

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

bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 4
April 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)

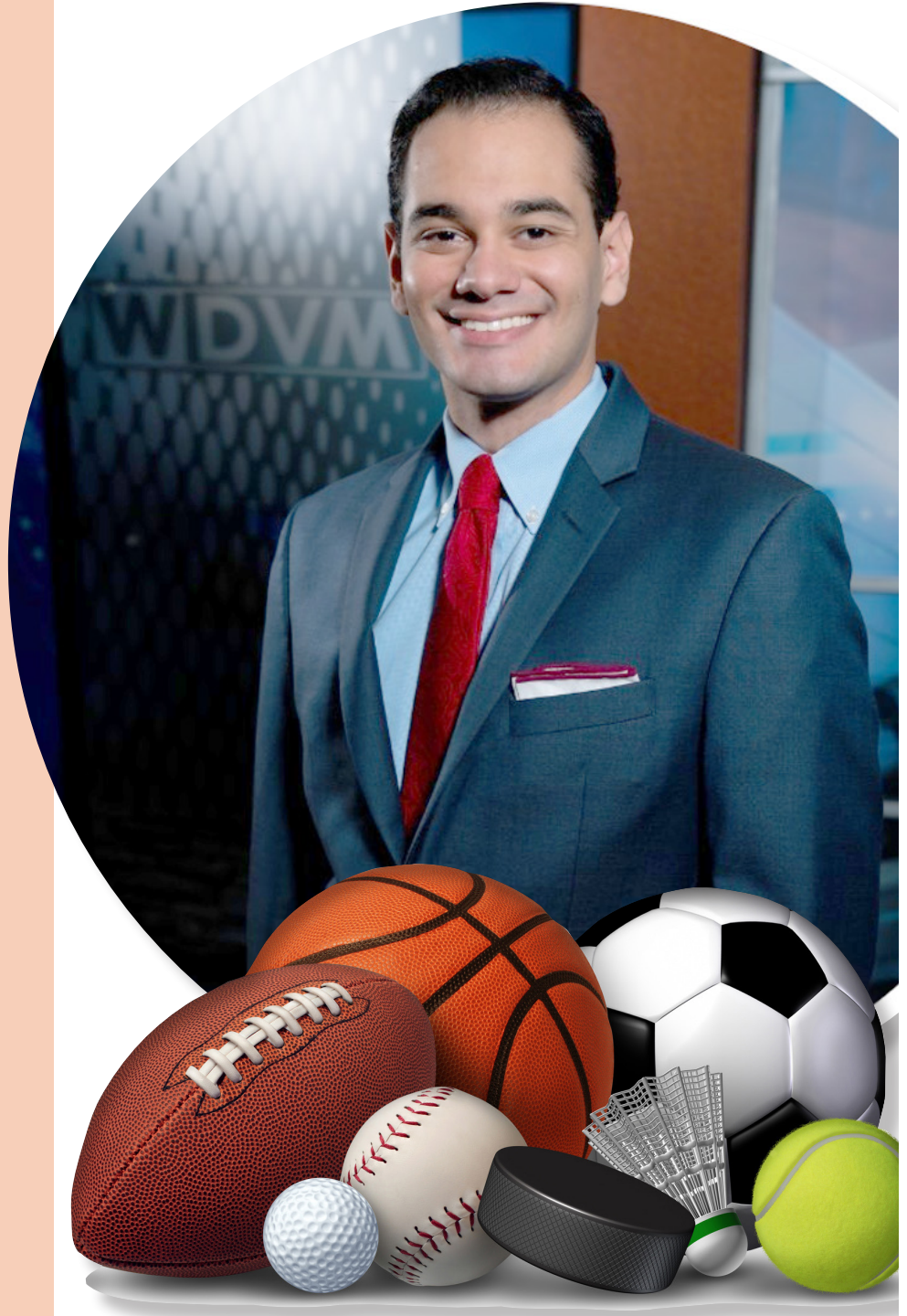
SPORTS NIGHT!

Our April 13th Meeting will bring back another tradition of SGBF#45, **Sports Night!** Good News! Local Sportscaster, Alex Flum will be our April Speaker! Alex Flum is currently a sports anchor and reporter for WDVM-TV, focusing on local sports coverage, everything from the pro teams, to college and youth sports in the Washington DC area. He previously spent two years as a Sports Anchor and reporting in Harrisonburg, VA and is a graduate of the University of Maryland.

