

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

bulletin

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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)

Grand Lodge, FAAM of the District of Columbia





MWB Alan L. Gordon, Grand Master of Masons, WM Burt Levy and WB Allen Wright



Presented September 14th, 2021 by MWB Alan L. Gordon, Grand Master of Masons, to WB Allen Wright at the District of Columbia, at his Grand Visitation.

Brethren –

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of September.

As we move into the autumn months, the Grand Visitation schedule is in full swing. This past week, we visited four Lodges and were able to present the Gold Fidelity Medal to WB Allen J. Wright, Past Master (1963) from Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45. I want to offer my heartiest of congratulations to WB Wright. Too few brethren are so recognized. But, when the Committee presented their decision earlier this year, I knew it to be the correct one. It is my sincerest of wishes that WB Wright enjoy this special status for many years as he continues to attend his lodge on a regular basis.

I also learned something new that night. I learned that back in the day, members of the that Lodge all lived practically next door to each other, such that the street might have been referred to as Mason's Row.

Today, our brethren are scattered all over the tri-state area (otherwise referred to as the DMV), as well as all over the country and the world. That being said, I am grateful to have several DC Masons living within a mile of my own residence, with one only 5 doors away. So as scattered as we may be, we still share the same physical closeness in some regards as we did over 50 years ago.

Sincerely & Fraternally, Alan L. Gordon Grand Master

(taken from Grand Lodge Weekly Digest, 9/17/2021)

Allen J. Wright, PM, GLGFM, was born in Philadelphia on October 25, 1929. After the family moved to Washington, DC in 1935, he attended the District of Columbia public school system and graduated from Roosevelt High School. In 1951, he graduated from the Catholic University of America.

Allen has had a successful and satisfying professional career. As a civilian employee for the Department of the Navy, he was doing structural design of submarines. As a consulting engineer, he designed bridges and structures of multiple buildings in the area and surrounding jurisdictions. Allen retired in 1999 after 40 years in his own successful professional business.

Brother Wright was raised in Samuel Gompers Lodge No. 45 by his father, David Wright, in 1953. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1963. In 1999, he was elected Treasurer of the Lodge. After serving for ten years, WB Wright stepped down at the end of his term in 2018. However, he remains an integral part of the Lodge's Investment Committee.

Having received a Certificate of Proficiency in the early 1960's, WB Wright has instructed brothers in the degrees and catechism for many years. He is the go-to person for learning the long parts of the Ritual. If there is something to be done, Allen will either do it, assist the brothers assigned to the task or advise them on how to best perform the job.

For his lifetime contribution to Freemasonry in general and this Grand Lodge in Particular, the Grand Lodge, FAAM of the District of Columbia is pleased to award the Gold Fidelity Medal to Worshipful Brother Allen J. Wright.

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



Light From the East

Burt Levy, W.M. 2021



Brethren,

Are you receiving all the gifts of Freemasonry? If you are not an active Mason, I think not. There is nothing wrong with simply being a "sideliner" and having the pride that comes with being a part of the world's largest and oldest fraternity. Being a dues-paying Mason allows you to visit any Lodge in the world and to be received there with honor and appreciation. It allows you to be a "brother" to any of the more than six million members on the planet. You have access to all of the many interesting, informative, and sometimes entertaining programs each Lodge offers on their meeting nights. If G-d forbid, you are in dire need for any purpose, Masonic relief can help. And, when the time comes for the honor of Last Rites, your brothers will see that you have a dignified service.

But the term "sideliner" is an accurate one. When a member receives his third Degree and does not take the next step to a position in the progressive line that will advance him to one day becoming Master of his Lodge, he is "sidelined" from the main arena of Freemasonry. The true gifts of our fraternity come with having served as Master of your lodge. Meaning that you have "mastered" the ritual and Degree work required of the Stewards, Deacons, and Wardens, thus earning you the title of Master, and forevermore to be known as "Worshipful Brother." This personal progression is where Masonry does its "magic." I have personally witnessed very shy individuals become outgoing and self-assured. Selfish becoming selfless and considerate, unenlightened becoming learned, and developing a thirst for more "light" or knowledge. A Master in his trek toward achieving that title has certainly become the "better man" that Masonry makes from the good men who join our ranks.

If you wish to truly become a "better man" and make a difference towards the betterment of our Lodge, there are several opportunities. The starting line for your goal is taking a position as one of the Stewards. We currently have **two** openings for those chairs. But, if you wish to accelerate your Masonic career, you can offer yourself as a candidate for the Jr. Deacon's chair. Our Senior Warden, Dr. Jeffrey Greenwald will be retiring next year after 30 years of meritorious service to our country. He will be traveling and exploring how and where to spend his retirement years and realizes that he will not be available to give the time and attention required of a Worshipful Master. So, our Brother, Past Master Jerry Kielsohn will graciously run in the election to be the next Master in his stead. If you wish to advance in Masonry, there are three chances to do so in the ensuing year. We will have our elections for those chairs next month, so contact me or our Brother Secretary to ensure that your name will be on the ballot.

Our October 12th communication will be Wardens' Night which means that all officers will move up one chair and will be responsible for the program that evening. As mentioned earlier, Senior Warden Jeffrey Greenwald is a medical doctor. He is very respected in his field and has been published many times. He is going to share his vast knowledge of the most discussed subject of these past 20 months: "The Coronavirus and the miraculous new vaccines that have been developed to control it." You will leave that meeting with a thorough understanding of the new mRNA, or messenger vaccines that "teach" our immune system to recognize and defend against the specific diseases they are developed for. I will look forward to seeing you at that meeting. Sincerely and fraternally,

Burt

BROTHER THOMAS EBILANE RECEIVES HIS MASTER MASON DEGREE



Our very patient Brother Thomas Ebilane, who has been waiting for well over a year, was raised to the Subline Degree of Master Mason on Wednesday, September 1st, as a courtesy degree by Harmony Lodge No. 17.

A large number of our Brethren participated in the degree including David Torchinsky, PM, WM Burt Levy, PM, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Sheldon Rappeport, GLEm, Raymond Horn, PM. Also attending the Degree: JGS Michael Greenwald, RWB, Robert Greenwald, PM, and Robert H. Starr, PGM.

First of all, I would like to thank each and every one of you on behalf of the Worshipful Master of Harmony Lodge No 17, WB Stephen Watkins, for your help and contribution in putting together an amazing degree on Wednesday night; it was indeed a great show, and I am sure that the newly made Master Masons will never forget what they experienced that night.

Every single member of the cast put in an outstanding performance: From the Stewards, Deacons, Wardens, the Ruffians (watch out for the 2nd base), Master to King Solomon; it was flawless. But, allow me to single out our Grand Lecturer, RWB Christopher "Chip" Mahaney for, yet another stellar performance in the books for the jurisdiction.

You all braved the bad weather, risking your lives in the process, to take part in these bothers' raising; which obviously shows your commitment to the craft in general and our jurisdiction in particular. The brethren of Harmony Lodge No 17 are thankful for your help and will forever be indebted to you for that.

Frat., Jean-Paul Dongmo Sr., PM Secretary

PLANNING FOR GIVING THANKS

We are again preparing for this year's William Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program. Last year, we went forward as we have done for decades to meet on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving to deliver food baskets through our partner JSSA. We have also taken on supporting families associated with a Charter School in Washington DC who asked for our help with Thanksgiving Baskets last year.

It is not too late to contribute to this important cause and our Lodge's largest Community Service Event. Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 is responsible for all of the food baskets that JSSA provides for Thanksgiving.

We modified our program to respect the health of our volunteers last year and will follow the directions of our Committee Chairman, SW Jeff Greenwald to again wear masks and gloves, and socially distance. We will construct the Baskets and load them into a truck out of doors, at the Kensington Safeway garage on the evening of Saturday, November 21st.

Then on Sunday, November 22nd, we will meet bright and early outdoors at the Kensington Lodge Hall parking lot as we take the same precautions as we add Turkeys and load the baskets into the cars for distribution.

Please save these dates to contribute your effort and financial support. Please let our Chairman, Jeff Greenwald know if you will be attending. jw@sgbf45.org



during Grand Visitation

During our Annual Grand Visitation, following the Grand Masters presentation of the Gold Fidelity Medal, the report of our WM Burt Levy and Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, WB Jerry Keilsohn presented the Anniversary Awards.



Jerome Bauman, PM (70 Years)

Jules Tepper, PGM (45 Years)



Those present for the awards were Brothers Alan Karpas (15 Years), Steven Saidman (50 Years), Julien Hofberg, PM (45 Years), Joshua Rubin, PM (15 Years), Michael Greenwald, PM (10 Years), Richard Sincoff (55 Years), and not pictured Jerome Barry (35 Years). Presented earlier were awards for Jerome Bauman, PM (70 Years), Samuel Bauman (40 Years) and Jules Tepper, PGM (45 Years).

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45, F.A.A.M Years of Service Awards

2021 HONOREES

70 Years Jerome Bauman, PM

65 Years Moritz Cohen, Jr Edward Hinkle

60 Years William Applestein

55 Years Stephen Costin Norman Dekelbaum Stephen Silver Richard Sincoff Jay Stearman Donald Stein Aaron Teitel, PM

50 Years Steven Saidman Martin Simon

45 Years Julien Hofberg, PM Edwin Nachlas, PM Burton Penn, PM Jules Tepper, PGM

40 Years Samuel Bauman Michael Ben Canaan David Davis

35 Years Jerome Barry Seymour Lubitz

30 Years

Stuart Levin

15 Years

Lee Barton John Buchanan Alan Karpas Gary Politzer Joshua Rubin, PM

10 Years Michael Greenwald, PM





The Worshipful Master has asked W.B. Allen Wright to accept being appointed as our Chaplain for the balance of this Masonic Year. He thought it appropriate to send a picture of himself looking very much like a Chaplain from 1942! He is just as handsome today as he was at his Bar Mitzvah.

Vickie Starr, wife of MWB Robert H. Starr was installed as Worthy Matron of Naomi Chapter No. 3, Order of the Eastern Star in DC. Her theme for the year is "The Cat in the Hat Joins our Eastern Star." Our Worshipful Master, Burton S. Levy, was installed as Associate Patron and is expected to advance to the East in April of 2022. We hope that many members of the Lodge and their spouses will attend his installation.

Also, MWB Robert H. Starr celebrated his 80th birthday at a dinner with family. He said that it was only one more time around the sun since his last one. That's an astronomical way to think about birthdays. In June, WB Jerry Keilsohn's daughter Monica was graduated from Drexel University with a BS in Materials Science and Engineering. The graduation for her department was virtual, so it happened in Jerry and Leah's family room.

Monica has also found a job in her field. The new position is in San Diego. A few days after completing her studies, she and her Dad set off on a 5 day cross country road trip to California. They chose the southern route (I-40 – RT 66) passing through Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and finally into California. Mom insisted on a Text every time they crossed into a new state.

They made multiple stops along the way seeing the sites, such as the Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Cadillac Ranch outside Amarillo, Texas; the Petrified Forest, and stood on the corner in Winslow, Arizona. With a final stop of getting their





A fun and memorable trip for them both.

Bro. Lee Barton attend the Grand Lodge BBQ and wanted us to know that he has been living in Warrenton and working in Vienna for the last 10 years. He grew up in Canterbury, Kent, England and attended the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, and later the University of Brighton where he earned a degree in Computer Science. He had two children shortly after joining our Lodge and often travels internationally making it very hard to attend meetings.

Bro. Jerome Barry attended Grand Visitation and he wanted us to know that he grew up in Boston and is a teacher, singer, cantor, linguist and Vietnam veteran. He taught at six Universities and is the Director and Founder in 1994 of The Embassy Series, www.embassyseries.org. he organizes classical concerts hosted in different embassies involving artists from around the world. He let us know that these concerts which have been on hold during Covid will be starting up again with limited capacity.

And finally, a large turnout of our Lodge Brethren and their family came for the fellowship and surprisingly good food at the Grand Lodge's recent BBQ held at Glen Echo Park. A picture-perfect day, the

carousel was running and all the Levy, WB Robert H.

Providence of the Brotherhood. Stay for the Brotherhood. Stay for the Brotherhood. tables were full. WB Burt Levy, JW Allen Starr, PGM, Vickie and a large number of their family including Bro. Lee Barton, WB Jonathan Binstock, WB Joshua Rubin and his two boys, WB Adam Foreman and his two boys, WB Raymond Horn, Tiler Hal Henig and Lisa, WB Robert Greenwald and Roberta, and it was good to see Bonnie Foreman meeting old friends.

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LODGE DAY AT NATIONALS PARK

Sunday, September 5th, 16 Brethren and our guests descended on Nationals Park to watch the New York Mets shellac the Washington Nationals 13 – 6. The Nationals fell behind in the first inning, then rallied back in the 6th inning to tie the score, but when we headed into the 9th inning, the Nats were down by one. By the bottom of the 9th, the Nats were down by seven.

Like a day fishing, attending a game always beats a day at work.



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GRAND LODGE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE by Aaron Kamerer



Attending the Conference: JW Allen Levy, SD Derek Gould, WB Jerry Keilsohn, JD Aaron Kamerer

The Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M. of the District of Columbia held their first Leadership Conference in person since the start of the pandemic. The one-day event was on Saturday, August 28, 2021, and went throughout the entire day and into the evening. The Conference was full of excellent presenters, interactive workshops, an intriguing guest speak, and of course wonderful meals and social activities. The wisdom and knowledge shared at this conference were phenomenal. The time and effort by The Grand Lodge Officers that coordinated this year's conference deserve grand applause.

Being new to Masonry, this was my first Leadership Conference, and I was excited to be able to attend. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend all the events due to prior engagements. One of the most intriguing segments was the guest speaker during our lunch.

I was excited to see that The Grand Lodge was willing to have Timothy Hogan, who some consider controversial, speak at the Leadership Conference. While many have voiced online that his views are not in line with traditional Masonic teachings, it was still very enlightening to hear his correlation with other viewpoints based around the symbolism associated with 18th century Masons and other arts centuries prior.

A short snippet from his Biography for those who don't know Brother Hogan:

Timothy Hogan is an author and lecturer within the Western Mystery school tradition. He is a Past Master within several different spiritual traditions, including many bodies in Freemasonry (AF&AM) and of Rosicrucian lineages. He is a Grand Master for multiple Knight Templar lineages and runs the Templar

JW Allen Levy making a point during one of the conference discussions.



Guest Speaker Bro. Timothy Hogan

Collegia. He is the author of The Alchemical Keys to Masonic Ritual; The 32 Secret Paths of Solomon; Revelation of the Holy Grail (written under the pen name of Chevalier Emerys); Entering the Chain of Union; The Way of the Templar; Novo Clavis Esoterika; Thoughts from Meditations; and he is author of The Elements of the Elements. Timothy Hogan has written for several periodicals over the last decade, including L'Initiation, Ariadne's Web, Livings Stones Magazine, the New Equinox Journal, The Fraternal Review, The Scottish Rite Journal, and Heredom. Timothy Hogan's books have been translated into Spanish and German. Timothy Hogan is likewise known for his Track II diplomatic meetings with both governmental and spiritual world leaders.

His presentation at the Leadership Conference touched on his various writings to include The Elements of the Elements, The Way of the Templar, and The 32 Secret Paths of Solomon. Throughout his research and interpretation of that data, he found that there are many similarities to ancient Alchemy and Masonry. While the traditional Mason accepts modern Masonry as starting in 1717 with its root dating back to an unknown time. Brother Hogan's presentation ties the Craft to the other various arts to include Alchemy in centuries prior. His presentation was over an hour long and covered many comparisons and notes of history. While this attendee was fascinated by the symbolism, lore, and history of the presentation, I recommend everyone read his books and form their conclusions. At the least, it will be very entertaining.

Aaron Kamerer, Junior Deacon

On a side note – I have his entire published works in my library if anyone would like to read them. Just let me know.

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Oons.. We Did It Again!

Probably sounds better when sung by Brittney Spears, but SGBF#45 can own this statement. It is not an oops, however.... It is what we do and what we will do again and again and again. We volunteer to provide service to our community. Our most recent event was the Rosh Hashanah Basket Program along with the Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA). On Sunday Sept 5th. Ray Horn, Thom Ebilane, and Jeff Greenwald met at JSSA Montrose in the early AM to add challah to 300 pre-filled baskets. The baskets had been pre-filled by other JSSA volunteers the day before with many of the common foods for the Jewish New Year. This included sparkling wine, gefilte fish, apples, and honey. While all this was going on at JSSA Montrose, another group of brethren were performing the same tasks at Ohr Kodesh. Jerry Keilsohn, Mike Greenwald, Derek Gould, and Aaron Kamerer (along with Shelly) were plugging along to help fill another 200 baskets. Once the baskets were filled, the tough job started...schlepping the bags to the delivery cars, so that they could be delivered to needy members of the community. Thanks to all who were involved. In addition. SGBF#45 provided some financial support for this program, so, in essence, all of the brethren were involved.

Next big event is our annual William Boker Thanksgiving program. The background work for this has already been started, but, of course, we will need many of you to help out. More details to follow. The Kol Shalom contingent: JD Aaron and Shelly Kamerer, SD Derek Gould, RWB Michael Greenwald, PM, Jerry Keilsohn, PM.

HOLIDAY

The JSSA Office Continent: Committee Chairman, SW Jeff Greenwald, Bro Thom Ebilane, and Raymond Horn, PM.

Get Ready to Boost! the presses, it is likely that

By the time this newsletter has hit the presses, it is likely that the CDC will have officially recommended that all adults receive a booster vaccine for Covid-19. This is especially required for all high-risk immune-suppressed adults. The new recommendation will state that all adults should receive a booster dose 8 months (or longer) after their last dose. Presently, this is just for the Pfizer vaccine, but it will be extended to the other vaccines as well. And, by the way...Flu season is coming, so get ready to receive your flu shot as well!

Remember, part of the creed of a Mason is to help the community that we live in. Vaccines do just that. This is not my political statement..it is fact! Help yourself so that we can help the community.

Awarding Our Lodges

Silver Fidelity Medal

The array of Certificates, Medals and Pins presented to WB Jerry Bauman, including the Silver Lodge Fidelity Medal and Certificate, The Lodge Proclamation for the Fidelity Medal, the Text of which is included in the Bulletin, The Grand Lodge 70 Year Certificate and Pin and a Letter from GM Alan L. Gordon congratulating Jerry on his accomplishments.





WB Burt Levy, WB Allen Wright, RWB Jules Tepper, WB Ray Horn, WB Jerry Keilsohn, Brother Sam Bauman and Brother Sonny Gariby, not seen since he was taking all the photographs.

By a unanimous vote of the Lodge at the April Stated communication, Worshipful Brother Jerome Bauman was selected as the Samuel-Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge # 45 Fidelity Medal holder.

It took some coordination, but the Worshipful Master and a small contingent of brethren; WB Burt Levy, WB Allen Wright, RWB Jules Tepper, WB Ray Horn, WB Jerry Keilsohn, Brother Sam Bauman and Brother Sonny Garibay (who did his usual excellent job being the photographer) were able to present WB Bauman with the justly deserved Fidelity Medal Lodge Citation, the actual Medal and a certificate from the Grand Lodge.

It turns out that WB Bauman has been a Mason for 70 years, having been raised on April 24th, 1956. The group were also able to present him with the Grand Lodge's 70 Years of Service certificate and the matching pin.



WM Allen Wright celebrated the event by wearing his most patriotic socks!

Brother Sam Bauman shares a unique Masonic relationship with his dad. In addition to being a Lewis Jewel holder, he was Raised almost exactly 30 years after, his Dad's raising. The group were also able to present Brother Sam with his 40 year award and pin.

Stain Glass Pub Meet Up



Group photo of the Brethren and guests joying themselves and having a good time. Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, WM Burt Levy, PM, **Treasurer Robert** Starr, PGM, Julien Hofberg, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, And EA Steve Dekelbaum. Our guests were Stuart Zitomer and Joey Dekelbaum, son of Brother Dekelbaum.

On Monday evening, August 23, Samuel Gompers Benjamin Franklin Lodge held our Monthly Meet-Up at the Stain Glass Pub, located on Layhill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland not far from the Glenmont Metro Station. This was the first time in many years that our Lodge held an evening Social Gathering at this Restaurant. We had no problems with parking since parking was available near the restaurant.

Eight Brethren and guests attended our two-hour gathering at the restaurant. The attending Brethren were as follows: Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, WM Burt Levy, PM, Treasurer Robert Starr, PGM, Julien Hofberg, PM, Dave Torchinsky, PM, And EA Steve Dekelbaum. Our guests were Stuart Zitomer and Joey Dekelbaum, son of Brother Dekelbaum.

The group of men enjoyed having half-priced pizza. In addition, we ordered tortilla chips with dip and soft drinks. Some of our Brethren enjoyed some beer at the pub.

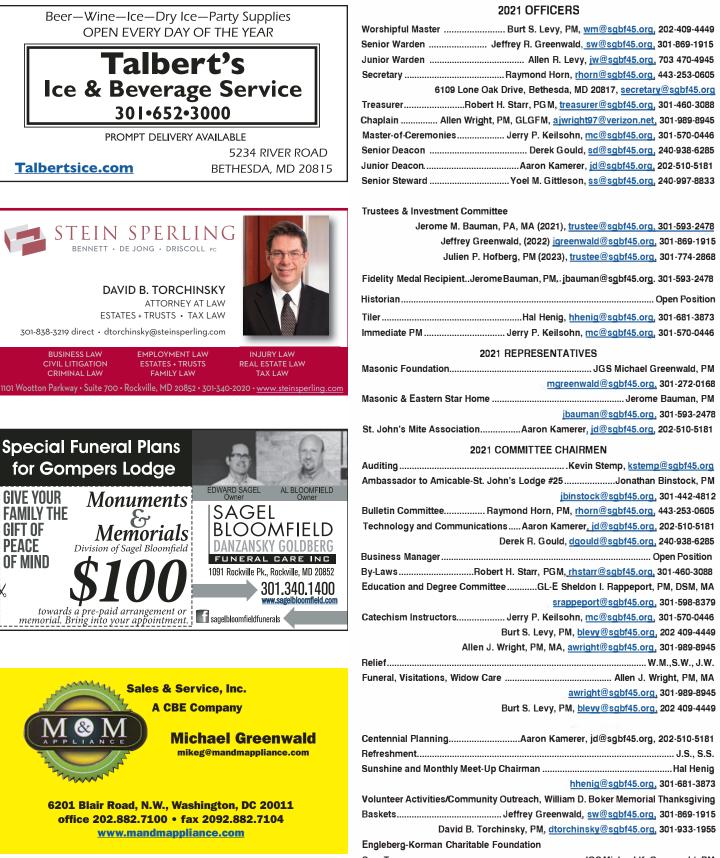
Finally, Stuart Zitomer, son of our late Brother Marty Zitomer, who passed in 2018, has organized a Sukkot Meet-Up at his mother's house (Sharon Zitomer) on Monday, September 27.

Happy Birthday

Jonathan M. Binstock 2
Samuel Barr3
Harold Grainger8

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

3	Stephen A. Silver12	Jerry Rosentha20
}	Seymour I. Lubitz13	Allen J. Wright25
)	Harold A. Reznick19	Kevin G. Willson29



Sec. Treas.....JGS 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
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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 <u>www.sgbf45.org</u>. 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		Date		Event	Open to
October	12	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons		November	r 9 Stated Communication, 7:30 pm		Masons
	17	Grand Lodge Day at the Renaissance Festival - Social	Open			20	Thanksgiving Basket construction, Kensington Safeway, 6:00 pm, Open	Open
	24	Masonic Day of Thanksgiving and Remembrance	Masons	21		21	Thanksgiving Basket distribution, Kensington Masonic Hall, 8:00 am, Open	Open
	25	Meet-Up, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm	Masons and Candidates			22	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates

Date		Event	Open to
December	12	Stated Communication, Installation, 2:00 pm	Masons and Candidates
	20	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates