

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

# bulletin

Volume XCV • Number 9  
December 2019

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

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



## CONGRATULATIONS to our newly elected 2020 Line Officers

Installation of our new officers will be held Sunday at our Stated Communication, December 8th at the Takoma Masonic Center, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Lodge will conduct a short meeting following the last opening by our out-going Worshipful Master, Robert Greenwald. The Lodge will go to recess so that all family and friends who are present can observe the installation. Refreshments will follow the installation while our new Master closes the Lodge for the first time. This will be a festive event and the number of presentations will be made at the installation. Please plan on bringing your spouse and family so we may meet them and we can all participate in the fellowship which will follow.

Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 election results and Line Officer appointments for the ensuing Masonic Year are listed below. We are fortunate to have another full and strong line for the ensuing year and we hope you will come out to show your support for success in the new year.

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Jerry P. Kellsohn
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Burt S. Levy, PM
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Jeffrey R. Greenwald
<b>Secretary</b>	Raymond Horn, PM
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert H. Starr, PGM
<b>Chaplain</b>	Walter F. Simon, PM, DSM
<b>Master-of-Ceremonies</b>	GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Allen R. Levy
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Derek Gould

<b>Senior Steward</b>	Aaron Kamerer
<b>Junior Steward</b>	Alex Rieser
<b>Aide to the Master</b>	Hal Henig
<b>Tiler</b>	John Garrison, PM.
<b>Trustee</b>	Jerome M. Bauman, PM.
<b>Trustee</b>	Jeffrey Greenwald
<b>Trustee</b>	Julien P. Hofberg, PM.
<b>Immediate Past Master</b>	Robert Greenwald, PM

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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:*  
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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

By Robert Greenwald, WM



I hardly realize that a year has passed since I first stood before you to take my oath of office as Worshipful Master of this Lodge. I guess that is what happens when what you spend so much time on is fun. I enjoyed my year as your Worshipful Master and I am grateful and particularly indebted to that loyal body of Brethren who has worked so hard and faithfully with me. Their confidence, support, and good counsel made my tasks easier. You have been loyal and unswerving in your support.

I trust you will give my illustrious successor the same degree of cooperation you have given me. You are a grand group of men and to each

of you, I owe my affection, gratitude, and respect. The end of this adventure as WM will soon be upon me and I look forward to my next adventure. We are most fortunate in electing Brother Jerry Keilsohn as Worshipful Master for the coming year. It will be a joy for all our active Brethren through the next year to have him preside over our meetings. My Brethren, you can count on my cooperation and engagement during the year ahead and I look forward to having all of you continue to participate with our Lodge. I have the greatest pleasure now in handing that gavel to him.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

The Brethren of Samuel Gompers–Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 have a long-standing tradition of having a Christmas Eve visitation to the VA Hospital in Washington DC.

Our VA Hospital Visitation is scheduled this year for Sunday, December 22nd, 9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. We will again gather early at the VA Hospital on the Sunday before Christmas for the opportunity to greet the Veterans, gathered them for the service, then participate in the service (doing our best to follow the Christmas carols), and then accompanying the Veterans back to the residential area. For those Brethren who have participated in this special visitation, this is always moving to enable a number of those Veterans who are living at the VA to participate in their religious service.

Please let our new SW Jeff Greenwald know that you will be attending.

## Arthritis Foundation Jingle Bell Run

This year, Laura's Army will be participating in the Jingle Bell Run that will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 14 at Seneca Creek Park in Gaithersburg.

This is a walk/run followed by some fellowship and is appropriate for the whole family.

<https://events.arthritis.org/team/laurasarmy2019>



# On Approaching Our 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



*Jerry's father, Leon Bauman, escorting Jerome Bauman, PM in 1979 when he was installed as master of the lodge.*



*1978, including Burt Penn and Joel Schulman, who were my wardens.*



*On the left is Brother Irving Eisenburg, Jerry's cousin, in the middle is Sam Bauman, father of Benjamin Franklin Lodge, and on the right is Brother Jerome Bauman, PM, circa 1944*

To promote our Lodge and prepare for our upcoming 100th Anniversary to be celebrated in 2025 the *Bulletin* is soliciting recollections and photographs of the Brethren who built our Lodge and some of the many successful masonic, social and charitable activities we have held.

To kick off this effort, Brother Jerry Bauman, PM, MA, is sharing some of his recollections of his family history and how his father became involved in the start of Benjamin Franklin Lodge #50.

Sam Bauman, my uncle, was the father of Benjamin Franklin Lodge. He was born in Austria, which became Poland after WWI. Now the same town is in Ukraine. His uncle was an advisor to Franz Joseph the ruler of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Sam was supposed to become a Brew Master. The family was upper-middle class. Sam's father had been shot and killed by Russians while he was swimming across the Styr River as he was trying to escape from the Russian army. His name was Israel Bauman and he was a Cohen (Descendant of an ancient High Priest).

This happened when my dad was 7 years old. Sam's mother operated a café near the Styr River. There were 7 children, all of whom, along with the mother were brought to the United States by Sam. Sam wanted the freedom of the United States. Sam operated a cleaning store at 7th and P Street N.W. in the District. He had 2 children, Ruth and Paul Bauman, a dentist who became a prominent orthodontist and was a Master of Benjamin Franklin Lodge. He had been a

DeMolay. He also worked on Harry Truman's teeth. Sam was a poker player pal of the President at the Shrine.

Sam loved masonry and became a trustee and instructor of his first Lodge, St. John's Lodge #11. One of the members of the Lodge was named Fromberg, who became the first Master of Benjamin Franklin. In 1937 he also became a Judge in the District. Judge Fromberg had worked very hard, was super bright and Sam felt that he should become Master of that St. John's Lodge. However, the officers and Past Masters of that Lodge did not agree and many Jewish members of the Lodge felt he had been discriminated against. Sam got 100 Masons of the Lodge together and formed Benjamin Franklin Lodge #50. Judge Fromberg was the first Master. Sam was sensitive to the discrimination against Jews and often helped out his Jewish Brothers financially. Sam had tried to form a bank since most banks would not lend money to Jews in that day.

Benjamin Franklin Lodge #50 later merged with Samuel Gompers Lodge #45 in 1983 to form a much larger predominately Jewish Lodge. The two Lodges had long enjoyed a strong fraternal relationship, holding many joint events. As stated in our 75th History which is posted on our website: "Some would call this a merger, but it is more like a marriage because love and friendship (in this case Masonic brotherly love) have joined our two lodges, Benjamin Franklin #50 and Samuel Gompers #45.

This is my last article with this title. The brethren of the Lodge have placed their trust in me and I have been elected to be the Worshipful Master for 2020. It is an honor, and to be quite frank, a little bit scary too.

I am fortunate to be following many years of outstanding Worshipful Masters, so I see part of my task for next year to just continue the momentum and successful events we have been doing.

The biggest challenge for any new line of officers is to figure out the schedule for the following year. The Lodge meets between nine and eleven times over the twelve months. How many times depends on a lot of things, but where the Jewish holidays fall often has an impact on the September or October meeting. Next year is a little different. The High Holidays are later, so they occur between the September and October second Tuesdays. The one that turns out to be a problem is the April meeting. As it falls during Passover. So no April meeting but we will be having a September and October one. The first time in a few years we have not skipped one of them.

Look for the January *Bulletin* for the full schedule, but I have some goals for the year. We are going to travel more. If you want to visit other Lodges, we are going to try and do that at least once a month. I will probably post "The Master is Traveling" on the app. We are going to try and do some social events every month too. Mark your calendars for December, I have always enjoyed the one-man-show Christmas Carol at the Olney Theatre and January we are going to try Indoor Skydiving one cold Sunday afternoon. Yes, you read that correctly. We are going to continue to do many of the things we have done in the past that have had great turnouts; Capitals Hockey Game, Nationals Game, Fishing, Skeet Shooting, etc. Plus a really big initiative for the ensuing year, a renewed focus on all of our charitable events. I am hoping to find a few more for our Lodge, where just another set of hands makes a difference.

When I first started writing this article, I intended it to be my thoughts as I discover many new (to me) things and events in Masonry. That journey continues. Over the last few years, I have gotten to

know many of the other brethren that are my peers in other Lodges who have been in the same officer position. This is one of the things that sets Masonry in DC apart from other jurisdictions. We are a much closer group than any of the other Grand Lodges. In some places, the brethren never get to meet a Grand Master. In DC, we all sit and have a nice discussion at a meal.

Many of the brethren of the other Lodges have now also been elected to be Master of their Lodges. In the last month, I have attended the installation of officers at one of those Lodges, and by the time you read this am planning on at least three others, maybe more.

Sadly, one of the things that does not happen often, is I get feedback from something I wrote or did as a Warden. I expect that as Master, that will probably change. Actually, I am making that as an open offer. If there is something I or the Lodge is doing or NOT doing, that you think we should or should not be doing, I want to hear from you. I promise to listen.

Many of the readers of this column, know that I usually try to close with a quote of some type. I try to make it Masonic related and have often found myself looking for one from a famous Mason. Last month being an exception. I am always on the lookout for something. I have found a few good ones on Church signs, and even one on the inside of a fortune cookie. This month I did an internet search. Ms. Google was very uncooperative, and Mr. Bing was not much help either. I eventually found not one but two.

They say to never post anything on the internet that your mother would not approve of. I am going to post both. The first, Mom would definitely approve of. Number 2, I am not so sure. I do know that all the men in my family would appreciate the second one.

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."

– George Washington

"Never kick a fresh turd on a hot day."

– Harry S. Truman

## Happy Birthday

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

Jerold Samet.....	10
Irwin Pescov.....	16
Lewis Gertz.....	22
Jay Stearman.....	23
Burton Levy.....	25
Julius Rudden.....	31




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# November Master Masons Degree

Our three new Master Masons were congratulated by members of the Degree cast and other attendees. WB Walter Simon had the honor of raising his grandson, Ryan Simon. WB Burt Levey had the honor of playing King Solomon while his son JD Allen Levey was the Senior Deacon for the Degree. SW Jerry Keilsohn delivered the lecture and Hal Henig was the JD and delivered the charge. SD Jeff Greenwald served as JW for the degree and Sheldon Rappeport, PM served as Master of Ceremony and Third Ruffian. Derek Gould and Raymond Horn, PM were the first and second Ruffian with an assist by Jean-Paul Dongmo, PM.



**WB Robert Greenwald along with our new Brethren Aaron Kamerer, Ryan Simon and Joel Van Vollenhoven.**



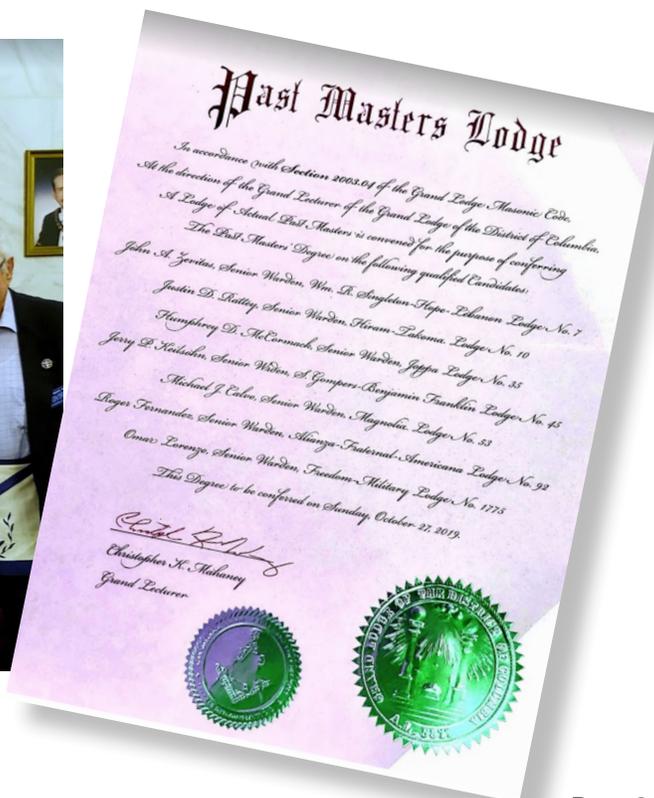
**The Brethren of SGBF#45 Congratulate their new Brethren.**

## PREPARATION for the East

Nine Past Masters of our Lodge, including our Worshipful Master Robert Greenwald, helped our SW, Jerry Keilsohn achieve his Past Masters Degree. The Past Masters of Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 wish Jerry a very successful year in the ensuing Masonic year.



**Front row L-R; Past Masters Jerry Bauman, Michael Greenwald, Worshipful Master-Elect SW Jerry Kielson, Sheldon Rappeport, Allen J. Wright. Back Row: Ray Horn, John Garrison, Robert Starr, Robert Greenwald, Burt Levy.**



## Our Worshipful Master Recognized by the Grand Lodge

The most recent November meeting of the Grand Lodge was held at the Almas Temple and our Lodge was fully represented. A number of our Brethren also serve in other Lodges and are part of the Grand Lodge.



**The Grand Master congratulating our WM on his successful year in the East.**



**WB Robert Greenwald received his Past Master Certificate along with many other Masters of our jurisdiction.**



**SW Jerry Keilsohn receives his certificate of proficiency from the Grand Master prior to the start of the meeting.**



**Representing our Lodge SW Jerry Keilsohn, Walter Simon, PM, WM Robert Greenwald and Michael Greenwald, PM. Also attending were PGM Robert Starr, Sheldon Rappaport, PM, Raymond Horn, PM, and RWB Adam Tager who is the Junior Grand Deacon elect.**



## October Meet-Up, Not Your Average Joe's

Monday, October 28, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge held its Monthly Meet-Up at Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant in Bethesda, Maryland.

We had a respectable turnout of six Brethren who met together to have an evening dinner at that restaurant. The attendees were Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman, SD Jeff Greenwald, Dave Torchinsky, PM, SW Jerry Keilsohn, Allen Friedman, PM, and a special guest, Doug Stadler, the Worshipful Master of NSD #12 Lodge in Washington, DC.

WM Doug Stadler had also joined us the previous month at Chuy's Tex-Mex Restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. WM Doug enjoyed the fellowship with the Brethren of Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin and we look forward to him coming to future Meet-Ups. Doug wanted to attend our Master Mason Degree held on Tuesday, November 12 but was unable to attend.

Attached above is a photo of the Brethren seated at the restaurant. The November Meet-Up is at Parkway Deli in Silver Spring. No December Meet-Up due to Chanukah.

# Once More...



What a great turnout for the Thanksgiving Basket Program this year! Over 30 Masons and their family made light work assembling and helping to load cars with 100 Baskets.



The Brethren who gathered to load the truck at Safeway: SD Jeff Greenwald, Aaron Kamerer, Derek Gould, Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, David Torchinsky, PM, Raymond Horn, PM, Burt Levy, PM, and Jerome Bauman, PM. Not pictured are Hal Henig, Sonny Garibay, Laura Torchinsky and Michael Greenwald, PM.



The daughter of PGM Engleberg, with WM Robert Greenwald and SW Jerry Keilsohn. She was delighted to see that the Lodge was continuing with the Thanksgiving Basket program which she remembered from when she was a girl and Masonic events were a large part of her life.



Showing off their Past Master Jackets, WB's Greenwald, Greenwald and Horn.

This year on Sunday, November 24th, we continued the tradition and accomplished the task of creating Thanksgiving baskets for 100 needy families selected by JSSA, the Jewish Social Service Agency, in the metropolitan DC area. We had plenty of volunteers that helped out (see pictures).

We started the event on Saturday evening, November 23rd when about 12 brethren and family members met to load up the truck at the loading dock of the Kensington Safeway. After the loading was complete, we had our usual pizza dinner, but this year we loaded the truck first and then went out.

Finally on Sunday morning, November 24th, starting at 7:00 a.m., we created the food baskets at the Kensington Masonic Lodge. This year, we loaded up jumbo size canvas shopping bags instead of apple boxes which turned out to be a huge improvement in efficiency. Even though it had rained and we carried all the groceries into the Lodge basement, there was such a great turnout that before 8:00 a.m. the baskets were completed. We were able to setup tables in the parking lot to help with the loading and Michael Greenwald, PM picked up the frozen turkeys.

# We Shine!



WM Robert Greenwald received his Past Master Jacket during the Event.



SW Jerry Keilsohn with the Brethren of Kensington-Bethesda Lodge No. 198



WB Robert Greenwald turns over the gavel during his last Officers Meeting as the Master to our newly elected Master Jerry Keilsohn.



Before 9:00 a.m. Diane Hays – Earp, JSSA's Program and Volunteer Coordinator for Senior Services arrived to supervise the drivers and their routes. We then helped to load up cars for distribution. All 100 baskets were loaded up into cars by 10:00 a.m. for distribution by JSSA's drivers to the needy families. We also want to extend our thanks to the Brethren of Kensington Masonic Lodge for graciously hosting us and providing a hearty breakfast and helping us put the baskets together. We also want to recognize the Brethren of Washington Daylight Lodge for their generous contribution towards the cost of the baskets.

If you were there, you realized how efficient we continue to be in doing this main event (despite the weather). Many people were involved in the background, but kudos go out to everyone who contributed either by donating time or money. We look forward to doing this again next year. Speaking of doing things again, hope to see some of you at our December events. First, we will participate in the Jingle Bell Run/Walk to benefit the Arthritis Foundation on Saturday, December 14th. Then we do our annual VA Hospital Christmas Visitation on Sunday, December 22rd. See details on the app.

For a December Social, our newly elected Master is organizing a Theatre event for Sunday, December 29th, at 3:00 p.m. One of Jerry's favorite plays at The Olney Theatre is the One Man Show by Paul Morella of A Christmas Carol. This activity is open to all Brethren and their families. The Lodge has reserved a block of tickets at the special price of \$25.00 per ticket and will obtain additional seats if needed for all RSVP's before November 30th. Following the performance, we will be going to a local restaurant for an early dinner.

The Olney Theatre is located in Central Montgomery County, on Maryland Route 108 (Olney-Sandy Spring Road) in Olney, Maryland, one and a half miles east of Georgia Avenue (Route 97) and two miles west of New Hampshire Avenue (Route 650).

GPS Address: 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, MD 20832, Parking is FREE!

To reserve your tickets, please notify the SW Jerry Keilsohn and send your payment made out to SGBF Lodge #45 to the Secretary.



**Tickets  
are still  
available!**



Back by popular demand, our Lodge Night with the 2018 Stanley Cup Champion Washington Capitals

The Details: February 25th, Washington Capitals vs. Winnipeg Jets, Game time 7:00 p.m. Section 427 and 426, \$60 a person.

This year to help celebrate the unbelievable season the Caps had last year we have reserved 20 passes for the Cap's Devil's Backbone Group Pack. This package includes an entrée with a side from Rocklands BBQ, unlimited beer, wine, soda and water, and a Caps t-shirt courtesy of Custom Ink. The Lodge is subsidizing the cost of these tickets which will cost \$60 each. This is a great deal as just a ticket in this section costs \$60 and dinner, drinks and a T-shirt are a super bonus. If you have not checked, the Caps are HOT again this year and the games are very popular.

The Devil's Backbone BBQ & Beer Pack will start an hour before puck drop and run through the start of the 3rd period in our 400 level lounge area located behind section 429/430. We can enjoy the food and drink in the Lounge or take it back to our seats.

This is a great event to invite a prospective member to. Please let the WM know if you are inviting a potential candidate.

This event will be open to friends and family. Your check holds your seats. Please send your check to Secretary SGBF#45, 6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

## DEVILS BACKBONE BEER & BBQ GROUP PACK

- Limited availability for groups of 10+ in mezzanine level seating
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- Each ticket includes a Caps group t-shirt, courtesy of CustomInk



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## 2019 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master ..... Robert Greenwald, [wm@srgb45.org](mailto:wm@srgb45.org), 703-960-9039  
Senior Warden ..... Jerry P. Keilsohn, [sw@srgb45.org](mailto:sw@srgb45.org), 301-570-0446  
Junior Warden ..... Burt S. Levy, PM, [jw@srgb45.org](mailto:jw@srgb45.org), 202-409-4449  
Secretary ..... Michael K. Greenwald, PM, 301-272-0168  
2900 Covington Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910-1206, [secretary@srgb45.org](mailto:secretary@srgb45.org)  
Treasurer ..... Robert H. Starr, PGM, [treasurer@srgb45.org](mailto:treasurer@srgb45.org), 301-460-3088  
Chaplain ..... Walter F. Simon, PM, DSM, [chaplain@srgb45.org](mailto:chaplain@srgb45.org), 301-318-2485  
Master-of-Ceremonies ..... GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA  
[mc@srgb45.org](mailto:mc@srgb45.org), 301-598-8379  
Senior Deacon ..... Jeffrey R. Greenwald, [sd@srgb45.org](mailto:sd@srgb45.org), 301-869-1915  
Junior Deacon ..... Jacobo "Sonny" Garibay, [jd@srgb45.org](mailto:jd@srgb45.org), 202-528-1385  
Senior Steward ..... Alex Rieser, [ss@srgb45.org](mailto:ss@srgb45.org), 202-253-9284  
Junior Steward ..... Allen R. Levy, [js@srgb45.org](mailto:js@srgb45.org), 703 470-4945  
Trustees ..... Jeffrey Greenwald, (2019) [jgreenwald@srgb45.org](mailto:jgreenwald@srgb45.org), 301-869-1915  
..... Julien P. Hofberg, PM (2020), [trustee@srgb45.org](mailto:trustee@srgb45.org), 301-774-2868  
..... Jerome M. Bauman, PA, MA (2021), [trustee@srgb45.org](mailto:trustee@srgb45.org), 301-593-2478  
Fidelity Medal Recipient ..... Jerrold Gordon, PM, MA,  
[redskinjer1@verizon.net](mailto:redskinjer1@verizon.net), 301-598-3408  
Historian ..... Walter Simon, PM, DSM, [wsimon@srgb45.org](mailto:wsimon@srgb45.org), 301-318-2485  
Aide to the Master ..... Hal Henig, [hhenig@srgb45.org](mailto:hhenig@srgb45.org), 301-681-3873  
Tiler ..... John R. Garrison, PM, [johngarrison08@yahoo.com](mailto:johngarrison08@yahoo.com), 301-864-4981  
Immediate PM ..... Raymond Horn, [rhorn@srgb45.org](mailto:rhorn@srgb45.org), 443-253-0605

## 2019 Representatives

Masonic Foundation ..... Burton Penn, PM, [bpenn@srgb45.org](mailto:bpenn@srgb45.org), 202-249-9008  
Masonic & Eastern Star Home ..... Jerome Bauman, PM,  
[jbauman@srgb45.org](mailto:jbauman@srgb45.org), 301-593-2478  
St. John's Mite Association ..... Michael Greenwald, PM,  
[mgreenwald@srgb45.org](mailto:mgreenwald@srgb45.org), 301-272-0168

## 2019 Committee Chairmen

Auditing ..... Kevin Stemp, [kstemp@srgb45.org](mailto:kstemp@srgb45.org)  
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 ..... Jonathan Binstock, PM  
[jbinstock@srgb45.org](mailto:jbinstock@srgb45.org), 301-442-4812  
Bulletin Editor ..... Raymond Horn, PM, [rhorn@srgb45.org](mailto:rhorn@srgb45.org), 443-253-0605  
Photographer Bulletin Assistant ..... Jacobo "Sonny" Garibay  
Communications Chair ..... Vacant  
Business Manager .. Walter Simon, PM, DSM, [wsimon@srgb45.org](mailto:wsimon@srgb45.org), 301-318-2485  
By-Laws ..... Robert H. Starr, PGM, [rhstarr@srgb45.org](mailto:rhstarr@srgb45.org), 301-460-3088  
Degree Director/Catechism ..... GLEm Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA  
[srappeport@srgb45.org](mailto:srappeport@srgb45.org), 301-598-8379  
Catechism Instructors ..... Burt S. Levy, PM, [blevy@srgb45.org](mailto:blevy@srgb45.org), 202 409-4449  
Burton Penn, PM, [bpenn@srgb45.org](mailto:bpenn@srgb45.org), 202-249-9008  
Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, [awright@srgb45.org](mailto:awright@srgb45.org), 301-989-8945  
Candidates' Proficiency ..... Burt Levy, PM, [jw@srgb45.org](mailto:jw@srgb45.org), 202-409-4449  
Relief ..... W.M., S.W., J.W.  
Funeral, Visitations Allen J. Wright, PM, MA, [awright@srgb45.org](mailto:awright@srgb45.org), 301-989-8945  
Walter Simon, PM, DSM, [wsimon@srgb45.org](mailto:wsimon@srgb45.org), 301-318-2485  
Investment ..... Jerome M. Bauman, PA, MA, [jbauman@srgb45.org](mailto:jbauman@srgb45.org), 301-593-2478  
Membership ..... David B. Torchinsky, PM, [dtorchinsky@srgb45.org](mailto:dtorchinsky@srgb45.org), 301-933-1955  
Masonic Historian ..... Erik Milman, PM, [emilman@srgb45.org](mailto:emilman@srgb45.org), 301-651-8879  
Masonic Education ..... Joshua L. Rubin, PM, [jrubin@srgb45.org](mailto:jrubin@srgb45.org), 301-920-0789  
Refreshment ..... JS, SS, JD, SD  
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman ..... Hal Henig,  
[hhenig@srgb45.org](mailto:hhenig@srgb45.org), 301-681-3873  
Visitations ..... SW Jerry P. Kielsohn, [jkielsohn@srgb45.org](mailto:jkielsohn@srgb45.org), 301-570-0446  
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach, William D. Boker Memorial Thanksgiv-  
ing  
Baskets ..... SD Jeffrey Greenwald, [jgreenwald@srgb45.org](mailto:jgreenwald@srgb45.org), 301-869-1915  
David B. Torchinsky, PM, [dtorchinsky@srgb45.org](mailto:dtorchinsky@srgb45.org), 301-933-1955  
WebmasterSec. Michael Greenwald, PM, [mgreenwald@srgb45.org](mailto:mgreenwald@srgb45.org), 301-272-0168  
Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation ..... President—Vacant  
Sec. Treas—Michael K. Greenwald, PM  
SD Jeffrey Greenwald  
Michael J. Rinis, PM, [mrinis@srgb45.org](mailto:mrinis@srgb45.org), 301-384-8244

## 2019 Proxies

For the Worshipful Master ..... Michael K. Greenwald, PM  
For the Senior Warden ..... Derek Gould  
For the Junior Warden ..... Allen Levy

**Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin**



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Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M.  
 Secretary  
 2900 Covington Road  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-1206



**Calendar for Masonic Year 2019 – 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 Robert Greenwald about all events (see page 2)

Date	Event	Open to
December	8 Stated Communication, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Installation	All Masons, Family and Friends
	14 Jingle Bell Run, Seneca Creek Park, Gaithersburg, MD - 9:00 a.m.	All
	22 VA Visitation - 9:30 a.m.	All
	29 Lodge Social, Olney Theatre, A Christmas Carol performance followed by dinner – 3:00 p.m.	All
January	14 Stated Communication – 7:30 p.m.	Master Masons
	27 Meet up – 7:00 p.m.	Masons and prospective Masons

Date	Event	Open to
February	11 Stated Communication – 7:00 p.m.	
	24 Meet up – 7:00 p.m.	
	25 Lodge Social, Capitals Game with Dinner, Dinner 6:00 p.m., Game start 7:00 p.m.	