

September 2016

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

FROM THE EAST

Am I the only one who sometimes feels lost and helpless in what's happening all around us? Am I alone in feeling disgusted by the sensationalism in news headlines and all commercial media reports? I can't seem to tell apart the exciting reporting of the Olympic Games and that of wars around the globe. It's all about who's winning and who's losing the battle.

In a middle of the Olympic excitement, disturbing news keep falling in through the TV and Internet every day. It seems that our whole world is under trial. Cries of terrorism and war in every continent, uncontrollable refugee situations, senseless killings and violence everywhere, meaningless and dangerous claims and blunt dishonesty in political debates, uncertain economy and currency worldwide, extreme shifts in climate and its direct effects in local weather, and now our home could have burnt to the ground... What more to prepare? Are we to despair?

The latest and the most personal was the Sand Fire in Santa Clarita Valley in July. It is my neighborhood, as well as that of several of our brothers. Our family was ordered to evacuate and my wife, Lucy, with help of our eldest son's family, had to load every animal and valuable onto our pickup truck and a trailer and seek refuge in our son-in-law's farm in Palmdale. It is very upsetting to be plucked out of your ordinary routine this way.

I took a moment and prayed for all the innocent victims. I reminded myself of how blessed I was to be able to see my entire family pulled together in time of trouble. Then I thought really hard on our Masonic principles.

We must get beyond our sense of loss and apathy. We must turn the tide. As Freemasons, we must remind ourselves of our obligations and make a positive difference in our lives and the lives of the others by our acts, no matter how small our steps may be and how little the change may be.

Those of you who have volunteered and participated in the Masons For Mitts fundraising event at the LA Sports Museum know that we can and do make a difference. We as Masons can be relevant in our society. Just imagine how many inner city kids will benefit from your contribution and participation. Can you see their smiles? It feels good, doesn't it? This was the biggest event

we, Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520, ever planned and hosted in our recent years. I am proud and thank Worshipful Bernie Morse, Worshipful Michael Bear, and thier Ladies for their commitment and dedication in ensuring its success.

We will have another Masons For Mitts event coming up in September: Mason's Night at Dodger Stadium on Monday, September 19th. Yes, it's time for a ballgame! You will have a chance to enjoy a Dodgers vs Giants game from the infield (third base) stand. You will witness our Grand Master, Most Worshipful M. David Perry, honored by the Dodgers' Foundation for us California Masons' contribution in the program. You will know and feel how we make a difference. You will also have so much fun at the game sitting together with many brothers from all districts in Southern California. Hotdogs and peanuts taste way better together with brethren. Be sure to buy tickets now on line at our website: (<http://ioniccomposite520.com/events/masons-night-at-dodger-stadium-monday-september-19th/>). Be there before 06:30pm to see the Grand Master in the field.

This year, I have been introducing prominent community leaders and Masonic speakers in our stated meetings. At September meeting, I plan on continuing this opportunity and bring another philanthropic organization called Global Mobility: <http://www.globalmobilityusa.org> Please look at their website to learn what they do first. Its founder and President, David Richard, and its COO, Chris Grange, will make a personal presentation in detail and answer any questions with which you may come up. Let's hear what Global Mobility does and how they change the lives of many individuals. We will be so inspired that we want to get involved in their efforts or do something ourselves in whatever the cause you personally feel closest. As I have written in the previous article, one brother has already taken what he learned form the presentation in February into his own action and made a substantial contribution by his own act. It gives me such a pleasure to see a fruit bearing like that from my introductions. It has given me confidence that I'm doing something right as Master of your lodge, and you brethren do care.

It's truly a good feeling to know that you are making a difference, not feeling apathetic or helpless. Brothers, ladies, friends, I hope to see you and hear you soon.

Fraternally yours,
Yuki Matsumoto - Master 2016

September 12th Stated Meeting

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

W.M. Yuki Matsumoto presiding

Golden Veteran Award Ceremony
for Brother Morris Darnov

\$20.00* w/RSVP \$25.00* wo/RSVP
reservations due by July 29th

SALAD

Watermelon and feta salad- greens, sliced
almonds, avocado, cucumbers, heart of
palm, citrus vinaigrette

MAIN

Seared bourisin stuffed breast of chicken-
bourisin cheese, spinach and mushroom
stuffed, rosemary scented chicken jus

Or

All beef meatloaf, with pine nuts, currents,
rolled up with spinach and provolone,
served over slow roasted tomato sauce

SIDES

Whipped Yukon Gold potatoes;
Roasted vegetable platter
Golden Orzo Pilaf

DESSERT

Summer peach and blueberry cobbler with
vanilla ice cream

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

AUGUST EVENTS

Sept
5

DARK - Labor Day

Sept
12

Stated Meeting

6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Program

Sept
18

Child ID Program

At Shane's inspiration annual walkathon

Sept
19

Masons' Night at Dodger Stadium

5:00PM Bus departs lodge (see insert pg. 6)
6:30PM Game

Sept
21

OSI at Oasis Lodge 2nd Degree

(Lodge Officers Required Attendance, Master
Masons Only)

Sept
26

1st Degree Practice

7:15 PM Candidate Coaching available

Note: Additional Events can be found on our
website or Lodge App.

FROM THE WEST

What is Leadership? Leadership means different things to different people. In a military aspect, it is those who make command decisions are responsible for strategy and implementing that strategy on the battlefield. In the corporate world, it is the executives that choose goals for the company, create corporate culture and are responsible to the shareholders for making profits. In politics, it is those politicians we elect to speak for us, make or stop laws that govern us and make sure we are safe.

We, as Freemasons, are taught to be leaders in life. Our actions are to speak for us. We are not concerned about our journey's end, we are travelers and take joy in the journey itself. Freemasons are generous, open, kind and caring. We are more than a family – because we CHOSE to become a part of this incredible fraternity. Freemasons show their leadership by

actions they take in life. Whether it is by donating to charity, helping move a brother, stopping on the side of the road to help a stranded motorist. In short, Freemasons do good!

So, what is leadership in Masonry? Past Masters, obviously! Well, yes, but it is truly the officers of a lodge that ARE the leaders. Each officer carefully weighed his decision about joining the line. There are some very heavy responsibilities to assume when you say yes to joining the line. Each officer must not only memorize a lot of ritual and be able to perform it, he is to carry out other duties as well. The Stewards take care of refreshments on the order of the Junior Warden, the Secretary writes the minutes and deals with all manner of phone calls, the Treasurer makes sure the coffers are full. On top of these, the officers must act as lodge ambassadors as well.

Social Capital, as Worshipful Jeff Bear calls it, is an absolute necessity. We all wish we had more members able to come to the stated meetings and take place in our rituals. We also know that, as with most organizations there is the 10 percent rule, where only about 10 percent of an organization's members are very active. How do we, as leaders of our lodge, overcome this? Through Social Capital. It is incumbent upon the officers to be active in lodge, but it is also his duty to be active with other lodges as well. We must engage in discourse with other lodges and seek their active members to join us in our lodge as we visit theirs. We must support our brethren in their lodges if we wish them to visit ours. If one is progressing through the chairs to become master one day, this is an essential part of that journey.

Continued on page 7

LAST CALL FOR BASEBALL TICKETS!

MASONS NIGHT AT DODGER STADIUM

Monday, September 19

LA Dodgers vs San Francisco Giants

**California Mason pre-game program begins
around 6:30PM**

Reserved Level Seats behind 3rd Base

\$25/TICKET

RSVP: Secretary Daniel Ferszt (310)657-2628

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 has arranged for a bus from the lodge leaving promptly at 5:00PM. When you order tickets, let Daniel know if you are interested in taking the bus.

FOOTSTEPS OF MASONRY LECTURE 6

Spring 2015 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 Eshaghian PM

Saturday, May 9, 2015
John L. Cooper III, Ph.D.

St. Helena and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre:

- Knights of Rome, and the Red Cross of Constantine
- Knights of the Holy Sepulchre
- Knights of St. John the Evangelist
- The Rose Croix Degree
- Mt. Moriah and Mt. Heredom in Masonic Lore

It is now time to "fast forward" to tell about another set of legends associated with King Solomon's Temple. These legends originated in the 18th century as Freemasonry spread to France from England, and involved the symbolic association of Freemasons with the Knights Templar. You may remember that you learned that a famous oration in Paris in 1737 by the Chevalier Ramsey led to the belief that Freemasonry came to Europe via the Crusades rather than being the offspring of stonemasons' guilds in England. The idea spread, and soon one of the most famous of the medieval fighting groups, the Knights Templar, came to be associated with this legendary origin of Freemasonry. It is from this source that several Masonic degrees have sprung. Here, in condensed form, is the story.

According to Masonic legends, a group of Crusaders from France asked the King of Jerusalem to permit them to safeguard pilgrims traveling from the seacoast to Jerusalem, and as payment, allow them to be housed in the King's palace. The King's palace was the converted Al Aqsa Mosque, and one wing of the palace was given over to these Crusaders, along with some caves on the edge of the Temple Mount to stable their horses. This group of Crusaders evolved into the Knights Templar, who took their name from the "Temple of Solomon." (The Crusaders thought that the Al Aqsa Mosque had been King Solomon's Temple.) They eventually became the greatest crusading order of



LAST CALL!

