

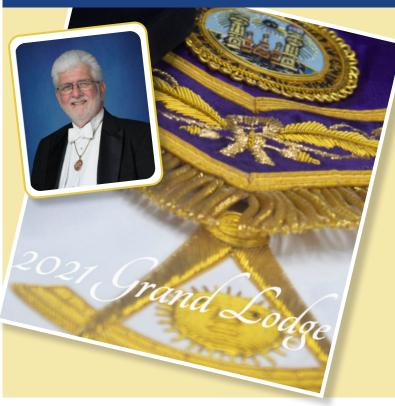
Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M

bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 6 September 2021

Serving Maryland, DC and Northern Virgin

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)



2021 Grand Visitation & Anniversary Might

Grand Visitation & Anniversary Night is the program for our September Stated Communication on September 14th. Our meeting at Takoma Masonic Center will begin promptly at 7:30 pm. This year, the Grand Lodge is combining multiple lodges for each Grand Visitation when the Grand Master, Alan L. Gordon will be accompanied by the full Grand Line of Officers. We will be joined that night by National Stansbury Dawson Lodge No.12 and Freedom Military Lodge No. 1775. This will be a unique visitation and we look forward to sharing our meeting with our sister lodges.

Several important anniversary presentations will be made to honor brethren in our Lodge for their service to Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge and Masonry. Grand Visitation is always interesting and you will want to come out to support your brethren who will be honored for their anniversaries. Please plan on attending.

Help Deliver Food and Holiday Cheer

Deliver Nutritious Meals to Homebound Seniors

Share a Sweeter New Year

The Rosh Hashanah Basket Service Project, is an annual program of our Lodge and the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) that helps to brighten the New Year for those in our community who are in need.

The apples and honey that will appear on our tables at Rosh Hashanah are symbols of a sweet new year, but for many in our community, they are painful reminders of the scarcity of food and resources in lives filled with hardship and sacrifice. Three times a year, the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA), with support from our Lodge and the local Jewish community, operates its Holiday Giving Program. For Rosh Hashanah and Passover, the agency donates food baskets containing symbolic holiday foods and other items to families and members of the community who are facing hard times.

Our Lodge volunteers help assist JSSA and other volunteers to load 500 baskets of food, wine, and ritual items to waiting drivers who deliver them, with the help of several other synagogues, throughout the area. We often pick up delivery routes that were not covered by the other volunteers.

As we are holding our Lodge Baseball game with the Nationals that afternoon, our work will begin by 9:00 am and conclude in plenty of time to make the game. Please contact SW Jeff Greenwald for more information and to let him know that you can participate.

Compliments of

SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M.





Light From the East

Burt Levy, W.M. 2021

On Again in Due Season...

Brethren:

Yes, it is time for the Jr. Warden to call the Craft, On Again! Our gentle craft has been subsisting on Zoom teleconferencing and electronic messaging. We all miss the social interaction that is so special when experienced "live" in our Lodge room. The officers of #45 have stayed active throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. When it was announced that we could "reoccupy" Takoma Masonic Center, we eagerly gathered on June 8th to enjoy a pre-meeting meal at Busboys & Poets. For the 15 months that we had guarantined, I had not worn "regular" shoes with heels. But now, dressed in my tuxedo, my shoes had a thick heel which caught the top of the single step at the exit and sent me heading for the pavement face first. To avoid that, I twisted my body and extended my right arm in attempt to block the fall. The result was that I completely 'torqued' my knee and tore the tendon in my arm.

Despite the excruciating pain, I was able to conduct the meeting and even had the proud honor of presenting a Lewis Jewel to my son (your JW Allen Levy). The Lewis is a decorative medal which displays the names of one's Masonic Ancestors, showing a continuous progression from grandfather, to father, to son.

When I finally arrived home after the meeting, the seriousness of my injuries caught up with me and my body went into shock from the pain. After dialing 911, I was whisked to Holy Cross Hospital by six of Montgomery Counties' finest EMT's. (I am still having to use a cane to avoid weight on that knee)!

