

TRESTLE BOARD

JULY 2024

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / ioniccomposite.com



Dear Brethren,

In the past, the summer months have often been relatively quiet at Ionic Composite – or at least, that has generally been the case since my initiation back in 2009. Not so this year. This year, we’re gearing up for a busy time full of exciting activities and events, degrees, and programs of all kinds.

First and foremost, among these is the July 21st Reception of the Grand Master. This will be a Sunday afternoon lunch, and, with the full permission and blessing of the Grand Master, will be a family affair, with games and activities for children run by our Youth Orders, good food catered by the First Mom of Ionic Composite (Faith Gershbock), and that sense of community and belonging that is such an integral part of the Masonic experience. As this event is expected to be large, please RSVP as soon as you can, if you haven’t already. All children under 18, members of the youth orders, and residents of the Masonic Homes are free, so there’s no reason not to plan on coming. Likewise, everything for adults will be held downstairs, so need to worry about stairs if mobility is an issue. If you haven’t been around much lately, this is most certainly the time to come!

After that, we once again plan on honoring our first responders in August at our Stated Meeting that month, honoring both a member of the local Fire Department and a local Police Officer. We will have the names of the honorees within the next couple of weeks, so stay tuned. In September, we *hope* to begin a new partnership with Charnock Elementary, and talks are underway at this time in that regard. Again – stay tuned.

In October, I am pleased to announce that Ionic Composite will be presenting the Hiram Award to our very own Worshipful Steven Resnick for his many years of dedicated service to Masonry in general and our Lodge in particular. Details and formal invitations will be forthcoming in the coming months but mark your calendars now for the night of Monday, October 7th for this event!

In December, our own Worshipful Roy Steinfeld will be getting his 50-year Golden Veterans award – from Florida! Originally raised in the Sunshine State, the Grand Lodge of Florida is sending a representative to present him his 50-year pin in the Florida style. This should be a most interesting event, and certainly not one you have likely seen before if you haven’t been to lodges in Florida much.

Throughout all this time, we have degrees, information nights, social events, and other programs in the works, in addition to the Social Media campaign we are finally close to launching.

All in all, brethren, it has taken a great deal of time to get things back into full swing, and to be honest, we're still not 100% there yet; we still have openings in our officer line for this year and next year, and we could always use more participants and sideliners at our degrees, but even so, we are making good progress. And that's really at the heart of Masonry, isn't it? Time, patience, and perseverance – the means to accomplish all things on our personal and collective journey of improvement. We may never buff out or smooth every nick and flaw in our personal ashlar, but day by day, they become just a little more fit for the builder's use. The thing that allows us to make it all work is the strength and support offered to us not only by our faith, but by our friendships and unity. Together, we are so much more than we could ever be on our own.

I hope to see you at some – or all! – of the events this year. Remember brethren, the Lodge isn't just a place: it's the people who gather there.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

JULY CALENDAR

Monday, July 1st. 7:15pm Stated Meeting

Chopped Green Salad
Salisbury Steak
Twice Baked Potato
Peach Cobbler

Monday, July 8th, 7:15pm First Degree for Ramiro Gonzalez (Take 2)

All Masons are invited to come and show support for our newest brother!
Light refreshments to follow

Monday July 15th, 7:15pm Masonic Info, Education, and Discussion Night

Come join the brethren as we discuss topics of mutual Masonic Interest
Coaching for all Degrees will be available, as well as ritual brush-ups on request.
Open to Masons of all degrees. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, July 21st, 12:30pm 54th Annual Reception of the Grand Master

Bring the entire family to our community reception for the Grand Master of Masons in California, the Most Worshipful G. Sean Metroka. All children under 18, active members of our Youth Orders, and residents of the Masonic Homes are free! RSVPs are a MUST!! Click on the link below or go to

www.ioniccomposite.com to register now!

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/rsvp-for-the-2024-gm-reception-on-sunday-july-21st/>

Dress is business casual for adults and casual for children. Valet parking will be provided, and street parking will also be available.

Monday, July 22nd, 7:15 pm. Lodge Dark

Monday July 29th, 7:15pm TBD

You and Your Family are Cordially Invited for an
Afternoon of Food, Fun and Family at the
54th Annual Reception of the Grand Master

By

**Ionic Composite Lodge no. 520
2244 Westwood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064**

On

Sunday, July 21st, Social 12:30pm
Lunch 1 pm SHARP

Lunch catered by Faith Gershbock, “First Mom” of Ionic
Composite Lodge.

*Members of our Youth Orders will be in attendance to both care
for and talk with the children. There will be games, toys, and fun
activities.*

Dress code: Adults: Business Casual, Children: casual for children.

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Adults are \$25/person, payable by credit card online.

All children (under 18) and active Youth Order Members are FREE!

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RSVPs are a MUST!

[https://www.ioniccomposite.com/rsvp-for-the-2024-gm-
reception-on-sunday-july-21st/](https://www.ioniccomposite.com/rsvp-for-the-2024-gm-reception-on-sunday-july-21st/)

**Masons4Mitts
Masons Night at Dodger Stadium**

Padres vs Dodgers

Thursday, September 26, 2024

First Pitch 7:10pm, but get there about 6:30pm to see the Masons present our donation.

I am currently in the process of identifying seat location options and price. For information when details are available contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or brnhrd18@yahoo.com.



Batter Up!

**Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt
For the 2024 Masons4Mitts Fundraiser
supporting the LA Dodgers Dream Team
Program**

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers Dream Team program. This program is more than just baseball and softball. Kids and parents attend programs about leadership, teamwork, health, safety, finances, and good citizenship.

Support your lodge's participation in this great program.

Go to www.masons4mitts.org

Click LA Dodger Logo

Click Media Central Titans

Click Give a Mitt

Click Donate

Contact Bernie Morse at (310) 556-4463

HOW TO GET YOUR DUES CARD

With the installation of the iMember 2.0 online system a few years ago that all brothers can access upon registration, lodge secretaries no longer receive all the dues cards to mail out after payment. The dues card is now online and can be printed or downloaded in an 8 ½ x 11 format which can be printed or downloaded to a phone.

There are 2 ways to get you dues card:

1. Login to www.member.freemason.org, select “Composite Lodge” bar, then select Virtual Card.
2. Send an email to our lodge Secretary Mike Bear PM (michael.bear@mac.com) requesting that it be mailed to you.

If you need help registering for iMember contact the Secretary.

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

Think About It

Automated checkout systems can be time-savers in stores, especially when the lines are long and other shoppers are buying many more things than you are. However, they can present problems to the retailers who install them, particularly with regard to theft. Even my grandson described methods to me whereby people get around the machines by doing such things as having separate labels that are embedded with lower prices. In fact, it appears that some stores, such as Walmart, and Target, are removing the machines or at least limiting their use.

According to a story in USA Today by Bailey Schulz, the government of the state of California is entering the fray. It is not uncommon to find legislators who believe that they can solve any problem just by passing a new law. In this case, State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas has introduced Senate Bill 1446. Her proposal is to require large stores to deploy staff to supervise these checkout systems. If passed, this law would require that one employee has to be stationed full-time whenever two machines are present to watch what is going on. Her objective is to reduce theft and, along the way, create more jobs and protect workers. Not

surprisingly, her proposal has garnered the support of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Also not surprisingly, opponents of the legislation have argued that there is no evidence that such a move would reduce theft or protect employees, but that it will increase costs to the retailers. These opponents include the California Retailers Association. In fact, such stores as Walmart, Target, and Home Depot are supporting a ballot initiative that purports to deal with this problem by increasing criminal penalties for offenders.

When I first read about Senate Bill 1466, I had the same thought that an associate professor of economics at Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa, Ron Larson, had. He told Bailey Schulz "If the stores thought that changing the ratio, adding more people (to self-checkout lanes) would be cost-effective, they would have already done it." I cannot figure out why we need a law for this. If a store manager wants to implement more stringent oversight of his or her checkout machines, he or she can just do it. If it is their judgment that such an intervention is too costly and/or not going to be useful, why should they be forced to implement a law with which they have disagreement? Right now, they also have an alternative option, namely, to take out the machines. Of course, it is possible that the state, in the name of job protection, could then create a new law that prevents the removal of any self-checkout machine once it is installed.

Think about it...

Save the dates!

Monday, August 5th, 7:15pm

Come and celebrate our first responders at this meeting.

The dinner and ceremony are open to everyone.

Please RSVP to the lodge website reservation site.

September 9th, September 9th, 7:15pm

Come and celebrate our long support of public schools with our new relationship with Charnock Elementary School.

The dinner and ceremony are open to everyone.

Please RSVP to the lodge website reservation site.

Monday, October 7th, 7:15pm

At the October 7 Stated Meeting, Past Master Steve Resnick will be presented the prestigious Hiram Award for his many years of outstanding service to the lodge and Masonry.

The dinner and ceremony are open to everyone.

Please RSVP to the lodge website reservation site

Stated Meeting - Monday, November 4th, 7:15pm

Annual election of officers.

The dinner and ceremony are open to everyone.

Please RSVP to the lodge website reservation site

Monday, December 2nd, 7:15pm

Roy Steinfeld, PM is receiving his Golden Veterans award for his 50 years of membership in Florida and California lodges.

Roy will receive his Florida 50 award from a representative from Florida visiting our lodge.

The dinner and ceremony are open to everyone.

Please RSVP to the lodge website reservation site

CASTING CALL

Wannabe Actors, Thespians And Those Who Want Great Ritual

You can help enhance the Masonic degrees for our candidates by taking part in the ceremonies. We want to put together ritual teams in all three degrees that will create memorable experiences. Note that Entered Apprentices can take part in the 1st degree, Fellowcrafts in the 1st and 2nd degrees, and Master Masons in all three.

We are also looking for Master Masons who want to be officers. We have openings for 2024. We want and need your involvement. If interested, please contact:

Bernie Morse, PM
Officer's Coach
(310)556-4463

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

None to report

Fraternally,
Stan Sax

BEWARE...

of scam / phishing emails asking for money or personal information. Scammers are pretending to be Masons, even the Worshipful Master!

We'll never ask you to send money or gift cards via email. Reach out to Lodge Leadership directly or by phone.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Hermine Andikyan | July 27 |
| Michael Jay Bear, PM | July 17 |
| Howard Brandes, PM | July 25 |
| Barry Charles | July 30 |
| Morton Carroll Devor | July 04 |
| Glenn Antonio Edwards | July 24 |
| Richard Samuel Ellman | July 29 |
| Stephen Michael Fenster | July 18 |
| Howard Larry Hallis | July 28 |
| Robert Andrew Nelli | July 21 |
| Thomas Ortiz | July 20 |
| Jacob Benjamin Smerling | July 23 |
| Paul Troy | July 16 |

2024 OFFICERS

| | |
|---|--|
| Master – Jacob Gershbock | Marshal – * |
| Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha) | Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna) |
| Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah) | Junior Steward – * |
| Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M | Inspector for the 626th Masonic District Gevork Asatryan P.M. |
| Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria) | Trestleboard Layout – Michael Mosbach |
| Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn) | Piano – |
| Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie) | Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M. |
| Assistant Secretary - Michael Mosbach | |