**Second Annual Los Angeles
Masons 4 Mitts program.**

**Be a Supporter by Funding a
Child's Mitt**

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy 5-18 year old youth in the LA Dodgers RBI program.

To donate:

**Go to www.masons4mitts.org
Click Los Angeles Region
Click Media Central Titans
Click Give a Mitt**

Contact:

**Bernie Morse (310)556-4463
Mike Bear (310)962-4346
if you have any questions**

the Middle Ages - fabulously wealthy and very powerful in Europe.

Masonic legend then began to build on this simple association with the Temple Mount by embellishing the story to include the fact that these Knights Templars conducted archaeological "digs" under the Temple Mount, and discovered treasures buried there which they used to enhance their position as a powerful fighting order of monk-knights. These "treasures" were much more than gold and jewels, or even historical objects. What they discovered were supposedly "magical objects" which gave them great power in battle, and secret wisdom to enable them to accumulate enormous wealth. These discoveries were said to have been hidden in secret tunnels under the Temple Mount by those who built King Solomon's Temple.

Basic Freemasonry is universal in its religious requirement for membership. Men of any religion may become Freemasons as long as they possess a belief in a Supreme Being. However, some Masonic degrees are clearly Christian in content, telling the story of Jesus, the crucifixion and the resurrection. The Scottish Rite has retained a degree centered on the Christian story, the Rose Croix Degree, which is numbered as the 18th Degree in the Scottish Rite. That particular degree in the United States is not limited to Christians because the Scottish Rite has drawn universal lessons from the story so that Masons of all faiths can participate in its teachings.

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO LODGE?

No brother should be unable to come to lodge because he can't get a ride! If you'd like to attend lodge on any night and need transportation, please inform the lodge office and we will make arrangements for you to be there!

But the Masonic Knights Templar, with their symbolic association with the historic Knights Templar which we have just been discussing, are clearly Christian in content. In addition some Masonic degrees are associated with the "discovery" of the remains of the cross on which Jesus was crucified by the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (St. Helena), or associated with the conversion of Constantine to Christianity (the Knights of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantine).

Finally, there is the idea of a "mountain" where mystical secrets are hidden. The original story involved the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, but there is also a legendary mountain associated with Scotland called "Mt. Heredom." This legendary mountain is also supposed to contain the hidden secrets of Freemasonry, and thus there is a symbolic link with the real Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Another name for the Temple Mount is "Mt. Moriah," and the Temple Mount, under the name of "Mt. Moriah" finds its way into Masonic lore.

Have you joined the digital Lodge community yet?

- Keep in touch with Brothers.
- Share photos, memories and more

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 me at (310) 497-4408 and I can walk you through or meet up with you!

Continued from page 4

As officers of the lodge, as leaders, we must also, through our actions, set an example for all of our members. This includes attending lodge functions and taking an active roll in them. Supporting our Masonic Charities is also a must. If we are to expect our members to give—should we not first?

Yes, there is a lot of responsibility to being a leader/officer of the lodge. One spends a lot of time as well. So it is no wonder why someone might ask why expend so much energy? What does a leader get in return for his service? You get a lot, actually! By serving your lodge in this capacity the benefits are tremendous. There is satisfaction knowing that you are helping move forward your fraternity. There are health benefits too. Per the 2007 research paper “The Health Benefits of Volunteering”, mortality rates of volunteers is lower. In the same study, service volunteers had a better life satisfaction and better mental health as well. Serving also decreased depression rates. A link to this amazing study is here: http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/07_0506_hbr.pdf

One also connects with your brothers in a meaningful way—by working on projects together you get to truly know your brothers. This is where FRATERNITY truly resides. There is also Executive Training you receive in being an officer of the lodge. You learn about how organizations run, how they should run and how they should not be run. You gain an understanding of why certain rules are in place and an appreciation for the forethought of those rules. Have you ran a meeting?—public speaking? Being an officer is excellent training. It teaches you to be comfortable with yourself in front of people; from one on one and small groups to rather large groups.

So, by joining the officers line you have a great deal of responsibility put on your shoulders—but with the right attitude and an open mind, being an officer—a LEADER in the lodge, benefits you in many, many ways. In fact, if you truly look at it with keen eyes—the benefits outweigh the cost. Of course, this is strictly on the apron. If everyone knew we’d have to find positions for way to many!

Tim Shiner - Senior Warden

Masonic Assistance

Fraternal care based on Masonic values



We support and serve

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

THINK ABOUT IT

In 2006 a man named Michael Stepien, who was the head chef at a restaurant in Swissvale, Pennsylvania, was walking home from work when he was held up by a teenager who then shot him in the head. Mr. Stepien was taken to the hospital, where it was determined that his prognosis was grave and his family decided to accept his death and donate his organs.

At the same time, another man, Arthur Thomas, was suffering from heart failure in New Jersey and required a heart transplant. He became the recipient of Mr. Stepien's heart. Because the policies of the organization that processes the organs allow the donor family and the organ recipient to communicate with each other, for the past 10 years Mr. Thomas and the Stepien family have shared monthly phone calls, emails, letters, holiday cards, and even parenting advice.

Mr. Stepien left behind a 23 year old daughter, Jeni. In October, 2015 she became engaged. In the weeks that followed, Jeni began to think about who was going to walk her down the aisle at her wedding and she realized what it would mean to have a part of her father present at that time. She contacted Mr. Thomas and made that request, to which he readily agreed. Thus, on Thursday, August 4, 2016, Mr. Thomas, for the first time, met the Stepien family face-to-face. One of his first acts was to have Jeni hold his

wrist so she could feel the pulse that was being generated by her father's heart. On the next day, Mr. Thomas, at the age of 72, walked Ms. Stepien down the aisle. The photograph that made the newspapers was one of Jeni touching Mr. Thomas' chest. Mr. Thomas was quoted as saying that, if it had been necessary, he would have walked to Pennsylvania to be at the wedding. Jeni's quote was "My dad is here with us, and this man is here with us because of us".

Acts of kindness often go unnoticed and are only performed because they are the right things to do. Occasionally, they have the strangest and most unexpected ways of coming back around. When they do, however, we have dramatic reminders of how much more good these acts can do then we realize at the time.

Think about it.
Ron Koretz, P.M.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

David Zellermaier	01	Sanford Philip Paris	14	Alvin Kasselmann	21
Jack B. Weinger	03	Donald John Rumsey	14	Jack Revel PM	21
Arthur David Vanetek	05	Norman Lawrence Crosby	15	Sheldon Irwin Weiss	23
Daniel Moshe Ferszt	10	Arnold Gooze	16	Ken Duke	24
Patrick David Levy	12	Seymour Roberts	17	Stanley Harlan Getz	24
Allen Edward Steiner	12	Paul Arthur Lenz	18	Robert Lea Reed	27
Leonard Morton Tiep PM	12	Eddie Madick	18	Merwin Alvin Sunkin	27
Leonard Cohen PM	14	Bernhard Davidson Morse PM	18	Ehron Christoph VonAllen	27
Arsen Melkumyan	14	Barry Harris Hinden	21	Jeffrey Malcolm Rose	30

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE
THE MASONS4MITTS
"A NIGHT AT THE SPORTS MUSEUM OF LA"
A ROUSING SUCCESS!**

Committee

Brianne Bear Josh Castro Russ Charvomia PGM
Carl Washington JohnRobert Wilson

Volunteers

Debbie Bear Jeff & Trisha Bear Daniel Ferszt
Julian Javor D'Angelo Jones Grace Koretz
Rodney Laderas Mike Leiaghat Mauricio Leon
Lucy Matsumoto Arsen Melkumyan Carolyn Morse
David Morse & David Eisenberg Steve Resnick
Tim Shiner Kevin & Katherine Silver Howard Steinore

Sponsors

Sports Museum of LA LA Dodgers Foundation Pink's Famous HotDogs
Russ Charvonia & Stefan Doomanis for the Sub Zero Ice Cream

Gift Bag

Aladdin China Glaze Jack Nadel Inter.
LA Fresh Liquid IV Neurogum
Pretzel Chips Skinny Pop Zico Coconut Water

Auction & Door Prizes – LA Dodgers Foundation

David Brennan - Sr Director Programs & Fundraising
Tiffany Rubin - Manager, Dodgers RBI

Bernie Morse & Michael Bear
Co-Chairmen

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

We Wish Everyone a Full and Complete Recovery

Geri 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

Millie Torf
Home recovering from broken leg

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

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)

Junior Steward – D’Angelo Jones

Senior Warden – Tim Shiner, P.M.

Tiler – Evan Weiss, P.M.

Junior Warden – Mauricio Leon (Renata)

Officers’ Coach – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Treasurer – Steve Resnick (Sheelah)

Candidates’ Coach – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

Secretary – Daniel Ferszt (Shannon)

Inspector for the 709th Masonic District
Justin Daza-Ritchie (Cynthia)

Chaplain – Mike Leiaghat

Trestleboard Editor – Evan Weiss, P.M.

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

Trestleboard Layout – JohnRobert Wilson (Sanae)

Senior Deacon – Arsen Melkumyan (Julia)

Junior Deacon – Yuriy Kotlyar

Marshal – Aaron Ganz

Senior Steward – Kevin Silver (Katherine)