

TRESTLE BOARD



September
2024



Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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

Dear Brethren,

I am pleased to report that we will in fact be having our first Public Schools Night in many years at this September's Stated Meeting as we formally begin what I hope will be a long and beneficial relationship with Charnock Elementary School on Monday, September 9th, 2024. Due to changing political and educational climate, we have opted against offering direct awards to teachers, students, or employees at this time, and instead are beginning by focusing our efforts on ensuring that recent budget cuts by LAUSD to field trips do not mean that students are unable to have an opportunity to experience many out-of-the-classroom learning opportunities that field trips provide. This year, we are starting with a \$1,500 donation to the school earmarked for a grade-level field trip (the details of which grade and where it will go being left to the school). Additionally, school supplies will be available for teachers to take back to the school with them, and I have made it clear that further assistance is available should it be requested. Click the link to RSVP! (<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>) In other event-related news, please see the inserts in this month's Trestle Board regarding the upcoming presentation of the Hiram Award to Worshipful Steven Resnick and the Golden Veteran's Award (Florida Style!) to Worshipful Roy Steinfeld.

As I have previously mentioned, several members of the Lodge have been working behind the scenes to put together a new Social Media campaign for our Lodge. While there have been some hiccups and obstacles, I am pleased to report that we are making progress in this regard. In mid-August, we had a well-attended discussion night, open to Masons and non-Masons alike where we discussed the place of social media in society in general and Masonry in particular, especially as applied to our Lodge. A number of good suggestions came out of that discussion, including that we create a section on our site (and possibly link to social media) that functions to highlight members of our Lodge. Who they are, what they do, where they are from, how and why they came to Masonry, etc. The subtext is: "Can you see yourself among these people?" To that end, I am asking any Brother who is willing to take a moment to do one (or more) of the following:

1. Write a one-page typed description of who you are. It can be a basic bio, a Masonic bio, a combination thereof, or whatever else you feel best describes who you are.
2. Write or record (via phone or otherwise) a brief (60 - 90 second) testimonial about why you became a Mason and/or what Masonry means to you or gives you.
3. Send in photos with captions describing fondly remembered Masonic events or key moments in your Masonic Journey.

If you are willing to do any (or all) of these, please send or link them to our lodge email account (ioniccomposite@gmail.com), and the secretary will see that they get where they need to go. Remember brethren, Grand Lodge has asked us for the last several years now to start being more "out loud" about our craft, because we offer so much that the world so desperately needs, and so few really know about who we are and what we do. I understand that many of our older

members were taught to be more circumspect about their affiliation, but times have changed, and we have resources available on our website to help with talking about our Craft. Brethren, after a long road of recovery, our Lodge is beginning to thrive once again. We have applicants, we have prospects knocking at the doors, and we have the beginnings of a new generation of interested, enthusiastic, and passionate young people ready to pick up their tools. Kindly help them by lifting your lanterns high, giving them the light of your knowledge, experience, and wisdom by which to begin their labors. I look forward to hearing from you soon, and hopefully seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

September Calendar

Just a Reminder that September 2nd is DARK in observance of Labor Day. New date is September 9th – see below:

SPECIAL EVENT Open to all

Welcome our new public-school relationship with

Charnock Elementary

At our September 9, 2024, Stated Meeting

**California Masonry and Ionic Composite Lodge have
A long and important history supporting public schools**

Your attendance will be greatly appreciated

**Dinner 7:15 pm \$15.00/person
Antipasto Salad, Lasagna Bolognese, Pasta Marinara, (V),
Garlic bread and panna cotta**

**RSVP for dinner reservations by
September 6, 2024**

Link available after August Stated Meeting

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>

(424) 273-1054

Monday, September 16th: 1st Degree Practice 7:15pm

All Officers Required to Attend. Sideliners and those wishing to brush up on 1st degree ritual are welcome.

Monday, September 23rd: 1st Degree Conferral (Cody Blair) 7:15pm

Come and support our newest brother as he takes his first steps in Masonry!

All Masons welcome. EA's particularly encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments to follow

Brethren

The Master would like to arrange a date for planning the 2025 Lodge Calander.

Please send your available date in October and November

to Wor. Jacob Gershbock jgershbock@gmail.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
if you have any questions.

Save the Date

October 7, 2024

Dinner: 7:15p.m.

Ceremony: To follow

Wor. Steven Resnick, P.M.

Has been selected to receive the prestigious

Hiram Award



The Hiram Award is the highest California Freemasonry's Award that a lodge can bestow upon a brother for his outstanding support of the fraternity.

**Greek salad, Smoked Beef Brisket burnt ends, Impossible Burger-V,
Coleslaw, Fried Okra, Fudge Brownies**

Your attendance will be appreciated

RSVP link to follow soon

Save The Date

At the **December 2, 2024, Stated Meeting Dinner, 7:15pm**

Our dedicated Tiler,

Wor. Roy Steinfeld, P.M.



Will receive the Golden Veteran's Certificate from
The Grand Lodge of Florida, using Florida Ritual
Dinner and the ceremony are open to all.

Dinner: \$15.00/person by reservation

Arugula Salad-(v)

Chimichurri Picanha Steak

Roasted Red Potatoes

Apple Cobbler

RSVP link to follow soon

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

To put this column into perspective, the events that I am about to describe occurred before President Biden announced that he was withdrawing from the upcoming presidential race. Within a week after the attempted assassination of Donald Trump on July 13, 2024, some members of the House of Representatives opened an investigation into that event. I happened to be channel surfing on my television set and listened for about ten minutes when Christopher Wray, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) testified. During that time, I was struck by two sets of questions, one posed by a Democrat and one by a Republican.

The Democratic congressman focused the entirety of his comments and questions on Project 2025. Briefly, this plan has been alleged to be what Donald Trump will institute if he is elected. It was created by a conservative group, the Heritage Foundation, and calls for a variety of changes in the structure of government, including reclassifying thousands of civil service workers as political appointees who would answer directly to the president instead of our current system whereby such people have career-long jobs with the US government regardless of which person or party controls the White House. The congressman repeatedly questioned Director Wray about how such an arrangement would affect the functioning of the FBI, eliciting answers that it would not be the best system for the FBI to work under.

The Republican congressman began by having Wray detail how and when he met with President Biden to brief him on various matters. After making it clear that there were frequent meetings during Biden's entire time in office, he spent the remainder of his time querying Wray about Biden's cognitive skills and behaviors. While Wray claimed that he had not noticed anything amiss, he did put it in the context that he was simply delivering information, not engaging in prolonged discussions.

I had a substantially different take on these interactions. I could not understand how either any future plans of organizational realignment by Trump or current cognitive impairment of Biden shed any light on the attempted assassination. Rather both sets of questions seemed to be directed at influencing viewers about elements related to the upcoming presidential election. I have long believed that many elected government officials have, as their major purpose in life, the promotion of their own careers (and, by extension, the promotion of their particular political party). This ten-minute exposure to them did nothing to change that opinion.

Think about it.

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

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.

Brethren,

Part of the brilliance of Masonry is that it allows us to learn from one another as we all play different roles, both at Lodge and out of Lodge. I encourage any who have interesting or unique experiences or perspectives to share those with the Lodge. On the next page is one such viewpoint, offered by our Prospect Manager, Stan Sax, whose efforts have significantly contributed to the fact that we now have a number of prospects and applicants knocking at our door. I hope to be able to offer many more such perspectives in these publications going forward.

Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

My Views as Your Prospect Manager

By: Stan Sax

I have been a Master Mason for 38 years. For the past 3 years I have become more involved both in what I can do for the Masons but also what being a Mason does for me. My life has become enriched with good friendships, meaning, and purpose. I feel connected to my family history as my father was a Master Mason and I am privilege to continue the legacy to others. In our great fraternity, we are bound together by our shared beliefs in brotherly love, relief, and truth. We are united in our commitment to strengthening the moral and ethical fabric of our society, and we do so with the utmost discretion and humility. The principles of the Masons have guided my life in immeasurable ways, inspiring me to best that I can be. I feel a moral obligation as the prospect manager of increasing our lodge's membership and hope to inspire other young men to join. My commitment also includes calling all Master Masons on the lodge membership roster to encourage them to attend lodge activities with verifying the receiving of The Trestle Board monthly publications and wellness calls. These are not merely duties. These are acts of connection in the spirit of giving. I especially enjoy the meet and greet of the potential prospects and the comradery with my fellow Masonic Brothers. I would like to see all our brethren attending lodge gatherings and events; which would be rewarding to you in so many ways. My goal is to encourage you to reach out to your children and grandchildren to be a beacon of light to follow the Freemasonry Journey. In closing my goal is to keep Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 thriving for the 200th Anniversary.

Fraternally,
Stan Sax

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ken	Duke	9/24/67
Daniel	Ferszt	9/10/69
Stanley	Getz	9/24/45
Ramiro	Gonzalez	9/28/56
Barry	Hinden	9/21/43
Patrick	Levy	9/12/79
Roberto	Morales	9/11/52
Bernhard	Morse, P.M.	9/18/47
Sanford	Paris	9/14/37
Jack	Revel, P.M.	9/21/39
Seymour	Roberts	9/17/41
Allen	Steiner	9/12/39
Arthur	Vanetek	9/5/33

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

None to report

Fraternally,
Stan Sax

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	