

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

# bulletin

Volume XCVIII • Number 2  
February 2023

Takoma Masonic Center  
115 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012  
Meets Second Tuesday of each month except July and August (no meeting),  
and December, (second Sunday)



## Valentine's Day Gala

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH AT  
THE TAKOMA MASONIC CENTER**

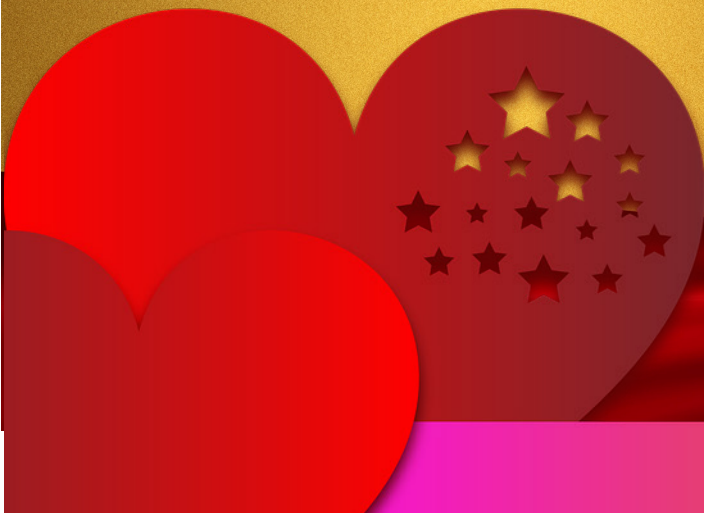
*Hoping to see you there!*

### Dinner Reservations Required:

This year, Valentine's Day coincides with our regular meeting on Tuesday, February 14th. For our first major social event of the year, we will be holding a Valentine's Day Dance. This will be the first time since 2019 we have been able to do this, and it had been a no-miss, special social event.

Our wives (or significant others) may conjure up visions of dinner, dancing, and otherwise romance-inducing activities to celebrate this romantic occasion. A short, Stated Communication will be followed by an evening that includes all of the delightful accoutrements that go into making a memorable and meaningful night that can be enjoyed by our members, their wives, significant others, and anyone else they wish to invite.

Please RSVP with the number of guests you plan to bring by responding to the emailed eVite invitation because we will also be presenting your guests with a lovely rose to mark the occasion.



Compliments of  
**SAMUEL GOMPERS-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
LODGE NO. 45, F.A.A.M.**



Your father or uncle  
may have been a Mason

Your grandfather probably was a Mason

*To learn more about Masonry:*  
**We meet the second Tuesday night  
at Takoma Masonic Center**

Raymond Horn, *Worshipful Master*, [wm@sgbf45.org](mailto:wm@sgbf45.org)  
Robert Greenwald, *Senior Warden*  
Jerry Keilsohn, *Junior Warden*

2B1  ASK1

## Light From the East

WM Allen Levy 2023



I am very happy to have my first full Stated Communication in the books. I have been told that your perspective of the Lodge is very different from the East. Other than the obvious change of location of your station, the pressure to conduct the meeting is greater than I imagined. I am sure it will become easier as the year progresses.

Speaking of the coming year, I thought I would give you a preview of some preliminary plans I have for our Stated Communications and other social activities.

First of all, as you might know, if you attended our January Stated or have read about it in this issue of the Bulletin, our “Walk Down Memory Lane” presentation by Allen Wright, PM, MA of his year as Worshipful Master in 1963 went very well. It was truly interesting to see the photos and memorabilia from his album and how the times have changed. I have received many requests for a copy of the PowerPoint file.

The photos were scanned at the highest resolution and therefore the file is very large, too big for email. So to accommodate this request, I am creating a Dropbox Transfer. If you are reading this in the PDF, you can click on this link and download a copy of the presentation:

<https://www.dropbox.com/t/ht4rJ5njLLnwI5bU>

For February, our Stated Communication falls on Valentine’s Day, so I have planned Ladies’ Night.

More details to come.

We do have a candidate this year so several of our Stated Communications will be devoted to conferral of Degrees.

Other than that, here’s some more of what’s planned:

Programs, including interesting topics such as “Masonry Outside of the Lodge” and “Modern Operative Masonry Tools” Our Grand Visitation is scheduled for our May 9th Communication, and our Grand Master promises an inspiring night. Of course, we will also schedule our traditional programs which include:

- Anniversary Night
- Memorial Night
- Founders Night
- Wardens Night

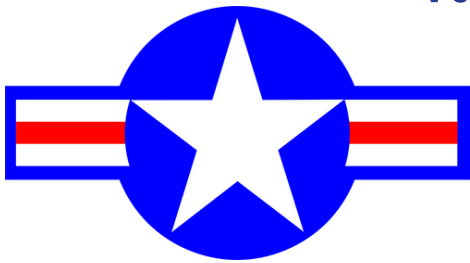
I always liked Bingo Night, so we are bringing it back after a long hiatus, and we’ll also combine it with Deli Night

Social activities are to include, first, a Capitals Hockey game (details soon), plus a Nationals game this summer. I want to also continue our annual Chesapeake Bay fishing trip, and perhaps have Billiards and Skeet Shooting trips.

That’s a little bit of what I have planned. Of course, we will have our community service events and monthly Meet-Ups. It will be a full year.

And I have also been told: It goes by fast.

*Allen*



**Veterans and Gold Star Families get free lifetime pass to national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands.**  
**Take Woody Guthrie’s advice: Free? No, you earned it!**  
**Seniors, 62 and over qualify for a discounted pass.**

The Interagency Military Pass covers entrance fees and standard amenity fees (day-use fees) at lands managed by the National Park Service, US Fish, and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers for current US military members, and dependents of current military members, US military veterans, and Gold Star Families. In recent years, they were able to receive annual passes. The free Military Pass waives entrance fees and does not cover expanded amenities or user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, special recreation permits, reservation fees, or special tours.

For more information about the Interagency Military Pass Program, please visit [\*\*USGS Online Store - Military Pass Frequently Asked Questions.\*\*](#)

**Who is eligible to get a free Military Lifetime Pass as a veteran?**

For purposes of this program, a veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the US Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and can present one of the following forms of identification to get the Interagency Military Lifetime Pass when entering a national park:

- Unexpired Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation USID replacement)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veteran’s designation on a state-issued US driver’s license or identification card

**Who qualifies for the Senior Pass?**

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are 62 years or older. (You must have turned 62 before you can buy the pass).

**Where can I get a Senior Pass?**

You can buy a Senior Pass in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office. See [Site Locations](#) that issue the Senior Pass.

You can buy a Senior Pass using the USGS online store. Applicants must upload proof of residency and age. This may be done by photographing your document and uploading it to the order. You will need to provide a credit card payment of \$90.00 for the lifetime pass, or \$30 for the Annual Senior pass (The price of the pass with an additional \$10.00 document processing fee). Once the documentation is verified and payment is received, a pass, with the pass owner’s name pre-printed on it, will be issued to the applicant.

**Happy Birthday**

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

Jules S. Tepper PGM ..... 3	M. B. Lustig ..... 8	Roman Volsky PGM .....19	Stephen E. Costin.....25
Charles A. Oshinsky ..... 7	Nathan A. Lewis .....11	Jerold Coffee .....23	Francis P. Boylin.....28
	Sheldon I. Rapoport PM....17	Ryan A. Simon .....24	

# JANUARY STATED COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

At our January meeting, our new WM Allen Levy hosted his first meeting of the new Masonic Year.

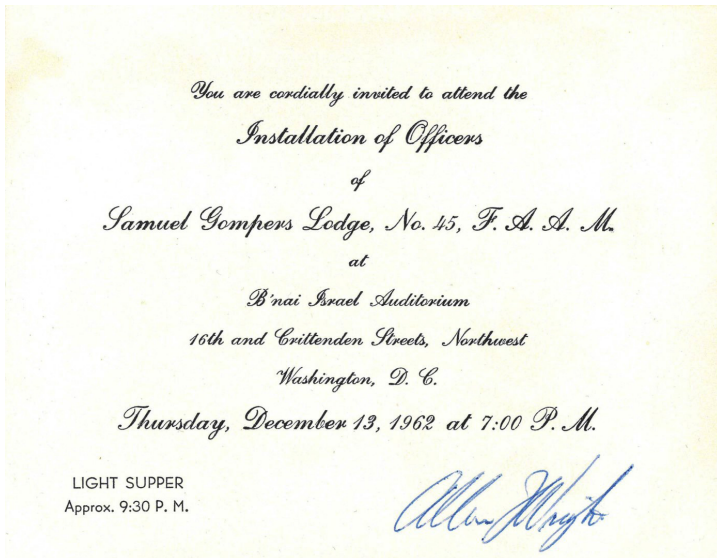
The program featured our most senior Past Master, Allen J. Wright, M.A., G.L.F.M. who will give us insight into Samuel Gompers Lodge and Masonry in general, at its most popular period. WB Wright presented photographs and his memories of his year as Master of our Lodge in 1963. For this meeting, we were able to open a Zoom when the current Master, WB Allen Levy called the Lodge from Labor to Recess. Enclosed in this month's bulletin are a small number of the photographs presented. To see all the photos presented, follow this link to download the entire presentation:

<https://www.dropbox.com/t/ht4rJ5njLLnwI5bU>

The memories were enjoyed by everyone who attended.



WM A. Wright



Installation Invite



Installation with Father



Grand Visitation 1963



Memorial Service 1963

**GRAND LODGE TESTIMONIAL DINNER**  
 On May 27th at 7:00 P.M. at the Statler Hotel Presidential Room, there will be a Banquet sponsored by The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia for Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia.



*Testimonial Night*



*Bus to Baltimore*



*Fellowcraft Club*



*Book of 1963*



*Baltimore Visitation*



*Quarter Century Night*



*Jewel Dinner 1963*



JEWEL DINNER  
MASTERS ASSOCIATION, 1963  
JANUARY 16, 1964

*Jewel Dinner 1964*



Leonard N. Bricker

*Ladies Night Party*



*Birthday Dinner 1963*



*Miss MD 1963*



Leonard N. Bricker

*Father Son Night*



Leonard N. Bricker

*Game Night*

# *A brief look at Samuel Gompers Lodge #45 in the 1960s, to accompany the presentation of WB Allen Wright at the January 2023 meeting*

**By Joshua L. Rubin, PM, lodge historian**



*Line Officers 1963*

The late 1950s and early 1960s represented a flurry of Masonic activity. Nationally, Masonic membership was at an all-time high, and Samuel Gompers Lodge was no exception: in 1960, Samuel Gompers #45 had 1,455 members, but so many of them were active members.

Excerpt from the report of Milton Korn, WM of Samuel Gompers Lodge #45 to the Grand Master of Masons in the 1969 annual report to the Grand Lodge

“A glance at the back page of our bulletin reveals the Gompers secret of greatness. The array of names there are the names of the brethren who are constantly working for Samuel Gompers Lodge. No other organization can boast of a group in such a great number and of such fine efficiency and devotion. These brethren are the same people who are constantly serving the community, too, through work in other social and charitable groups.

These are the brethren who serve on committees such as the sick visitation, refreshment, blood, investment, Masonic and Eastern Star, brotherhood, fellowcraft club, proficiency, fellowcraft team, investigating, DeMolay advisors, education, aid association, Bulletin, and Temple planners. They are the brethren who have built Samuel Gompers Lodge and have kept Gompers great and whose efforts portend even greater accomplishments for their fraternity in the future.”

How many brethren was WB Korn referring to? The December 1969 bulletin lists the following committee memberships:

- The Brotherhood Committee listed a chairman, 10 assistant chairmen, and 65 members
- The Temple Planners Committee listed a chairman and 7 members
- The Refreshment Committee had a chairman, an assistant chairman, and 22 members
- The Investigating Committee had a chairman, an assistant chairman, and 16 members
- The Blood Donor Committee had a chairman, two assistant chairmen, and 30 members
- The Visiting the Sick Committee had a chairman, an assistant chairman, and 27 members
- The Fellowcraft Team had a captain, a co-captain, and 11 members
- The Candidate Proficiency Committee had a chairman, two assistant chairmen, and 8 members (including someone named Sheldon Rappoport)

What is most surprising about this list from the standpoint of 2023 is how few of the names are repeated. With only a few exceptions, there weren't many brethren serving on more than one committee, and many of those who were serving on multiple committees were line officers or past masters.

Although the 1960s were a period of general decline for Freemasonry across the US, the frenetic energy of Samuel Gompers Lodge left its membership feeling as if the national trends didn't affect them. Hundreds of people showed up to events such as the annual lodge Birthday Parties and Sports Nights.

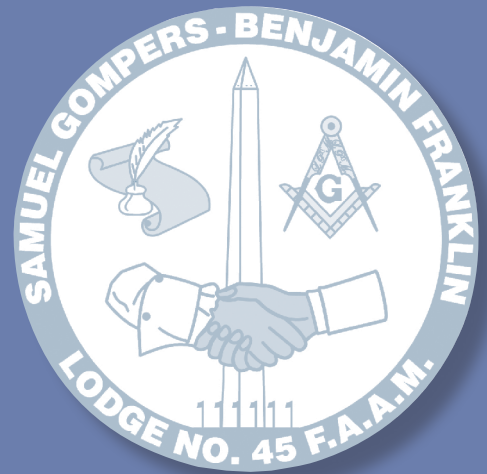
As we honor our senior living past master, Allen Wright, this evening, we shouldn't let the record of this lodge from that time direct our emotions. The world has changed, and as Freemasonry continues to adapt to the needs of Gen Xers, Millennials, and Gen Z'ers, we can continue with our heads held high that this lodge was once the crown jewel of the jurisdiction.





## Officer Line 2023

Worshipful Master.....Allen R. Levy  
 Senior Warden.....Derek Gould  
 Junior Warden.....Aaron Kamerer  
 Secretary..... Raymond Horn, P. M.  
 Treasurer ..... Robert H. Starr, P. G.M. (not pictured)  
 Chaplain ..... Burton S. Levy, P. M.  
 Master-of-Ceremonies..... Robert Greenwald, P. M.  
 Senior Deacon ..... Jeffrey R. Greenwald (not pictured)  
 Junior Deacon .....Ryan A. Simon (not pictured)  
 Senior Steward .....Charles A. Oshinsky  
 Junior Steward.....Steven E. Dekelbaum  
 Tiler ..... Hal Henig



## PRESENTATION OF PAST MASTER PLAQUE

During our January Stated Communication, our new WM Allen R. Levy was Presented with a Plaque listing all the Past Masters of our Lodge. WB Julien P. Hofberg prepared the inscriptions. The Plaque was passed between the immediate four Past Masters before being presented to the current Master.



# 2023 GRAND VISITATION



**THE GRAND LODGE F.A.A.M  
of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER  
**ANNAS FADLUDEEN KAMARA**

**SAMUEL GOMPERS - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LODGE #45**  
**May 9th, 2023 • Takoma Masonic Center • 7:30PM**

## Alan, Alan, Alan, and Allen



Our Meet-Up Chairman, Hal Henig chose to have our January event at RF. Chang's restaurant on the date of the Chinese New Year (Jan. 22nd). While our Asian friends celebrated the start of the Year of the Rabbit, we seemed to be celebrating the Year of the Alans: M.W. Bro. Alan Gordon and his wife, Iris; Bro. Alan Karpas and his wife Arlene; Bro. Alan Friedman; and our W.M. Allen Levy and his wife Jessica. Our W.M. was appreciative of having his namesake Brothers show up. A total of 12 were present at this event. Watch for Bro. Henig's article in our March bulletin for more on this event.

## Images of past Valentine's Day



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St. John's Mite Association .....Burt Levy, PM, [chaplain@sgbf45.org](mailto:chaplain@sgbf45.org)

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Jeffrey R. Greenwald, [sd@sgbf45.org](mailto:sd@sgbf45.org).

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Burt S. Levy, PM, [chaplain@sgbf45.org](mailto:chaplain@sgbf45.org). 202 409-4449  
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Refreshment. .... J.S., S.S.  
Relief ..... W.M., S.W., J.W.  
Sunshine and Monthly Meet-Up Chairman ..... Hal Henig  
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Technology and Communications ..... Aaron Kamerer  
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Derek R. Gould, [dgoald@sgbf45.org](mailto:dgoald@sgbf45.org). 240-938-6285  
Volunteer Activities/Community Outreach ..... Jeffrey Greenwald

## 2023 PROXIES

For the Worshipful Master .....Charles Oshinsky  
For the Senior Warden .....Ryan Simon  
For the Junior Warden .....Steven Dekelbaum



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Samuel Gompers-Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45 F.A.A.M.  
 Secretary  
 6109 Lone Oak Drive  
 Bethesda, MD 20817




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**Calendar for Masonic Year 2022—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 Jerry Keilsohn about all events (see page 2)

Date		Event	Open to
February	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	27	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons

Date		Event	Open to
March	14	Stated Communication, 7:30 pm	Masons
	27	Meet-up, 6:30 pm	Masons and prospective Masons