

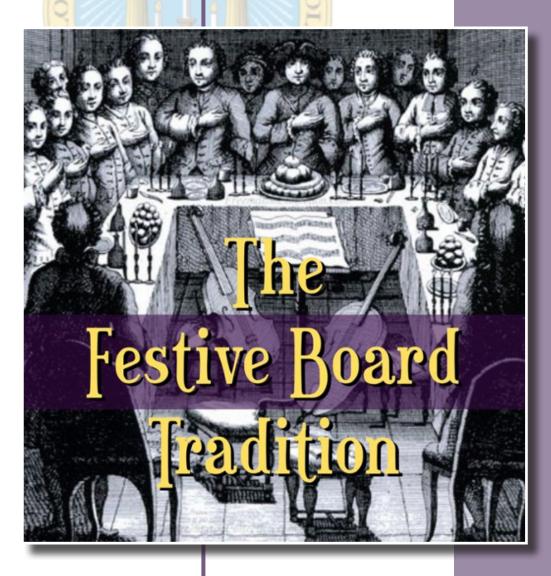
Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M

# bulletin

Takoma Masonic Center 115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 Volume XCIX • Number 1
December 2024-January 2025

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

# February Stated Communication February 16, 2025



Brethren, as our Lodge has changed its Bylaws to meet five times a year, our next Stated Communication will be held in February, on the third Sunday, at 3:00 pm. Brethren should assemble at 2:30 pm in the Takoma Masonic Center Lodge Room.

The gavel will come down: 3:00 pm for our February Stated Communication.

Program:
Lodge Business
Aligning our By-laws with
our new meeting dates
Charitable projects for the
spring

Followed by a Festive
Board which will include
an early dinner and an
invited speaker: Bro.
Charles Matulewicz,
who will speak on
Archeostronomy, the
study of the astronomical
knowledge of ancient
peoples.

#### Compliments of

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



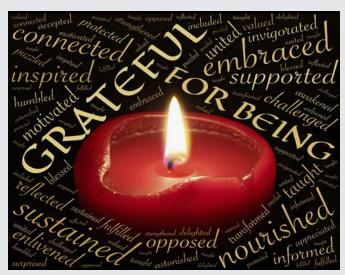
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### **Light From the East**

WM Aaron A. Kamerer 2024



### Tis the Season...



The holiday season is a time of giving, gratitude, and goodwill—a season that aligns closely with the Masonic virtue of charity. For Masonic Lodges, this time of year presents a continued opportunity to extend the principles of Freemasonry beyond the lodge walls and into the broader community through acts of philanthropy. These efforts are vital not only for assisting those in need but also for embodying the fraternity's core values.

Philanthropy during the holidays is particularly impactful because it addresses the heightened needs of individuals and families who may be struggling. Economic pressures, colder weather, and the social emphasis on celebration can leave some feeling excluded or overwhelmed. By organizing food drives, toy collections, or community meals, Masonic lodges can help alleviate these burdens and ensure that more people experience the joy and warmth of the season.



The charitable work of a Masonic lodge also serves as a powerful expression of brotherly love and unity. When lodge members come together to plan and execute philanthropic activities, they strengthen their bonds as a fraternity while making a tangible difference in their community. These acts of service demonstrate to the world that Freemasonry is not just about self-improvement but also about contributing to the greater good.

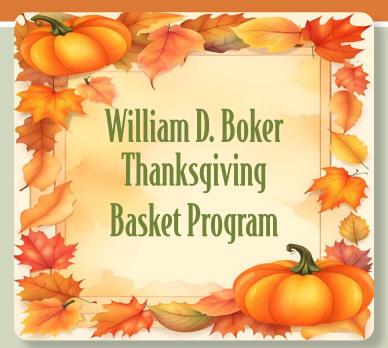
Moreover, holiday philanthropy provides an opportunity for lodges to inspire others. Through visible and meaningful charitable efforts, Masons can set an example for the wider community, encouraging a spirit of generosity and service. Whether it's stuffing baskets full of goodies for those in need or volunteering time to assist the community, these acts remind everyone of the importance of helping one another and fostering connections during the holiday season.

In embracing philanthropy during the holidays, Masonic lodges reaffirm their commitment to the principles of Freemasonry—charity, brotherhood, and the betterment of humanity. These efforts bring light and hope to those in need, ensuring that the true spirit of the season is shared by all.

Our lodge has many great philanthropic traditions, and we can likely do more. As fraternity membership dwindles, we need to stay focused more than ever on the needs of the communities and be strict with our core Masonic principles. We need to reach out to other lodges and perhaps combine our efforts within the jurisdiction to support as many as we can.

Happy Holidays from your Worshipful Master and all the Officers here at Samual Gompers – Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45.





Our Lodge once again assembled and distributed Thanksgiving Baskets and Prepared Meals for those in need with our partner JSSA.

Many thanks to all Brethren and family members who helped to support the Thanksgiving Basket Program this year. As can be seen by the pictures, we had a great turnout which helped to efficiently load the truck and create the baskets which were then distributed by JSSA Volunteers. In addition to the 60 baskets, there were 90 prepared meals purchased from Costco. So, all in all, 150 families in need will be celebrating a joyous Thanksgiving this year.

We also want to thank all of those who made monetary donations which helped to support this event and will continue to support events like this in the future.



# William D. Boker Thanksgiving Basket Program

















# **Installation Program**

SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE NO. 45 INSTALLATION OF OUR 2025 OFFICERS

#### **Our 2025 Officers**

#### Worshipful Master Jerry Keilsohn







Senior Warden Jeffrey R. Greenwald
Junior Warden Ryan A. Simon
Secretary
Treasurer Robert Starr, P.M.
Chaplain
Mof-Ceremonies Allen Levy, P.M.
Senior Deacon Aaron A. Kamerer, P.M.
Junior Deacon Lee R. Silverman
Tiler
Degree Director Sheldon I. Rappeport, P.M., D.S.M.
Trustee Sheldon I. Rappeport, P.M., D.S.M.
Trustee Jeffrey R. Greenwald
Trustee

Installing Master... Sheldon Rappeport, P.M., D.S.M. Installing Mast. of Ceremonies . . . . . . Burt Levy, P.M



Beginning with the building of King Solomon's Temple in Israel and throughout the Middle Ages, a guild of operative stone masons became known for their mastery of the building arts and sciences. They went on to build all the awe-inspiring temples and cathedrals of the Biblical lands and throughout Europe. The need for this operative guild was diminished as colleges and universities became the source of learning. Our ancient Brethren then developed a system of building temples in the hearts of men by teaching them the beauty of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. These speculative attributes are conveyed to Freemasons through a series of Degrees and in rituals that have deep meanings for those few who figure them out and put them to use in their daily lives.

Brother **Jerry Keilsohn** is one of those few who "get" it and who set-out to put "it" to good use. In a very short time, he has become known as a true worker in the art of Freemasonry. He was raised in 2014 and became Master of his lodge in 2020 which became a Covid year. He felt that 'virtual' meetings didn't allow him the full experience, so he jumped back into the Master's chair in 2022. Now he has ideas that will give us our best chance to celebrate our 100th anniversary with a good view of our next century. As the saying goes – "Third time's a charm."

#### Worshipful Master Jerry Keilsohn

Most Worshipfuls, Worshipfuls, Brethren and especially our quests.

Good afternoon.

When I was standing in this same spot three years ago, I never expected to be doing this again. I was hoping that I would get a chance to sit on the side-lines. That did not happen and here I am.

My Grand Mom Rose would have described the situation in two words – Oy Vay!

My goal for this year is to see if we as a Lodge can actually make it to our 100th anniversary on December 16, 2025.

I promised myself that I would not dwell on the negative.

On the positive side. Everybody has seen my planned schedule for the coming year.

Five meetings; February 16th, May 18th, August 17th, November 16th, and December 21st. Third Sunday, and all at 3:00PM. Lodge first then dinner, Festive Board after. And dinner is not pizza out of a box. It will be a full meal with a speaker to go with dinner.

Brethren, you have between a 6 week and a 53 week advanced notice to adjust your cable tow accordingly.

A quick rundown on part of the bigger schedule.

February 15th – Stated - Invited Speaker: Bro. Charles Matulewicz, Archeostronomy lecture.

March 30th - Special - Fellowcrafts Degree

May 18th – Stated and will be a traditional Festive Board, complete with the seven toasts, and the banging of the cannons. I believe I have a speaker for the evening, but will need to confirm in a few weeks.

August 17th Stated will be Beer, Burgers, Brats, and Bingo – an indoor picnic on what likely is going to be a hot and humid August day in Washington, DC. – This one will be open to everybody.

September 21 st - Memorial Afternoon - All are welcome

November 16th – Stated - Elections, Awards, etc.

December 21st - Stated - Installation of Officers. Again an

open installation like today.

Sometime in the fall, we are going to have a Banquet to celebrate our 100th anniversary. The exact date is to be determined by the 100th anniversary committee.

It is not clear exactly where or how Grand Visitation will fit in. The incoming Grand Master has not shared his plans, yet. We will continue to do the monthly meet-ups.

But I cannot do this alone. If I do not get some real help, this year I will be standing in this same place handing the Lodge Charter to the Grand Master.

I have a thought exercise for all the Master Masons in the room, specifically for my #45 brethren. Why are you a Mason?

For those interested, I expect to continue to travel this year. In the last two weeks, I have attended seven installations, and have one more to go. One interesting thing about traveling. In the last year, I have sat in every chair for a lodge meeting, except one – Chaplain.

And before I finish, I want to thank my wife, Leah. She too was not expecting me to be standing here again.

As I always do, I will finish with a quote:

'Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.'

- Thomas A. Edison

#### Genesis 1:1

In Hebrew Bereshit In the beginning ....

# **Installation Program Highlights**











Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin

Page 7

# Installation Program Highlights













Page 8

Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge Bulletin

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

#### **PAST MASTERS**

			PASI	IVIAƏIE	in 3		
1926	Henry Gompers*	1951	Lester Goldberg*	1969	Milton Korn*	1989	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA
1927	Maurice Blum*		E. H. Chayt*		Irwin T. Rosenblatt*		DSM, GL-E
1928	Samuel Feldman*	1952	Arthur Zinnamon*	1970	Robert F. Goldberg*	1990	Robert H. Starr, PGM
1929	A. Ken Armstrong*		Paul Hyman*		Elliott M. Kessler*	1991	Robert W. Husemann †
1930	I. Albert Peake*	1953	Irving Schwartz*	1971	Harry L. Levin*	1992	Robert Haber*
1931	Louis J. Raebach*		Samuel Levine*		Nathan Leiderman*	1993	Michael Niddam*
1932	Louis Goldberg*	1954	Robert H. Silberg*	1972	Morris Gevinson*	1994	Joseph N. Snyder*
1933	A. D. Abrams*		L. L. Litvinsky*		George G. Jaffe*	1995	Burt Levy
1934	M. A. Goldberg*	1955	Hyman Sandler*	1973	Howard H. Ziegler*	1996	Michael Simon*
1935	Myer C. Rosendorf*		L. N. Palder*		Joseph Sagal*	1997	Adam Forman
1936	Alfred L. Bennett*	1956	Joseph R. Berger*	1974	Aaron S. Teitel	1998	Robert Hixon*
1937	Milton D. Korman, PGM*		N. Norman Engleberg,		Donald M. Stein	1999	Albert Hemmerdinger*
	Joseph Fromberg*		PGM*	1975	L. Paul Cornell*	2000	William D. Boker*
1938	Joseph Hurwitz*	1957	Eugene J. Hellman*		Robert P. Reid*	2001	Sheldon I. Rappeport, MA
	A. H. Ostrow*		E. S. Chayt*	1976	Theodore M. Kahn, PGM*		DSM, GL-E
1939	Jacob Sandler*	1958			Harry Korb, DSA*	2002	Jeffrey Sherman†
	L. T. Johnson*		S. M. Goldstein, DSA*	1977	Jaison I. Green*	2003	Jeffrey Sherman†
1940	Frank Paley*	1959	Morris Silberman*		Ernest Gold*	2004	William D. Boker*
	B. M. Klevit*		Murray L. Wolfe, DSA*	1978	Richard A. Levine*	2005	Stanley Jordan*
1941	Saul G. Lichtenberg*	1960	Jerome W. Golomb*		Morris I. Apple*	2006	Jerrold Gordon, MA, LFM*
	Abe Coonin*		Milton Fields, DSM*	1979	Michael J. Rinis	2007	Merriman F.C. Parkinson*
1942	Harry A. Oliker*	1961			Jerome E. Bauman*, MA	2008	William J. O'Brien*
	I. P. Bauman*		David Goldberg*		Lodge Fidelity Medal	2009	Jonathan M. Binstock
1943		1962	Arnold S. White*	1980	Max Beloff*	2010	David B. Torchinsky
	D. E. Snyder*		Arthur Sprintzin, DSA*		Gold Fidelity Medal	2011	Joshua L. Rubin
1944	Michael J. Cohen*	1963	<b>J</b> •/		Burton Penn	2012	Erik F. Milman
	W. D. Newrath*		Gold Fidelity Medal	1981	Jules S. Tepper, PGM	2013	Erik F. Milman
1945	Bernard Barzune*		M. L. Greenberg, DSA*		Joel Shulman	2014	Adam Forman
	M. A. Ostrow*	1964	Jerome L. Saidman*	1982	Walter F. Simon, DSM,	2015	Randy A. Schoch*
1946	Matthew Tepper*		Abe Sperling, DSA*		GC-E*	2016	Leonard Rubin
	L. C. Silverman*	1965	<b>-</b>		Harold Levy*	2017	Michael K. Greenwald
1947	Bernard Easterson*		Harold Levy*	1983	Julien P. Hofberg	2018	Raymond E. Horn
10.10	S. S. Kaltz*	1966		4004	Harold Levy*	2019	Robert Greenwald
1948	Irvin J. Footer*	400=	I. M. Engel*	1984	Edwin S. Nachlas*	2020	Jerry P. Keilsohn
10.10	D. C. Buchalter, DSA*	1967		1985	Norman Barshai*	2021	Burton S. Levy
1949	Saul Weiss*	4000	Philip L. Silver*	1986	Donald S. Jacobs*	2022	Jerry P. Keilsohn
4050	H. R. Wittenberg*	1968	The second secon	1987	I. Rocky Rachlin*	2023	Allen R. Levy
1950	Sigmund Ades*		Harvey I. Chidel*	1988	Ronald L. Forman*	2024	Aaron A. Kamerer
	C. M. Pascal*						

HONORARY — R. A. Bogley, Sr., P.G.M.\*, 1914; I. Rosenthal, D.S.M.\*, 1932; J. Lann\*, 1940; Renah F. Camalier, P.G.M.\*, 1952; George W. Feidt\*; Stafford Appel, D.S.M.\*, 1962; W. H. Rohrman, P.G.M.\*, 1958; J. A. Johnson, Jr., P.G.M.\*, 1960; C. B. Gilley, P.G.M.\*, 1963; N. Norman Engleberg, P.G.M.\*, 1972; Frank A. Kenyon, P.G.M.\*, 1973; William E. Eccleston, P.G.M.\*, 1975; Charles V. Brewer, P.G.M.\*, 1977; Perry A. Lester, P.G.M.\*, 1980; Elmer F. Stein, P.G.M.\*, 1982; Donald Mallorey, P.G.M., 1983; William Miskovic, P.G.M.\*, 1986; Charles S. Iversen, P.G.M.\*, 1990; George R. Adams, P.G.M., 1993; Harold Grainger, D.S.M.\*, 1995; Jerold J. Samet, P.G.M.\*, 1996, Roman Volsky, PGM, 2018, Jean-Paul Dongmo, Sr.

AFFILIATED — A. D. Abrams\*, 1937; Louis H. Lowenstein\*, 1940; Edmund L. Oppenheim\*, 1953; Melvin Mancher\*, 1955; George Cambetes\*, 1956; Alexander Teitz\*, 1956; Harold Brenner\*, 1957; R. B. Harris\*, 1957; Albert B. Hemmerdinger\*, 1958; Milton S. Fields\*, D.S.M., 1960; Baird Michelson\*, 1960; John Greenwood\*, D.S.M., 1961, 1984; Louis Mesmer\*, 1961; William M. Oppenheim\*, 1961; Eugene N. Reiser\*, 1964; Benjamin Nacht\*, 1967; David B. Feder\*, 1972; Alex Tobey\*, 1973, 1981; Stanley Feder\*, 1974, 1984; Blair Lewis\*, 1979; Randall A. Schoch\*, 1979; Dan L Frederick\*, 1987, P.G.M.; Raymond Friedman\*, 1989, 1992; Alan D. Friedman, 1993; Merriman F.C. Parkinson\*, 1994; Moe Lawrence Aitel\*, 1995; J. Kenneth Gibala†, 1997; William J. O'Brien\*, 1997; Jerold Coffee\*, 1998; Harold W. Snider\*, 2003, 2006; Nathan A. Lewis, 2003; Adam Tager†, 2017.

<sup>\* -</sup> Deceased

<sup>† -</sup> Demitted

#### MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979	Sam Rodis* Sam Berger* Ted Rothman* Ted Zinnamon* George Zillig, DSM* Erich Frank* Jeffrey Rothman* Stanley Schecter* Howard Kouzel* Harry Hofberg*	1983 1984 1985 1988 1992 1993 1999 2000 2017 2018	Eli Berkowitz* David Shapiro* Fred Gordon* Phil Berg* Max Smith* Jerrold Gordon, PM* Frank Gantz* Milton VanGrack* Allen Wright, PM* Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM
1978 1979	Howard Kouzel* Harry Hofberg*	2017	Allen Wright, PM* Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM
1980 1981 1982	Benjamin Davis* Benjamin Rinis* Arthur Rubinstein*	2019 2022	DSM Jerome E. Bauman*, PM Jeffrey Greenwald

#### **LODGE SILVER FIDELITY MEDAL**

Peter Frank\*, 2022 Jerome E. Bauman, MA\*, 2021 Jerrold Gordon, MA\*, 2021 Jerrold Gordon, MA\*, 2014 Max Beloff, PM\*, 2000 Harry Silverstone\*, 1988

William P. Jacobs\*, 1938

#### **GRAND LODGE GOLD FIDELITY MEDAL**

Allen J. Wright, MA, 2021 Max Beloff, PM, 2006 Harry Silverstone, DSA

# GRAND LODGE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Walter F. Simon\* Sheldon I. Rappeport

# PAST GRAND MASTERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Milton D. Korman\*, 1969 N. Norman Engleberg\*, 1972 Theodore M. Kahn\*, 1985 Robert H. Starr, 2002 Jules S. Tepper, 2003 Roman Volsky, 2017 Alan L Gordon 2021

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

1960	Louis Cooper*	1971	Leonard Weissmann*
1961	Abe Rosenblatt*	1972	David C. Buchalter, PM*
1962	Jack Hyman*	1973	M.L. Greenberg, PM*
1963	S.M. Goldsteiun, PM*	1976	Murray L. Wolfe, PM*
1965	Henry Salus*	1978	Jack Řosenthal*
1966	Morris Dworkin*	1980	Jerry Jablow*
1967	Arthur Sprintzin, PM*	1981	Abe Sperling, PM*
1968	Nat Levinson*	1982	Harry Korb, PM*
1969	Harry Silverstone*		•

#### **EMERITUS LODGE OFFICERS**

Secretary Emeritus	Walter Simon, PM, DSM Jacob Sandler, PM*
Treasurer Emeritus	Allen J. Wright, PM, MA*  Max Beloff, PM*  Joseph Hurwitz, PM*
Historian Emeritus	Harry Hofberg, MA*
Editor Emeritus	Harry Hofberg, MA*
	Harry Silverstone, DSA*

#### GRAND FREEMASONRY MEDAL OF HONOR

Presented June 7th, 2019 to Brethren who served in WWII on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day

David Applestein
Daniel Baer\*
Moritz A. Cohen Jr.
Raymond Friedman, PM\*
Jerrold Gordon, PM\*
Jack J. Klawans\*
Charles H. Marcus\*
Norman G. Schikevitz\*
Herman Zeitchik\*

\* - Deceased

# Pre-Thanksgiving Meet-Up at Firehouse One By Hal Henig

On Sunday evening, November 24, Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge #45 held its monthly meet-up at Firehouse One in Silver Spring, Maryland. The restaurant is located on the site of the original Silver Spring Firehouse, which was moved across the street to Georgia Avenue.

The Firehouse One meet-up took place on the same day as our lodge's Annual Thanksgiving Baskets event, which was held earlier in the morning at the Kensington Masonic Lodge. Nine brethren and guests attended the dinner social. The participating Brethren included Tiler Hal Henig, Meet-Up



Chairman David Torchinsky, PM, and Brothers Lee Silverman and Alan Karpas. Our guests were Lisa Henig, Laura Torchinsky, and Sharon, Renie, and Stuart Zitomer.

The attached photo shows the brethren and guests facing the server who took the photo. We enjoyed each other's company, unfortunately, the service was very slow.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their families, enjoying a delicious turkey and stuffing meal. Again, happy holidays to all!

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#### 2025 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Junior Warden
6109 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817
•
Treasurer
ChaplainBurt S. Levy, PM, JGD Hon.
Master-of-CeremoniesAllen R. Levy, PM
Senior DeaconAaron A. Kamerer, P.M.
Junior Deacon Lee R. Silverman
Senior StewardPending appointment
Junior StewardPending appointment
Trustees GL-E Sheldon I. Rappeport, PM, DSM, MA, (2027),
Jeffrey Greenwald, (2025),
Julien P. Holberg, PM (2026)
Fidelity Medal RecipientTo be selected
HistorianJoshua L. Rubin, PM
TilerHal Henig
Immediate PMAaron 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
AuditingKevin Stemp
Ambassador to Amicable-St. John's Lodge #25 Jonathan Binstock, PM
BasketsJeffrey Greenwald
David B. Torchinsky, PM
Bulletin Committee
Technology Lee R. Silverman
By-LawsRobert H. Starr, PGM
Catechism Instructors Burt S. Levy, PM
Centennial PlanningAaron Kamerer
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 CommitteeTrustees, Treas. Robert H. Starr, PGM
Refreshment
ReliefW.M.,S.W., J.W.
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up ChairmanHal 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 <a href="www.sgbf45.org">www.sgbf45.org</a>. If anyone is interested in any of these events and wishes to obtain more information, please contact WM Aaron Kamerer about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
February	16	February Stated Communication, 3:00 pm, Meeting followed by Festive Board	Masons only

Date		Event	Open to
April	27	Special Communication, Fellow Craft Degree, 3:00 pm	FC Masons

Date		Event	Open to
May	18	May Stated Communication, 3:00 pm, Meeting followed by Feastive Board	Masons only

Date		Event	Open to
August	17	August Stated Communication, 3:00 pm, Meeting Beer, Burger, Brats & BINGO	Masons only

Date		Event	Open to
September	21	Memorial Recognition Afternoon, 3:00 pm	Masons and Guests

Date		Event	Open to
November	16	November Stated Communication, 3:00 pm, Awards with Dinner	Masons only

Date		Event	Open to
December	21	December Stated Communication, 3:00 pm, Installation of Officers	Masons and Guests