On Sunday August 8th, we conducted a Special Communication to confer the E.A. Degree on our two candidates, Brigham Callam and Steven Dekelbaum. I am proud to proclaim that our officers put on a very impressive and meaningful Degree.

Our September 14th meeting will be The Grand

Master's Annual Visitation

our Lodge as well as those of National Stansbury Dawson, Lodge #12 and Freedom Military, Lodge #1775. You won't want to miss the inspiring "pomp and circumstance" of this Grand Event. Also not to miss at this meeting will be our Anniversary and Award Presentations. I hope to see you there!

Burt

PS. Brethren – Shortly after completing the column above, I received notice of the passing of our Brother Ray Friedman, PM. WB Friedman and his family have been long-time regular attendees at Masonic events in both Maryland and the District. This news was followed by a sad phone call from our Brother Ryan Simon telling me of the death of his grandfather and our cherished member RWB Walter F. Simon. Walter was an active Mason right up to the end.

Walter had phoned me a few days before our Sunday, August 1st Officers' Meeting, to let me know that he was scheduled for radiation therapy at Suburban Hospital that weekend and he would probably need a few days to recover before he could resume his duties as Chaplain. His voice and tone during that phone call were just as cheery and upbeat as always, he did not seem concerned about what was ahead. He said that the radiation was just a follow-up to chemotherapy and that the doctors felt that things were under control. Then, just a few days later, I learned that he had been transferred to Casey House Hospice. WB Jerry Keilsohn and I visited there on Saturday, the 14th, and were taken aback at how rapidly things had worsened. So, I was prepared for the news of his passing, but heartbroken at having to accept it. His funeral was attended by a large contingent of his Brother Masons, all of whom expressed their love and admiration for him. Elsewhere in this Bulletin, you will find a remembrance of Walter from the desk of our MW Grand Master Alan L. Gordon.

August **Special**Communication

For the first time in two years, our Lodge held an in-person Degree Ritual as we conducted the Entered Degree. Samuel Apprentice Benjamin Franklin Gompers -Lodge No.45 initiated three new Masons, two of whom were long patient candidates from our Lodge. Brigham Callam. and Steven Deckelbaum. We also initiated as a courtesy, James Morrissey from St. Johns Lodge No.11.

Several important pieces of Lodge Business were voted on to allow our Lodge to return to a more normal operation including voting to request a Courtesy Degree for our very patient Fellowcraft, Thomas Ebilane. The meeting was preceded by a lunch at Bus Boy's and Poets, which was able to accommodate a large table of Masons who came early to enjoy the fellowship.





SD Derek Gould, Bro Brigham Callam, RWB Michael Greenwald, JD Aaron Kamerer. Bro Greenwald is the first line signer of Bro Callam's petition. They are all professional associates.

Entered Apprentice Degree:

Candidates

James Morrissey, St. Johns Lodge #11 Brigham Callam Steven Deckelbaum

Cast:

WM: Jeff Greenwald SW: Allen Levy JW: Derek Gould SD: Aaron Kamerer JD: Johua Rubin, PM MC: Jerry Keilsohn, PM Chap: Rosh Rubin, PM Treas: Allen Wright, PM Sec: Raymond Horn, PM SS: Sheldon Rappeport, PM

JS: Anand Trivedi, PM, Secretary St. Johns Lodge #11

Tiler: Hal Henig

Conductor: David Torchinsky, PM Michael Greenwald, PM Lecture: Sheldon Rappeport, PM

Charge: Allen Levy



WM Burt Levy with the Brethren of St. Johns Lodge No 11, Anand Trivedi, PM, James Hall, Kevin Schunberg, James Morrissey, and RWB Chip Mahoney congratulate Bro Morrissey on his initiation

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND MASTER



Brethren -

I am writing this week's message having just returned from the funeral of one of our Grand Chaplain Emeritii, WB Walter F. Simon. Over the past 10 months, our Grand Lodge has lost three great men, all of whom have contributed greatly to the advancement of our Grand Lodge. The three men to whom I refer are MWB Jerold J. Samet, PGM, MWB Kenneth D. Fuller, PGM and now WB Walter F. Simon, Grand Chaplain Emeritus.

I considered WB Walter a personal friend, as well as a family friend. Long before I knew Walter, he was working in Temple Chapter, No. 13, OES and he was friends with my parents, who like Walter, had served in the East of Temple Chapter.

When my father died in 2002, Walter met us at the funeral home so I could deliver my father's Masonic apron. I recall him looking at the apron, seeing the inscriptions under the flap, and handing it back to me saying, "I'll make sure he is wearing an apron, but this one is now a family heirloom. Keep it."

Later we worked together when he served as Chaplain at Almas Temple for many years and when he was Assistant Grand Chaplain of our Grand Lodge, ultimately being elected to the permanent position of Deputy Grand Chaplain Emeritus. Only this past November, our Grand Lodge bestowed upon WB Walter the title of Grand Chaplain Emeritus. WB Walter was a 45-year Mason having served as Master of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 back in 1982!

During his lifetime, WB Walter faced multiple tragedies, first losing one son and then another; his wife Adele; and then, his daughter. Throughout it all, Walter maintained a positive outlook on life. He always had a smile and joke.

Last week, I called Walter's long-time companion, Bonnie, to see how he was doing. At the time he was in Suburban Hospital. She told me that when he had his pain killers, he was his usual self. She said that when she went home that night, the pain killers had worn off and he wasn't talking much. She gave him a kiss and told him she loved him. He responded, "I love you too, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11." Even despite the pain, Walter found a way to bring humor in an attempt to lighten the mood.

I will miss Walter stopping by my office in Rockville, which he would do on random occasions for no other reason than to just say hello. His was a gentle soul, a rare thing to find, and he will be greatly missed in our Grand Lodge for many years to come.

The Grand Lodge has placed an obituary in the Washington Post which will run on Sunday, August 22nd. Please make sure to look for it.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Alan L. Gordon Grand Master







The Jossip Column By Allen Levy

This past May, our **Brother and Senior Deacon Derek Gould** graduated from the **University of Maryland** (my alma mater, also) with a Bachelor of Science in Finance. Congratulations **Brother Gould!**

As noted in our first Gossip Column in January,

Brother Burton Penn, PM and his lovely wife **Dr. Betsy Jane Cooper**, have relocated to Chicago. Burton misses being in Lodge, but he is now answering to a higher authority. He is pictured here with Rabbi Aron Wolf of the Chicago Mitzvah Campaign sporting his tefillin.



Burton and Betsy Jane have connected with their new community and have been participating regularly in the events and classes at their local Chabad. Their son, **Harris**, lives close by. Burton would love to stay connected with his Lodge brothers. He can be reached on his cell phone at 202-841-4121.



Raymond Horn, PM happened upon the Masonic during his summer vacation. The rail-to-trail bike path that goes through this little town, winds its way along the and access to an old railway beside an old industrial "Masonic Way", and passes the Lodge Building before Lodge was dark for the summer.



On the Monday following our Special Communication, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, and Raymond Horn, PM joined the Almas Yacht Club for a Fishing Trip on the Bay. A beautiful day, a great boat, lots of families attended, there was a great lunch afterward. A perfect mental health day. Kind of light on catching fish. We tried several locations including the Sharps Island Lighthouse which sits on top of what used to be Sharps Island which has sunk into the bay.



VETERANS CORNER By Robert Greenwald, PM

Military Funeral Honors

The Maryland National Guard Honor Guard (MDNGHG) offers Military Funeral Honors to veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and separated with a discharge other than Dishonorable. The MDNGHG operates out of 4 locations throughout Maryland, providing professional and dignified services to departed Maryland veterans. They also present Colors at special occasions and events such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and various patriotic ceremonies. These highly motivated and well-trained Honor Guardsmen are governed by the motto "In Solemn Dignity."

Visit the Department website: https://military.maryland.gov/mdng/Pages/faq.aspx for more information. To speak with someone regarding Military Funeral Honors contact the Maryland National Guard Honor Guard at 410-576-6133.

Note: The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs,

including its employees, or representatives, cannot assume responsibility for providing military honors. If military honors are desired, the survivors of the veteran should address their request to the funeral director.

Refer to http://veterans.maryland.gov/cemeteryand-memorial-program for more information on Maryland's veteran cemeteries including the costs and visitation policies.

A recreational option for veterans and their families is the Maryland State Park and Trail Passport for a yearly fee of \$75 (\$100 for non-residents). This pass entitles the holder to unlimited day-use entry for everyone in the vehicle (up to 10 people) to any of Maryland's state parks, including unlimited boat launching. Visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Military One Stop Shop website to learn more.

July Evening Meet-Up at MiRancho TEX Mex

By Hal Henig





June Mission BBQ Meet-Up was attended by WB Raymond Horn, Bro Brigham Callam, Bro Steve Deckelbaum, Bro Alex Rieser, SW Jeff Greenwald, WB David Torchinsky, Stuart Zitomer, WB Julien Hofberg, and WM Burt Levy.

On Monday evening, July 26, Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge No.45 had its Monthly Meet-Up at the Mi Rancho Tex Mex Restaurant in Silver Spring, Maryland. This was the largest participation at a Meet-Up since January 2020, before the Grand Lodge suspended active physical meetings due to the COVID Pandemic. Eleven Brethren and guests attended the Dinner Meet-Up.

The participating Brethren were Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, WM Burt Levy, PM, SD Derek Gould, JD Aaron Kamerer, David Torchinsky, PM, Michael Greenwald, PM, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Brothers Alex Reiser, our recently initiated Brigham Callam, and Sonny Gariby. Stuart Zitomer was our guest. Hal was able to ask the restaurant owner to reserve a table for the Meet-Up Participants.



Brethren of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45, we have been challenged to join with The Grand Lodge and participate in the American Red Cross Blood Drive to Save Lives!

You have seen the announcement in the Grand Lodge emails about the Blood Drive for the American Red Cross. If you recall from our January Meeting, WB Josh Rubin included in his review of our archives this photograph of a 1943 Lodge Blood Drive. Our Lodge was an annual leader in Blood Donations!

Today's effort has a modern twist, by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App and identifying yourself with our Lodge.

You are able to make a donation at the most convenient location and time.

In support of this effort, we have formed our Lodge Team. All donations scheduled through the American Red Cross Blood Donor Smart Phone App, for Team "GLDC - SGBF No. 45" will count toward our Lodge's participation.

Dear Brethren,

It's easy! It's fun! It's good for the society! Here are the details:

- · What: Donate blood at your convenience through any Red Cross Center near you.
- When: Starting July 12, 2021 through November 30, 2021

We have formed our Team: "GLDC - SGBF No. 45"



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

blood donor app

Blood Donor

Donating blood and platelets is with The American Red Cross

1M+

- **How:** Follow these steps:
- o Step 1: Download Red Cross' mobile app by the name of "Blood Donor" from Apple App Store or Android's Google Play Store.
- o **Step 2:** Using the Blood Donor app, create an account and log into the app.
- o Step 3: Search your Lodge's team name and join it. The Lodge team names will look like this: "GLDC - SGBF No. 45". The team name will start with "GLDC" to indicate the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia.



Blood Donor



Tymia relies on regular blood transfusions as treatment for sickle cell disease

- o Step 4: Using the Blood Donor app, schedule an appointment at any Red Cross Center convenient for you at any time.
- o Step 5: When you go in for the appointment, make sure to present your donor card which is located also within Blood Donor app.
- o Step 6: During your appointment, use the Blood Donor app to take a selfie and share it with the Office of Grand Secretary. (you can send it directly to grandsecretary@dcgrandlodge.org or send it to secretary@sgbf45.org)
- o **Step 7:** After the donation, check the Blood Donor app to ensure your donation is accurately reflected on your account which will add up to your Lodge's score.



- 1. The top three Lodges with the highest "lives saved" score will win the competition.
- 2. The competition is open to all including family and friends— so feel free to invite others to join your Lodge's team within the Blood Donor app to get your score up. It will be very competitive!
- 3. Each Lodge's donations will be tracked through the Blood Donor app based on total number of "lives saved" assigned/calculated by the app. The more members in a team and more frequency of donations by each individual will yield a higher score of "lives saved."

S. Gompers-B. Franklin #45

Annual Dues Invoice

2022 Lodge Dues, due Sept. 30th 2021

Brethren,

You should have already received your dues notice for your 2022 Lodge Dues. These were sent both by email from the Grand Lodge and by mail.

You are a part of a nearly century-old part of our ancient Fraternity, and it is time to renew your membership dues for 2022, which includes the current Grand Lodge assessment.

This year has again presented many challenges for our Lodge but we have continued to hold monthly Lodge Meetings, Meet-Ups and conduct our charitable work. In June of this year we held our first in person Lodge Meeting, with masks and other precautions, but we were able to tile our Lodge again. We recently initiated our very patient candidates.

We have continued to keep our brethren together, provide some Masonic education, and perhaps some entertainment. It is important to everyone's mental health that we maintain our connections and be able to help one another. As a member of SGBF#45, our connections run deep in Masonry and in our Community. Our Lodge is especially active in providing support and service to our community. This year it is even more important that others can count on our support.

As a friendly reminder, your dues are to be paid in September of each year. Unfortunately, we cannot issue your new dues card until this matter is resolved. Dues are our only source of income; therefore, your timely payment is crucial to enable us to provide current and interesting programs, support our charitable endeavors, distribute our bulletin, and provide refreshment when we are able to resume meeting in our lodge room.

Please note: if you owe arrears and those arrears are not paid before September 30, 2021, you will have to be dropped from the membership rolls. If timely payment of your dues will be a difficulty, please submit a request to the relief committee. The form was included in the mailing and requests for relief should be made directly to the Pillar Officers.

Additionally, please be sure we have a current email and phone number for you or a family member who will print out our notices for you.

For your convenience, you can pay 1, 2 or 3 years online or by check. All you need to do is double or triple the amount due and we will carry a negative balance forward.

We are again collecting for the Annual William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program. As you know, we partner with the Jewish Social Service Agency every year to help provide for those who are food insecure in our community. Each basket costs approximately \$55.00 or more depending on the Turkey. Please consider contributing an entire basket. The need after more than a year of Covid is greater than ever.

Instructions for payment are included in our email and letter

Please notify our brother Secretary if there are any questions.

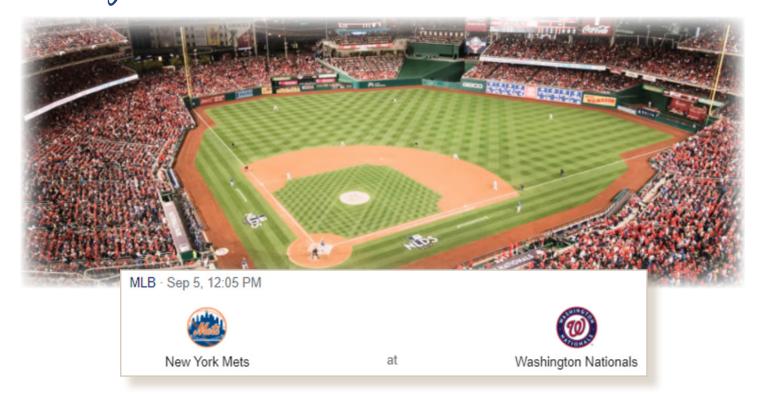


No RSVP necessary.

Just show up with the family and have fun!

SAMUEL GOMPERS - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE

Family and Friends Nationals Baseball Game



Take me out to the ball game!

The Lodge has secured 3rd Baseline Tickets for the September 5th, 1:05 pm Game against the New York Mets!! Don't miss out on our long-anticipated MLB game. The details are listed below. Please RSVP and make your payment to ensure you have a seat. This social event is open to family and friends.

