

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

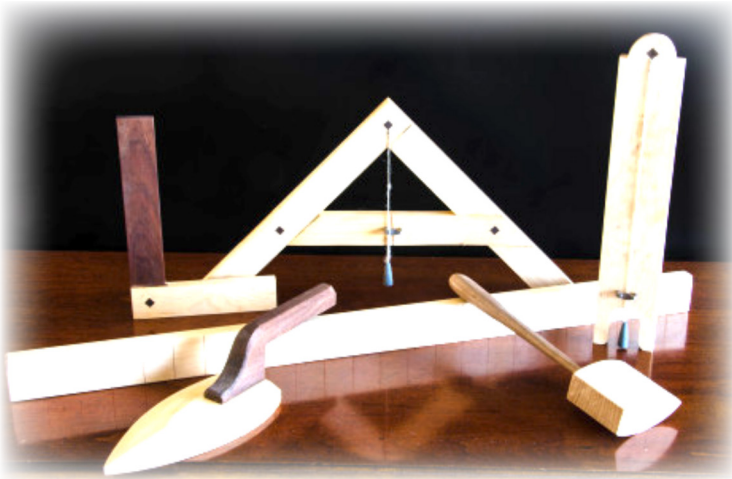
bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 8
November 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)

Grand Lodge, FAAM of the District of Columbia

Lodge Officer Elections and our Second Degree



Masonic working tools

In Freemasonry, each degree represents the refining and transformation of the individual through a unique set of working tools that symbolize the progression of lessons from an entered apprentice to a master mason. For a Fellowcraft, the lessons of the Degree, represented by the operative mason tools of the square, level, and plumb. With the lesson of these tools, Masons are reminded how to conduct themselves and interact with others.

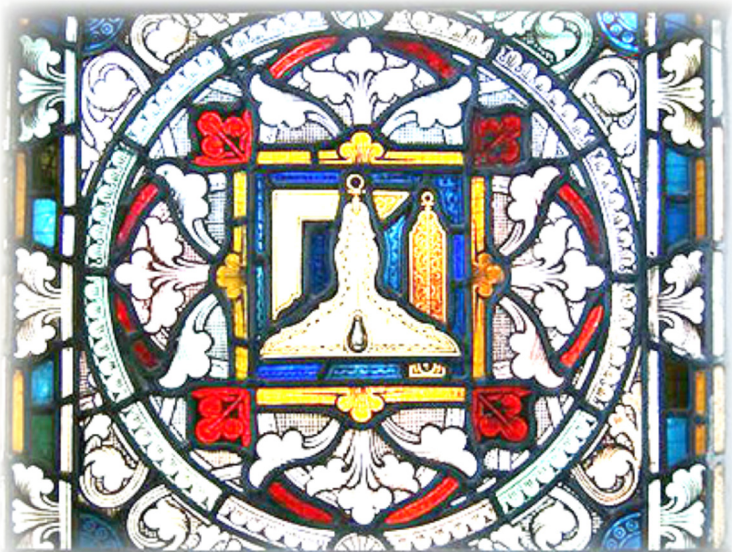
Join your Brethren on November 9th, for our November Stated Communication. We will hold our Election of Lodge Officers for the ensuing Masonic Year and conduct our Second Degree. Our degree team has invested the time and energy to hold a well-prepared and meaningful degree. But it is imperative for our Initiated Brethren and our cast that we show the appropriate Masonic support by attending.

Our annual elections will be held before the Degree, at our Stated Communication. It was announced in Lodge during our last Stated Communication that Jerry Keilsohn, PM is willing to serve as Worshipful Master as our SW Jeffrey Greenwald will not be able to hold office next year. Additionally, please be aware that the office of Jr. Deacon for the next year is open as we do not have an eligible SR Steward to move up to that position, and we will also elect a Trustee. Our Trustees serve for three years, every year one of the Trustee positions becomes open and is on the ballot.

Those wishing to be considered by the Lodge for an elected officer position, who are not currently Wardens or Deacons or an incumbent officer (Secretary, Treasurer or Trustee), and are willing to serve if re-elected, MAY send the Secretary a note (or email) informing him of the office for which you wish to be considered. Your name will be listed on the ballot for that office.

Except for the positions mentioned above, it is assumed that the incumbents and the current Wardens and Deacons will be standing for election, if we do not hear otherwise, they do not need to submit a notification to have their name on the ballot and their name announced in Lodge.

As you may know, the Senior and Junior Stewards, Master of Ceremonies and Chaplain are appointed by the new Worshipful Master, as are several committee roles. These positions are a great way to stay engaged and support your Lodge. Please let the Secretary know if you wish to be considered for an appointment for the next year.



The Fellowcraft working tools window from the Kingston Parish Church in Jamaica

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

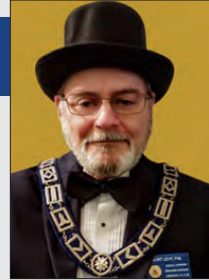
To learn more about Masonry:
**We meet the second Tuesday night
at Takoma Masonic Center**

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



Brethren (and Ladies),
Each time I sit down to write this Bulletin article, I feel a great responsibility to impart wisdom (or “Light”) to you – our members and ladies. Our great fraternity bestows the title of “Worshipful Master” to those men who take the little extra commitment of time and effort to learn the Masonic Ritual and the allegorical lessons contained there in, well enough to progress through a succession of Lodge offices: Stewards, Deacons, and Wardens over a period of 6 years until, in the 7th year, they are deemed capable to assume the highest position of leadership in the Lodge. Once each year during his progression to that respected chair in the East, the “traveler” must pass his greatest test, that of having his fellow members assess his abilities and to cast their vote of approval for him to progress (or not). That time is now upon us! Our next meeting, on November 9th, will be our annual election night. Due to the seriousness of the event, it is expected that most members able to do so will attend. As a bonus that night, we will confer the Fellowcraft Degree on our Brothers Steven Dekelbaum and Brigham Callam. The Covid rules have now been eased at Takoma Masonic Center, so we will, finally, be able to resume our pre-meeting repasts. This being a very special event, we will expect an equally special meal from our refreshment committee.

Now, back to my responsibility to impart wisdom and/or leadership: Every one of us who becomes a Mason does so for admirable reasons, be they to channel their charitable efforts; to better themselves; or to endeavor

to better mankind in general. As an example of the lofty ideals of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge No.45 – it was decided during our last Officer’s Meeting to revive our proud tradition of blood donations to the Red Cross. Our new effort will be known as the “**Jerrold Gordon Blood Drive**” and will honor our recently departed brother and his tireless efforts supporting our Lodge. Our Grand Lodge is sponsoring a drive to solicit donations as well and is encouraging all donors to track their donations through the Red Cross Donor App. which is available on Google Play or the Apple App Store. Simply download it to your phone, follow the instructions therein and be sure to navigate to the Group Donor section and designate “GLDC - SGBF, No. 45” as your Group Name. The app will automatically find any donor history you may have and credit it to you. You can schedule appointment times and types (blood, platelets, or plasma), and your digital donation card will always be handy right there on your phone. I am certain that many of you AND members of your family are already blood donors, so please be aware that everyone who names “GLDC - SGBF, No. 45” as their donor group will be counted toward the **Jerrold Gordon Blood Drive** effort (see more on Page 5 for this)!

Brethren, I often ask you to call me if you have any questions. I very much want to see the success of this worthy effort, so please don’t hesitate to phone me (202 409-4449) if you need any help at installing the Red Cross App. on your smartphone.

Burt

SUKKOT MEET-UP AT THE ZITOMER'S

By Tiler Hal Henig



Tiler Hal Henig, Raymond Horn, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Jon Binstock, PM, and Bro. Charlie Meyers Mark Baron and Stuart Zitomer

On Monday evening, September 27, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge held a Sukkot Meet-Up at Sharon Zitomer's House in White Oak. Stuart Zitomer, who is a regular guest who attends our Lodge Meet-Ups organized this September social gathering. Stuart is the son of the late Brother Marty Zitomer, who passed away three years ago.

During our earlier August Meet-Up at the Stained Glass Pub, Stuart mentioned that he wanted to organize a Sukkot Meet-Up and his mother Sharon and sister Rinni made it possible by preparing the food for the Brethren. Tiler Hal, our Meet-Up Chairman contributed grapes and kosher nuts for the Sukkot Meal. This is the first time that our lodge had organized this type of Meet-Up. Hopefully, if Sukkot ever falls again on the fourth Monday, we could have this type of Meet-Up again. However, Jewish Holidays are determined by a lunar calendar that is not fixed to the dates of the Solar calendar. A special thank you to Stuart Zitomer for giving back to the Lodge by hosting our special Meet-Up.

Sukkot is a Jewish Holiday that runs for eight days and it starts, after Yom Kippur. The Holiday is part of the Jewish Holiday Season that runs for three weeks either in September or October. This holiday season starts with the Jewish New Year of Rosh Hashana. The Sukkot holiday is a celebration of the fall harvest celebrated, since Ancient Times in Isreal. During this period, many Jewish Families put up a structure near their homes and eat their meals outside.

Seven Brethren and one guest attended this unique social gathering which occurred during sundown. Brethren in attendance were Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Jon Binstock, PM, and Brother Charlie Meyers. The guests attending were Mark Baron and of course Stuart Zitomer, his sister Rinni and his mother Sharon. The food offered by the Zitomer family was a buffet of salmon, pasta, rice, string beans, and a selection of dessert. The Brethren and guest ate inside the Sukkot.

For the Veterans Corner

by Robert Greenwald

This is general information not only for Vets but everyone.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, has refrained from penalizing providers who haven't complied with its price transparency rule, Bloomberg Law reported Aug. 16. CMS said that it began sending warning letters to hospitals, not in compliance with the regulation in April. The agency told Bloomberg that it had sent about 165 warning letters by mid-July. Hospitals have 90 days to address the violations before CMS decides whether additional compliance actions are necessary. "CMS intends to continue its monitoring and enforcement activities and will issue additional warning letters on a monthly basis going forward, as necessary," a CMS spokesperson told Bloomberg. The CMS spokesperson confirmed that the agency has not issued any fines to hospitals.

The CMS final price transparency rule, which took effect 1 JAN, aims to make hospital pricing information readily available to patients to compare costs and make more informed healthcare decisions. To aid with this, hospitals in the U.S. are required to post both a machine-readable file with the negotiated rates for all items and services and display the prices of 300 shoppable services in a consumer-friendly format. The price transparency rule states that if a hospital is noncompliant, the agency may request a corrective action plan, assess a civil monetary penalty of up to \$300 per day or publicize the penalty on a CMS website. A recent analysis of 500 hospitals conducted by the nonprofit Patient Rights Advocate found that 94.4 percent of hospitals haven't met at least one of the requirements since the rule took effect.

To boost compliance, CMS has proposed increasing the minimum fine for price transparency violations to up to \$2 million per year. Hospitals with more than 30 beds in violation of the rule would pay \$10 per day for each bed, up to \$5,500 per day. Hospitals with 30 beds or fewer would continue to pay up to \$300 per day. This would make the annual penalty at least \$109,500, or as high as \$2 million a year for large hospitals that fail to make prices public.

[Source: Becker's Hospital Review | Alia Paavola | August 16, 2021 ++]

**The Jerrold Gordon Blood Drive Challenge will end November 30th
If you have not as yet participated, take due notice and make your appointment!
As mentioned by our WM Burt Levy in his Light from the East Column. The
instructions for registering are repeated below.**

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"

• **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.

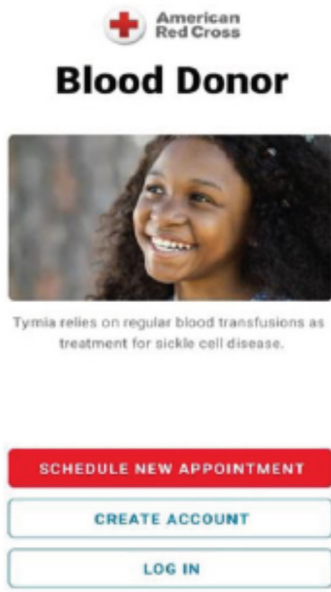
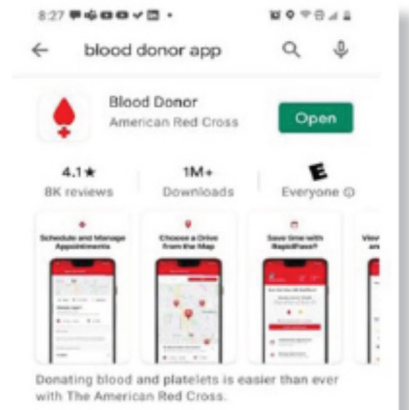
o **Step 3:** Search your Lodge's team name and join it. The Lodge team names will look like this: "GLDC – SGBF No. 45". The team name will start with "GLDC" to indicate the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia.

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.



Rules of the Challenge:

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."

Happy Birthday

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

Howard L. Blum30	Chester N. Katz.....20	Jay A. Torchinsky 4	Joseph P. Gibson, Sr.14
Zalmon J. Chelec.....20	Jerry M. Robbin11	Allen R. Levy 6	Erik F. Milman, PM 8
Paul C. Cohen 3	Aaron S. Teitel, PM.....23	John F. Buchanan22	
Jules V. Fink15	Jerome Barry16	Jeffrey R. Greenwald.....16	

The Gossip Column

By Allen Levy

Received this item from MWB Robert H. Starr:

Lara and Bro. Lee Barton celebrated their 18th Wedding Anniversary on Oct 12th. Lee met Lara in December of 2002. Mazel Tov!

At the time of writing this item (always last minute), I contacted MWB Starr via email for more information about this item and did not get a response. So, here's my interpretation:

In December of 2002, MWB Starr was to travel to Paris, France for an event at the French Masonic Grand Lodge. Of course, he was going to take his wife and daughter on a trip to Paris. Meanwhile, Bro. Lee Barton was also planning to attend the event in Paris. Now... did Bro. Lee first meet Lara in Paris? Or did they know each other before the trip? How could he fly over to Paris to "visit" someone he hadn't met yet?

Anyway, if you do the math (2021-2002=19) maybe it adds up that Lara and Lee had their "meet cute" in La Ville Lumière (the City of Light), married a year later, and have been together ever since, or happily ever after. If that's not the exact facts, I'm still printing the legend. Happy Anniversary!

Bro. William Keilsohn has found a new job in Dallas, Texas. His father, Bro. Keilsohn (Jerry) helped the younger Bro. move out of his apartment in Pennsylvania on September 23rd. Then a few days later they both flew to Dallas to get the younger Bro. moved into his new apartment. This included a shopping trip to Target; Bed, Bath & Beyond; Walmart; Walgreens; CVS, and a grocery store all over two days. Plus, a trip to get the internet set up. Bro. Willie started his new job on Monday, September 27th.

Bro. Jerry is starting a new business assisting his family members to move to different parts of the country for new jobs. If you remember last month's Gossip Column, he helped daughter Monica move to San Diego, California for a new job. If you are a Keilsohn family member and are planning on starting a new job thousands of miles away, give Bro. Jerry a call. Meals and shopping sprees are included.

News from the DCGL Day at the Maryland Renaissance Festival:

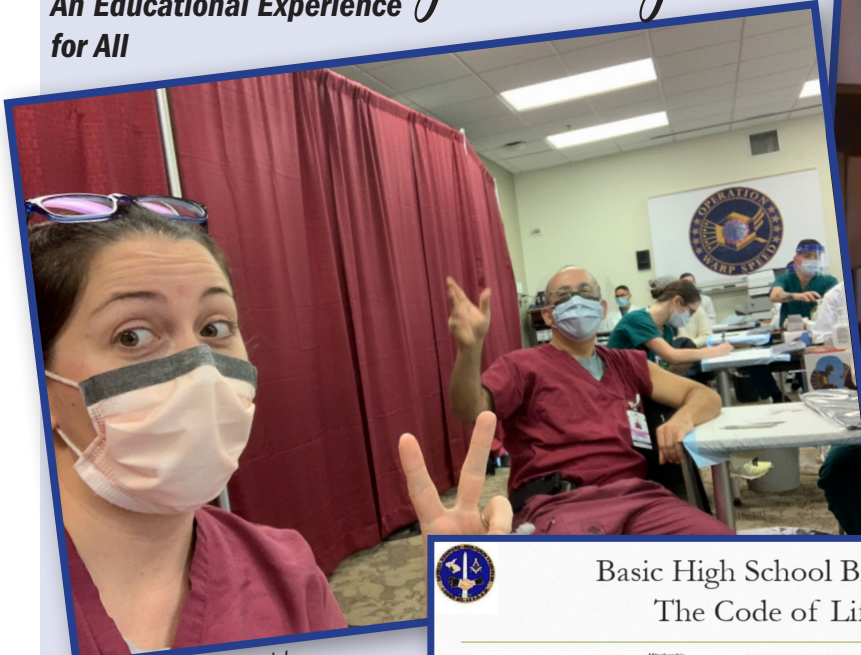
While strolling through Revel Grove on the D.C.G.L. Day at the Faire, W.M. Burt Levy sighted Lord Robert and his Lady Roberta Greenwald exiting the Royal Renaissance Restaurant. They were celebrating having been named the 2nd Best Dressed Couple attending the joust on that day!



Others joining in the revelry of the day were Sir Michael Greenwald along with several Knights, including Sir Derek Gould and his handsome Brother. Meanwhile, the Noble Viscount Aaron Kamerer perused the shops of the Artisans and purchased an exquisite handmade wooden drinking vessel of very high value!! A good time was had by all.

Wardens Night Program

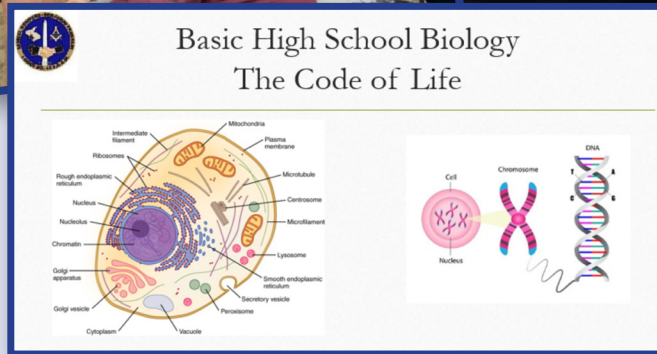
An Educational Experience
for All



Dr. Jeffrey Greenwald receiving his Vaccine



Delivering his lecture on Wardens Night in his role as the Master.



On Tuesday, October 12th, the brethren who attended Wardens Night when our officers advanced one chair for the night. Our SW Jeffrey Greenwald opened the Lodge as the Master of the Lodge once our WM Burt Levy called the Lodge to order. The program was presented by our Senior Warden and our Brethren were witness to an epic and captivating presentation entitled “mRNA Vaccines, From the Basic to the Complex and What the Future may Hold”, by SW (Professor) Jeffrey Greenwald. First came a review of the history of vaccines and how they work to “fool” the body’s immune system into producing antibodies in response to serious viral and bacterial infections. The classic example was the use of a benign cowpox virus in 1796 by Dr. Edward Jenner as a vaccine to prevent the more serious smallpox infection. Then it wasn’t until the dawn of the 20th century when a flurry of vaccines was developed to prevent many common and sometimes deadly infections, including measles, mumps, rubella, and polio.

A short review came next of high school biology and how the nucleus of the cell is filled with the “code of life” chromosomes. Our unique DNA is obtained from the mixture of maternal and paternal DNA. Finally, the meat of the presentation ensued which detailed the most recent development of mRNA vaccines with technology that has become the gold standard, such that these vaccines can be produced, studied, and FDA approved in a fairly short time compared to previous technology. Simple Videos, how an mRNA Vaccine works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOvvyqJ-vwo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4sUuFBEo2g>

Professor Greenwald ended with a glimpse of the future and how this new technology may change medical treatments for chronic and serious conditions such as Diabetes and Cancer. Most of the brethren were able to stay awake during the presentation and there was lively discussion throughout. The presentation was videotaped by Brother Sonny Garibay and the video was distributed to the brethren so that everyone will have a chance to view this educational program.

JEWISH MASONS CONNECT ONLINE VIA *Weekly Chats*

From the October 5, 2021
Texas Jewish Post
By Deb Silverthorn



Photos: Courtesy Sean Rothberg
Sean Rothberg and his father, Larry, of blessed memory, at Sean's 2014 raising to Master Mason

Sean Rothberg did not let suspension of in-person gatherings keep him and others from connecting with the Freemason international community. Last year, Rothberg, a member of the Richardson Masonic Lodge, started The Masonic Kippah, a Facebook group for Jewish Freemasons.

“The interconnection of the fraternal organization and fellow Jews from so many countries has proved a harmony of the two and it’s really fantastic,” said Rothberg, whose Facebook group is now 248 members strong.

Requirements of being a Freemason (or Mason, the titles interchangeable) include believing in a supreme being, believing in the immortality of the soul and living an ethical life. “All of that,” said Rothberg, “falls right in line with my life as a Jew.”

Rothberg started The Masonic Kippah and connected with New York City resident Shlomo Bar-Ayal, who started the Orthodox Jewish Freemasons Facebook page. Together, they brought in brothers from every continent to meet online most Sunday evenings. For details and connection information, email srothberg@gmail.com.

“Sean is a good guy and put his heart into this and it’s been a great success. Jews have been involved in Masonry since the early 1700s,” said Bar-Ayal, who was installed Master of his James W. Husted-Fiat Lux Lodge in 2019. “We thought we might have a few people show up but almost every Sunday, now for more than a year-and-a-half, we’ve had people show up. Sometimes it’s just eight, sometimes 15 or 20 and more.”

The group, meeting at 6:30 p.m. Central time, has some joining in early morning and others late in the evening. Participants have shared Jewish-themed conversations on performing mitzvot, on studying



Freemasons from every continent have joined together, the online group meeting most Sunday evenings from almost every time zone.

Gemara and on God. The Masons are well known for their commitment to charity and volunteerism, providing to children's hospitals, food kitchens and in other ways delivering to homeless communities. "We have had speakers, discussions and we just enjoy each other's company," said Rothberg. "Outside of the pandemic, I generally connect with locals from my lodge and maybe a couple of others but now I've made friends in many countries. I look forward to being able to travel to meet some of them face to face."

In Australia, Chabad of Downtown Sydney Rabbi Danny Yaffe is a member of the Lodge of Tranquillity in New South Wales. A Mason since 2016, Yaffe, who at one meeting led a discussion about King Solomon and the esoteric aspects of the Mason's apron, also appreciates the connection between the Masons and Jews.

"It's incredibly powerful to connect with others," said Yaffe, "and it has been a privilege to forge friendships with many I'd most likely never have met if not for the pandemic. Every lodge, in any city, any state, any country, has always been open to visiting Masons, no different than our Shabbos tables, also always welcoming."

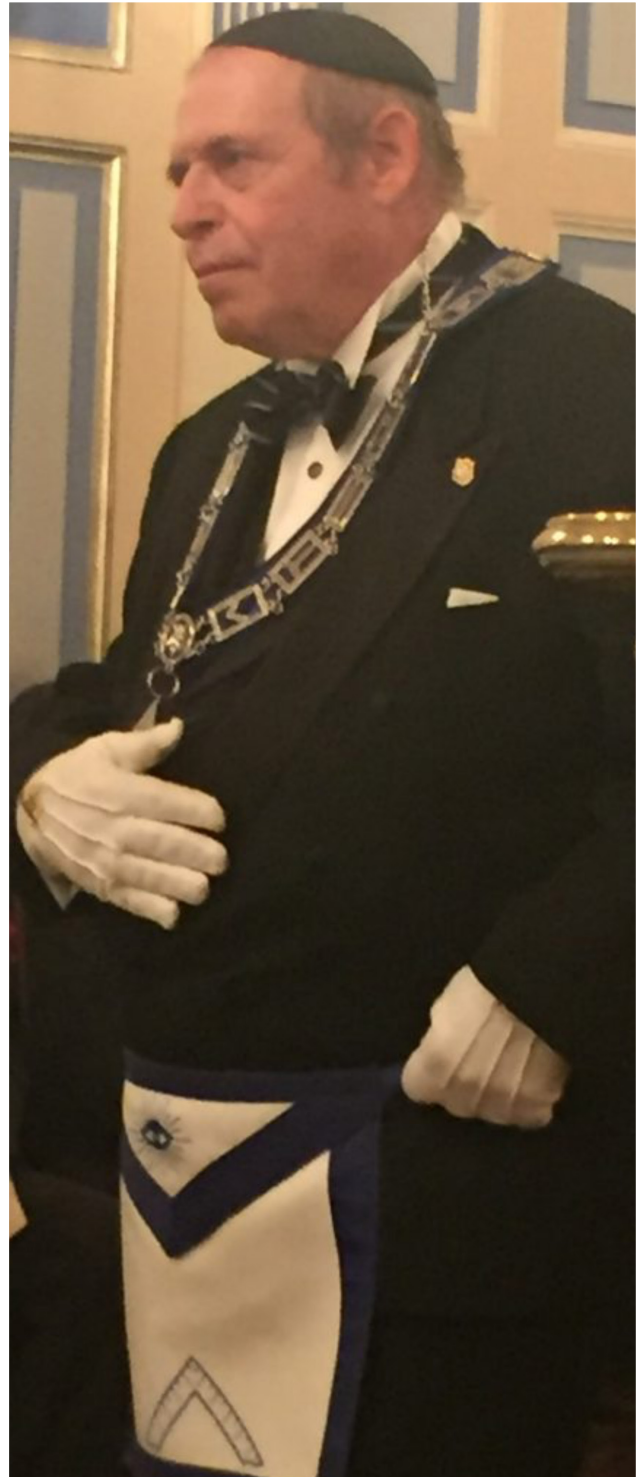
A Dallas native, Rothberg is the son of Marcy and Larry, he of blessed memory. A graduate of Fairhill School, he is now studying at the University of Texas at Dallas and hopes to someday teach high school English and Holocaust studies.

Rothberg has followed in the footsteps of his father, also a Freemason.

"What Sean's done is pretty incredible and his father would be very proud," said Marcy Rothberg, who since her husband's passing has run his The Billiard Den pool hall and sports bar in Richardson, with her son working alongside her. "I learned the good the Masons do firsthand through my husband, whether we were buying and delivering toys or spending hours visiting with the children at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. Sean has that same good heart and I'm thrilled for his success."

Bar-Ayal, a guide of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York who has continued during the pandemic to give tours virtually, is optimistic of the popularity of the Masons even in a time when coming together has meant doing that online. "The Masons are about recognizing that there is more to the world than just 'me,' and acting to better the world however we can," he said, that

tenet echoing the Jewish concept of tikkun olam, repairing the world. "Brother to brother, we have deep relationships despite the miles between us." Rothberg said he expects the online group will continue even when in-person meetings resume. "We've really expanded the brotherhood of the Masons, building a brotherhood within our brotherhood," he said.



*Photo: Courtesy Shlomo Bar-Ayal
Shlomo Bar-Ayal at his 2019 installation as Master of his James W. Husted-Fiat Lux Lodge in New York, New York.*

Get Ready for the *Main Event*



Basket distribution last year by a number of well masked Masons!

Yes...it is that time of the year again. The annual William Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program will again be occurring the weekend before Thanksgiving to help assemble and distribute baskets filled with a frozen turkey and all the fixings necessary to prepare a full meal. The baskets will be given to needy members of our community. This year, however, we will perform this in a hybrid manner, so that some of the more frail and elderly folks will receive instead fully prepared meals. In total, we will be supplying the baskets to 120 families.

We again will meet at the Kensington Safeway on the Saturday evening before Thanksgiving, Nov 20th at 6:00 pm. At that time we will load up the baskets by forming an assembly line at the back of the Safeway parking lot. Then, on Sunday, Nov 21st, we will meet at the Kensington Masonic Lodge between 7:30 - 8:00 am to help get the baskets into the cars of the JSSA volunteers who will actually be delivering the baskets.

Like last year, we will also have a group of baskets set aside for the Eagle Academy Public Charter School in Southeast DC. The fully prepared meals will be distributed on Wednesday evening, November 24th, just prior to Thanksgiving. Additional volunteers will be needed from the Lodge to deliver these meals. Those Brethren available to help with this "meals on wheels" program, loading or distributing baskets, please contact SW Jeff Greenwald, your help will be most appreciated. Hope to see many people safely participate in person. If you are unable to attend, please consider a monetary donation to help fund this program, it is completely funded by our Lodge and is our largest community service program of the year.

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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 Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, secretary@sgbf45.org
Treasurer.....Robert H. Starr, PGM, treasurer@sgbf45.org, 301-460-3088
Chaplain Allen Wright, PM, GLGFM, ajwright97@verizon.net, 301-989-8945
Master-of-Ceremonies..... Jerry P. Keilsohn, mc@sgbf45.org, 301-570-0446
Senior Deacon Derek Gould, sd@sgbf45.org, 240-938-6285
Junior Deacon..... Aaron Kamerer, jd@sgbf45.org, 202-510-5181
Senior Steward Yoel M. Gittleson, ss@sgbf45.org, 240-997-8833

Trustees & Investment Committee

Jerome M. Bauman, PA, MA (2021), trustee@sgbf45.org, 301-593-2478
Jeffrey Greenwald, (2022) jgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
Julien P. Hofberg, PM (2023), trustee@sgbf45.org, 301-774-2868

Fidelity Medal Recipient..Jerome Bauman, PM., jbauman@sgbf45.org, 301-593-2478
Historian..... Open Position
Tiler Hal Henig, hhenig@sgbf45.org, 301-681-3873
Immediate PM Jerry P. Keilsohn, mc@sgbf45.org, 301-570-0446

2021 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation..... JGS Michael Greenwald, PM
mjgreenwald@sgbf45.org, 301-272-0168
Masonic & Eastern Star Home Jerome Bauman, PM
jbauman@sgbf45.org, 301-593-2478
St. John's Mite Association..... Aaron Kamerer, jd@sgbf45.org, 202-510-5181

2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Auditing Kevin Stemp, kstemp@sgbf45.org
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock, PM
jbinstock@sgbf45.org, 301-442-4812
Bulletin Committee..... Raymond Horn, PM, rhorn@sgbf45.org, 443-253-0605
Technology and Communications Aaron Kamerer, jd@sgbf45.org, 202-510-5181
Derek R. Gould, drgould@sgbf45.org, 240-938-6285
Business Manager Open Position
By-Laws Robert H. Starr, PGM, rhstarr@sgbf45.org, 301-460-3088
Education and Degree Committee GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
srappeport@sgbf45.org, 301-598-8379
Catechism Instructors..... Jerry P. Keilsohn, mc@sgbf45.org, 301-570-0446
Burt S. Levy, PM, blevy@sgbf45.org, 202 409-4449
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, awright@sgbf45.org, 301-989-8945
Relief..... W.M., S.W., J.W.
Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care Allen J. Wright, PM, MA
awright@sgbf45.org, 301-989-8945
Burt S. Levy, PM, blevy@sgbf45.org, 202 409-4449

Centennial Planning..... Aaron Kamerer, jd@sgbf45.org, 202-510-5181
Refreshment..... J.S., S.S.
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig
hhenig@sgbf45.org, 301-681-3873
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiving
Baskets..... Jeffrey Greenwald, sw@sgbf45.org, 301-869-1915
David B. Torchinsky, PM, dtorchinsky@sgbf45.org, 301-933-1955
Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation
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 Gittleson



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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 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
November 9	Stated Communication, Elections, Fellowcraft Degree 7:30 pm	Masons
20	Thanksgiving Basket construction, Kensington Safeway, 6:00 pm, Open	Open
21	Thanksgiving Basket distribution, Kensington Masonic Hall, 8:00 am, Open	Open
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

Date	Event	Open to
January 11	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
24	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates