

TRESTLE BOARD

NOVEMBER 2024



Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520
2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / ioniccomposite.com



Dear Brethren,

As the Master, it is often easy to get caught up in all the things that need to get done (much less the things I *want* to accomplish) and thus lose sight of some of the joy of Masonry. I am, however, reminded that often, it is the little things that make this whole endeavor worthwhile. Enjoying a meal with my brethren, watching a candidate's face as something "clicks" in their mind, in a moment of sudden understanding and connection while they work on their proficiency, and even the soothing nature of going over one's ritual privately to keep it fresh, ever finding something new and different in the words on which to focus.

Let's face it, brethren; if all we wanted out of Masonry was to solve a mystery, satisfy our curiosity about some minor point or another, or even just to do service work alone, there are many other organizations we could have joined, places we could go, and things we could do. What makes Masonry different is that it not only teaches us important lessons about ourselves, the world, and the way in which we can improve ourselves and our society, but also gives us the ability and opportunity to share that with people that we are glad and proud to call brothers. It's the community, the connections, and the shared experiences that make Masonry what it is, not the aprons or the pins, the rings or the regalia.

This year, our community has been growing stronger, and I'm glad to report that it is also growing in size and in vibrancy. We have several new EA's, multiple prospects have requested and been given their applications for submission, and even more are waiting in the wings, regularly returning to our Lodge awaiting their own applications. We have a core of young, energetic, and enthusiastic men eager to start their Masonic journeys with us, and while there is still much work to be done – and how! – it is worth taking a moment to reflect and appreciate just how far we have come in the last year, largely due to the dedicated service of our Officers, our Prospect Manager (Stan Sax), and the renewed and continued commitment that so many brethren have demonstrated recently.

If you haven't been to a Stated Meeting recently, I urge you to swing by one. The dinners are livelier, better attended, and more enjoyable than they have been in years. The food is great. We get the business portions done with dispatch and minimal fuss as a rule. We have managed to retain our Lodge's signature traditions, restart ones that had fallen by the wayside, and begin several entirely new ones over the past year or two. We are more and more connected with our larger local community, both within Masonry and outside of it, and we are doing our best to continually find ways to keep improving.

To that end, we are holding a **2025 planning meeting at my home on Thursday, November 7th, at 7pm** to discuss plans for next year. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Lodge Secretary and RSVP as soon as possible, as dinner will be provided at the meeting, and we need a headcount.

With your help, I am confident that we can make 2025 our best year yet. I hope to see you all, in and out of Lodge.

Fraternally,

Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Monday November 4th: Stated Meeting and Election of Officers

Doors open 6:30pm, dinner is at 7:15pm.

Menu: Apple and cranberry mixed green salad. Sous vide turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie.

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

Thursday, November 7th, 7:00pm

Join the Worshipful Master in helping plan out the 2025 Masonic Year! Anyone interested may attend. Meeting held at the home of the Master. Contact the Lodge Secretary for the address and further information. Dinner and drinks will be provided. RSVP requested for headcount.

Monday, November 11th: Lodge Dark in Observance of Veteran's Day.

Monday, November 18th, 7:15pm: 1st Degree for Mr. Aaron Gonzales. Doors open at 6:30pm. Degree is at 7:15pm

Join us as we (re)welcome our new(ish) Brother! Considering his incredible patience and the great lengths he went through to get his degree. He deserves all the support we can give him. All Masons welcome. EA's especially encouraged to attend.

Monday, November 25th: 7:15pm: Masonic Education/Discussion night

Join the Brethren at Lodge to ask questions, discuss interesting concepts, and explore Masonry in more depth! All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Mason Branstrator is a young man who lives in Minnesota. I found a story about him on the internet that was quite compelling. The story was about how he competed in a marathon in Duluth. This might not seem to be such a big deal for a 20-year-old man, but there is more to the story because of a medical condition.

For his entire life, Mason was an active participant in a number of sports and other outdoor activities. However, when he was 17 years old, he suffered a catastrophic skiing accident, fracturing his vertebrae and becoming paralyzed from the waist down. He spent months undergoing rehabilitation, ultimately regaining some minimal lower extremity functioning. This allowed him to get around in a wheelchair as well as to use a walker to get in and out of bed. He has a minivan that he drives using hand controls. When he is out, he hoists the wheelchair into the back seat of the van and then uses the side of the van to balance himself while he gets into the front seat. Remarkably, he continues to be active in various sporting endeavors, including working out, playing adaptive tennis and basketball, swimming, surfing (being strapped to a kayak), and riding a hand-powered bicycle. The marathon was a wheelchair one, and he finished it in slightly over 2 hours.

During his rehabilitation, he said that one of his greatest joys was connecting with other people who were paralyzed and he began to tell his own story on social media. This activity has become a passion for him. He has developed videos to educate nondisabled people and to show disabled ones how to deal with day-to-day challenges. He attributes his motivation to be as active as possible to his parents, who taught him to put his focus on good things.

Of course, life for him is not all roses. Normal things that we all do without thinking about it becomes challenging. He cannot go up and down stairs and needs to find ramps or elevators. Getting dressed takes a long time. It is a real effort just to get up from a chair. But through it all, he has maintained a very positive attitude and is now an example of how one can live with physical adversities. In fact, he shares his experiences with thousands of other physically-impaired people on the internet. Since his youth, he had always expressed the desire to be able to help others and now this is how he is doing just that.

Mason's story is a splendid example of how people overcome personal disaster. I am sure that, when he is alone at night and thinking about his physical limitations, he has to deal with, and somehow overcome or at least repress, much anger. He is a remarkable model for the rest of us to remember when we have our own troubles. To my knowledge, Mason Branstrator has never sought admission to our fraternity. Nonetheless, he is a Mason in more than just his first name.

Think about it.

Brethren, if you have not already paid your 2024 dues, it is past due. Please pay the amount on iMember, or send it to the lodge address. If you have any questions, contact the secretary.

Brethren who have previously been remitted or will need remission in 2025, please send the Lodge Secretary a letter or email before the end of the year stating your needs and reason why you request a remission.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Save the dates!

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 using the Florida ceremony

The dinner and ceremony are open to everyone.

Please RSVP to the lodge website reservation site when posted

Saturday December 14th

Tentative installation of 2025 officers. Doors open 5:30pm.

6:00pm start. Officers tuxedo. Jacket and tie/cocktail attire.

October Birthdays

Steven	L.	Bailin	11/22/1962
Louis	Roman	Dalesandro	11/3/1983
Morris	Hyman	Darnov	11/22/1929
Laurence		Friedman	11/3/1939
Lawrence	Michael	Lebowsky PM	11/16/1963
Mauricio	Javier	Leon	11/25/1973
Sheldon	Ira	Lodmer	11/15/1945
Zachary	Harris	Lodmer	11/30/1979
Michael	Anthony	Pecina	11/21/1959
Gene	V.	Pira	11/8/1952
John	Bell	Rasor	11/26/1980
Lester	Allan	Riskin	11/5/1937
Timothy	Joseph	Shiner PM	11/17/1967
Bernard	William	Talmas	11/24/1946
Edward	Albert	Trabin	11/19/1928
Oliver	E.	Viletta	11/22/1976
John Robert	P.	Wilson	11/9/1980

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

Brother Errol Stambler is recovering at home from an injury

Evan Weiss, P.M. has returned to the Masonic Homes in Union City.

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.

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.

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	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)	Inspector for the 626th Masonic District Gevork Asatryan P.M.
	Treasurer and Officers Coach Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Trestleboard Layout – Michael Mosbach
	Secretary and Head Candidate Coach Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	
	Assistant Secretary - Michael Mosbach	