- When: 9 / 5/ 2021- Where: Nationals Park

What: NY Mets vs Wash NationalsTime: Game starts 12:05 pm

- *Costs:* \$50 seat, 3rd baseline lower section. These are \$59 seats that the Lodge is subsidizing.

 Payment: you can send payment to the Secretary by check, PayPal or Venmo, Payment ensures your seat; Payment due prior to game

These excellent seats which the Lodge is discounting have a value of \$59 but you and your guests are able to purchase them for only \$50.

At the time of the article, we have a few seats remaining in the Block that we purchased for the Lodge. Please RSVP with payment to attend the game. The game is open to all including family, friends, and prospective members and their families.

Please remember that the WM will provide a total of two tickets for any new Petitioner and his First Line Signer. It's a great opportunity to bring someone into Masonry. As you know, the WM mailed hard copy petitions to all of our members this January.

Happy Birthday

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

Jonathan D. Cohen1	Richard L. Sugarman6	Charles Stopak14	Thomas T. Henry29
Steven N. Saidman2	Leslie J. Silverstone8	Frank Silnicky20	Robert H. Starr2
Elliott B. Prissman6	Stephen S. Kremer12	George R. Adams23	

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2021 OFFICERS

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Senior Warden Jeffrey R. Greenwald, sw@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915					
Junior Warden	Allen R. Levy, jw@sgbf45.org, 703 470-4945				
Secretary	Raymond Horn, rhorn@sgbf45.org, 443-253-0605				
6109 Lone Oak I	Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, secretary@sgbf45.org				
TreasurerRobert H	. Starr, PGM, <u>treasurer@sgbf45.org</u> , 301-460-3088				
Chaplain GCh-E Walter F. Simon, PM, DSM, chaplain@sgbf45.org , 301-318-2485					
Master-of-Ceremonies	. Jerry P. Keilsohn, <u>mc@sgbf45.org</u> , 301-570-0446				
Senior Deacon	Derek Gould, <u>sd@sgbf45.org</u> , 240-938-6285				
Junior Deacon	Aaron <u>Kamerer, jd@sgbf45.org</u> , 202-510-5181				
Senior Steward	Yoel M. Gittleson, <u>ss@sgbf45.org</u> , 240-997-8833				

Trustees & Investment Committee

Jerome M. Bauman, PA, MA (2021), trustee@sqbf45.org, 301-593-2478

Jeffrey Greenwald, (2022) jgreenwald@sqbf45.org, 301-869-1915

Julien P. Hofberg, PM (2023), trustee@sqbf45.org, 301-774-2868

Fidelity Medal Recipient..Jerome Bauman, PM,.jbauman@sgbf45.org. 301-593-2478

 Historian
 Walter Simon, PM, DSM, wsimon@sgbf45.org, 301-318-2485

 Tiler
 Hal Henig, hhenig@sgbf45.org, 301-681-3873

 Immediate PM
 Jerry P. Keilsohn, mc@sgbf45.org, 301-570-0446

2021 REPRESENTATIVES

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Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@sgbf45.org, 301-989-8945

hhenig@sgbf45.org, 301-681-3873

Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving Baskets.......Jeffrey Greenwald, sw@sqbf45.org, 301-869-1915

David B. Torchinsky, PM, dtorchinsky@sgbf45.org, 301-933-1955

Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation

Sec. Treas.......Michael K. Greenwald, PM
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 Gittelson

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M. Secretary 6109 Lone Oak Drive Bethesda, MD 20817



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
September	1	Master Mason Curtesy Degree, Harmony Lodge No.17, 7:30 pm Singleton Masonic Hall	Masons
	5	Rosh Hashannah JSSA Basket Program, 9:00 am	Open
	5	Washington Nationals vs NY Mets Social, 1:05 pm	Open
	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm Grand Visitation, Anniversary Night	Masons
	19	Grand Lodge Family BBQ, Glen Echo Park	Masons and Family
	27	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates

Date		Event	Open to
October	12	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	17	Grand Lodge Day at the Renaissance Festival - Social	Open
	24	Masonic Day of Thanksgiving and Remembrancet	Masons
	25	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates