

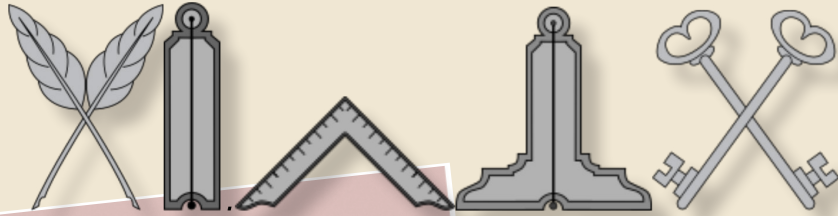
Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin
Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M

bulletin

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

Volume XCIX • Number 4
November/December/January 2026

Meets Third Sunday of February, May, August, November
and December - Gavel at 3PM.



December Stated Communication

**December 21st,
2025**

Masons and Guests are invited
to attend our Installation
of our 2026 officers
who will guide our Lodge in our
100th Year of
Celebration and Reflection.

Following the opening of the Lodge
Guests will be invited
To join the Brethren for the
Installation Officers.

After closing, refreshments
will be served.

All Masons, their family and guests
are welcome.

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 third Sunday at 3:00 pm
at Takoma Masonic Center

Jerry Keilsohn, Worshipful Master, wm@sgbf45.org
Raymond Horn, Secretary, secretary@sgbf45.org

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MAIN PHONE: 240-800-JSSA
www.jssa.org

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President

Todd Schenk, M.Ed, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

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F 301.881.5623

Fairfax Office
3025 Hamaker Court
Suite 450
Fairfax, VA 22031
F 703.204.9590

Connect with Us



December 4, 2025

Raymond Horn
Secretary, SGBF #45
6109 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Raymond,

JSSA is delighted that the Samuel Gompers Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 chose to support our Thanksgiving Basket Program this year. Our decades long relationship with the Lodge has been rooted in a shared commitment to tikkun olam, repairing the world, and we are deeply grateful for your continued partnership.

On behalf of the many neighbors in JSSA's care, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your extraordinary contribution of 190 Thanksgiving meal baskets, which brought immense joy and relief to families in our community who need it most. Your generosity plays a vital role in advancing our mission to empower individuals and families to enhance their well-being across all ages and stages of life.

Your enduring support not only brings joy but strengthens our collective ability to uplift those facing hardship. We are honored to collaborate with you once again this year and to stand together in service of our shared values.

Your commitment is already making a meaningful impact, offering hope, stability, and a path forward for neighbors who are navigating significant challenges. If you ever wish to learn more about the difference you are making in our community, I would be delighted to connect.

Thank you for being a valued member of the JSSA family and a devoted partner in this important work.

With much appreciation,

Todd Schenk



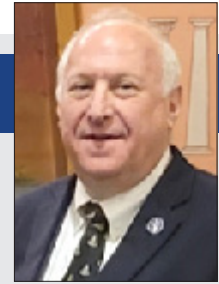
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The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON



View From the East

W.B. Jerry Kielsohn, P.M.

December 2020



I started writing this column for the bulletin when I was Junior Steward, at the encouragement of several brethren. My plan was to trace and share my journey as a Mason, with some emphasis on starting at the end of the officers' line but mostly on learning about and from being a Mason.

During the years, the number of new Masonic items has gotten smaller and smaller. I am on repeat for many of them. For example, I have lost track of how many times I have sat in the West for a lodge meeting that is not ours.

I have kept an informal bucket list of Masonic items that I would like to do someday. Some are just wishes. Some will take quite a bit of effort, and others may never happen.

Occasionally, I manage to cross an item off the list—or even more than one. Occasionally, something shows up that I never even considered possible and that should have been on my list. All of these managed to happen in the last few weeks.

A Two-Item Day

The first was a two-item day. One bucket list item was to attend a Prince Hall Lodge. A few weeks ago, Harmony No. 17 (of which I am an honorary member) visited Harmony No. 22, Prince Hall Affiliation. The meeting was in the main lodge hall of the Prince Hall Temple on U Street. Our Prince Hall brethren made us all feel at home. I always find it interesting that we have the same basic ritual but different flavors of it. The Prince Hall one is amazing. The big, extra bucket list item was that they did a third degree—five new brethren. Again, the same basic story to the raising ritual, just a wonderful and different telling.

After the lodge closed, lunch. Our Prince Hall brethren really know how to do a simple but delicious meal. And yes, it included green beans.

I shook a lot of hands that day and had the honor of meeting many of our Prince Hall brethren.

Naval Lodge No. 4

The next item in the same week was a third degree at Naval Lodge No. 4. Without a history lesson, Naval Lodge is older than and one of the founding lodges of the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC. The bucket list item is that Naval Lodge does a very old version of the second part of the third degree, which is different from the standard Preston-

Webb version most DC lodges do. Coupled with the unique Naval Lodge hall (worth a visit if you have never seen it in person), it was a truly exciting experience to witness. The degree lived up to all the hype I had heard about it, which was why it was on my bucket list.

Washington Daylight and Fellowship Lodge

A few days later, I got one that was not even on my list. I have done two lodge meetings in the same day. The usual way for me to do that is to attend Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14 in the morning and then another lodge in either the late afternoon or evening.

Washington Daylight meets in the lodge hall at the Scottish Rite. The Grand Lodge did a combined lodge meeting with Prince Hall, called a Fellowship Lodge, also at the Scottish Rite. I had breakfast with Washington Daylight in the morning—they may be the only lodge that does breakfast before their meeting. To my surprise, their program for the morning was a first degree. As seems to happen, I ended up taking a part in the degree. We made a new Mason that morning.

I made sure to thank the brethren of Washington Daylight for their donation to the William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket program—a nice surprise from Washington Daylight a few years ago that they continue to contribute each year.

I then hung around for a few hours and attended the Fellowship Lodge. The Fellowship Lodge was opened and closed by Nathaniel M. Adams Lodge No. 29, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge of the District of Columbia. The program for the afternoon was an exemplification of the first degree, presented by the brethren of Potomac Lodge No. 5 using the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC ritual.

More handshaking that afternoon, and meeting many more of our Prince Hall brethren.

The bucket list item I did not know I even had was attending two different lodges, each with a first degree, on the same day.

Montgomery Cornerstone Lodge #195

One more bucket list item a few days later: I was invited to attend Montgomery Cornerstone Lodge #195 at what I thought was their regular October stated communication. I

I knew it was supposed to be Past Masters Night, but it was a full festive board with about 100 brethren in attendance. The Montgomery Cornerstone Lodge hall is in Rockville. When I was in junior high school, I attended Julius West (then a junior high), which is across the street from the lodge hall. I have always wanted to attend a lodge meeting there.

Again, I shook a lot of hands that evening and had the honor of meeting many of our Maryland brethren.

Update: November Stated

I originally wrote the above before our November stated.

For the November stated, we had one of the best turnouts for a stated communication in a very long time. It was wonderful sitting in the East and seeing so many brethren. And then the total chaos when we went upstairs—our guests were in the process of finishing up their art projects. Getting everybody someplace to sit and dinner served took a while to sort out.

I then had the privilege of handing out years-of-service awards. It is really exciting to hand out 45- and even 50-year service awards. It was truly wonderful to see the families of the recipients there to cheer on their husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and brother-in-law.

“We live in a rainbow of chaos.” - Paul Cezanne

Jerry

Prayer for our 100th Year Grand Architect of the Universe:

The vastness of the cosmos that You have created is beyond our comprehension. While we realize that in our limited lifetimes 100 years is an eternity, to You they are just a millisecond.

So, when—in 1925—You answered the prayers of a small group of Jewish Freemasons and allowed them to carve out a place of their own within the Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C., You made their world and ours a better place.

The dedication that those founders of Samuel Gompers Lodge had toward Freemasonry and the craft of making better men allowed them, and those who followed through the years, to elevate themselves as Jews and as Speculative Masons.

We are deeply grateful to You, our Creator, for allowing us to have been a part of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45, and we now pray that You will instill in us the strength and wisdom to continue for many more years.

- Burt Levy

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

1974	Aaron S. Teitel	1995	Burt S. Levy, HPSGD	2016	Leonard Rubin
1974	Donald M. Stein	1997	Adam Forman	2017	Michael K. Greenwald, SGD
1979	Michael J. Rinis	2001	Sheldon I. Rapoport, MA DSM, GL-E	2018	Raymond E. Horn
1979	Burton Penn	2002-2003	Jeffrey Sherman	2019	Robert Greenwald
1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM	2009	Jonathan M. Binstock	2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn
1981	Joel Shulman	2010	David B. Torchinsky	2021	Burt S. Levy, HPSGD
1983	Julien P. Hofberg	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		

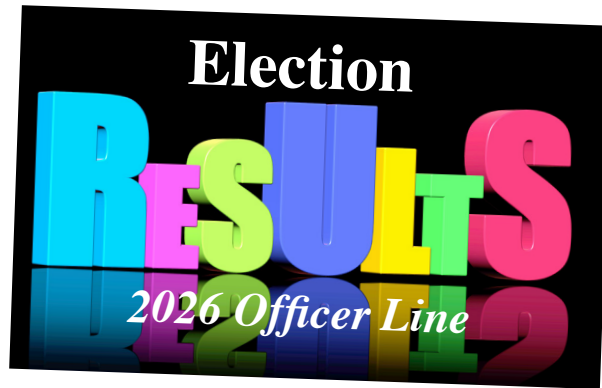
NOVEMBER STATED COMMUNICATION

Elections and Anniversary Night

November 16th was a big night for the Lodge. Our November Stated Communication was our election for next year's officers, which was followed by a celebratory dinner and our annual Anniversary Night.

Elections for our 2026 officers were held by secret ballot. WM Jerry Keilsohn asked our two Fellowcraft to administer and count the ballots aloud. Seventeen ballots were cast, and the following officers were elected and accepted their new positions to lead our Lodge in our 100th year:

- WM: Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM
- SW: Ryan A. Simon
- JW: Jeffrey R. Greenwald
- SD: Lee R. Silverman
- JD: Charles Oshinsky
- Secretary: Raymond Horn, PM
- Treasurer: Robert H. Starr, PGM
- Trustee: Jeffrey R. Greenwald (2028)



Anniversary Night Presentations

Immediately following the closing, the Lodge retired to the refectory for an enjoyable meal and the presentation of awards by the WM. The full list of awardees is included, along with several photographs of the award presentations and attending family members. While our Stated Communication was taking place, the WM arranged for our family members to take part in an art program—a guided painting directed by Emily Guild. Several photographs capture this very popular activity.

The following Brethren were present to receive their awards:

- Jeff Greenwald – Brother of the Year, 2023
- Raymond Horn, PM – 15 year
- Charles Meyers – 15 year
- Allen Levy, PM – 30 year
- Elliott Prissman – 45 year
- Steve Foreman – 50 year
- Howard Politzer – 50 year



ELECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS



AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS



AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS



ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS





Attending this year's Program: Jeff Greenwald, WM Jerry Keilsohn, PM, Raymond Horn, PM and David, Alan Karpas and Arlene, David Torchinsky, PM, and daughters Shira and Rina, Chuck Oshinsky, Phillip Taylor, Burt Levy, PM, RWB Michael Greenwald, PM, Julian Hofberg, PM and Linda, Lee Silverman, Emily Gould, daughter Evan and friends Lilia and Ariana, Ron Hefler, Gracie and son Zack, Reina Rothman and Stacy, Ken Berman, and Talyor McCarley (JSSA).

William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program -Thank you

Brethren,

We extend our gratitude to all our brethren who participated and supported this year's William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program as well as to our major donors, recipient partner organizations and our suppliers. The William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program is our Lodge's primary charitable event. Named in memory of WB William D. Boker who organized this activity for many years, our Thanksgiving food basket program dates back at least 50 years. We are now a 100-year-old Masonic Lodge with a long history of service activity in our community.

On Sunday November 23rd, our Lodge served as the sole sponsor of Thanksgiving food baskets for the Jewish Social Service Agency's Holiday Basket Delivery, as well as for families of the former Eagle Academy in the District of Columbia.

This year, through a combination of food baskets and prepared meals, we were able to serve 225 families in need—a new record for our program. Including the recipient families, all the drivers from JSSA and a number of congregations, and our Brethren, our baskets touched a large number of people this year.

On behalf of all our members, and the many families who will benefit, we extend our sincere thanks for your generosity, friendship, and commitment to serving those in need.

Primary Partners:

- Taylor McCarley, Program Manager Aging-In-Place, Jewish Social Service Agency
- Angela Slater, Eagle Academy Alumni Network
- The Brethren of Kensington – Bethesda Lodge #198

Primary Donors:

- The Brethren of Samuel Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45
- The Brethren of Washington Daylight Lodge #14
- The Masonic and Eastern Star Home
- The Englebert – Korman Charitable Fund

Primary Suppliers:

- Safeway, Kensington, MD
- Cosco, Gaithersburg, MD
- Sunflower Bakery, Rockville, MD

Thank you all again.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

<i>Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM</i>	<i>Raymond Horn, PM</i>	<i>Jeff Greenwald</i>
Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM	Raymond Horn, PM	Jeff Greenwald
Worshipful Master	Secretary	Committee Chairman

William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program -Thank you



Thank You

William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program -Thank you



Thanksgiving Service Project

By Stacy Rothman

For my service, I helped make hundreds of Thanksgiving baskets for people in need. This included organizing food items, packing them into bags, and helping prepare them for distribution. The service addressed the need for food security during the holiday season, especially for families who are struggling to prepare a holiday meal. The people who benefited were individuals and families in our community who rely on support during this time of year. From this experience, I learned how when many people work together, everyone can benefit. I gained a deeper understanding of the importance of community support and how much this help can mean to so many people.

Stacy Rothman and her mother Reina Rothman have participated in several of the Lodge's food basket projects with JSSA. Stacy was receiving School Service Hours as part of participation this year in the Lodge's Thanksgiving Basket project.

Late October Meet-Up, Sol Azteca Meet-Up

by Hal Henig



On Monday evening, October 27, the Samuel Gompers–Benjamin Franklin Lodge held its Monthly Meet-Up at Sol Azteca Mexican Restaurant in Olney, Maryland. This marked the first time the Lodge gathered at Sol Azteca, which is known for excellent Mexican and Latin American dishes, and was one of the venues recommended by Brother Steve Deklebaum.

Thirteen brethren and guests attended the event. Brethren present included Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up Chairman; Senior Warden Jeff Greenwald; Junior Deacon Lee Silverman; Past Master Dave Torchinsky; and Brothers Steve Deklebaum and Howard Blum. Our guests were Lisa Henig, Laura Torchinsky, Sharon, Rinnie, and Stuart Zitomer. Also in attendance were Tina, and Brother Blum's wife.

We were well served by a friendly waiter, whom I asked to take a few photos of our group. The attached photo above shows the brethren and guests enjoying one another's company. This Meet-Up took place just five days before Halloween. Hoping everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!

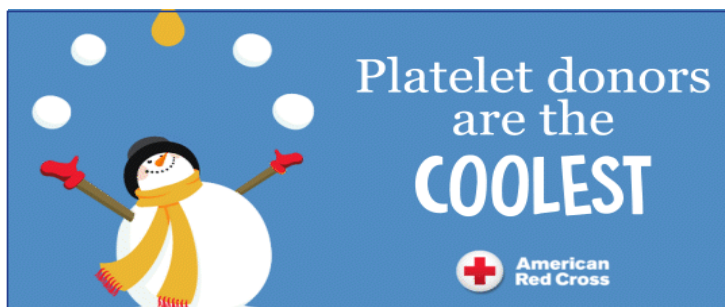


**VOLUNTEER
WITH JSSA**

Giving back to your community is one of the most rewarding things you can do. At JSSA, we have many opportunities for you to help your neighbors manage life's consequential moments.

Brethren, as you know we partner with JSSA several times a year to help with Holiday Food Baskets. You may donate directly to JSSA and specify holiday baskets to support their food assistance.

<https://www.jssa.org/get-involved/donate/>



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Pre-Thanksgiving Duckpins Bowling Meet-Up

by Hal Henig

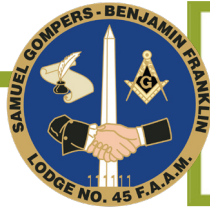


On Monday, November 24th — three days before Thanksgiving — Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 held its monthly meet-up at the Silver Spring White Oak Duckpins Bowling Alley.

Eight brethren and guests participated, each playing two or three games. The brethren present were Tiler and Meet-Up Chairman Hal Henig, Past Master Julien Hofberg, and Brothers Howard Politizer and Phillip Taylor. Our guests included Lisa Henig, Cate Devereux, Susan Sloan, and Ken Berman.

Everyone who bowled had a great time enjoying the games, pizza, soda, and retro vibes of the White Oak Bowling Alley. Tiler Hal was unable to play as he was recovering from an infection.

The attached photo shows all eight participants. Note that Hal was wearing a mask to ensure the safety of others. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish all a happy and healthy
2026



SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45 SUPPORTS SUNFLOWER BAKERY

Sunflower Bakery is proud to recognize the continued support and partnership of Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45, a Masonic lodge with a long history of community service, philanthropy, and uplifting those in need.

Lodge No. 45, named in honor of labor leader Samuel Gompers and founding father Benjamin Franklin, carries forward a legacy rooted in hard work, civic responsibility, and dedication to community.

Lodge No. 45 partners with Sunflower by purchasing our baked goods for their Thanksgiving Basket Program, which this year provided holiday meals to 225 individuals and families.

Their dedication to uplifting the community mirrors Sunflower's mission to empower young adults with learning differences through meaningful training.

We look forward to continuing to build this meaningful partnership with Lodge No. 45.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Rabbi Randy Schoch

MAY 9, 1942 - DECEMBER 6, 2024

Obituary for Randall A. Schoch

Randall A. Schoch, 82, of Oxon Hill, Maryland, passed away on Friday, December 6, 2024 at the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. He was surrounded by his family.

Born on May 9, 1942 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Adolph Schoch and Ruth Schoch. Randy was a civil servant for the federal government and a Rabbi with the Sha'are Shalom Congregation. He was a Thirty-Three Degree Mason for over 49 years, 21 years as a Grand Chaplain and was a Past Master. Randy was also a member of the Scottish Rite, the Odd Fellowship, Oxon Hill Bicycle Club, as one of the founding members, Shriners, along with the Grand Lodge of Maryland. He studied Tai Chi for over 30 years. During that time, Randy became an instructor, teaching at the Senior Centers up to the time of his death.

In addition to his parents, Randy was preceded in death by his siblings Frederick Cool and Joan Ronan.

Randy is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jacqueline Schoch; his sisters Sandra Petty (Michael) and Ruth Schoch Forese; daughters Deana Foley (John), Suzanne Schoch (Gus), Christine Bates, Heidi O'Dell (William), and Gretchen Schoch (Lauren); 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

WB Randy A. Schoch was Master of our Lodge in 2015

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2025 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master.....	Jerry P. Keilsohn, PM
Senior Warden.....	Jeffrey R. Greenwald
Junior Warden	Ryan A. Simon
Secretary	Raymond Horn, PM, secretary@sgbf45.org 443-253-0605 6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
Treasurer	Robert H. Starr, PGM
Chaplain	Burt S. Levy, PM, JGD Hon.
Master-of-Ceremonies.....	Allen R. Levy, PM
Senior Deacon.....	Aaron A. Kamerer, P.M.
Junior Deacon	Lee R. Silverman
Senior Steward	Pending appointment
Junior Steward.....	Pending appointment
Trustees.....	GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2027), Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025), Julien P. Holberg, PM (2026)
Fidelity Medal Recipient	To be selected
Historian	Joshua L. Rubin, PM
Tiler.....	Hal Henig
Immediate PM	Aaron A. Kamerer, P.M.

2025 REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Foundation	JGS Michael Greenwald, PM
Masonic & Eastern Star Home	Raymond Horn, PM
St. John's Mite Association.....	Burt S. Levy, PM

2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Auditing.....	Kevin Stemp
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25.....	Jonathan Binstock, PM
Baskets.....	Jeffrey Greenwald David B. Torchinsky, PM
Bulletin Committee	Raymond Horn, PM
Technology	Lee R. Silverman
By-Laws.....	Robert H. Starr, PGM
Catechism Instructors.....	Burt S. Levy, PM
Centennial Planning	Michael Greenwald, PM
Education & Degree Committee GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA	
Engleberg-Korman Charitable Foundation:.....	Michael Greenwald, PM Michael J. Rinis, PM Jeffrey R. Greenwald
Funeral, Visitations, Widow Care	Burt S. Levy, PM
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

2025 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master	Robert Greenwald, PM
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 2025—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
December	21	December Stated Communication, 3:00 pm, Installation of Officers	Masons and Guests

Date		Event	Open to
February	15	2026 February Stated, Sunday, 3:00PM • Program: Master Masons Degree	MM Only

Date		Event	Open to
May	17	2026 May Stated, Sunday, 3:00PM	Masons Only

Date		Event	Open to
August	16	2026 August Stated, Sunday, 3:00PM	Masons Only

Date		Event	Open to
November	15	2026 November Stated, Sunday, 3:00PM • Elections	Masons Only

Date		Event	Open to
December	20	2026 December Stated, Sunday, 3:00PM • Installation of Officers	Masons and Guests