Our April Stated Communication is Tuesday, April 13th, starting promptly at 7:30 pm. You will not want to miss this lively and timely Sports Night discussion.

A short Stated Communication will be followed by an exciting conversation about the NCAA playoff, Terrapins, Nationals, Capitols, Whatever the name of our football team is, and local youth teams! The Sports talk will be open to family and friends and will begin at 8:10 pm, immediately following our meeting.

Of course, reservations are required to receive the link for our meeting, so please respond to the evite that you received. The link to register is contained in the invitation. If you have any issues email the secretary, 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

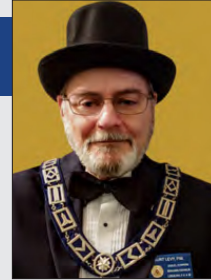
To learn more about Masonry:
**We meet the second Tuesday night
at Takoma Masonic Center**

Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*, wm@sgbf45.org
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

2B1  ASK1

Light From the East

Burt Levy, W.M. 2021



Spring has sprung and with it, the promise of renewal and better times ahead! Many of us have already received our Covid vaccinations and, soon they say, all who want the immunization will be able to get it. This, of course, brings the hope that we can soon return to the full practice of Freemasonry. By that, I mean opening our lodge rooms, conferring the Degrees, and enjoying the special warmth of Brotherhood that we as Masons share.

But, as I have said before, the virus has not put an end to the beneficial aspects of our Fraternity. Just this past month, a group of our dedicated members helped JSSA distribute 500 Passover baskets to ensure that many elderly and infirm folks could celebrate the Holiday with ample supplies.

We have also been able to continue to offer interesting meetings using the Zoom teleconferencing medium. Last month, I had the honor of presenting a talk on the 'Legend of Freemasonry.' My research for this talk resulted in copious amounts of data that support the theory that our Fraternity is based on a long line of benevolent organizations whose members were builders, scientists, artists, and elite members of society who studied the sciences and building skills throughout history. To ensure that the fruits of their discoveries did not fall into the hands of those who would use them against the betterment of mankind, they did indeed require their members to take upon themselves the obligation of secrecy. When King Solomon asked his Tyrolean counterpart, Hiram to assist him in building a magnificent Temple in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant and other sacred artifacts, Hiram employed the Brotherhood of Masons to accomplish the task. Among the most talented men, was another Hiram who was responsible for casting the beautiful embellishments that would adorn the Temple. And we all know the rest of that story. But those men and their descendants went on through the years to build magnificent Temples all through the Levant and later ranging from Greece all the way West to Scotland. They met regularly to discuss and hone their skills as Operative Masons and when the era of Temple Building began to come to an end, they decided to accept good men as 'Speculative Masons' and used the Legend of the Building of King Solomon's Temple as the basis for making these good men 'better' through assigning meaningful allegory to the various builder's tools. All of this is solid and traceable as I found in my research. When time permits, I intend to

offer more of the history of our honorable Fraternity.



Our April 13th meeting will feature a very handsome and talented local sportscaster.

Alex Flum is currently a sports anchor and reporter for WDVM-TV, focusing on Montgomery County high school sports coverage, along with everything from pros to youth sports in the DC area. He previously spent two years as a Sports Anchor and reporter at WHSV-TV ABC3 in Harrisonburg, VA. Alex is a graduate of the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. I have had the pleasure of watching this young man grow up as he and his mother, Annette Torchinsky lived in my condo building and Alex entertained the residents here from the time he was just 2 feet tall! Annette is the sister of our Past Master, David Torchinsky, and Alex is the grandson of our recently deceased Brother Irving Torchinsky.

In short, if you love sports and especially if you have a child, grandchild, niece, or nephew who plays in any of our local High School or College teams, you **MUST** attend Alex's talk on Tuesday, the 13th. By the way, the business portion of that meeting will end by 8:00 pm and we will then open the Zoom platform to **ALL who wish to attend**. Be sure to have your entire family present for this event.

Our Secretary will be putting out an evite for the big 'Sports Night' meeting, so be sure to RSVP so that you can receive the information that will link you to the live program.

Burt

We Are...SGBF45!

Our Volunteer activities keep rolling on. For March, we again participated along with JSSA to help schlep 500 bags of Passover goods to the waiting cars and deliver Passover Baskets created by Bnai Brith. In a contactless and safe manner, we met at the Berman Hebrew Academy on Arctic Rd in Rockville on March 21st. See the pictures which, of course, are worth a thousand words. The families that receive these

Baskets are so overwhelmingly grateful and it is always a joy to help lift their spirits. In addition to participating in person, we gave a monetary donation to help support JSSA in this endeavor.

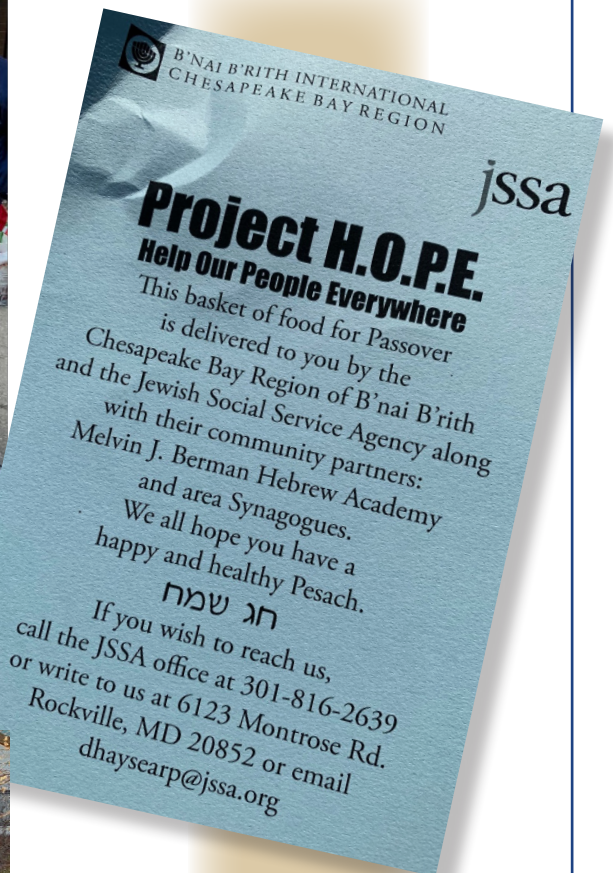
Our partners for many of our community service events appear in these pictures: Deborah Hedges, JSSA Director of Senior Services, Diane Hays-Earp JSSA Volunteer Coordinator, Jack Ventura, Project H.O.P.E.

National Capital Council Co-Chair, B'nai B'rith Chesapeake Bay Region. Participating from our Lodge: WM Burt Levy, Raymond Horn, PM and his son David, Hal Henig, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, SW Jeff Greenwald and his son Zach, and Robert H. Starr, PGM.

Take part in these activities as We Are....SGBF#45!



WM Burt Levy presenting the Lodge's contribution to Jack Ventura, Project H.O.P.E. National Capital Council Co-Chair, B'nai B'rith Chesapeake Bay Region who organized the JSSA Passover Basket event. From left to right, WM Burt Levy, PM, Jack Ventura, Diane Hays-Earp JSSA Volunteer Coordinator, David Horn, Hal Henig, SW Jeff Greenwald, Raymond Horn, PM.



Project HOPE Flyer included in every basket.

The Crew that carried 500 Baskets to the waiting drivers. WM Burt Levy, Jack Ventura and another man from B'nai B'rith the organizers, David Horn, Deborah Hedges, JSSA Director of Senior Services, Diane Hays-Earp JSSA Volunteer Coordinator, Hal Henig, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, SW Jeff Greenwald, Raymond Horn, PM, Robert H. Starr, PGM. Not shown but also participating, Zach Greenwald.

The Gossip Column

By Allen Levy

So, our Secretary **Ray Horn** related a story of Valentine's Day gift genius. His wife **Aileen** was asked to suggest a few local businesses where the Architecture firm at which she works could purchase corporate holiday gifts for their clients. She did the research and compiled a detailed run-down of half a dozen local chocolate shops, with pros and cons of each suggested purchase that fit the company budget.

She was happy to review this analysis with Ray for his opinion of the best choice. It was at this time that a neuron fired in our secretary's brain.

Even though it was several months away, Valentines' Day popped into his head, as he said "I know, it miraculously occurred to me, I will get her chocolate from the shop she had circled! I know she will be so surprised".

And then as the day approached, with another act of total brilliance, he managed to purchase the Valentines' Day gift of chocolate for Aileen on-line before they sold out. Don't let her know, though.

After **WM Burt Levy's** presentation of **The Legends of Freemasonry** during our last Stated Communication, **RWB Michael Greenwald, PM** sent a photo depicting him and the **WM** in front of **The Goose and the Gridiron**, the original pub hosting a Masonic lodge highlighted during the presentation. The photo was taken from their trip to England to celebrate the 300th



Anniversary of Modern Masonry.

Another dispatch from Florida: retired **Bro. Martin Simon** is also reporting that life is good in The Villages. Golf five times a week! (No hole-in-one yet

like **Bro. Steve Costlin**?) He also holds office as the President of the Tricycle Brotherhood, has three grandchildren, so other than the pandemic, what could be bad?

Vaccination News:

PGM Robert H Starr and **Vickie** received their second COVID vaccination in March. To celebrate, she plans to attend the in-person meeting of the **Grand Chapter Eastern Star of Maryland** in April on her

birthday! **Happy Birthday, Vickie.**

And your **Gossip Column reporter** has a vaccine story: My wife **Jessica** has a preexisting condition that allowed her to sign up for a vaccine. And very soon after, her name was selected. I drove her to the neighborhood pharmacy to receive her shot.

The pharmacy was too small to allow anyone other than those on the list to enter, and I was turned away at the door. So, I went to a nearby grocery store. While in line to purchase celery and grapes, I looked down at my phone at many all-caps texts from **Jessica** to "**GET BACK HERE NOW!**" Apparently one of the vaccine administrators asked **Jessica** if she lived with the guy they turned away at the door, and if so, they would also give him the vaccine. I dropped my groceries and ran back to the pharmacy. We go back for our second shot in April.

Blind Item: A certain **WM** drove himself to the hospital while in extreme pain with kidney stones. While waiting for other tests, the doctors had him drink a **quart of water**. Before they could administer the scans, he of course experienced an urgency and passed the stone. They then set him off into the foggy night at 3 am.

And here is a story from **Bro. Allen Wright, PM**. I will let him tell it:

The Saga of the Flying Spa Tubs

My daughter **Bev Wright** purchased a spa tub from a **British** company about 4 years ago and had it installed in her master bath remodeling. Sadly, the spa tub had electric problems that tripped the circuit breakers, and the jets also leaked. The company finally agreed to send her a replacement, but they somehow sent her the wrong tub. Her replacement tub was sent to a woman in **Australia**, and they sent **Bev** the tub meant to be sent to **Australia**. Both tubs are now in the process of being air freighted to the correct places.



Reflections on our Freemason's Seder

By Raymond Horn, PM

Pesach has come and gone with the great desire that this is the last year that we do not gather around our table our dear children, beloved grandchildren, and our great friends and brethren.

In 2017 and 2019, the Lodge hosted the Freemason's Seder, a special festive board which was originally written and conducted by WB Joshua L. Rubin and then conducted by WB Raymond Horn. We highlighted a number of parallels between the story of Exodus, reading Masonically-relevant excerpts from the Judeo-Christian Volume of Sacred and highlighting a number of common symbols. During our last Stated Communication, WM Burt Levy reviewed some of the core Legends of Freemasonry, including the heart of the story of Exodus. The ancient Israelites have been called by some scholars the first in a line that led to modern Freemasonry as the operative masons who built the cities of the Pharaohs would have passed their knowledge to the Israelites who are also described as operative masons. The Free Masons who built King Solomon's Temple have a clear lineage then the builders of Egypt.

This year, I received a hopeful message of this festival that has a different parallel to Masonry that will be very apparent. For those of us who grew up attending annual family Seders, where we sit and our role has changed as it does in a Lodge room.

Life is a kind of chair game, starting at one end of the Pesach table and eventually moving to the head. We start in a far corner, like great-grandchildren, curiously watching rituals, absorbing aromas

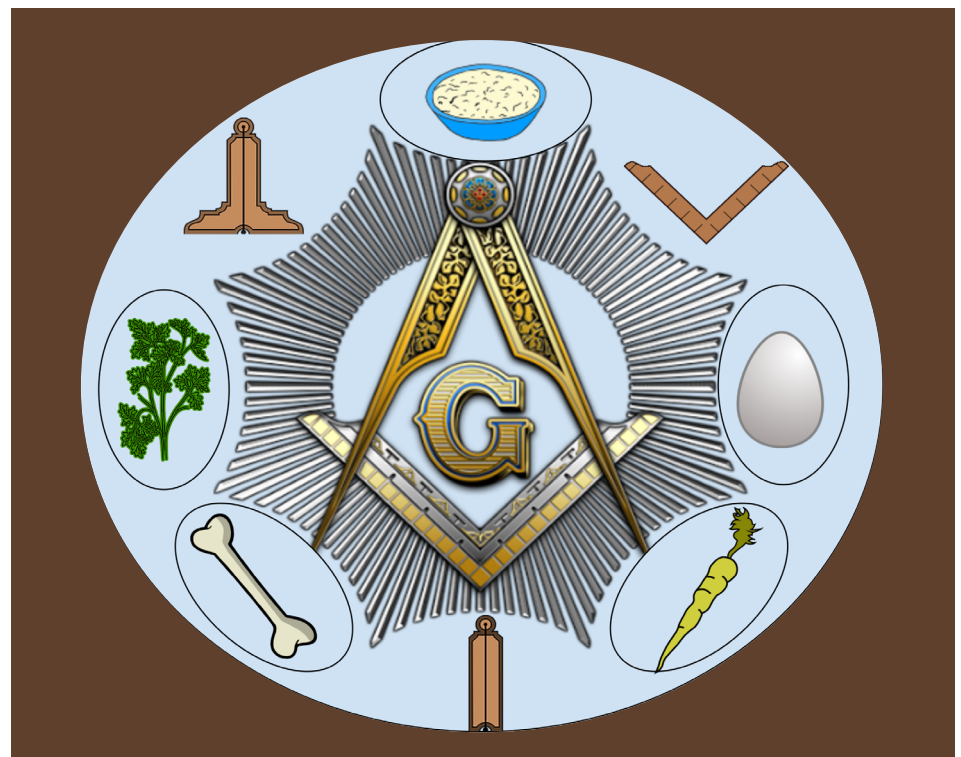
and melodies, asking questions, starting mischief, feeling our cheeks pinched, and being celebrated for how much we grew. The years go by and the places at the table begin to turn. Some are no longer physically present and their absence is felt these days more than ever, others came to make the table more beautiful and occupy that corner that once belonged to us.

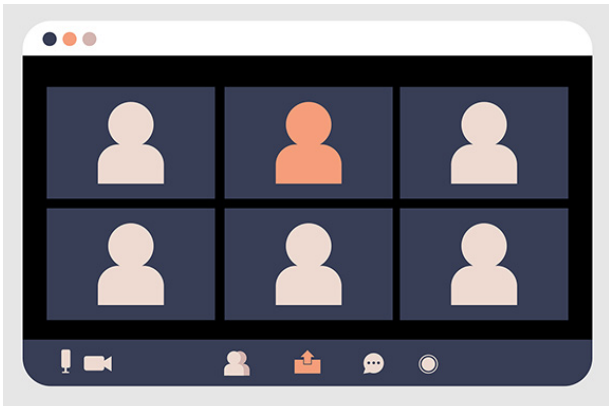
Young cousins arrive, wives and brothers-in-law join in, patriarchs and matriarchs are now our parents, not our grandparents. One day, it is no longer my sister who lifts the tray but a daughter or niece and it is not my grandfather who says the blessing over the meal but my father. And in the corner are our children and nephews, occupying the places that were previously reserved for us, asking questions and waiting for our answers.

Singing the prayers and songs with the same melody that we once

learned to sing, little by little we get closer to the head, understanding that we are no longer the child to whom the story was told, but the father who has the responsibility of transmitting it. The closer we get to the head, the greater the duty to know that story in order to transmit it. That incredible aroma of a home that is preparing for the Seder, not only emanates from the pots of our mothers and grandmothers but TODAY it begins to be perceived in our homes.

The challenge of retelling the same story year after year is the sacred task of transforming the millennial into the eternal, by repeating this ancient story and its customs to give it meaning and transcendence. May we all embrace the sacred challenge of celebrating our history and creating the pillars so that our children, grandchildren, and all our generations continue to visit this table that is a symbol of continuity and future.





Purim Virtual Meet Up in February

**Hal Henig,
Meet-Up Chairman**

On Monday evening, February 22, we held our Monthly Virtual Meet-Up on Zoom. The Jewish Holiday of Purim was selected as the Theme for this social. The holiday began three nights later on Thursday Evening, February 25, with the reading of the Megilla, the scroll containing the biblical narrative of the book of Esther.

Our Virtual Social commenced at 7:00 pm and lasted for 50 minutes. The participating Brethren were Tyler, Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, WM Burt Levy, PM, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Robert Greenwald, PM, Julien Hofberg, PM, Walter Simon, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Ed Nachlas, PM, Brother Kevin Stemp, and SW Jeff Greenwald who briefly participated on Zoom.

Brother Hal provided a brief presentation on what Purim was about, and how Jews worldwide celebrate this Holiday. The Holiday of Purim is the only Jewish Holiday that originated outside of Israel in Ancient Persia. Purim is a happy celebration for Jews because Mordecai and Esther uncovered Haman’s plot to execute every Jew in Persia by hanging. Haman ends up being up by his own evil plans when Mordecai befriends the Persian King, Ahasuerus who had Haman and his sons hanged instead. The story has several twists and turns and takes some time to work out. It is traditionally read out loud with children making noise every time Haman’s name is pronounced. Hence the term, the whole megillah, which has come to mean a tediously detailed or embroidered account.

The Brethren shared their experience in celebrating Purim. For example, Jerry Keilsohn, PM shared his experience during the Purim Holiday, while he was growing up. Chairman Hal mentioned that during one Purim, at his synagogue, he was on the Dunk Tank and taunted some congregation members to throw a ball to dunk him. Fortunately for Hal, the tank had colored balls, instead of water. Ed Nachlas, PM mentioned his Purim celebrations in his synagogue.

As Ed is living in Florida, he mentioned that restaurants in Boca Raton, Florida are now open for business with limited capacity with social distancing. He talked about his past experience dealing with hurricanes in the Sunshine State. Ed’s granddaughter celebrated her child’s first birthday. Hopefully, as more of our Brethren receive COVID shots, our Happy Meet-Up Days will be here again.

Happy Birthday

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

Harold I. Henig..... 2	Edwin S. Nachlas.....14	Jerry P. Keilsohn23
Donald H. Roxenberg..... 2	Scott A. Marks17	Alan I. Karpas 24
Gary A. Dorsay 7	David A. Ulanow18	Peter A. Riley30
Edward Hinkle10	Herman Zeitchik.....19	
Gary M. Politzer12	Martin C. Flaum21	

What is Good Deeds Day?

Our April activity will be to participate in International Good Deeds Day on Sunday, April 11th. As we have done in the past, we will create care packages known as “Socks for Veterans “, which will contain socks, t-shirts, and toiletry items. These care packages will be donated to the DC CRRC, which helps to support distressed Veterans. If the weather turns out nice, we hope to meet in a contactless manner at 1:30 PM on April 11th at Brookside Gardens to assemble these packages. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Good Deeds Day is a global day that unites people from over **100 countries** to do good deeds for the benefit of others and the planet. **Since 2007**, millions of people from thousands of communities, organizations and businesses join together every year to volunteer and do good. Based on the simple idea that everyone can do something good, be it large or small, to improve the lives of others and change the world positively. The largest and most far-reaching day of good deeds, with 7.8 million volunteering hours recorded globally (2019). More than 3.9 million participants in over 108 countries worldwide. Please let SW Jeff Greenwald know about participating or making a direct donation.

Take part in these activities as We Are....
SGBF#45!

WM Burt Levy, Jerry Keilsohn, PM and Robert H. Starr, PGM show off the T-Shirts for Good Deeds Day.

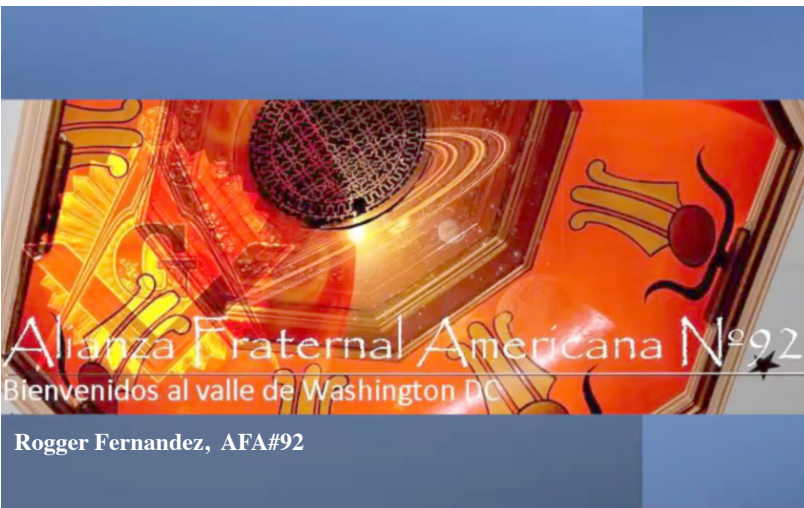
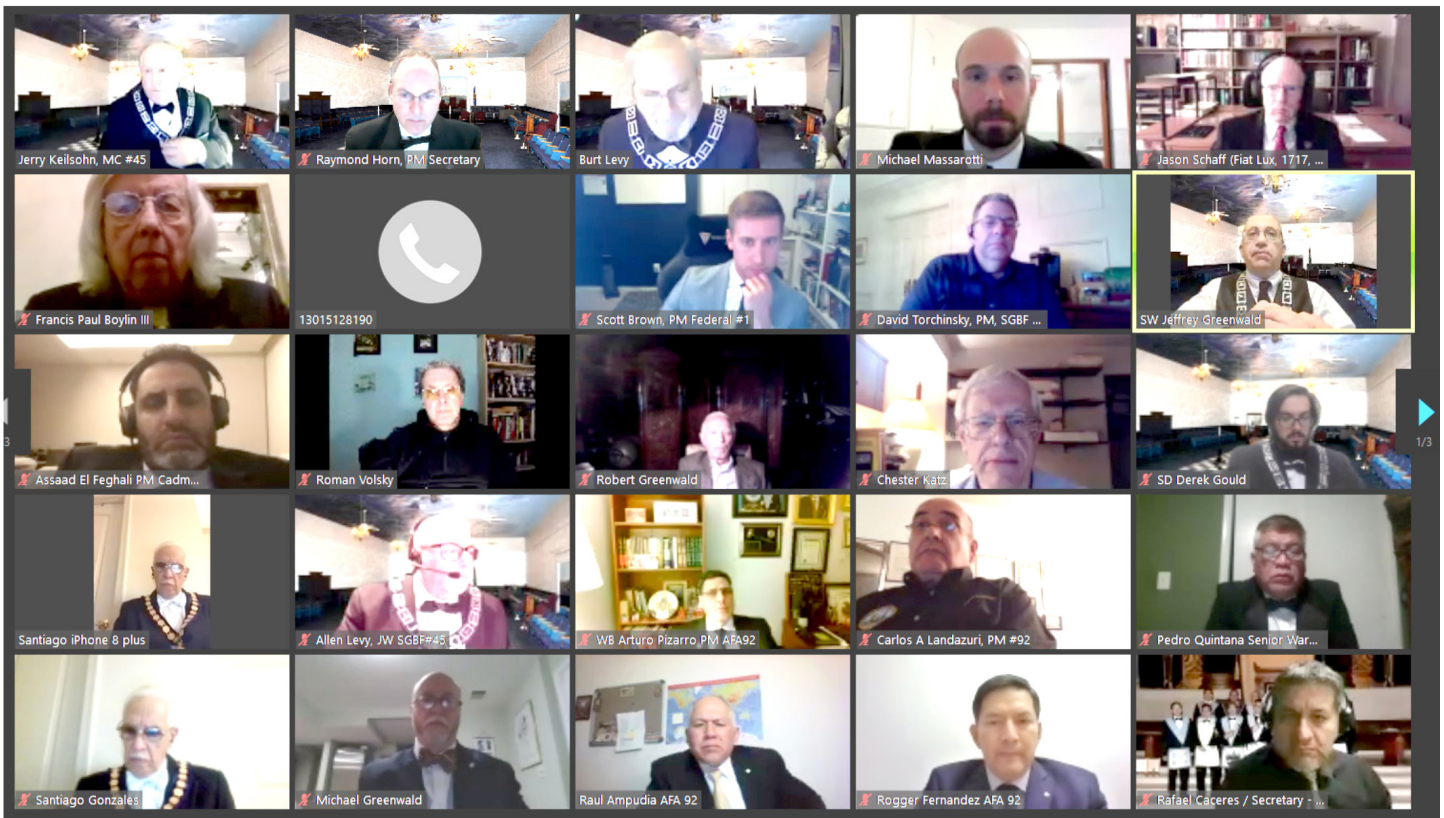


The Legend of Freemasonry

Our Lodge had an excellent turnout, over 55 Masons attended our March Stated Communication and Lecture. WM Burt Levy presented an examination of The Legends of Freemasonry which included: The Underground Stream, A Hidden Stream of Knowledge that has been passed down since the dawn of Human Existence. Symbols, ALLEGORY, Secret Grips, Signs Rituals, Pythagorean Theory, 47th Problem of Euclid, Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, Geometry, The Pyramids of Egypt, Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland, The Goose and the Gridiron, 1717, The Story of Hiram, The Knights Templar, Wisdom Myths, Working Tools, Catechism Degrees, Mystery Secrets, Enigma, And Much MORE.

The lecture attracted a very broad spectrum of visitors to our Lodge. Attending the Stated Communication in addition to a full contingent of our Officers and a large number of our Past Masters and other members were a large number of visiting Brethren including eight sitting Masters, five current Grand Lodge officers, and three Past Grand Masters. PGM's Robert H. Starr (2002), Jules S. Tepper (2003), and Roman Volsky (2017) as well as several Brethren from the Grand Lodge's constituent Lodge in Lebanon.

Please find a selection of screenshots of all the attendees and a few of the slides from the Lecture can be found below.



The Oldest Known Masonic Lodge, Edinburgh Scotland

The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No.1, is a Masonic Lodge in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is designated number 1 on the Roll (list) of lodges of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and as it possesses the oldest existing minute of any masonic lodge still operating (31 July 1599) and the first historical reference of a non-operative or speculative freemason being initiated as a member (1634), it is reputed to be the oldest Masonic Lodge not only in Scotland, but the world.

The Legend of Freemasonry



Raymond Stewart, WM Pentworth #47



Allen Wright, PM (1963)



Jules S. Tepper, PM (1981), PGM (2003)



Robert H. Starr, PM (1990), PGM (2002)



David Torchinsky, PM (2010)



Robert Greenwald, PM (2019)



Jean-Paul Dongmo, Senior Grand Steward



Morgan P. Corr, Senior Grand Deacon



Roman Volsky, PGM (2017)



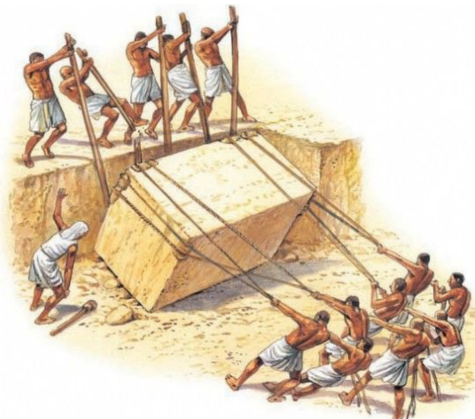
SW Jeff Greenwald



WM Burt Levy



JD Aaron Kamerer



The Stonecutters (Masons) at Giza, comparing chisels that can be bought today with chisels found at the pyramids of Giza the common sizes and shapes are virtually unchanged.

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SW Jeffrey Greenwald
Michael J. Rinis, PM, mrinis@sgbf45.org, 301-384-8244

2021 PROXIES

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



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 Burt Levy about all events (see page 2)

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

Date	Event	Open to
May	6 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	11 Stated Communication Open on the EA Degree Virtual Meeting, 7:30 pm Speaker, 8:00 pm	Masons Everyone
	13 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	20 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	24 Virtual Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons
	27 Degree Practice and Discussion Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons