

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

bulletin

Volume XCIX • Number 3
March 2022

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)

Samuel Gompers-
Benjamin Franklin Lodge
No. 45 F.A.A.M
**March Stated
Communication**



You are hereby invited to attend the next Stated Communication for Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45, Tuesday, March 8th, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.

Schedule:

7:30 pm: Lodge opens on the EA degree (Masons Only).
Lodge Business: Ballot on Petition for Affiliation

8:30 pm: Closing, Dinner and Fellowship

NOTE: If you don't feel well or are uncomfortable in an indoors group setting, please take into consideration the wellbeing of your fellow Brothers when making your decision to attend.

Dress Code: Business (*dark suit, white shirt and tie*).



The Seven Habits That Lead to *Happiness* in Old Age

Your well-being is like a retirement account: The sooner you invest, the greater your returns will be. I recently read a review of a new book by Arthur C. Brooks, in the February 2022 issue of The Atlantic Magazine. The new book, *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life* uses data from a long running study. Researchers showed a relationship between

control of seven life decisions and future happiness: smoking, drinking, body weight, exercise, emotional resilience, education, and relationships.

The areas that are suggested are below, and it is the last one that really caught my attention.

- 1.** Don't smoke—or if you already smoke, quit now.
- 2.** Watch your drinking. Alcohol abuse is strongly correlated with smoking in the study, but plenty of research shows that even by itself, it is one of the most powerful predictors of winding up sad-sick.
- 3.** Maintain a healthy body weight. Eat a diet with lots of fruits and vegetables and moderate serving sizes.
- 4.** Prioritize movement in your life by scheduling time for it every day and sticking to it. Arguably the single best, time-tested way to do this is by walking daily.
- 5.** Practice your coping mechanisms now. The earlier you can find healthy ways to deal with life's inevitable distresses, the more prepared you'll be if ill luck strikes in your 80s.
- 6.** Keep learning. More education leads to a more active mind in old age, and that means a longer, happier life.
- 7.** Do the work to cultivate stable, long-term relationships now. For most people, this includes a steady marriage, but other relationships with family, friends, and partners can fit in this category as well. The point is to find people with whom you can grow, whom you can count on, no matter what comes your way.

According to the study, the single most important trait of happy and well elders is healthy relationships.

The 7th habit struck me as one that applies to Masonry, our ties to the community and our Fellowship. This is the same message from the well-known book, *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam what was discussed during our "Idiot's and Dummy's" Lodge meeting a few years ago when there was a discussion of the changes to our culture that have impacted the membership of Masonry.

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

Jerry Keilsohn, W.M. 2022



There are many responsibilities and duties that fall on the Worshipful Master. Many of these are easy to do, and some that are time-consuming. One of them is, he is supposed to impart light to the brethren. That is not as easy as it sounds.

And then there is the one that I find the most emotionally challenging. That being Last Masonic Rites for a brother who has laid down his working tools. This last month has been particularly terrible as we have lost four brethren.

I have called Emergent Communications for two of them. Which is a rather odd practice. The Master opens the lodge with the bang of the gavel. None of our other ritual. Then the Masonic service is performed. And eventually, the Master closes the Lodge again with the rap of the gavel.

The emotions tied to participating in the Masonic service are for me mixed. It is a little terrifying standing in front of a group of very sad people. Many know little or nothing about Masonry, and there one is trying to give people a glimpse of what we as Masons stand for. At the same time, we are trying to pay our respects to our departed brother.

Extremely sad for me, is that many of the recent Brothers who have gone to the Celestial Lodge are not so much older, that I have never sat in Lodge with them, but rather that I have gotten to know them well over the last several years. Which puts me further into the sad group of people present.

The ritual we at Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin use is a modified version of the official Grand Lodge of DC version. It has been modified to reflect that the actual funeral that follows is usually a Jewish Funeral and that we are often in a Synagogue.

And lastly, the Masonic Funeral seems like the mitzvah of putting dirt in the grave. It is one that the Brother can never repay.

This is not really the topic I was going to discuss this month. But I seem to have gotten sidetracked due to the number of our brethren that have passed away in the last few weeks.

I had been expecting to have a new Masonic first for me this month, which I was going to write about. But this unnamed event did not happen, so I am saving it hopefully for next month when maybe it does.

But, I had an unexpected Masonic first. I got to be the presenter/speaker at our February Lodge meeting. I hope everybody liked my very left-brained approach to Geometry and the Number Three.

Working around when it is safe to meet in person, what precautions one needs to make, and figuring out who is comfortable or not comfortable with each is, in my opinion, impossible to resolve. And because there is no simple answer, extremely frustrating to me. I am just trying really hard to see the glass-half-full side of things, and am happy that we as Masons are slowly able to do some things. I know not everybody feels this way. And I fully support and respect each Brother's choice to make those decisions for themselves. I still have on my wish list for this year, a family event. My Plus one dinner. That was going to happen in February. I then moved it to March, but I am now thinking late April or maybe even May.

My quote for this month: "You never really know the true value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." – SpongeBob

Jerry

MASTER MASON DEGREE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS



A strong showing for our Master Mason Degree which included two courtesy degrees for Jerusalem Lodge #3000 and two new Master Masons for our Lodge.

Our Master Mason Degree was conducted on Sunday, January 30th as a Special Communication. The degree began when WM Jerry Keilson invited Bro. Allen Levy to the East to confer the Master Mason Degree

Candidate:
 Steven Dekelbaum
 Brigham Callam
 Dogan Savasman
 Joshua Werfel

Conductor:
 David Torchinsky, PM
 Jeffrey D. Callam
 Yazan Jarrar, PM,
 Zade Jarrar, PM,

Cast: First Section
 WM: Allen Levy
 SW: Jeff Greenwald
 JW: Derek Gould
 SD: Aaron Kamerer
 JD: Joshua Rubin, PM
 SS: Burt Levy, PM
 JS: Robert Greenwald, PM
 MC: Jerry Keilsohn, PM
 Tiler: Hal Henig

Cast: Second Section- Short Version
 KS: Sheldon Rappeport, PM
 SW: Allen Wright, PM
 JW: Derek Gould
 SD: Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Jeffrey D Russell, PGM
 SS: Burt Levy, PM
 JS: Robert Greenwald, PM
 Sec: -
 Tiler: Hal Henig

Second Section – Long Version
 Allen Wright, PM
 w/ help from Jeffrey D. Callam
 Sheldon Rappeport, PM
 Derek Gould
 Jerry Keilsohn, PM
 Burt Levy, PM
 Robert Greenwald, PM
 Jeffrey D. Russell, PGM
 Zade Jarrar, PM

Seafaring Man: -
 1R: Derek Gould
 2R: Raymond Horn, PM
 3R: Joshua Rubin, PM; Jean-Paul Dongmo, PM
 Lecture: RWB Christopher Mahaney
 Charge: Burt Levy, PM
 Presentation to the New Master Masons: Jerry Keilsohn, PM

Hal Henig
 Derek Gould
 Raymond Horn, PM
 Jean-Paul Dongmo, PM

See Master Mason/Continued on Page 5

Presentations:

At the conclusion of the degree, Bro. Jeffrey D. Callam presented a Lewis Jewel to his son, Brigham Callam. Bro. Callam was visiting from New Providence Lodge #237, New Providence, IN.

WB Johnathan Binstock presented a Masonic Pin to Bro. Steve Deckelbaum who had delayed his entry into the Lodge for some time.



Bro. Brigham Callam, his father Bro. Jeffrey D. Callam, and WM Jerry Keilsohn. Bro. Brigham Callam's father helped to raise his son.



Two courtesy degrees were performed for Jerusalem Lodge #3000: New MMs Dogan Savasman and Joshua Werfel with their conductors Yazan Jorjar, PM, Zade Jarrar, PM.



Bro. Thomas Ebilane receiving his Master Mason Certificate and Name Tag from MWB Jeffrey D. Russell and WM Jerry Keilsohn.



MWB Alan Gordon congratulating Bro. Steven Dekelbaum on his Master Mason Degree.

In Memory of WB Jerome M. Bauman

Citation to Accompany the Award

of

"The Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45

Fidelity Medal"

Whereas Worshipful Brother Jerome M. Bauman served as Worshipful Master of Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 50, now Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 of Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia in the year 1979; and

Whereas his leadership within the Lodge has dutifully persisted for 70 years since his raising as a Master Mason on June 11, 1951; and

Whereas his attendance at Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge meetings during this entire period of time has been highly regular; and

Whereas his service as a Trustee of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge since 2009, and Chairman of the Investment Committee since 2004, during multiple economically challenging periods has resulted in the incredible financial stability of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge; and

Whereas his commitment to the Masonic core principal of Relief as the Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge representative to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home (MESH) Charities of the District of Columbia is unsurpassed; and

Whereas over the past 70 years these and other devoted services to Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge performed by Worshipful Brother Jerome M. Bauman have been both manifold and extensive; and

Whereas in compliance with the regulations of The Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia a committee of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge, appointed by Worshipful Master Burton S. Levy after careful consideration, duly and unanimously selected the one member of the Lodge most deserving of this award and that the Lodge voted to affirm the selection made by the aforementioned committee; and

Therefore, be it resolved that on April 13th, 2021, under the direction of its Worshipful Master the Brethren of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge do hereby confer upon its Past Master Jerome M. Bauman the Fidelity Medal, to have, hold and cherish and proudly display so long as he shall live and they do so with immense gratitude for his 70 years of impeccable service and leadership of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge.



WB
Jerome
Bauman



Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin



in MEMORY

John J. Garrison, PM

Brethren, since we received news from Almas Temple, that it was confirmed that WB John R. Garrison passed away we have made several inquiries to get more information. John most likely passed away at his property in the Petworth neighborhood of Washington D.C. on or around February 1st, 2022. A member of his family is handling his affairs and will let us know when a memorial service will be held. WB Garrison was a beloved long-time Tiler and an Honorary Member of our Lodge. Among his many Masonic honors, he is a Past Master of East Gate Lodge No. 34 and a Past Potentate of Almas Shriners.

Further information about a memorial service at Almas Temple will be forthcoming.



The 47th Problem of Euclid, also called the 47th Proposition of Euclid, or the Pythagorean Theorem, is represented by what appear to be 3 squares.



To non-Freemasons, the 47th Problem of Euclid may be somewhat mysterious. Most wonder at the significance of this strange looking, 3-box symbol on a piece of Masonic jewelry.

During our February Stated Communication, WM Jerry Keilsohn delivered a lecture about Geometry and the Number III in Masonry. Central to his lecture was a discussion of the Problem of Euclid. The following was taken from the website: masonic-lodge-of-education.com

Most Masonic books, simply describe it as “A general love of the Arts and Sciences”. However, to leave its explanation at that would be to omit a subject which is very important... not only of Pythagoras’s Theory, but of the Masonic Square.

What Are These 3 Black Boxes and Why Are They Important to Freemasons?

The math is the key to understanding this symbol’s broader and universal meaning.

The Pythagorean Theorem, also known as the 47th Problem of Euclid or 3:4:5:

“In any right triangle, the sum of the squares of the two sides is equal to the square of the hypotenuse.” (the hypotenuse of a right triangle...which is the longest “leg”...or the 5 side of the 3:4:5:).

The Right Triangle, below, shows the sides of 3, 4 and 5. The angle created between the 3 (side) and the 4 (side) is the Right angle of the square.

A little later, when we begin to build it, (with sticks and string), you will place your sticks at the 3 corners of this Right

triangle.

The square of 3 is 9.

The square of 4 is 16. The sum of 9 and 16 is 25. (25 represents the hypotenuse).

The square root of 25 is 5.

Therefore, the ratio is written: 3:4:5:

When we write down the square of the 1st four numbers (1, 4, 9 and 16), we see that by subtracting each square from the next one, we get 3, 5 and 7.

Ok, let's try it.

1, 4, 9, 16

$4-1=3$

$9-4=5$

$16-9=7$

3:5:7: These are the steps in Masonry. They are the steps in the Winding Stair which leads to the Middle Chamber and they are the number of brethren which form the number of Master Masons necessary to open a lodge of Master Mason, Fellow Craft or Entered Apprentice. These are the sacred numbers.

The essence of the Pythagorean Theorem (also called the 47th Problem of Euclid) is about the importance of establishing an architecturally true (correct) foundation based on use of the square.

Why is this so important to speculative Masons who only have a symbolic square and not the actual square (the tool) of an operative Mason?

The 47th Problem of Euclid is the mathematical ratio (the knowledge) that allows a Master Mason to:

“Square his square when it gets out of square.”

...I heard that! You're saying to yourself: “Why is that so important to ME in today's world...unless I'm a carpenter? Home Depot is only a few miles away.”

How to Create a Perfect Square using the 47th Problem of Euclid

Historically, a building's cornerstone was laid at the northeast corner of the building. Why in the northeast?

The ancient builders first laid out the north and south lines by observation of the stars and the sun...especially the North Star, (Polaris), which they believed at that time to be fixed in the sky.

Only after laying out a perfect North and South line could they use the square to establish perfect East and West lines for their foundations.

The 47th Problem of Euclid established those true East and West lines, so the rope stretchers could ascertain a perfect 90 degree angle to the North/South line which they had established using the stars.



Now, take another look at the Masonic symbol for the 47th Problem of Euclid, above. You will see that the square on the top-left measures 3 units on each of its sides; the square on the top-right measures 4 units on each of its sides and the bottom square measures 5 units on each of its sides.

You can now see the right triangle (the negative white space in the middle) which is surrounded by the 3 “boxes”.

From this day forward, when you see this graphic image denoting the 47th Problem of Euclid,...this Masonic symbol, it will not just look like 3 odd-shaped black boxes to you.

Lodge Night at the Capitals

Hockey Game

February 2nd, 20 members and guests of the Lodge went to watch the Capitals play. The game started poorly for the Capitals who made a strong comeback only to fall short in the end when Edmontons' Ryan Nugent-Hopkins broke a tie with a short-handed goal with 4:03 remaining in the EOilers' 5-3 victory over the Washington Capitals. Washington played without Alex Ovechkin after he entered the NHL's COVID-19 protocols. A good time was had by all.



Attending the Game: RWB Michael Greenwald, PM and six friends, Bro. Brigham Callam and friend, Dr. DeMario Butts, WMB Allen Gordon, Burt Levy, PM, Derek Gould and his brother, Allen Levy and his wife, Aaron Kamerer, WM Jerry Keilson and Raymond Horn, PM and his Brother in Law.

The Gossip Column

By Allen Levy



Bro. Chuck Oshinsky, a member of **Centerville Lodge #180**, in Centerville, Maryland attended both our January and February Stated Communications. His great uncle was **Herman Oshinsky**, one of the charter members of our Lodge. His Grandfather also joined our Lodge. He is also related to **Adelle Boker's** family. Adelle was the wife of our departed **PM William D. Boker** and Adelle's sister **Doris** married **Sol Oshinsky**, (Big Sol) who was a distant cousin of Bro. Oshinsky who had asked his father about the connection. In the Photo from our February Stated Meeting, **Bro. Chuck Oshinsky** and **WB Jerry Keilsohn**.

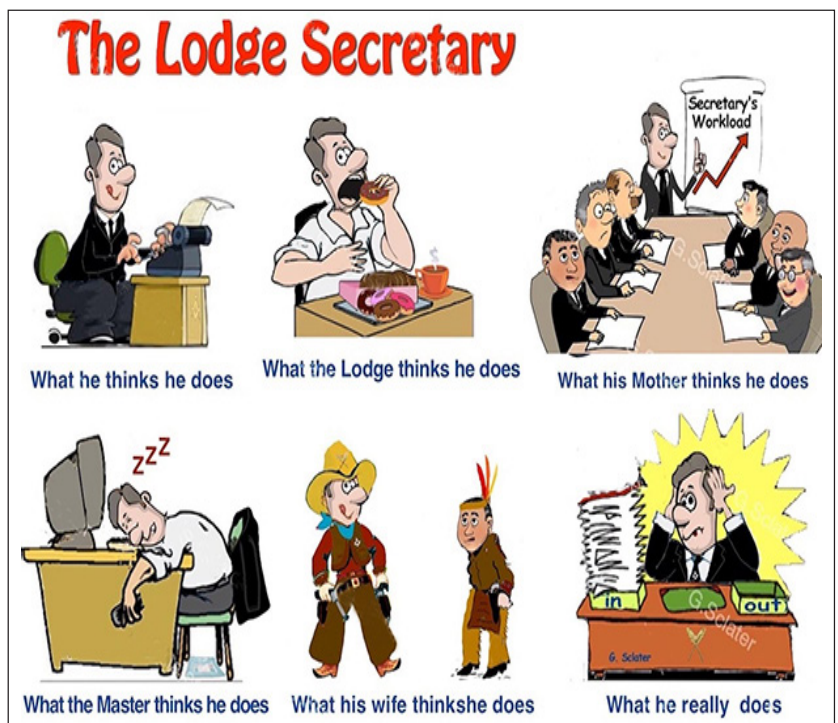
More about Jerry:

WM Jerry Keilsohn has been elected to be the **Venerable Master** of the **Mithras Lodge of Perfection for the DC Scottish Rite**. He was unable to attend his own installation because he was opening (and the speaker) for the February SG-BG #45 Stated Communication. WM Jerry has not figured out how to be in two places at the same time. Fortunately, the Mithras Lodge's Tuesday is the First Tuesday of the month, so it does not usually interfere with our Second Tuesday.

Happy Birthday

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

- Joel A. Van Vollenhoven..... 4
- David H. Sadugor.....6
- Steven E. Dekelbaum..... 8
- Alexander Rieser.....15
- Robert J. Greenwald.....20
- Ronald Rubin.....20
- RonaldL. Fishbein.....23
- Lawrence E. Dekelbaum..... 25
- Jacobo S. Garibay.....27



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St. John's Mite AssociationOpen


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2022 PROXIES

For the Worshipful MasterRobert Greenwald
For the Senior WardenAaron Kamerer
For the Junior WardenRyan Simon

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Calendar for Masonic Year 2022—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 Jerry Keilsohn about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
March	8	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	20	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates

Date		Event	Open to
April	10	JSSA Passover Baskets, 9:00 am	Friends and Family
	12	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	18	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates