

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

# bulletin

Takoma Masonic Center  
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012

Volume XCIX • Number 4  
April 2024

Meets Second Tuesday of each month except July and August (no meeting),  
and December, (second Sunday)

## April Stated Communication

Brethren,

You are cordially invited to the next stated communication of Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 on April 9th, 7:30 PM at Takoma Masonic Center (113 Carroll St. NW). The Program will be a featured speaker who will address items of Masonic interest which will be revealed in due course. The lodge will open on the MM degree.

A wonderful dinner will precede our communication commencing at 6:30 PM.

Please note that reservations are necessary in order that we may plan for your attendance. Dress for Lodge is dark suit and tie for Brethren, Tuxedos for Officers.

RSVP to [secretary@sgbf45.org](mailto:secretary@sgbf45.org)

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](mailto:wm@sgbf45.org)  
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*  
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

2B1  ASK1

# Light From the East

WM Aaron A. Kamerer 2024



*It was a sad morning having learned of Worshipful Brother Allen Wright's passing. I am devastated by the news as he has impacted so many of our lives. His inspiration will be forever remembered.*

## The Journey Begins

by Aaron Kamerer

In shadows deep, a seeker's heart does yearn,  
A journey starts, a mystic path to learn.  
Through veils of night, a candidate appears,  
To tread the way, dispelling ancient fears.

The Lodge aglow with symbols old and wise,  
In sacred rites, where mystic truths arise.  
A blindfold binds, yet opens inner sight,  
The Entered Apprentice, guided toward the light.

With compass true and square that marks the just,  
The seeker learns, in principles to trust.  
The apron worn, a symbol pure and white,  
A pledge to walk the path of moral light.

In allegory's dance, the lessons weave,  
Through symbols deep, enlightenment conceived.  
The candidate, a soul in search of more,  
Steps into Masonry's profound door.

The square reveals the straight and honest ways,  
The compass draws, in virtue's perfect gaze.  
Initiation's ritual, a sacred dance,  
An entrance to the craft, a newfound chance.

From darkness sprung, to light the path unfolds,  
The journey marked with symbols manifold.  
A fellowship of brethren, strong and true,  
In Masonry, a bond forever grew.

Through pillars strong and columns towering high,  
The Entered Apprentice lifts his eager eye.  
In every step, a lesson to discern,  
A quest for truth, a sacred fire to burn.

Oh, journeyman of mystic craft profound,  
In sacred Lodge, enlightenment is found.  
The compass guides, the square keeps truth in sight,  
A Freemason's journey, a sacred rite.

## SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M. LIVING PAST MASTERS

1974	Aaron S. Teitel	1994	Joseph N. Snyder	2015	Randy A. Schoch
1974	Donald M. Stein	1995	Burt Levy, HPSGD	2016	Leonard Rubin
1979	Michael J. Rinis	1997	Adam Forman	2017	Michael K. Greenwald, SGD
1979	Burton Penn	2001	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA, DSM, GL-E	2018	Raymond E. Horn
1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM	2002-2003	Jeffrey Sherman	2019	Robert Greenwald
1981	Joel Shulman	2009	Jonathan M. Binstock	2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1983	Julien P. Hofberg	2010	David B. Torchinsky	2021	Burt S. Levy, HPSGD
1984	Edwin S. Nachlas	2011	Joshua L. Rubin	2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1989	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA, DSM, GL-E	2012-2013	Erik F. Milman	2023	Allen R. Levy
1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM	2014	Adam Forman		

# Captain Avery Museum Visit



On March 24th several Brethren and guests visited what was the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. This Country Club, really a communal retreat located on the Chesapeake Bay, in Shady Side, MD was founded by many of the original members of our Lodge.

As many of the founders of what was Samuel Gompers Lodge No. 45, came from National Masonic Lodge No. 12 which recently lost its Charter to the Grand Lodge.

Captain Avery was the waterman who originally built the house where the museum is located, in 1860, but in the 1920's, when Gompers Lodge was being formed, the building was called the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club. It is mentioned in our 75th Anniversary book as a location for picnics in at least two of the first few years of the Lodge.

This club was started by a group of Jewish men, many of whom were founding members of Gompers Lodge and included both Henry and Samuel Gompers. Members of the club received a share of the ownership. At that time, it was not uncommon that beach and country club membership overtly restricted Jews and people of color. The club's ownership stayed with a set of families although the members who were Masons dwindled out by the 50's. The members renamed their club, "Our Place" and the membership passed through three generations from the mid 20's until the late 80's when it was sold to the current foundation that has renovated it and turned it into the Captain Avery Museum.

On the afternoon of March 24th, which was Maryland Day, the Museum hosted two talks, one by a local woman who wrote a book about stories from the neighborhood where the Museum is located and one by a local couple who earn their living on the bay as commercial crabbers. They discussed how they work and gave a demonstration with live crabs which WB Burt Levy volunteered to catch.

The museum director had been contacted prior to our visit and they were excited to make the connection with the same Masonic Lodge as the founding members of "Our Place." They had placed a series of display boards that came from a book that was published of memories of the children and grandchildren of the members of the club.

Brethren attending the event were WB Burt Levy, Hal Henig, WB Raymond Horn, WB Julien Hofberg, Lee Silverman, JW Jeff Greenwald, guests included Linda Hofberg, Aileen and David Horn.

# A Place in the Country

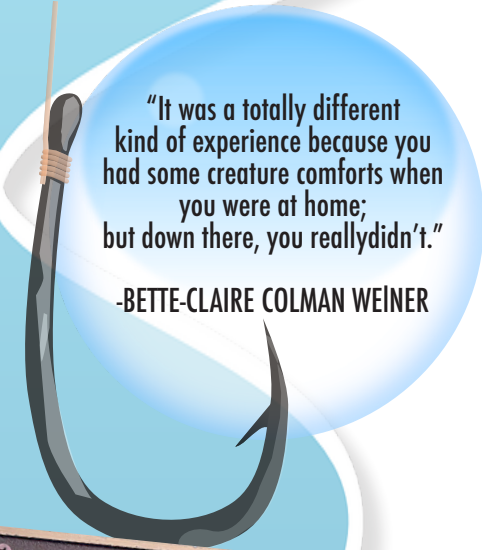
Each week in summer, Fishing Club families left comfortable homes for rustic accommodations in Shady Side: outdoor showers and rest rooms, cramped dormitories for the children and spare, open-ceilinged rooms for couples. The narrow kitchen lacked running water or up-to-date cooking equipment.

The distance to the Club was not just in travel time over primitive roads, but also in cultural difference. When Club families, almost all Jews with recent Eastern European roots, ventured into Shady Side and nearby villages to shop for supplies, dine in restaurants or attend events, they encountered the very different world of southern Maryland: quiet and isolated, oriented to the Bay, with old-fashioned ways and country people. Strongly contrasting with the urban and suburban lives of the Fishing Club families, the rural scene had a folksy appeal. Set apart, removed from their familiar milieu, they experienced a profound relaxation. Largely self-contained at the Club, families found a measure of peace in the isolation and the simplicity of their country retreat.



Dunn Collection, 2002.034

*Automobiles lined up by the Fishing Club, 1923*



*"It was a totally different kind of experience because you had some creature comforts when you were at home; but down there, you really didn't."*

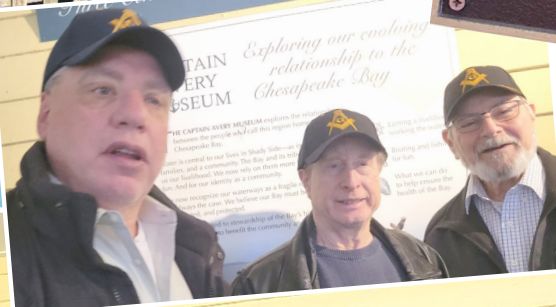
**-BETTE-CLAIRE COLMAN WEINER**



*View of the Bay from the Museum*



*Lee Silverman, Hal Henig and WB Burt Levy*



*WB Burt Levy, Hal Henig, WB Raymond Horn, WB Julien Hofberg, Lee Silverman, JW Jeff Greenwald*



# The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, at a meeting held on December 16, 1925, voted to approve the Charter of Samuel Gompers Lodge



The first line of officers of Samuel Gompers Lodge in 1926, front row (left to right): Christian Hansen, Instructor; I.A. Peake, Jr. Deacon; Samuel J. Feldman, Jr. Warden; Henry J. Gompers, Worshipful Master; Maurice Blum, Sr. Warden; Louis Rosenburg, Secretary.

Back row: Louis Goldberg, Jr. Steward; Marquis T. Albertson, Instructor, A. Kenneth Armstrong, Sr. Deacon; Amos Nicholas, Tiler; Louis J. Raebach, Sr. Steward, and Louis Lissowitz, Captain of the Fellowcraft Team.

## ROSTER OF MEMBERS NATIONAL MASONIC FISHING AND COUNTRY CLUB, JUNE 11, 1927

Clay Armstrong 1233 Tenth Street, NW	S. B. Dannheiser 1708 Newton Street, NW	Hyman Levy 423 Southern Building
Oliver Atlas 927 D Street, NW	Edward Deboskey 3314 19th Street, NW	Joseph Levy 1701 16th Street, NW
W. B. Baker ("Willie" or "Bake") 606 East Capitol Street, NE	M. H. Diamond 1401 Columbia Road, NW	Harry Lewis 1433 Columbia Road, NW
Israel Bers 807 Otis Place, NW	Frank Dunn 234 Ninth Street, NE	Sam Lidoff 2629 Everett Street, NW
Maurice Blum 7143 Georgia Avenue, NW	Frank Foer 1105 Seventh Street, NW	Sylvan Powdermaker 816 Buchanan Street, NW
Harry Colman 820 Buchanan Street, NW	J. N. Freeman 4626 Georgia Avenue, NW	J. B. Ulman 1039 Quebec Street, NW
Louis Colman 820 Buchanan Street, NW	H. J. Gompers 3921 Illinois Avenue, NW	Leonard Vineberg 1424 W Street, NW
Wilbur Colman 820 Buchanan Street, NW	S. J. Gompers 2517 N Capitol Street	Yett Becker Honorary Member 1201 Kennedy Street, NW
Frank Dagit 770 60th Street, Brooklyn, NY	Gail T. Judd 411 18th Street, SE	

These founding members listed, started both our Masonic Lodge and the National Masonic Fishing and Country Club: Brethren Clay Armstrong, Oliver Atlas, Israel Bers, Maurice Blum, Milton Diamond, Frank Foer, Jacob Freedman, Henry Gompers, Joseph Levy, Harry Lewis, and Samuel Lidoff. Note that both Samuel Gompers and his son, our first Worshipful Master Henry Gompers were founding members.

## THE FISHING CLUB FOUNDERS

In 1920, the Jewish population of Washington, D.C. was only about 10,000, far smaller than Baltimore's. Not until World War II and the expansion of the federal government as a source of employment for white-collar, middle-class professionals, did the Jewish population of the capital and its suburbs start to reach the level that it holds today, demographically, politically, economically, and socially.<sup>15</sup> But that small community had already created a vibrant institutional life centered on synagogues, the Young Men's Hebrew

Association (YMHA), and various social and charitable organizations. Though not specifically Jewish, the Masonic lodges played a key role in the social life of Washington Jews.

Perhaps the most prominent Jewish Mason in Washington was Samuel Gompers (1850–1924), founder and long-time president of the American Federation of Labor. Gompers was raised in Washington's Dawson Lodge No. 16 in 1904 and held memberships in Masonic organizations such as the Scottish Rite and Shriners,

as well as other civic groups, including the Elks, Moose, and Odd Fellows. The elder Gompers imparted some of his fraternal and club interests to two of his sons, Henry and Samuel J. Gompers, both of whom were raised in



Raising the flag, 1927

Club members shown include Harry, Wilbur, Louis Colman and Leonard Vineberg, Harry Lewis, Henry and Sam Gompers, and Joseph Levy.

Washington's National Lodge No. 12, and both of whom participated in a wide variety of social organizations.

Following their father's death in December 1924, the brothers secured the sponsorship of the National Lodge for a new organization in his honor, and the Samuel Gompers Lodge No. 45 met for the first time as a duly constituted Masonic entity on January 26, 1926, with about 180 charter members. Henry Gompers was the lodge's first Master, while his brother, Samuel, was awarded an honorary membership, choosing to retain his affiliation with the National Lodge No. 12.

Even before receiving its charter, the Samuel Gompers Lodge developed a relationship with the Fishing Club, holding a picnic at the Shady Side facility in July 1925. Eight members of the Fishing Club quickly joined the new Samuel Gompers lodge: Clay Armstrong, Oliver Atlas, Israel Bers, Milton Diamond, J. N. Freedman, Joseph Levy, Harry Lewis, and Sam Lidoff. Frank Foer and Maurice Blum came from other D.C. lodges to serve as inaugural officers for the Samuel Gompers Lodge. Sometime between 1920 and 1927, Fishing Club membership was opened to all Masons, a move prefigured by a 1921 invitation welcoming "all master Masons and their friends" to a crab feast sponsored by the Fishing Club at one of its early locations.<sup>16</sup>

# February Evening Meet-Up

by Tiler Hal Henig



On Monday Evening, February 26, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 had its Monthly Meet-Up at "Not Your Average Joe's." This Restaurant is located in Bethesda, Maryland not far from Montgomery Mall and Walter Johnson High School. The evening weather was mild for the month of February, unlike the Meet-Up in January which was very cold. Eighteen Brethren and Guests attended this Social.

The Brethren that participated and are shown in the photo above that was taken by our server, were: Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, WM Aaron Kamerer, SW Derek Gould, JW Jeff Greenwald, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Allen Friedman, PM, Brother's Charlie Meyers, Steve Deklebaum, Irv Pescov and Lee Silverman. The guests who attended were Phillip Taylor, Lisa Henig, Laura and Rina Torchinsky, Sharon and Stuart Zitomer, and Dawn Meyers.

Everybody at the restaurant enjoyed the food and the company. We look forward to warmer spring weather.



## Community Service for JSSA Passover Baskets - Sunday, April 14th.

Meet at Berman Hebrew Academy between 7:30 and 8:00 AM  
13300 Arctic Avenue. Rockville

As in previous years, we are needed to help schlep the bags to the cars of the people who will be delivering the baskets. The bags will already be filled with the Passover goodies.

The delivery volunteers will arrive on a staggered basis between 8:00 and 9:00 AM, so our mission should be completed by 9:30 at the latest....then brunch at Goldbergs Bagels on Boiling Brook Parkway!

Please RSVP to our JW Jeff Greenwald.



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**2024 OFFICERS**

- Worshipful Master..... Aaron Kamerer, 321-431-1064
- Senior Warden..... Derek Gould, 240-938-6285
- Junior Warden ..... Jeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915
- Secretary ..... Raymond Horn, PM, secretary@sgbf45.org 443-253-0605  
6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
- Treasurer ..... Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
- Chaplain ..... Burt S. Levy, PM, JGD Hon., 202 409-4449
- Master-of-Ceremonies..... Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945
- Senior Deacon..... Ryan A. Simon, 240-475-3935
- Junior Deacon ..... Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM, 301-570-0446
- Senior Steward..... Pending appointment
- Junior Steward..... Pending appointment
- Trustees..... GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2024),  
Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025),  
Julien P. Holberg, PM (2026)
- Fidelity Medal Recipient ..... To be selected
- Historian ..... Joshua L. Rubin, PM, 240-277-5355
- Tiler..... Hal Henig, 301-681-3873
- Immediate PM ..... Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945

**2024 REPRESENTATIVES**

- Masonic Foundation ..... JGS Michael Greenwald, PM, 301-272-0168
- Masonic & Eastern Star Home ..... Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0605
- St. John's Mite Association..... Burt S. Levy, PM

**2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

- Auditing.....Kevin Stemp
- Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25..... Jonathan Binstock, PM  
301-442-4812
- Baskets.....Jeffrey Greenwald, 301-869-1915  
David B. Torchinsky, PM, 301-933-1955
- Bulletin Committee ..... Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0605
- Business Manager..... Open
- By-Laws..... Robert H. Starr, PGM, 301-460-3088
- Catechism Instructors..... Burt S. Levy, PM, 202 409-4449
- Centennial Planning ..... Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
- Education and Degree Committee .. GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM,  
MA  
301-598-8379
- Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation:.....Michael Greenwald, PM  
Michael J. Rinis, PM, 301-384-8244,  
Jeffrey R. Greenwald
- Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care ..... Burt S. Levy, PM, 202 409-4449
- Investment Committee..... Trustees, Treas. Robert H. Starr, PGM
- Refreshment ..... J.S., S.S.
- Relief ..... W.M., S.W., J.W.
- Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman..... Hal Henig, 301-681-3873

**2024 PROXIES**

- For the Worshipful Master ..... Ryan Simon
- For the Senior Warden ..... Lee Silverman
- For the Junior Warden..... Alan Karpas

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




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**Calendar for Masonic Year 2023—Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45**

For the most up-to-date information, please check the Trestleboard or [www.sgbf45.org](http://www.sgbf45.org). If anyone is interested in any of these events and wishes to obtain more information, please contact WM Allen Levy about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
April	9	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, The EA Degree	Masons only
	14	Passover Baskets, 7:30 AM, Berman Hebrew Academy,	Family and Friends
	25	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
May	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only
	27	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
June	11	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only
	24	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends