

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

bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 5
June 2021

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

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



JUNE STATED COMMUNICATION In Person at Takoma Masonic Center

With Covid restrictions now lifted by the District of Columbia Government and the Grand Master, we are now able to reclaim our "home" in the Takoma Masonic Center and to resume holding our stated communications there.

For the June 8th Meeting, we will hold an in-person meeting, open on the EA Degree. We will conduct our business and endeavor to close by 8:15 pm so that we may open a Virtual Meeting and conduct a program with the members who attend in person and those who log in online. We will ask our members to relate some of their stories, with pictures if you have them, of how we spent our time and found enjoyment over the last year.

In accordance with the Grand Lodge Guidance, we ask only

those Brethren who have been vaccinated to attend in person. We will require masks for our meeting, ask everyone to sit two chairs apart in Lodge, make use of hand sterilizer, and take everyone's temperature. As rules for preparing and or serving food in the refectory are not yet established, we will not do so, but will retire to Busboys and Poets Restaurant after the meeting.

This will be a special time to reconnect with your Brethren, either in person or by attending the virtual event following the tiled portion of our meeting. RSVP to [HYPERLINK "mailto:secretary@sgbf45.org"](mailto:secretary@sgbf45.org) secretary@sgbf45.org, or the eVite which you should have already received.

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



For the past 15 months, we have all experienced and endured a historical period that had an indelible effect on our lives. The global pandemic that had us in its grip for so many fearful months and which caused the tragic loss of so many lives had us confined to our homes and afraid to leave even for work or necessities.

Now – I am happy to see that those of us who are ‘fully vaccinated’ can finally put the fear of Covid behind us. Mask mandates have been eliminated for all except air and commuter travel and we are finally emerging from the dark tunnel of quarantine and “social distancing.”

One of the brightest moments we shared during the pandemic was our May ‘virtual’ meeting where we were entertained with the talent of Dan Binstock’s Virtual Piano Party! Dan gave us a solid hour of relief from our Covid worries and any other cares and woes as he got everyone involved in games, singing, and

dancing.

Now – our next meeting on June 8th, will be held “in-person” at our Lodge Hall. I am hoping to institute a new protocol for our monthly meetings which will allow EVERY member to have access to all except the “tiled” portion of the evening. We will conduct the Masonic Rituals of opening the Lodge; conducting business; and closing and then, as close to 8:15 pm as possible, we will open a “virtual” meeting via Zoom so that all our Brethren AND their families will have the opportunity to join us. Please – Brethren, if you need any help learning how to ‘join’ a ‘virtual’ meeting don’t hesitate to reach out to me (202 409-4449) so that I can have a member of our technology committee help you to get comfortable with the teleconferencing abilities of your phone, laptop, or camera-equipped computer.

Burt



Our Lodge App is Changing

Brethren, please be aware that our Lodge Smartphone App will be discontinued in mid-June. We will begin to use Facebook Groups for Lodge Communication. This change will use a program that many of our Brethren use regularly and will reduce our expenditures.



Brethren:

Please see the announcement below and be sure to register for the Universal Brotherhood Celebration! It is to be held VIRTUALLY this year so many more of you will have the unique opportunity to join the celebration of Masonic Unity. Several of this year’s Worshipful Masters were interviewed for this elaborate presentation and I was honored to be one of them. So, please “tune-in” beginning at 8:30 am on June the 12th. I promise that you will be glad that you did and you will be proud of Masonry’s place in the world!

Universal Brotherhood Celebration

June 12, 2021

We are pleased to announce that the registration for the Universal Brotherhood Celebration (UBC) is now OPEN! The event will be fully virtual on the morning of Saturday, June 12, 2021, starting at 8:30AM. This year’s UBC event will be dynamic, educational, and entertaining in nature as it focuses on the different elements of universality in our jurisdiction including language, religion, culture, ritual, and music. This event is open to all Brethren, but everyone must register in advance for the Zoom link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/>

Nature Walk at the Bladensburg Waterfront

by Hal Henig



On Sunday, April 25, we had our Lodge Nature Walk at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, along the Anacostia River. Four Brethren and two little guests participated in this event, which began shortly after 10:30 am. The participating Brethren were Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, SW Jeff Greenwald, Josh Ruben, PM, and Brother Sonny Garibay. Josh's two young sons Ben and Zac were the special guests that joined us on this hike.

We hiked 2.6 miles along the river route and enjoyed watching the birds flying and hunting. Our hike lasted for a total of about two hours and ended sometime after 12:30 pm. Each of the participants wore masks, as a health precaution.

Brother Garibay was designated as our tour guide, since he has visited the Waterfront Park many times and has a good knowledge of this park. Brother Sonny's house is not far from the Waterfront Park and he has posted several great nature photographs on Facebook. Sonny took this photo of us standing next to a bird statue.

Independence Day Parade Registration Now Open!

For many years, Brethren of the DC Grand Lodge have made a tradition of marching in Independence Day Parades throughout our city. Unfortunately, as all know the 2020 parades were not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and some have been canceled for 2021.

But we have great news: the Palisades Citizens' Association Parade and Capitol Hill Parade will return in 2021! We have again been asked to march in the parades, so we'll need you there with us! Brethren in attendance will receive a Grand Lodge shirt and hat.

Many of us at Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 have participated in the different 4th of July Parades, usually passing out flags and helping with the Hot-Dog stand.



If you will join us at the Palisades, please register at <https://forms.gle/mnEECUFxdxPTDHLd8>

If you intend to participate in Capitol Hill, please register at <https://www.naval-lodge.org/members/event.php?ID=10551>



2021 Grand Visitation Schedule

The Grand Lodge, F. A. A. M. of the District of Columbia
Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45
September 14, 2021 (Tuesday) Takoma Center



The Gossip Column

By Allen Levy

Brother Stephen Kremer and his wife **Ruth** are pleased to announce that their son, **Alex Kremer**, will be graduating on May 1st from the **Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy** at the **University of Michigan**, in Ann Arbor, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, with Distinction, in Public Policy and Economics. Alex, who is also the grandson of the late **Brother Oscar Kremer** from our lodge, has also accepted a scholarship to attend the **University of California, Berkeley School of Law** this fall. Following his graduation in 2024 Alex hopes to relocate to the D.C. area and **intends to join our Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge** and eventually join the Scottish Rite in Washington. The Scottish Rite offered him scholarships assistance for his undergraduate studies at Michigan.



RWE Michael Greenwald, PM

RWB Michael Greenwald, PM hosted a foursome for this year's Scottish Rite Golf Classic Invitational which benefits the **Scottish Rite Center for Childhood Language Disorders**. Michael is posing with the sign recognizing the Lodge's donation in support of the Scottish Rite Center.

And finally, your Gossip Column reporter, **Brother Allen Levy**, and his wife **Jessica** celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary on May 30th. As an anniversary gift to ourselves, we attended one of the first performances by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center since the pandemic.

If you like the resurrection of this gossip column, to keep it going, I need items. I need something to write in this space. Please email anything you'd like your brothers to know, and I'll publish it. It doesn't matter what it is. It could be a birthday or anniversary. Or an amusing story. Otherwise, I'll just have to write about the same brothers over and over again. Send your gossip to my email: Allen Levy at jw@sgbf45.org.

Happy Birthday

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

JUNE

- David Marc Davis 4
- Steven D. Foreman12
- Abraham Genderson.....12
- Walter Franklin Simon.....13
- Michael K. Greenwald.....16
- Kevin C. Stemp18
- Kenneth L. Cohen.....19
- William Gerson Applestein .23
- Daniel L. Sieger III.....26
- Larry Alan Bram27
- Barton M. Shapiro.....29

JULY

- Steven E. Rosner 3
- Richard A. Trencher 3
- Derek R. Gould 6
- David B. Torchinsky11
- Donald M. Stein.....12
- Max E. Dekelbaum.....21
- Peter H. Frank.....21
- Michael A. Cohn22
- Steven R. Riemer23
- Michael Ben Canaan.....27
- David L. Kahn29
- Aaron A. Kamerer29
- Norman G. Dekelbaum31

AUGUST

- Jeffrey Nadel 4
- William A. Keilsohn..... 5
- Burton Penn..... 5
- David Applestein 9
- J. L. Frenk.....10
- Howard G. Politzer.....10
- Yoel M. Gittleson13
- Donald L. Malloreay14
- Joshua L. Rubin18
- Adam L. Forman19
- John R. Garrison19
- Joseph N. Snyder.....19
- Leonard S. Rubin.....22
- Julien P. Hofberg.....25
- Jacob L. Dekelbaum28
- Edward I. Weinstein30

Piano Party Social

We forgot about coronavirus for a night, and had a high-energy Zoom piano party with laughter singing, clapping, tapping of toes, and even dancing. Following our May Stated Communication, The WM had arranged for a special virtual Piano Party!

The brother of our own Jonathan Binstock, PM, Dan Binstock is a piano player gifted with the ability to play by ear and a fun personality and got everyone involved. Dan led the members and guest in a great musical event. We played an interactive game of “name that tune,” had song requests – it was pretty much guaranteed that Dan knew our favorites — and we had a piano bar-style sing-along. Several Brethren were brave enough to do a little karaoke. As we like to say, “A good time was had by all.”



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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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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
June	8	Stated Communication Open on the EA Degree 7:30 pm	Masons
	12	Universal Brotherhood Celebration Grand Lodge Virtual Meeting, 8:30 am	Masons
	21	Virtual Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons

Date		Event	Open to
August	8	Special, EA Degree, 2:00 pm	Masons

Date		Event	Open to
July	4	July 4th Parade Palisades Parade will return	Masons

Date		Event	Open to
September	5	Rosh HashanahJSSA Basket Program	
	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm Grand Visitation, Anniversary Night	Masons
	27	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons