

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

bulletin

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April 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)

ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

Save the Date April 12th, 2022

The first “light” in Masonry is revealed with the Entered Apprentice’s Degree. At our Stated Communication on Tuesday April 12th, we will have the opportunity to share that experience with our candidate and to welcome him to our Lodge.

The Entered Apprentice Degree is a series of firsts for all Masons: It is the first-time worthy men are brought to light in Masonry. It is the first time they are welcomed into the Brotherhood of Masons and called Brother. It is the first time they get to witness and participate in the ritual, pomp, and circumstance of the operation of a Masonic Lodge. The first time they get to wear an apron as a Mason. The first time they take an obligation as a Mason. And the first step on the path to becoming a Master Mason. Come and help our candidates begin their journey in Masonry.

Junior Deacon Jeffrey Greenwald, will be in the South. Senior Deacon Aaron Kamerer will be the Senior Deacon to guide the candidates and conduct them around the lodge room. Rounding out the ritual team will be Master

TRAIN HIM WELL



ONE DAY, HE MIGHT BE
GRAND MASTER

of Ceremonies, Robert Greenwald, PM leading the procession, and Chaplain Burt Levy, PM will be preparing the candidates and bringing up the rear.

Please plan to attend and assist this candidate in his first step toward becoming a better man in 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**

View From the East

Jerry Keilsohn, W.M. 2022



The last month has been interesting Masonic-wise. Early in the month I once again attended Harmony Lodge #17's Stated communication. And while I had hoped to be able to just sit on the sidelines, I ended up covering for the Tiler in the closing. Attending that and our Stated the following week has mixed emotions for me. I am happy to attend Lodge meetings in person but saddened by how few brethren attend. Hopefully, as Spring comes, more people will feel comfortable attending. If you missed our March Stated, you missed something truly Masonic, brethren just enjoying dinner and wonderful conversation with each other.

I got to do a Masonic first, for me, this month. I have been elected Venerable Master of the Mithras Lodge of Perfection for the DC Scottish Rite. I got to virtually sit in the big chair, at the March 1st meeting. And just as exciting, I got to introduce the speaker for the evening, Illustrious James D. Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander, SJ – USA. Next month we hopefully will get to meet in person.

Back to Spring. As I have written in the past, spring is my favorite season. The world goes from dark and grey to every color under the rainbow. One of Mother Nature's yearly shows. As I write this, the daffodils in my yard are just starting to bloom and are poking their heads up through the snow.

Spring brings with it the celebration of Passover. Or as my kids call it, Flat week. In my opinion, all the great stories in the Bible are in Genesis and Exodus. The Passover story, being the major story in Exodus. The exodus of the enslaved Jewish People from Egypt. Our Ancient Masonic Brethren link the first Masons to the time of Moses and the building of Pharaoh's pyramids. Could they be on to something?

One of the traditions of the Passover Seder is the asking of the Four Questions by the youngest child.

I have four more modern questions for my brethren to think about:

1- Which brand of Matzo – Manischewitz or Streit's? Maybe one of the other handmade ones? Plus, a sub-question. Why is the cost of the 5 pound / 5 boxes less than two boxes by themselves?

2- Red or White horseradish? Sub question, who decided to put a beet in the horseradish to make it red?

3- Gefilte Fish – carp, whitefish, or pike? Or a combination of the three? From a jar or homemade?

4- Matzo ball soup- Lots of sub-questions on this one. Small or large Matzo balls? Soft, firm, or hard matzo balls? What else goes in the bowl when it is served in addition to the Chicken Soup and the Matzo balls: chicken, carrots, onions, celery?

And a Bonus question – What goes on/in the matzo brie? Sweet or savory - Sugar, Cinnamon and Sugar, Maple Syrup, honey, salt, pepper, chives, onions, sour cream, applesauce, preserves?

My answers are Manischewitz, Red (I miss my father-in-law's homemade version), any / all for me (I miss my grandmother's homemade fish), small and firm, everything goes in the bowl, sweet so a small amount of sugar.

Many Haggadah's end with the traditional saying "next year in Jerusalem" – My 2022 version is next year without a mask.

A closing thought:

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed" –

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jerry

A GUARANTEED RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Burt Levy, P.M

My Brethren, there are few guarantees in life, so the title of this article should at least raise an eyebrow or arouse skepticism. However, I can promise that guarantee if you will follow my advice. But – wait! No need to call your broker or withdraw funds for this investment. And I’m talking about an investment that repays much more than money.

You have been making an annual investment of money in this for as long as you have been able to call yourself a Freemason. The most significant asset you have invested has been the time you have spent practicing the art.

The minimum monetary investments required to be able to call yourself a Freemason are the fees for the three degrees and your annual dues. This much gets you the benefit of membership in the world’s oldest Fraternity and a connection to the worldwide Brotherhood of ‘better men.’

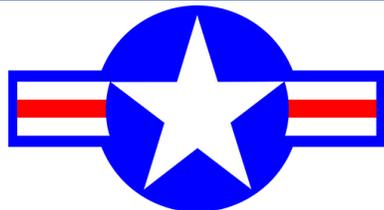
I don’t travel internationally very much, but I did have an opportunity to visit London and Paris five years ago. During that visit, I, along with Brothers Michael Greenwald and Adam Goldman visited Lodges in both of those iconic cities. That experience alone was worth all the time and effort that I had “invested” in my Masonic career! In both of these visits, we were treated with high respect as we were introduced and invited to the East and later wined and dined as honored guests. The English Lodge was – strangely enough – made up of Italian Masons who travel to London three times a year to convene the “Chartered Accountants Lodge, No. 3162” in London’s Mark Masons Hall. The French Lodge was made up of Brothers from Africa and called R.L. Croix du Sud, #46. We were treated equally well in that lodge and enjoyed

a sumptuous Festive Board afterward. During that meal, we admired the neckties that the brethren were wearing. The W.M. wanted to give each of us one of those ties but found that there were only two left. Whereupon a

brother jumped up and removed his tie so that he could have the honor of presenting it to me!

Of course, there are numerous opportunities to visit lodges without having to travel quite as far. Our own Grand Jurisdiction is home to Forty -Eight constituent lodges which meet in ten different lodge halls – all within just a few miles from most of us “locals.” So, on any given night, you can find the warm hospitality of your Masonic brethren. And – if you pick wisely, you can find lodges that are offering programs that are interesting, educational, or entertaining. The major benefit of visiting other lodges is that of meeting and befriending other interesting Brother Masons.

Now – back to that investment that guarantees returns: I’m referring to that small additional investment of time that will result in giving you the right and privilege to the title of “Past Master.” This investment will also result in being referred to as “Worshipful Brother” for the rest of your Masonic Career! All that you need to do is volunteer to begin your journey “through the chairs.”



Vet's Corner

by Robert Greenwald, PM

Vet Unemployment 2022 -

Marked Its Lowest Levels of the Pandemic in February

Veterans’ unemployment levels matched their lowest mark of the pandemic in February as the U.S. economy added more jobs than expected last month. According to estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released Friday, the overall veterans’ unemployment rate was 3.2% in February, down from 3.8% in January and matching the rate posted in December. The veterans estimate has not been below that level since December 2019 — before the start of the coronavirus pandemic in America — when the unemployment rate was at 2.8%.

The figure translates into about 285,000 veterans across the country looking for work last month but unable to find steady employment. In February 2021, that number was nearly 500,000 individuals. The monthly unemployment rate for younger veterans saw an even bigger drop from January (5.9%) to February (3.2%). One year ago, the unemployment rate for

those individuals who served during the Iraq and Afghanistan War eras was at 5.1%. The national unemployment rate also saw a drop, from 4.0% a month before to 3.8% in February. The economy added about 680,000 jobs last month, well above the 425,000 predicted by financial experts in recent days.

About 8.7 million veterans were employed in full-time jobs across the country last month. That’s about 200,000 below the number of veterans working before the start of the pandemic, but the total U.S. veterans’ population has also declined by the same amount over the last two years. As recently as last August, that total was around 8.1 million, as numerous businesses continued to struggle with hiring and finances in the wake of partial closings caused by coronavirus mitigation efforts. About half of the 18.5 million veterans in America today are not in the civilian workforce, either because of age or injury. [Source: Military.com | Leo Shane III | March 4, 2022++]

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL MEET-UP

By Hal Henig



On Monday evening, February 28, our monthly Meetup was held “virtually” on Zoom for the first time in a year. This was in response to the Omicron Variant, which was spreading and contagious during January. The Virtual Social replaced our scheduled restaurant Meet-Up, which we canceled due to Omicron concerns.

The theme of our Virtual Social was “Taking Steps in Staying Healthy.” This was a good theme in response to Omicron. Eight Brethren participated in this Meet-Up as well as our Worshipful Master Jerry Keilsohn who hosted this Virtual Social. The other seven participants were SW Allen Levy, JD Jeff Greenwald, Allen Wright, PM, Dave Torchinsky, PM, Erik Milman, PM, Brother Gary Politzer. and myself. The meet-up lasted for a bit over one hour.

As an attempt to steer the conversation toward the topic of the evening (Staying Healthy) I mentioned that my Fitbit watch is a tool that helps to monitor my health, such as the number of steps taken each day and the quality of sleep. Fitbit watches are a tool to maintain stable healthier living. However, Brethren expanded the conversation to topics outside of the main theme of the session. The Brethren talked about the first anniversary of the passing of our dear Worshipful Brother Jerry Gordon, PM, who succumbed to COVID early in 2021. Also, we talked about his widow, Shirley Gordon - now a resident of Riderwood Senior Village. We also enjoyed other topics, such as the Capitals Hockey Game that several of us attended.

The lodge is returning to our regular face-to-face Meetups in March and beyond since the Omicron COVID Variant is declining and is less a threat.

THE JOSIAH HENSON MUSEUM AND PARK

Burt Levy, P.M



The Josiah Henson Museum & Park located on Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda

Our meetup chairman, Hal Henig, scheduled the March event to visit the interesting and historical Josiah Henson Museum and Park in Rockville. Three days before the event, Hal realized that he would not be able to attend the planned event due to the passing of a good friend whose funeral was scheduled for that day. So, I agreed to take responsibility for the event.

Sunday, March 27th turned out to be a cold and blustery day. There were even some snow flurries. Most of those who were interested in the event stayed home and kept warm. When I arrived, I was happy to see our Worshipful Brother Jeff Greenwald already on the scene. A few minutes

later, our “adopted” member Stuart Zitomer joined us. The Department of Parks Site Manager was delighted to see that I was wearing my Masonic cap and introduced himself as Brother Mark Thorne - a newly made 32nd Degree Mason, P.H. Affiliated. Brother Thorne welcomed us and made us feel very comfortable. The price of admission to the Museum and Park is only \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors. Brother Greenwald quickly offered to cover our entrance fee and tendered his credit card before we could object!

The tour began with a short film in the Museum’s theater. The film depicted the shameful history of slavery in America and made us aware that it existed right here in our own neighborhoods. I had always thought slavery occurred in the “deep South” – or at least on the other side of the Potomac. In fact, the museum is on the site of the former plantation property of Isaac Riley. Mr. Riley acquired 5-year-old Josiah from a neighbor in exchange for blacksmithing services! The rest is the history that you can learn if you will visit the museum. In short, Josiah’s autobiography became the inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe’s landmark novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

March FELLOWSHIP



WM Jerry Keilson and Bro. Modiano Alexandros
at our March Stated Communication

As described by our WM Jerry Keilson in his article this month, we had an excellent meal at our March Stated Communication. For a change, we enjoyed our meal after closing our meeting so we could enjoy ourselves without being rushed. A special visitor attended the meeting and joined us for the fellowship of our meal, Bro. Modiano Alexandros is a Brother of Good Standing of the Grand Lodge of Greece and the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise. He is also a member of Lodges in Israel and England.

Bro. Alexandros is traveling in the United States on a long-planned and delayed trip with his wife and he made time to attend our Lodge Meeting. We hope that he finds time to visit us again before he leaves our country.

Ukraine Emergency Updates



My name is Lulu, and I am the Campaign Operations Associate at The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the Ukraine Emergency Fund, and for your interest in Tuesday's Ukraine Special Briefing.

As difficult as they were to hear, I found the first-hand accounts and individual stories to be particularly impactful. I hope you found the briefing to be informative and meaningful, too. In case you missed it, or would like to share with others, you can find the recording here: Special Ukraine Briefing, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5z85rvRkcM>)

To learn more about how your gift is making a difference for the Ukrainian Jewish Community, please visit our Ukraine Emergency Update (<https://www.shalomdc.org/ukraine-emergency-updates/>) page, which contains firsthand accounts, videos, and articles detailing how Federation donors are making a meaningful impact during this challenging time. We will continue to update this page periodically.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, our Federation team continues to stay closely attuned to the news and updates from the region. Federation and our partners remain deeply committed to meeting the critical needs of Ukraine's more than 200,000 Jews. Below, you'll find our message on the developing situation and Federation's Ukraine Emergency Fund. Thank you to those who have already donated so generously. (<https://connect.shalomdc.org/ukraine-emergency-fund>)

We are grateful to our longtime global partners, JDC, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and World ORT, for working swiftly on the ground to care for those in the midst of this unfolding trauma. Please read on for their ongoing updates on the situation.

All my best,

Lulu

Lulu Herman (she/her)
Campaign Operations Associate
The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington



Happy Birthday

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

Donald Roxenberg 2	Gary Politzer 12	Martin Flaum 21
Harold (Hal) Henig..... 2	Edwin Nachlas 10	Jerry Keilsohn 23
Gary Dorsay 7	Scott Marks 17	Alan Karpas 24
Edward Hinkle..... 10	David Ulanow 18	Peter Riley 30

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2022 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master Robert Greenwald
For the Senior Warden Aaron Kamerer
For the Junior Warden Ryan 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
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

Date		Event	Open to
May	10	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	23	Meet-Up, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm	Masons and Candidates