

July 2016

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

FROM THE EAST

Happy Fourth of July to you all. I hope you are enjoying our hot southern California summer months.

I was out of town on a job from the end of May to mid June and I was not able to be present at the last stated meeting. Our Senior Warden, Worshipful Tim Shiner, did a fantastic job running the meeting as a sitting Master. Worshipful Shiner has been such a tremendous support to me and also a great advisor and a true friend. In my absence I had a chance to join in the open portion of the meeting from my hotel room in New York through Periscope. As Worshipful Shiner has been explaining its benefits in the previous issues of the Trestleboard, Periscoping allows you to see, hear and participate by typing in your comments and questions. It's fantastic.

This is my first experience writing a Trestleboard article from a hospital room. I'm here not for myself but for my eighty eight year old father who has taken ill in the spell of the heat wave this week. He is being monitored for all his vital signs to return to normal and I am staying with him night and day, so he can communicate with the doctors and nurses. All my immediate families visit him daily and we had our Father's Day celebrated in his room by four generations of us. It was indeed a happy day.

At the upcoming July 11th stated meeting on the , I originally had planned to introduce another local community leader. Unfortunately, the organization had to cancel its presentation at the last minute due to an unforeseen conflict in their scheduling. I will present them later in the year. For this month and August, I will bring in someone else and I promise that it will be as interesting and meaningful as all of our stated meeting speeches and presentations this year.

Fraternally,

Yuki Matsumoto - Master 2016

July 11th Stated Meeting

Doors: 5:30 p.m. | Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
 Program: 7:15 p.m.

W.M. Yuki Matsumoto presiding
 Community Leader Speech #3

\$20.00* w/RSVP \$25.00* wo/RSVP
 reservations due by July 6th

SALAD

Mix greens with heirlooms, avocado, lavash crisps and heart of palm, paprika-lemon vinaigrette

MAIN

Option 1: Whole roast balsamic salmon
 Option 2: Pomegranate spiked BBQ whole cut up grilled chicken

SIDES

Roasted new potatoes; Sautéed organic summer squash with tomatoes; Sautéed broccolini in olive oil and garlic; Corn on the cob tossed in chili herb butter; Fresh sliced baguette bread and butter

DESSERT

TBD

* Guests of the Master, and widows of Ionic Composite Lodge, who have not remarried, are free. Menu is Subject to Change.

JULY 2016

1 Fri	
2 Sat	
3 Sun	
4 Mon	Dark Legal Holiday
5 Tue	
6 Wed	
7 Thu	
8 Fri	
9 Sat	
10 Sun	
11 Mon	Stated meeting 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Open meeting at 7:00 p.m.
12 Tue	
13 Wed	7:15 p.m. - 1st degree practice
14 Thu	
15 Fri	
16 Sat	
17 Sun	
18 Mon	7:15pm - Officers School of Instruction 1st Degree, Ionic composite Lodge hosting
19 Tue	
20 Wed	
21 Thu	
22 Fri	
23 Sat	
24 Sun	
25 Mon	7:15pm - 1st degree
26 Tue	
27 Wed	
28 Thu	
29 Fri	
30 Sat	
31 Sun	

FROM THE WEST

Our lodge is currently in a rebirthing process. We are dealing with new social customs, cell phones and technology is how most of us communicate with each other. Worshipful Yuki was able to be a part of last months Stated Meeting even though he was in New York. Imagine our founding fathers using the internet to talk with one another. Instead of Paul Revere on horseback he would be tweeting @Rebels #RedCoatsR-Coming! Our attention spans are becoming smaller and we are now getting most of our news from facebook. Our news cycle is 24/7 and instantaneous. We don't have to wait until the next day to get the newspaper. I would wager very few of our members still read an honest to goodness paper. Grabbing headlines from Drudge Report or news feeds from MSN or Yahoo and cable channels is how most of us get our information. We are working longer hours and have less time to pursue hobbies and extracurricular activities. Technology, like it or not, is allowing us to be more productive and reach across vast distances to engage one another. The world has become much smaller in a very short amount of time.

It often amazes me as to what was lost in the Library at Alexandria. What knowledge, what wisdom went up in flames? it also boggles my mind that each one of us now has the whole of human knowledge available to us in the palm of our hand! Information is power...and to quote from a wise man – “With great power comes great responsibility,” Uncle Ben (Peter Parker/Spiderman’s Uncle). *Winston Churchill also said, “Where there is great power there is great responsibility.” This quote is also attributed to several others before that, but being a geek I think the Spiderman quote is most appropriate. It is with this in mind that we started our Digital Outreach at Ionic Composite – to drag our ancient organization into the 21st century, to keep us relevant and engaged on a modern cultural level.

Our Digital Outreach is starting to get a lot of notice! We’ve had several Grand Lodge people log on to see what we are doing. We’ve even had a member of The Grand Lodge of England log on to our Periscope. During our last Stated meeting, several online people were able to ask questions about Masonic Outreach. We have 42 members on our Lodge App and it is being used quite a bit. The officers

Wikipedia: Virtual reality or virtual realities (VR), also known as immersive multimedia or computer-simulated reality, is a computer technology that replicates an environment, real or imagined, and simulates a user's physical presence and environment to allow for user interaction. Virtual realities artificially create sensory experience, which can include sight, touch, hearing, and smell.[1]

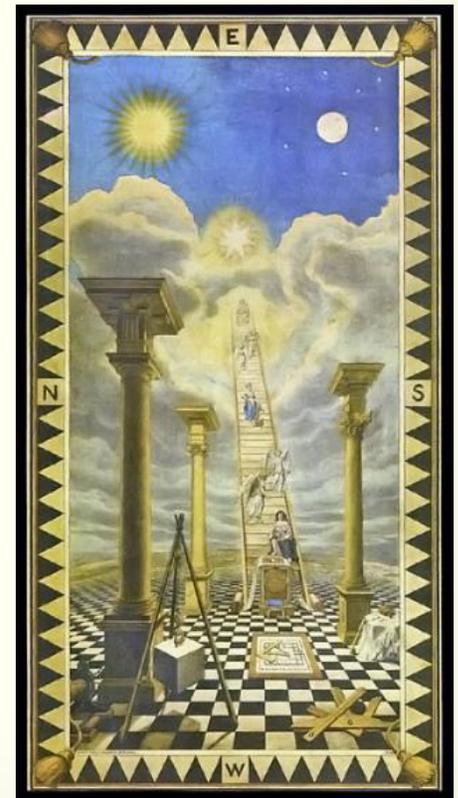
You will be able to “walk into” the picture – like Alice through the Looking Glass

do a tremendous amount of communicating through it. Our facebook page is active and our twitter account is slowly growing. We will be starting on Instagram over the next few weeks and we’ve engaged Brother JohnRobert Wilson to design and be our webmaster. If you haven’t seen our website lately – wow! It now has a sleek new look, mobile compatible, with a ton of Masonic education, information and lodge programs. You can now make reservations/pay for the Stated Meeting dinner, pay your dues and sign up for Masons4Mitts – all on our website.

I have been teasing about a passion project of mine for the lodge. It is nearly ready and i hope I will have it done by the time this goes to press. Many of you know that I am a gadget/tech geek and am an early adopter of much of the new shiny toys. One of these new toys is Virtual Reality. There is the high-end VR machines (Oculus Rift, HTC Vive) which can run in the thousands and then there is the Samsung VR Gear (about \$99.00 or free if you get a new phone) and lastly, there is VR for everyone – Google Cardboard. Cardboard? – Yes! Cardboard. What Google has done is make an open source platform (android) available to mere mortals to dabble in creating Virtual Reality.

Most of you are familiar with the Entered Apprentice Tracing board.

I have created a Virtual Reality app that you can download for your Android Phone (Apple coming in the future). You will be able to “walk into” the picture – like Alice through the Looking Glass and see



Example of an Entered Apprentices Tracing Board

The experience is difficult to put into words.

360 degrees around you. Walk completely around each pillar, get up close and personal with the different elements. My hope is that being able to “walk into” this ancient picture – will stir up some new discussions, get some of our younger members interested in some more of the esoteric knowledge contain in there. By experiencing this tracing board in 3D and in a Virtual setting, you will be able to see placement of the columns, sun, moon, etc.

The experience is difficult to put into words. If you have not experienced Virtual Reality –I urge you to come to lodge. I will be revealing it this Stated Meeting. Also, over the next few months, I will be adding the 2nd and 3rd Degree Tracing Board VR Experience. Upgraded versions will also be coming with new features as well.

This is the exciting part...as a member of Ionic Composite Lodge—you can download this for free. Just email the Secretary, officers or myself for the coupon code. Otherwise, this will be available to be purchased by anyone around the world for \$1.99 from our website. (I am splitting this with the lodge 50/50) It will also become available through the Google Playstore over the next few months as well, with the same cost and revenue split. Should another lodge want their own branded version, we can do that too—for a reasonable fee, which will be split 50/50 with the lodge and downloadable exclusively through our website!

The Entered Apprentice Tracing board is chock full of symbols—but it is also quite beautiful. I hope my version of this classic picture helps inspire you to discuss it’s meanings with other Masons and I hope it becomes a valuable educational tool and just a plain cool visually stimulating work!

Stay tuned!

Tim Shiner, P.M. – Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH

Throughout the year (for a few years now) I’ve attended a number of official school events which invariably start with the Pledge of Allegiance. And every time I’m moved by the pride with which my kids, sons of immigrants, recite it. When I asked them why they are so proud, their answer was “because we are part of a nation with liberty and justice for all”.

As I reflect in those last words, I think of “liberty” as something more than just “the state of being free” but the state of being free within the boundaries of ethical and moral responsibility; something that calls us to govern ourselves with civility respecting the rights of everyone. I think of “justice” as something more than “assigning punishment or reward based on merit and demerits” but that it refers to the creation of viable opportunities for everyone to succeed in all aspects of life. “For all” means we should strive that liberty and justice are imparted to all individuals regardless of anything, including political and religious background.

That’s when I realize that my kids get to be part and grow in a nation that holds “liberty and justice for all” as one of its principal tenets and I couldn’t be any prouder.

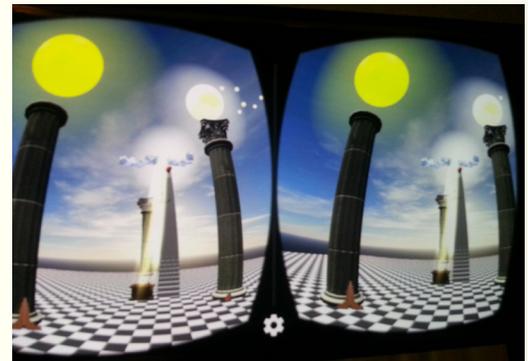
Happy Fourth of July, brethren, ladies and friends! I hope you are having a great summer so far. I also would like to urge you to come to the Lodge at our Stated Meeting on July 11th; we have a summer-inspired menu and our Senior Warden, Tim Shiner, has some exciting news about his projects to share with all of us.

I hope to see you then.

Fraternally,

Mauricio León – Junior Warden

Sample images of the Stereoscopic VR Headset Images.



THINK ABOUT IT

Earlier this week, a 4-year-old boy somehow managed to fall into a gorilla enclosure at the Cincinnati zoo. Park officials came to the spot and a decision was made to shoot the gorilla rather than risk the safety of the young boy. The result of that decision was an outpouring of anger and accusations from a number of people who were not there at the time.

The arguments were largely in favor of the gorilla. People blamed the parents for not paying closer attention to their son. People blamed the zoo designers for not making the barriers strong enough. People blamed the zoo officials for not using a tranquilizer instead of a lethal bullet.

Several people to whom I talked had similar opinions and believed that the gorilla need not have died. When I asked them what they would have done, an almost universal answer was that it never would have happened to them because they would have paid closer attention to their child. So I posed a hypothetical question, namely suppose your child went to the zoo on a school trip and you got an emergency phone call telling you that your son or daughter was now in the gorilla pit with a very large gorilla; the person calling you was asking you, at the moment when the crisis was occurring, if you

wanted the zoo to shoot the gorilla. Universally my acquaintances said that they would have requested that lethal solution.

It is so easy, after the fact, to decide what the very best solution would have been. However, at the moment of the crisis, one has to act. The zoo officials had, as their top priority, the safety of that little boy and they acted accordingly. At that time, they made what they believed was the best decision. This is how life works; what we all have to do all of the time is make the best decision at the moment and then move on.

Consider an imaginary machine called a retrospectoscope; it allows the user to have all of the time and true information that is obtainable before making a decision. My machine is correct 100% of the time. Unfortunately, it is useful 0% of the time. From my perspective, the zoo acted correctly in an emergency and should not be the victim of societal scorn. Monday morning quarterbacking is only useful for learning for future events, not for solving problems at the time.

Think about it.
Ron Koretz, P.M.

MASONS NIGHT AT DODGER STADIUM

Monday, September 19
LA Dodgers vs San Francisco Giants

Reserved Level Seats behind
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RSVP: Secretary Daniel Ferszt
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Send checks payable to Ionic Composite Lodge to:
Ionic Composite Lodge
No. 520
1122 S. La Cienega Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Note: Steve Resnick is trying to arrange for a bus from the lodge. When you order tickets, let Daniel know if you are interested in taking the bus.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Julian Rothholz Black	02	Michael Jay Bear PM	17	Howard Larry Hallis	28
Morton Carroll Devor	04	Gilbert Silverman	17	Richard Samuel Ellman	29
Albert Frankel	04	Stephen Michael Fenster	18	Theodore Jack Blumenfeld	30
Melvin Philip Bayer	07	Robert Andrew Nelli	21	Barry Charles	30
Arthur Abram Eberstein	08	Glenn Antonio Edwards Ardizzone			
Reuben Payne	09		24		
Kenneth J. Bourguignon	10	Howard Brandes PM	25		
William Jacob Dankers III	10	Alan Villas Nisperos	26		
Bahram Raeen	10	Jacob Rakita	26		
Arnold Bennett Bristol	11	Carmel Levy	27		
Timothy Harrison Slone PM	16	Arthur Berman	28		
Paul Troy	16	G. Richard Green	28		



A Night at the Exclusive LA Sports Museum** Benefitting Masons4Mitts

Presented by Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520
On behalf of the Media Central Titans Team

Monday, August 15, 2016
7:00-9:00 PM

30,000 sq ft of Baseball, Football, Basketball and Boxing Exhibits
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For information contact:

[Bernie Morse PM, Chairman-Email: BernieMorsePM@IonicComposite.com](mailto:BernieMorsePM@IonicComposite.com)

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Net proceeds provide mitts to inner city 5-18 year olds in the Dodgers RBI Program



REGISTER NOW (Deadline August 8, 2016 - Tickets will NOT be sold at the Door)

**Disclaimer: The LA Sports Museum features a Los Angeles Dodgers collection, but has no affiliation with LA Dodgers Inc.



Footsteps of Masonry Lecture 4

Last spring we traveled to Israel on the Grand Master's Footsteps of Freemasonry Tour. Past Grand Master John L. Cooper III was the scholar-in-residence and delivered many lectures at historical sites. Over the next year we will feature his lectures in our Trestleboard. Enjoy!!!

Bernie Morse PM

Joseph Esshaghian PM

Thursday, May 6, 2015
John L. Cooper III, Ph.D.

The Exile and the Rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple:

- Freemasonry & the End of the Davidic Monarchy
- The Return from Exile and the Rebuilding of the Temple
- The "Embassy Degrees" in Freemasonry

Our story of Freemasonry and the Holy Land now resumes. Today we began our journey at the Sea of Galilee, and end it at Jerusalem. A key feature of our journey is the River Jordan, a river steeped in song and story from ancient times. And it also plays a part in Freemasonry, as we will soon see. But first we have to go back in time to understand the next part of our story.

You may remember that in 587 B.C.E. the great Temple of Solomon was destroyed by the invading armies of Babylonia under King Nebuchadnezzar II. Not only was the Temple burned to the ground, and its sacred treasures hauled off to Babylon, but key leaders of the Jewish people were also enslaved and marched to Babylon. This event is called the Babylonian Exile, and one of the great poems from the Bible commemorates this. Psalm 137 is a poignant reminder of the tragedy experienced by these exiles:

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered you, O Zion.
As for our harps, we hung them up on the trees in the midst of that land.
For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
How shall we sing the Lord's song upon an alien soil.
If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill.
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

This situation occasioned the creation of another set of Masonic legends, and the degrees associated with them. The Exile to Babylon furnished the creative genius of the Masonic degree-writers of the 18th century with another occasion for their storytelling.

These creative Masonic writers, whoever they may have been, were intrigued not only with the Exile itself, but with the Return from Exile, the story of which was told in the Bible. In 539 B.C.E. another great kingdom to the east of Babylonia, the Persian Empire, swept down on Babylon, and under the leadership of Cyrus the Great, destroyed the Babylonian Empire and replaced it with the rule of the Persians. Cyrus is credited with allowing the Jews at Babylon to return to their homeland in 538 B.C.E., and they took advantage of this to rebuild the Temple of Solomon - although probably on a much reduced scale. The story of this is found in the books of Nehemiah and Ezra in the Bible, and from these sources the Masonic degree writers drew their material.

The Degree of Excellent Mason, now a part of the sequence of degrees governed by the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America, tells the story of how the Exiles began their return. Then the Royal Arch Degree picks up the story. Royal Arch Masonry in the United States is a four-degree system, the first step in the York Rite. All Royal Arch Masons must first be Master Masons. The Royal Arch Degree itself incorporates the story of the Return from Babylon, and postulates that the Exiles journeyed up the River Euphrates to near its headwaters, and then descended through Syria into Israel and Palestine. The last part of the journey is along the banks of the River Jordan, which is eventually crossed, with the Exiles then climbing the steep road from Jericho to Jerusalem. The Exiles in this story are three, and the number three has significance in Freemasonry. These Exiles are called "sojourners," and they are led by a Principal Sojourner who describes the journey for them. There is some beautiful wording in the ritual used by their guide. An example:

"How beautiful is the scenery along the banks of the famous Euphrates. It rises in the mountains of Armenia, flows westwardly and empties into the Erythrean Sea. The river Tigris finds its source very near the headwaters of the Euphrates, takes a southeasterly course, and unites with the Euphrates

before it reaches the sea.

We have left the river and are traversing the Syrian desert, which borders the one we avoided. No water anywhere. Oh! See the beautiful foliage in the distance. It is "Tadmora in the Wilderness." It is a most delightful spot.

All this country was conquered by King David, and Tadmora was built by King Solomon, who inherited the kingdom from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean, and from the mountains of Lebanon to the Red Sea. Its beautiful palm trees, pure water, and the munificence of King Solomon have made this oasis in the desert to blossom as the rose. Caravans stop here while on their long journeys. But Tadmora will become a heap of ruins, desolate and forsaken by Him whom its people forsook."

I think you get the idea. The journey home is a joyous occasion, as every "homecoming" should be. I'll leave the rest of the Royal Arch story for later, when we learn more about the Temple of Solomon. However, the story of King Cyrus and his permitting the Exiles to return to Jerusalem, captured the imagination of degree writers in the 18th century, and there some Masonic degrees which tell that part of the story.

According the Masonic legend, Zerubbabel, was the leader of the Exiles and he was sent from Jerusalem to King Cyrus to confirm the royal decree which not only allowed them to return, but to rebuild the City of Jerusalem with its defensive walls, and also the Temple itself. Zerubbabel travels to the court of Cyrus the Great to receive this confirmation. Because Zerubbabel is on a diplo-

matic mission, his journey is termed "an embassy", and the Masonic degrees associated with this story are called the "Embassy Degrees." In American Freemasonry they are to be found in three different organizations, and they all tell essentially the same story. The Order of the Red Cross of Palestine in the Knight Templar series is one of these degrees, the 15th and 16th degrees of the Scottish Rite is the same story, but with the material divided between two degrees instead of one, and finally, the story is divided into three degrees in Knight Masonry: Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West. In all of these Zerubbabel is commissioned by Cyrus to confirm his original decree of allowing the city and temple to be rebuilt.

In working on the walls of the city, Zerubbabel and his fellow exiles are said to have worked with a stonemason's trowel in one hand, and a sword to defend themselves in the other. The "Sword and Trowel" therefore often appear as emblems in the "Embassy Degrees." There are also other symbols of importance in these stories, and chiefly the symbol of the Bridge Over the River Jordan. The River Jordan assumes a mystical meaning in these degrees, separating the Holy Land from that not so designated. This dividing line is echoed in another tradition, a non-Masonic tradition, associating the River Jordan with the boundary between life and death, and found in some of the beautiful African-American spirituals. One of the more well-known spirituals in this genre is "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore." In it, the Archangel Michael is ferrying souls across the River Jordan to the "Promised Land" of heaven. Whether this symbolism is derived from the Masonic stories, or had an independent origin is unknown.

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Find out what you've been missing by download it to your smartphone here:

<http://ourapp.link/ionic-composite-520>

**if you have any problems, please call Tim and he can walk you through or meet up with you!

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

We Wish Everyone a Full and Complete Recovery

Gerl Edelman
Still having swallowing difficulties, and other medical problems.

Jay Richards
At home - limited to wheelchair for ongoing weakness.

Leonard Hess
Confined mostly to home because of stroke

Stan Schway
At new home location recovering from some medical problems

Tom Minahane
At Merle Norman Building of Santa Monica Hospital (ask for
him in room 4412)

Millie Torf
Home recovering from broken leg

Brethren Please, a Telephone call from you could brighten their day

If you know of a Brother or a member of a Brother's family who is ill, please contact Lodge Office:
Tel: 310. 657.2628

Funeral Telephone list: Any brother who would like to be placed on the funeral notification call
list, your presence would be deeply appreciated. Please contact the Lodge Office

2016 OFFICERS

Master - Yuki Matsumoto (Lucy)

Senior Warden - Tim Shiner, P.M.

Junior Warden - Mauricio Leon (Renata)

Treasurer - Steve Resnick (Sheelah)

Secretary - Daniel Ferszt (Shannon)

Chaplain - Mike Leiaghat

Assistant Secretary - Jeff Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

Senior Deacon - Arsen Melkumyan (Julia)

Junior Deacon - Yuriy Kotlyar

Marshal - Aaron Ganz

Senior Steward - Kevin Silver (Katherine)

Junior Steward - D'Angelo Jones

Tiler - Evan Weiss, P.M.

Officers' Coach - Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Candidates' Coach - Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

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Justin Daza-Ritchie (Cynthia)

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Trestleboard Layout - JohnRobert Wilson (Sanae)