

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 1
January 2024

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



Everything You Always Needed to Know About Masonic Protocol

For his first Stated Communication, our new Worshipful Master has wisely decided to make us all aware of proper Masonic Protocol. A discussion of the new Grand Lodge Protocol Manual written by Grand Lecturer, R.W.B. Christopher K. Mahaney will make us all aware of how to comport ourselves as proper Masons. We expect that this presentation will be of interest to **every** Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction.

In Freemasonry, **Etiquette** focuses on the behavior of a Brother towards another, whereas **Protocol** focuses on the behavior of a Brother towards a patron in the Craft, respecting the hierarchy of places and stations in the Society. Expect a stimulating discussion, save the date: January 9th. Please plan on joining us at the Takoma Masonic Center, Dinner:6:30 PM; Gavel: 7:30 PM. RSVP to the forthcoming eVite or the Secretary@sgbf45.org

The Celebration of Our 99th Anniversary

and



INSTALLATION

of

Our 2024 Officers



On December 10th, we celebrated our 99th Anniversary of our Lodge and installed our 2024 Officers

Worshipful Master Aaron Kamerer

- Senior Warden*Derek Gould
- Junior Warden* Jeffrey R. Greenwald
- Secretary* Raymond Horn, P.M.
- Treasurer* Robert H. Starr, P.G.M.
- Chaplain* Burt Levy, P.M.
- Master-of-Ceremonies* Allen R. Levy, P.M.
- Senior Deacon* Ryan A. Simon
- Junior Deacon* Jerry Keilsohn, P. M.
- Immediate Past Master* Allen R. Levy, P.M.
- Tiler* Hal Henig
- Degree Director*Sheldon I. Rappeport, P.M., D.S.M.
- Catechism Instructors* Burt Levy, P.M.
Jerry Keilsohn, P. M.
- Trustee* . . .Sheldon I. Rappeport, P.M.,DSM,MA (2024)
- Trustee* Jeffrey R. Greenwald (2025)
- Trustee* Julien P. Hofberg, P.M. (2026)

Sunshine Committee

The information below is the most current that we have received. To give further or more up-to-date information, call **Sunshine Chairman Hal Henig at 301-681-3873.**

Join this worthwhile committee by making a call, writing, or visiting any of the below.

The following Brethren or family members at home:

Jules Tepper, PM, PGM

16440 Keats Terrace
Derwood, MD 20855
(301) 980-7264

Harold Grainger, PM, DSM

3160 Gracefield Road
RC 1141
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 957-8862

Shirley Gordon, wife of the late WB Jerry Gordon

3160 Gracefield Road,
Apt OG-113,
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-273-9882
Alan Karpas (301) 767-5905

Rosalind Pomerantz, wife of the late Bro. Harry Pomerantz

Leisure World
3315 Densmore Court
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 288-7116
*Daughter - Sharon Strelzer
(203) 650-2006*

Happy Birthday

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

- Stanley M. Albert 16
- Moritz A. Cohen, Jr. 28
- Stuart J. Levin..... 16
- Michael J. Rinis 13
- David S. Rosenblatt..... 5
- Arik Shalom 4
- Martin M. Simon 15
- Daniel J. Stein 21

TRESTLEBOARD

DATES TO REMEMBER ...

January

9th - Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, Grand Lodge Protocol, Presenter: RWB Christopher K. Mahaney, Masons only.
22nd - Meet-up at 6:30 PM, Family and Friends

February

13th - Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, Valentine's Day Event (after closing open to all and significant others), Masons and friends.
26th - Meet-up at 6:30 PM, Family and Friends

March

12th - Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, The Purge Ceremony, Presenter: GL-E RWB Sheldon I. Rapoport, PM, DSM, MA, Masons only.
25th - Meet-up 6:30 PM, Family and Friends

April

9th - Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, The Entered Apprentice Degree, Masons only



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Light From the East

WM Aaron A. Kameron 2024



Greetings, esteemed members of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45,

I am truly honored and humbled to stand before you as the newly elected leader of our Lodge. I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for all of us this year.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. It is a privilege to serve alongside such a dedicated group of Masons who share a common purpose and vision for our Craft.

As we embark on this new chapter together, let us remain united in our commitment to the values that define our Lodge and this

great jurisdiction. Together, we will continue to foster a sense of camaraderie, support, and mutual respect that makes our Lodge a special and welcoming place for all.

I am eager to hear your ideas, concerns, and aspirations. Your input is invaluable as we work together to strengthen our bonds and contribute positively to the well-being of our members.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead, and I look forward to a fruitful and collaborative tenure. Let us make this a time of growth, unity, and shared achievements.

Fraternally,
Aaron



(WB Allen Levy doing his best Bob Eubanks imitation)

February Stated Meeting – Valentine’s Special Event – February 13th.

SAVE THE DATE – Make it a Date Night! If you had the good fortune of joining us last year for a Special Edition of the Newlywed Game, you will want to be sure and reserve the date. February 13th, and bring your honey. The Lodge will conduct a quick meeting, transact our business then close and retire to the refectory for an encore edition of our hysterical and entertaining Valentine’s Night event.



Aaron A. Kameron

Our incoming Worshipful Master is a year early! He was our Junior Deacon in 2021 when we realized that – if he progressed through the officer’s chairs, he would become W.M. in our centennial year (2025).

Knowing that he was appointed Chairman of the Centennial Celebration and Gala. But now, due to unforeseen circumstances, he has been elected to assume the “Oriental East” THIS year. We have offered to re-elect him next year to fulfill his vision of being the first Master of our Second Hundred years, but in his usual affable manner, he says he will leave that decision up to his Senior Warden.

Aaron was born on July 29th, 1974 in Greenville, SC but his parents moved to Florida shortly thereafter and he remained a resident there until moving here seven years ago. While in Florida, he graduated from Orange Park H.S. and then served an eight-year commitment with the United States Marines. After his active stint with the Marines, he accepted a position with Wright Medical Technology, a global orthopedic medical device company where he began as a Business Manager and then over the next seventeen years, progressed to Global Process Manager where his focus was on leading High Performance Management System Teams!

Aaron says he met his wonderful wife, Shelly in 2006, and they were married on August 8th, 2008. Between the two of them, they have two handsome sons – Maxwell and Jacob. Aaron relocated to our area to accept the position of Operations Manager for our P.M. Michael Greenwald’s M&M Appliance Company. On observing W.B. Michael’s busy Masonic affiliation, Aaron showed an interest and Michael provided him with a petition!! The rest is history, and we are extremely fortunate to have Aaron as one of the leaders of our Lodge!

The 2024 Officer Line of Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45



*Tiler Hal Henig, SD
Ryan Simon, Trustee
Sheldon Rapoport,
SW Derek Gould,
Trustee Julien Hofberg,
WM Aaron Kameron,
Treasurer Robert H.
Starr, Trustee & JW
Jeffrey Greenwald,
Secretary Raymond
Horn, JD Jerry Keilson,
MC Allen Levy,
Chaplain Burt Levy.*



2023 Officers present WB Alan Levy with a Plaque thanking him for his service. Jeffrey Greenwald, WB Burt Levy, Hal Henig, WB Robert Greenwald, WB Raymond Horn, WB Alan Levy, WM Aaron Kamerer, Derek Gould, WB Sheldon Rapoport, WB Jerry Keilsohn, Ryan Simon, WB Julien Hofberg, WB Robert Starr.

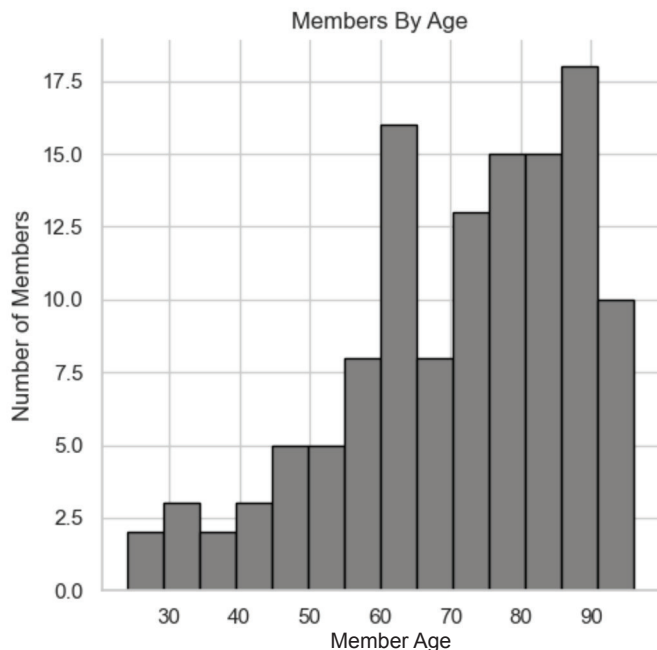
Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 in our 99th Year

Recently, Bro. William Keilsohn provided an analysis of our membership data to assist the Lodge Officers in their planning. This analysis reflects our current membership and is maintained in the Grand Lodge's, GrandView online portal. The obvious observations are that everyone else but you and I in the Lodge is aging and we need new members who are below our median age to ensure our ability to flourish in our second century.

AGE

The first chart shows a distribution of our membership by age.

Column Bins are in 5-year increments. This means that each bar represents a range of five years. For example, the bar on the far left is from ages 25 to 30. It has two people, Bro's Derek Gould, and William Keilsohn. Below is the mean +/- 1 standard deviation. The mean age of our Lodge Members is just under 71 years old.

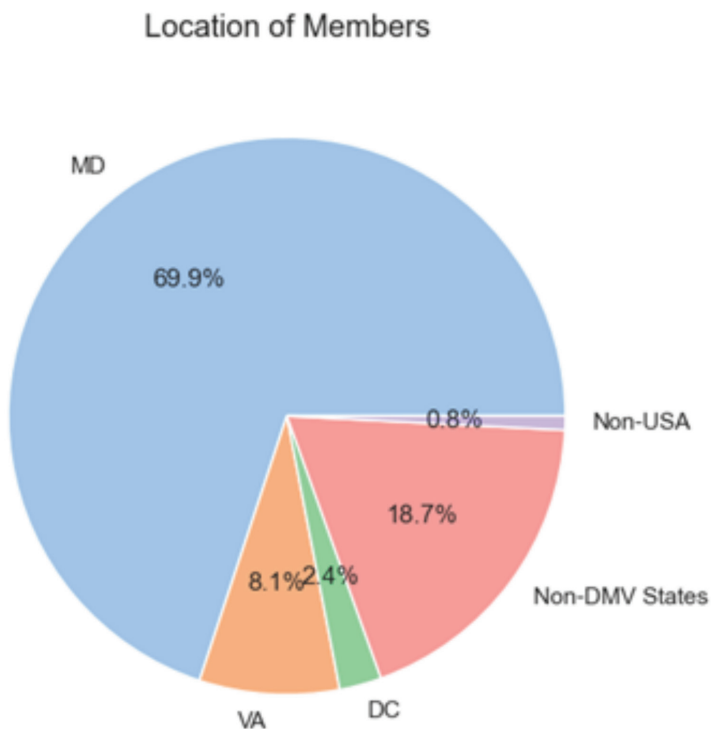


Age_Range

- 0 54.23
- 1 70.95
- 2 87.67

Location

The second chart illustrates the location of our membership. More than two-thirds of us live in Maryland. Slightly more than 80% of our members live in the DC-MD-VA area, the majority of those who do not live in the DMV, live in Florida. We do have one affiliated Brother who lives in Greece.

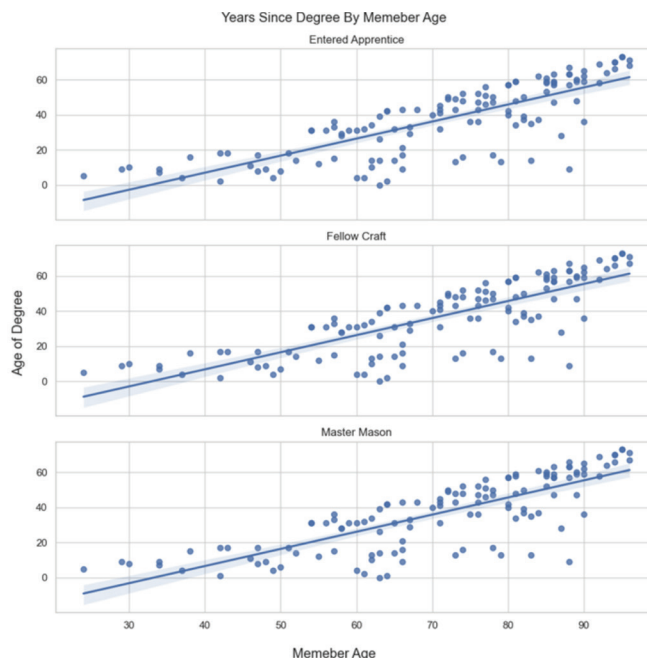


MD	VA	DC	Non-DMV States	Non-USA
86	10	3	23	1

Years of Service to Masonry

The fourth chart plots the Age vs Number of members who have received their Masonic Degrees.

This is the number of years since members got their degrees. As expected, older members got their degrees a while ago. What is interesting is the few dots who are older, but only got their degrees in the last 20 years.



Grand Lodge Annual Banquet

The Annual Grand Lodge Membership Banquet was held on the Friday preceding our Lodge's installation.

The Officers, Trustees, and Spouses were invited to meet the incoming Grand Master and to hear the outgoing Grand Master before the Grand Lodge Installation which took place the next day.

As they say, "A good time was had by all".



SD Ryan Simon and RWB Sheldon Rappeport, PM



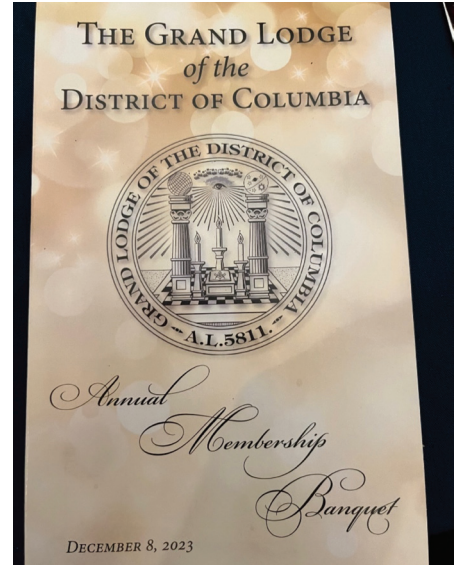
WM Aaron Kamerer, Tiler Hal Henig and Lisa



WB Robert H. Starr, PGM and Vickie



WB Allen Levy and Jessica



Aileen Horn, WB Robert Greenwald and Roberta

View from the Door

Jerry Keilsohn, PM

My view changed AGAIN. I was happy sitting on the sidelines. That was my goal for the last year. But it almost never happened.

During the last Masonic year, during my travels, I have sat in every chair (that includes the Tiler) in the Lodge except two. The two: the Treasurer and that of the Master. However, one night I came very close to opening for a Master that was running late. Another PM of that Lodge ended up doing it instead. And I ended up that night on the inside of the door.

At one Lodge I often attend, due to personal and work-related issues, I have sat in the Senior Warden's chair more nights than he did. One of those times was so he could be the conductor for a very special candidate, his son.

Why am I back at sitting in the Junior Deacons' chair? The short answer is that nobody else wanted the position. As a Lodge cannot function without a Junior Deacon, I volunteered.

The last time I wrote "The View From the Door", was in 2016. A lot has changed. In 2016 just about everything I attended was a Masonic first for me. Now not so much. I have discovered that I am not really fond of Grand Lodge politics. I will say that attending the Grand Lodge is an experience. From experience comes wisdom. And that is probably enough of my opinion I want to share on the subject.

I have in the last eight years discovered that I enjoy participating in making and advancing new Masons. In the past year, I have participated in five Enter Apprentices, six Fellow Crafts, and two Master Mason Degrees. I know of one EA that is ready to be passed, and four FCs that should be raised soon. I am looking forward to participating in their degrees.

By the time you read this, the shortest day of the year will have finally come and gone. The days will slowly start to get longer. Unfortunately, the coldest part of the year is still to come. During the last few weeks, I have seen Mother Nature put on her daily light show. I have seen some beautiful sunrises and several awesome sunsets too.

Almost every day this time of year, I drive for about 10 minutes, straight into the sunrises in the morning, and again into the sunsets at the end of the day. I am often amazed at how quickly things change. One moment, just a hint of orange. The next is a blaze of pinks, reds, and oranges. And then a few minutes later, I am just looking into the big orange globe that is the sun.

With the sunsets, I often find comfort in the fact that Annie is correct" The sun will come up tomorrow".

Installation Highlights

Attending the Installation were the out-going and in-coming officers of our Lodge (shown in the many photos below), a number of Past Masters of our Lodge (Past Masters Present: Allen Wright, MA, GL-GFM (1963), Julien P. Hofberg, (1983), Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA DSM, GL-E (1989, 2001), Robert H. Starr (1990), Burt Levy (1995, 2021), Michael Greenwald (2017), Robert Greenwald (2019), Jerry Keilsohn (2020, 2022)), several other members of our Lodge Alan Karpas, Lee Silverman, Charles Meyer), visiting members of The Widow's Sons Club listed under their photo, family members (David Horn, Vickie Starr, Jessica Levy, Leah Keilsohn) and a prospective member (Phillip Taylor).



The Widow's Sons: RWB Michael Greenwald, PM, David Cornwell, PM, Potomac Lodge No. 5, WM Aaron Kameron, Edwin Arroyo, PM, Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14, Maynard Azurin, Maryland Lodge No. 21, Jeff Martin, Prince Fredrick Lodge No. 142.



WB Allen Levy leaving the East, conducted by WB Burt Levy and receiving the applause of the Past Masters of Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45.



WB Julien Hofberg delivering the explanation of the gavels to our new WM Aaron Kamerer. This year he added a small but important gavel to the list.



JW Jeffrey Greenwald being installed.



WB Allen Wright delivering the Charge to our new officers.



WB Allen Levy proclaiming our new Master



Tiler Hal Henig being installed.



WM Aaron Kamerer receiving for his use this year WB Burton Penn's gavel for use in running his officers' meetings for the ensuing year, from WB Jerry Keilsohn.



WB Allen Levy receiving the Past Masters Plaque from WB Julien Hofberg.



WB Robert Greenwald and his son, RWB Michael Greenwald, PM



WM Aaron Kamerer receiving the instruments of his office from WB Julien Hofberg and being conducted by WB Allen Levy



WM Aaron Kamerer providing his comments as the new Master of our Lodge with Conductor Sheldon Rappoport, PM.



WB Allen Levy receiving his Past Masters Jacket from RWB Michael Greenwald, PM.



WM Aaron Kamerer presenting our newest Mason, Bro. Lee Silverman his Name Tag and Membership Card.



WM Aaron Kamerer cuts into a spectacular cake made for the Installation by the wife of WB Sam Chin.



SD Ryan Simon and JD Jerry Keilsohn, PM being installed.



WM Allen Levy receiving a plaque from his officers.



Tiler Hal Henig, WB Erik Milman, WB Raymond Horn, and WB Alan Friedman.

California Pizza Kitchen *Meet-Up*

Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman

On Monday, November 27th, Samuel Gompers Benjamin Franklin Lodge held its November Meet-Up at the California Pizza Kitchen located in the Tysons Corner Mall, in Tysons Virginia. I decided to have a Meet-Up in Virginia, so it would be easier for our Virginia Brethren.

Unfortunately, this Meet-Up did not turn out as I hoped. Only four Brethren participated. Participants were Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, Secretary Raymond Horn, PM, Alan Friedman, PM, and Erik Milman, PM. WB Erik Milman was the only Virginia Resident to attend this Meet-Up. WB Erik is going to serve as Worshipful Master in Acacia Lodge No. 16 A.F.&A.M. in Clifton, VA for the 2024 Masonic Year. By the time you read this article, he will have been installed. Erik's daughter is now participating in Girl Scouts and enjoys the outdoor adventure.

Several other Brethren and Guests had let me know they could not attend. This Meet-Up was different from the October Meet-Up at Mamma Lucia, which 21 Brethren and guests attended.

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Worshipful Master..... Aaron Kamerer, 202-510-5181
Senior Warden..... Derek Gould, 240-938-6285
Junior Warden Jeffrey R. Greenwald, 301-869-1915
Secretary Raymond Horn, 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, 703-470-4945
Senior Deacon..... Ryan A. Simon, 240-475-3935
Junior Deacon Jerry P. Keilsohn, 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, 240-277-5355
Tiler..... Hal Henig, 301-681-3873
Immediate PM Allen R. Levy, 703-470-4945

2024 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation JGS Michael Greenwald, PM, 301-272-0168
Masonic & Eastern Star Home Raymond Horn, 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
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, 301-989-8945
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 Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, 301-989-8945
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



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 Secretary
 6109 Lone Oak Drive
 Bethesda, MD 20817



Calendar for Masonic Year 2024 – 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 Aaron Kamerer about all events.

Date		Event	Open to
January	9	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only
	22	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
February	13	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM	Masons only
	26	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
March	12	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, The Purge	Masons only
	25	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends

Date		Event	Open to
April	9	Stated Communication, 7:30 PM, The EA Degree	Masons only
	22	Meet-up 6:30 PM	Family and Friends