

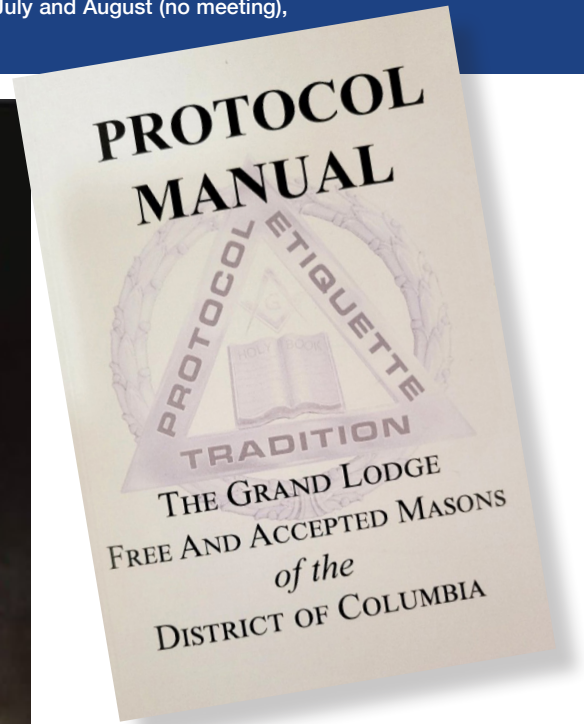
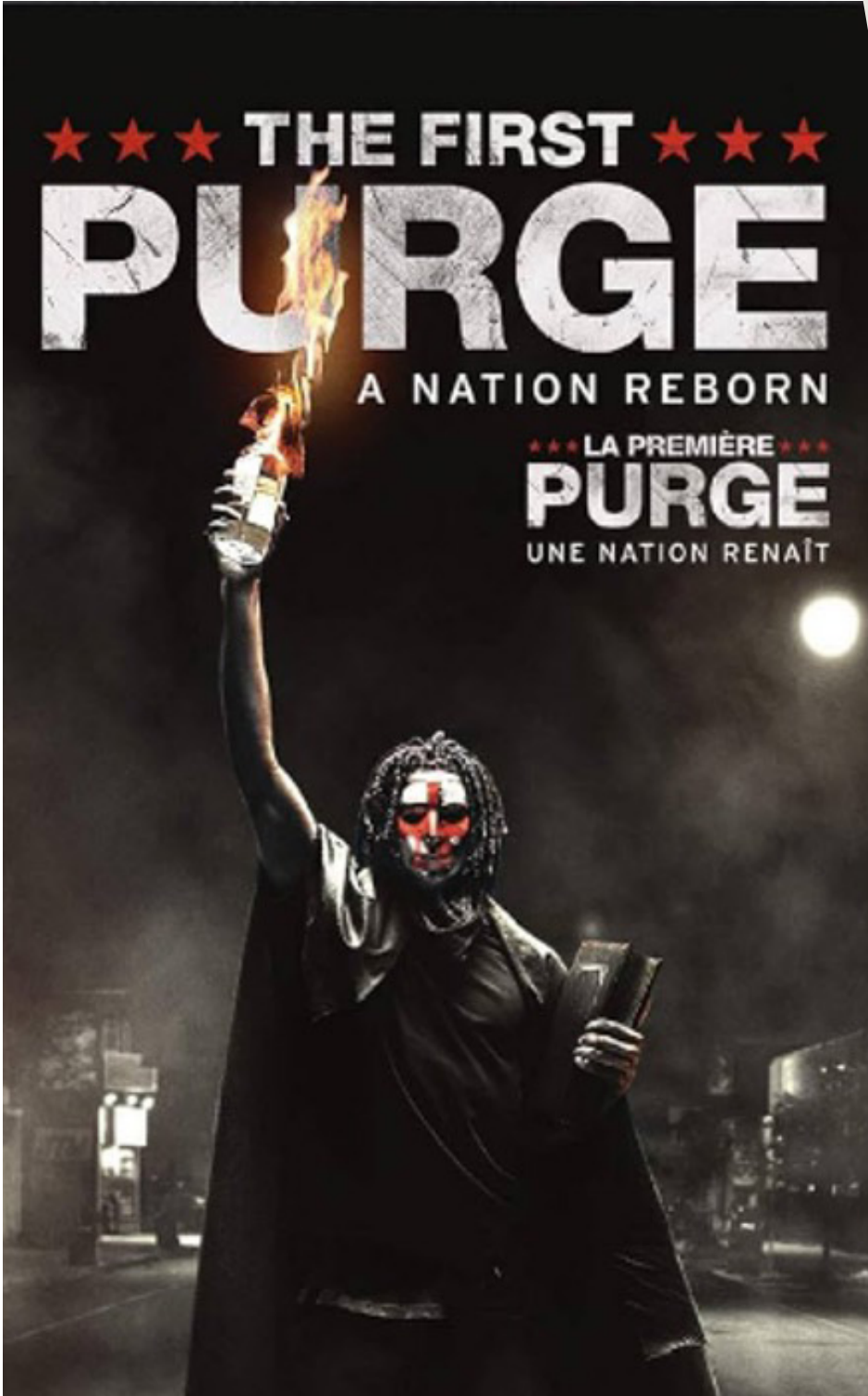
Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin
Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M

bulletin

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

Volume XCIX • Number 3
March 2024

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



March Stated Communication

Our March Stated Communication will be held, Tuesday, March 12th, 2024. WM Aaron Kamerer has asked our RWB Sheldon Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA to offer a demonstration of Purging the Lodge, and answer questions of related Masonic Protocol.

Purge: Means neither destruction of life nor the results of strong medicine. It has nothing to do with any of the Purge Movies nor does it involve some kind of plumbing DIY home repair to clean out a clogged pipe.

Masonically, to “purge the Lodge” means only to ascertain by proper Masonic means if all present, are Masons and entitled to sit within the tiled doors.

This will prove to be a useful and interesting meeting. Please RSVP to the eVite or to the Secretary to ensure you are counted for our dinner preceding the gavel.

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

WM Aaron A. Kamerer 2024



In March, there are several holidays and events that people celebrate around the world. As a global Fraternity, it's important to note that Masonic values are often associated with principles such as brotherhood, morality, and charity. While Masonic lodges do not specifically celebrate holidays, we as individual Masons often find ways to connect these values with various occasions and incorporate charitable activities with them. We often associate an esoteric meaning with symbols, objects, and events in the past. Masonic association with events from the present also brings continued meaning in what it is to be a Mason. We can apply our Masonic teachings and values to any event as demonstrated with some events for this month.

St. Patrick's Day (March 17th):

Masons emphasize the importance of brotherhood and unity. St. Patrick's Day, with its celebration of Irish culture and traditions, can be an opportunity for Masons to promote a sense of community and fellowship. Brotherly love and celebration of our time together in the now and beyond are practiced throughout the year, at every event or gathering.

International Women's Day (March 8th):

Masonic principles also include equality and respect. International Women's Day is a chance for Masons to reflect on the importance of gender equality and the contributions of women to society. The saying is "behind every great man, is a great woman". While the saying doesn't always apply to every man, it emphasizes the point that most don't

succeed in life without the help of others. The support of our loved ones is vital.

World Wildlife Day (March 3rd):

Masonic values often include a sense of responsibility and stewardship. World Wildlife Day can be a reminder for Masons to consider their role in preserving and protecting the environment for future generations.

National Pi Day (March 14th):

While not a traditional holiday, Pi Day celebrates the mathematical constant π . Masons value education and knowledge, and Pi Day can be an opportunity to promote the importance of learning and intellectual growth. Geometry is one of the branches of mathematics that we hold in high regard. Continued Masonic education and expanding our knowledge and intellect are vital for ourselves and the future of Masonry.

It's essential to recognize that while our core Masonic values are rooted in steep tradition, how we associate those same values are personal, and individuals may interpret and apply them in various ways. We as Masons seek to live virtuous lives and contribute positively to our communities, and holidays can provide occasions to express and reinforce these values. We should never forget those values and how they relate to both our beloved Fraternity and us as individuals.

Aaron

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. Rapoport, 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. Rapoport, MA, DSM, GL-E	2012-2013	Erik F. Milman	2023	Allen R. Levy
1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM	2014	Adam Forman		



We received several memories, poems, notes, and photographs of WB Wright. Several of them have been collected in this issue. I asked WB Wright once how he managed to be Master of a Lodge with well over a thousand members without the benefit of email, a computer, the use of Grand View or anything we take for granted today. He was quick to give credit to his officers, his secretary and their committees. Not himself.

Citation Gold Fidelity Medal

“Allen J. Wright 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 1960s, 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 performing the job best.

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.”

Opening Prayer

Our February Officer’s Meeting was opened with this prayer from our Chaplain, R.W. Bro. Burt Levy.

Grand Architect and Brethren:

When I think of the life of our beloved Brother Allen Joseph Wright, two words come to mind: Dignity and Respect. He was a tall, handsome man who carried himself with dignity and respect. He also carried with him his long years of service to the Craft of Freemasonry. When he finally laid down his working tools, he had spent 70 of his 94 years as a Mason. In fact, he became a Mason on January 27th, 1953, and died just two days before the 71st anniversary of his initiation. At the time of his initiation into the Craft, the rituals and beautiful lectures of Freemasonry were mastered by a small number of members who then became the ‘elite’ leaders of Samuel Gompers Lodge and held sway over its administration. Brother Wright, however – generously shared his knowledge and ritual excellence and became a loved and respected mentor to countless numbers of us. If he had earned just \$1 for each hour spent teaching catechism and Degree work, he would have amassed a tidy fortune.

His passing has left a huge gap in the very fabric of our Lodge. It will be incumbent upon us to attempt to fill that space and to honor his memory by continuing our goal of Masonic excellence.

So, let us all look to the Celestial Lodge and pray that Worshipful Brother Wright will continue to guide us in our efforts to be regarded with Dignity and Respect.

AMEN

MEMORIALS TO WB ALLEN J. WRIGHT



WB Allen J. Wright's Officer Line

Samuel Gompers Lodge Officer Line 1963. WM Allen J. Wright, SW Jerome Saidman, JW Joseph Hein, Sec. Joseph Sandler, PM, Treas. Joseph Hurwitz, PM, Chap. Bernard Easterson, PM, MC Morton Oppenheim, PM, Deg. Dir. Saul Weiss, PM, SD William Boker, JD Robert Frank, SS Arthur Rappeport, JS Milton Korn, Tiler Benjamin Suls.

The Plaque which many of us have admired, hung in the basement of WB Allen J. Wright's home, presented by his officer line, December 10, 1963.



“Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.”

Benjamin Franklin

For Allen Wright, PM

The Lodge Brother I knew; he is no more. The man has gone and flown.
Left behind are worldly cares, he now lives in a Heavenly home.
He now rests with others who have gone before,
to dwell in a place where pain and sorrow they are no more.
When all is lost, it is not so, he lives forever in my mind.
With G-d's given gift of memory I but need to think of him.
My pleasure is there to find.
He taught the lessons needed to succeed in life.
Ever the helmsman, a steady hand in sailing through happiness and strife.
A loving husband, father, and grandfather, a legacy for those he leaves behind.
His soul now travels to a place where the living have never trod.
He steps forth into the heavens, into the hands of G-d.

by Edwin Nachlas, PM

Past Master.

Perhaps you think your work is done,
A task completed, honours won;
Still there is much more work to do,
The Lodge you ruled has need of you.
Make no mistake, you're needed now;
Assist some Brother, show him how.
Sage counsel give and good advice,
The cable-tow, extend it thrice;
Each act with kindness and open hand
Real "Brotherhood" then will expand.



MEMORIALS TO

WB ALLEN J. WRIGHT

View from the Door

JD Jerry Keilsohn, PM

March 2024

The past month has been a roller coaster of Masonic events for me. The very bottom was the passing of WB Allen Wright. There are lots of other articles in this month's bulletin with thoughts from our fellow Brethren on WB Wight's passing. Here is mine.

In the article I wrote that appeared in the June 2015 bulletin, I was the Junior Steward at the time. I wrote:

"There is a lot to learn for the Master's Degree, but I am making slow but steady progress. The part I have is much longer and more complicated than anything I have learned before. I have enlisted some additional help. Brother Allen Wright has kindly given me his Tuesday evenings one on one to help me learn the part."

The part I was desperately trying to learn in 2015 was the Senior Deacons part of the Master Masons degree. This part has a several minute long soliloquy that I struggled to learn. Allen spent many - many hours with me working on learning this and the rest of the part. I could never have mastered it without his help. In the beginning, I really struggled with learning the ritual. It was something I had just never really done before. I also found it extremely frustrating that I was having so much trouble learning it. I am eternally grateful for the time and particularly the patience Allen had with me.

A year later I was trying to learn the lecture for the Master Mason's degree. It takes about an hour to deliver. The first time I delivered it, in addition to weekly, sometimes twice weekly sessions with Allen and RWB Rappaport, I eventually only learned the first half. Allen keep telling me not to worry, everything would work out. On the night of the degree, I delivered the first part, and WB Wight delivered the more difficult second part of the lecture in his normal flawless manor.

I was not the only brother WB Wright he did this for. There is a long list of brethren that have struggled with learning the ritual. Many of us turned to WB Wright for additional assistance. He was always willing to give up several hours of his evenings to work one on one with any of us. I know at least one of our brethren that would have never made it through the catechism for the degrees without the assistance of WB Wright.

One of WB Wright's favorite lines from our ritual, is in the Master Masons Degree lecture. "Time, patience and perseverance, will accomplish all tasks". He would often remind me of this as I struggled with learning the

various parts.

Time for a few stories:

WB Allen and his wonderful wife Mary had a dog named Scooter. Scooter was a Corgi, which are prone to barking. Not just a little bit, but a lot. Eventually, I got Scooter to stop barking at me, by bribing him with dog biscuits. I would bring the dog treats with me when I went to WB Wright's house. Scooter would see me coming up the walk, and would run to greet me when I enter the house. No barking. I would give him his treats, and he would run off to eat them. Scooter often sat with us, as I was learning whatever part I was working on. He was probably a better student than me.

And now my favorite one. WB Wright and I were going someplace. I do not remember where. We were on Georgia Avenue and stopped at the light at Arcola Avenue. The old Wheaton Public library was on that corner. In the middle of whatever we were talking about, Allen says "That is the ugliest building in Maryland". I agree. He then tells me the story about how his firm elected to not bid on building it because it was so ugly.

As a consequence as of how we at #45 rotate the various degree parts, as you progress through the chairs, two things happen. One, you learn all the parts for every degree. The other is you almost never get to do the same part more than once.

Occasionally, the opportunity does happen that you do get a second chance. The Senior Deacon's part, that WB Wright worked some many hours with me to learn, is actually my favorite part in all the degrees. When I was Master and we did the catch up Master Mason's degree, to get the brothers that got caught up in the COVID restrictions raised, I appointed myself to do the Senior Deacon's role.

A few weeks ago, after WB Wright's passing, I got the opportunity to pick a part for a Master Mason's degree at Harmony Lodge #17. I asked for the Senior Deacon's role in both parts. We raised five new Master Masons that evening. As I was standing, facing the East and delivering the soliloquy, my mind went to a remembrance of sitting with WB Wright and learning that part. I had to stop for a few seconds and let my mind catch up. I think I did a good job, and hope WB Wright would have been proud of me.

Our First Meet-Up for the New Year

by Tiler Hal Henig



Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, WM Aaron Kamerer, Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, SW Derek Gould, JD Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Allen Friedman, PM, RWB Burt Levy, PM (not pictured) and Brothers William Keilsohn and Irvin Pescov. Our Guests were Lisa Henig, Shelly Kamerer, David Horn, Sharon Zitomer, Stuart Zitomer, and Renie Zitomer.

On Monday Evening, January 22nd, Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge had its first Meet-Up of the New Year at Hunter's Grill and Bar Restaurant located in Potomac, Maryland. I had reserved a separate room for the Brethren and Guests, prior to this Meet-Up, which began around 6:30 pm.

Brother Charlie Meyers recommended that we have a Meet-Up at Hunter's Grill and this was the first time, I organized a monthly dinner at that restaurant. Unfortunately, Brother Meyers was unable to make this evening social due to his Business Trip.

The weather outside although still cold, was not as cold as the previous week and the snow which fell the prior week was melting.

Fourteen Brethren and Guests attended the January Meet-Up at Hunter Grill. The participating Brethren were Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, WM Aaron Kamerer, Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, SW Derek Gould, JD, Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Allen Friedman, PM, RWB Burt Levy, PM, and Brothers William Keilsohn and Irvin Pescov. Our Guests were Lisa Henig, Shelly Kamerer, David Horn, Sharon Zitomer, Stuart Zitomer, and Renie Zitomer.

Brethren and Guests enjoyed the food offered from the restaurant's menu. Also, some of the participants selected meals from a Special Italian Dinner Menu, which was all delicious and tasty. Everybody had a good time at our first Meet-Up for 2024 at Hunter's Grill and Bar.

Valentine's Day Dinner Party

Following our brief February Stated Communication on February 13th, we served a special dinner, to our Life Partners. Our Brother Sonny Garibay provided his special brand of music for the dinner and while we were at labor, we invited the founder of Art-Time, Emily Gould, to lead a special art project for our Valentines.

We had an excellent turn out and all our Valentines enjoyed the art project. A special thank you to Emily Gould and Bro. Sonny Garibay for their assistance in making this such an enjoyable time!

WM Aaron Kamerer presents our immediate Past Master Allen Levy with a Scrap Book to remember his year in the East.



SW Derek Gould and his mother Emily



WB Allen Levy and his wife Jessica



Bro. Hal Henig and his wife Lisa

Valentine's Day Dinner Party





Masonic Youth Service Award

The Grand Lodge of Maryland, awarded the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master John C. Naquin, Masonic Youth Service Award to Bro. Robert H. Starr, PGM and Secretary – Treasurer Capital Assembly No. 11 of the Grand Assembly of Maryland.



MWB Robert H. Starr, PGM, Vickie Starr, Mary Adeline Bradford, Past Supreme Worthy Advisor, Supreme Recorder and Supreme Inspector in Maryland, and Miss Kate LaPlatt, Grand Worthy Advisor

Shirley Gordon



The Lodge extends its condolences to the family and friends of Shirley Schiller Gordon of Silver Spring, MD, passed away at the age of 96. Shirley was the beloved wife of the late WB Jerrold Gordon and devoted mother of the late Howard Lee Gordon. Shirley lived a long and abundant life, serving as the matriarch and confidante to her family and friends. Shirley and Jerry owned Petworth Market in Washington, DC, from 1955 to 1969. Shirley would later go on to work as secretary to the Director of the Veterans Administration from 1969 until her retirement in 1993.

Shirley had a heart of gold and a soul to match – nothing could bring Shirley down. Shirley was a ray of sunshine, always there to share her love, provide words of wisdom, or lend a gentle hand – her love and commitment to all was unparalleled.

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Senior Warden..... Derek Gould, 240-938-6285

Junior Warden Jeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915

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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 Peter H. Frank

Historian Joshua L. Rubin, PM, 240-277-5355

Tiler..... Hal Henig, 301-681-3873

Immediate PM Allen R. Levy, PM, 703-470-4945

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Masonic & Eastern Star Home Raymond Horn, PM, 443-253-0605

St. John's Mite Association..... Burt S. Levy, PM

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301-442-4812

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David B. Torchinsky, PM, 301-933-1955

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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,
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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

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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



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. 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
March	12	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, The Purge	Masons only
	17	A Magical Musical Concert 4:00 PM Kehilat Shalom, Gaithersburg, MD	Family and Friends
	24	Capt. Avery Museum, Shady Side, MD, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Family and Friends

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