID vaccine at Kaiser Permanente, and he should receive his second shot by the time this Month's *Bulletin* is published.

I was happy with the large participation at the January 25th Virtual Social Event. The February Meet-Up theme will be Purim, since this Jewish Holiday will be held later the same week.

The Gossip Column

By Allen Levy

So, remember in the last edition of The Gossip Column, I told you that Senior Warden **Jeffrey Greenwald** was one of the first health care workers to receive the **COVID-19 vaccine**? Well, during the week of February 8th, he was helping military retirees and their dependents aged 75 and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine! He served as the medical attendant in a very large COVID vaccination clinic, located in the gym on the Naval Support Activity Base in Bethesda, MD. Approximately 1500 vaccines were given each day that week. Even though he is a Pediatrician who specializes in taking care of sick and premature babies, he stated that most of the elderly are just big babies anyway and he was easily able to modify his practice!

So, remember in the last edition I told you **Jerome (Jerry) Bauman** was the **second brother raised in Benjamin Franklin #50**? I had rhetorically asked, "**who was the first?**". Well, Jerry called me and left a voicemail to tell me that the **first brother raised in Benjamin Franklin #50** was (drumroll) **Rabbi Harry Silverstone!**

Jerry also wanted to relate a little about **Sylvia**

Sandler Love's family. Sylvia recently passed away. She was the widow of our late Brother **Stanley Love**.

Sylvia's brother, **Adolph Sandler**, was a good friend of Jerry. He used to hang out at the Sandler family grocery store at 12th and G Street in Northwest Washington, DC. Their father, **Frank Sandler**, was also a member of our lodge.

Even though Frank was wheelchair-bound, he was able to attend the Installation of his son, **Hyman Sandler**, in 1954. Jerry remembers Frank sitting in the grocery store finding ways to entertain the customers from his parked wheelchair.

Here's some fun news: Brother **Steve Costin** and his wife of 53 years, **Shelley** (nee Coller), celebrated Steve's first **hole-in-one** in golf! Of course, he plays every day now that they've retired in the Villages in Florida. He wants you to know that life is good!

If you have any news or gossip that you would like published here in the Bulletin in the coming months, email **Allen Levy** at jw@sgbf45.org

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

By SW Jeffrey Greenwald

Probably got you with that title. What does the Itsy Bitsy Spider have to do with Masonry? If I guess correctly, all of you learned this basic nursery rhyme while you were in kindergarten. I am sure there were other things you learned in Kindergarten. If you believe Robert Fulghum... “all you really need to know in life, you learned in Kindergarten.” Here are the ten basic rules:

- Share everything
- Play fair
- Don't hit people
- Put things back where you found them
- Clean up your own mess
- Don't take things that aren't yours
- Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody
- Wash your hands before you eat
- Flush!
- Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you

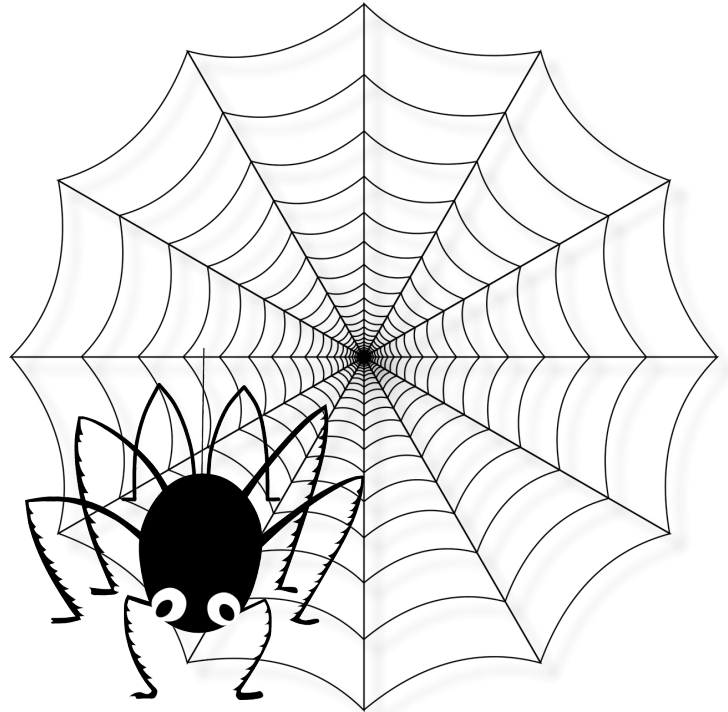
There are others, but I think you get the gist. What if we incorporated these rules into our daily lives? Why did I title this The Itsy Bitsy Spider? I heard Robert Fulghum give a graduation commencement speech where he emphasized that almost all Americans knew this basic nursery rhyme and could repeat it on the spot, but apparently, it is not taught in other parts of the world. Instead, each region of the world has their own rhymes or songs that could be considered comparable. In Europe, they are somewhat more “cultured” and everyone from Britain to Germany to Spain and Italy can easily recite at least the melody to Beethoven's Symphony #9, otherwise known as “Ode to Joy”. What Robert Fulghum did next in his speech was have everyone in the audience sing the Itsy Bitsy Spider to the tune of “Ode to Joy.” It actually worked! People from all corners of the United States (and probably some from outside the US as well since this was a very large college graduation) were singing in unison. They were playing together!!!!

Now, let's parse out the Itsy Bitsy Spider. This little fella was trying to get out into the open world and he could only do this by “climbing up a water spout.” Maybe we could think of this as the first obstacle in life, “climbing” whatever obstacle is there to get a good education and become a “mensch.” Sometimes, as the rhyme points out, the obstacle is too grand to overcome and when “the rain came, it washed the spider out.” But then, the “sun came out and dried up all the rain,” so the “itsy bitsy spider” with all the effort he could muster “climbed up the spout again.” We must gather all the effort

we can muster to improve ourselves in Masonry and become a Mensch. (For those who don't know, Mensch is Yiddish, essentially meaning “good-deed doer”). We, as Masons, do lots of good deeds. Sometimes, we are able to change the lives of those who are distressed or who are in need by simply sharing or playing fair.

Sometimes, we have to clean up our own mess and say we're sorry. Our volunteer and charitable activities are known and admired throughout DC Masonry and we will continue to participate in these activities, even if we have to alter them due to the pandemic. In February, we gave a charitable donation to the N Street Women's shelter. In March, we will participate in Passover Basket deliveries and will make a donation to JSSA, the sponsor of the event. As always, if someone has an idea of other charitable activities, please contact SW Jeffrey Greenwald.

Finally, I want to end with the “golden rule.” It may not be what you think and I will go back to quoting Robert Fulghum... maybe the world would be a better place if “we all had cookies together about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap.”



Happy Birthday

The following Brethren observe their birthdays on the **March** dates shown. Be sure to wish them well on that day.

Joel Van Vollenhoven 4
David Sadugor 6
Alexander Rieser15

Ronald Rubin20
Robert Greenwald20
Ronald Fishbein23

Lawrence Dekelbaum.....25
Jacobo Garibay27

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 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



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. 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
March	4 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	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
	18 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	21 JSSA Passover Baskets	Everyone
	29 Virtual Meet-Up	Everyone

Date	Event	Open to
April	1 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	8 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	11 Good Deeds Day	Everyone
	13 Stated Communication Open on the EA Degree Virtual Meeting, 7:30 pm	Masons
	15 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	22 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	26 Virtual Meet-Up	Everyone
	29 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons