

TRESTLE BOARD

March 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / <https://www.ioniccomposite.com>



Dear Brethren,

Winter is always a hard time of the year for me, as it is for many. When storm clouds gather overhead and the sun's rays are obscured, it can be hard to feel hope or joy. Intellectually, we know that this will pass; it is in part a biological side effect of the reduced rate of UV-induced vitamin D production, in part a trained and socialized conceptualization of winter as being “dreary” and “dark” and “gloomy”, and in part a number of other, more personalized factors. Many people get depressed when it rains, even as they know that rain is necessary for new life.

For me, this period has become even more difficult in the past six years, since the death of my father, who passed away on January 25, 2019. Because of the vagaries of the Jewish lunar calendar, his Yahrzeit – the date of his death according to the Hebrew calendar, on which a memorial candle is lit and the Kaddish (mourner's prayer) is recited in his memory – fell out in mid-February this year. This year, between the devastation of the wildfires, the social turmoil throughout the world due to wars, politics, and terrorism, and my own life events, his loss hit particularly hard these past few weeks.

As things currently stand, I am set to graduate with a master's degree in clinical psychology in June. My father will not be in the crowd watching me accept my degree. My nephew will turn 5 years old on March 5. My father, for whom he is named in part, never got to meet him, or his younger sister.

There are so many things about him that I miss, and so many times I find myself wishing I could share this or that with him, either for a shared laugh, a bit of wise counsel, or because I feel he would have been proud of that fact that, after a long and difficult road, I finally seem to have my life on its proper course.

However, despite the fact that he isn't physically here, his memory and his influence live on. My father was not a Mason, because he discovered Masonry too late in life, and realized that, as an expectant father (at the time) he didn't feel he could give it the necessary time commitment it deserved. But when I needed guidance and an anchor back in 2008, it was my father who steered me towards Masonry. It was my father who encouraged me to talk to several good men I knew from Sinai Temple, who just happened to be Masons (and not incidentally, members of Ionic Composite). It was my father who taught me that anything worth doing is worth doing *right*, and that while working smart rather than hard is acceptable for the sake of efficiency, it should never come at the expense of quality craftsmanship. It was, after all, my father who taught me to use my working tools (literal and metaphorical), long before I knew of their Masonic symbolism or significance.

It is therefore of my father that I find myself thinking as I find myself rapidly approaching the point for which I have been anxiously waiting and tirelessly working alongside many others in our Lodge for the past three years and more. Brethren, at long last, we are about to start raising the first of our new cohort of young, enthusiastic, and actively engaged young men to the degree of Master Mason! It has taken a lot of time, sweat, and tears from many of our dedicated officers, our tireless prospect manager, and brethren who have stepped up from the sidelines to help out and pitch in when called on to get us to this point, but we have finally arrived at the threshold of

a new spring for Ionic Composite. The winter has been long, we have endured fires and floods, earthquakes and pandemics, false starts and more frustrations than I care to name, but at last, the first promise of spring has arrived.

Over my time as Master, I have often found myself comparing our Lodge to a fruit tree that required transplantation. During my first term, the tree was moved, it celebrated its former life and prepared for rebirth. During my second term, its roots took hold in the new soil, it sent forth the first tentative connections, seeking anchors in unfamiliar territory, and finished maturing some of the pre-existing fruit already on the branches. Last year, new connections were formed as it sent forth new growth above-ground as well as below, and we saw the first new flowers and buds. This year, new flowers are opening, buds are growing, and the first new fruits are living testament to the fact that yes, we *have* survived, yes, we *will* continue, and yes, our Lodge *is* and *will continue to be* valuable, relevant, and thrive in the years to come.

This month, I am thrilled to be able to announce a whole host of events, accomplishments, and news. Grand Lodge has confirmed that, once again, we have maintained our record as the first and only Lodge to reach 100% officer giving *every year since it was first tracked*. We have the first of our 2025 Masonic speaker nights, with Worshipful Nicholas Mitchel giving a talk tiled in the first degree to all Masons who are interested in coming on March 10th. We will be going downtown to serve dinner at the Midnight Mission on March 16th, and I encourage everyone to sign up for that. We are holding the first of what I hope to be several Third Degree conferrals for the year on March 31st. We have confirmed dates for our 2025 Festive Board (May 25th), our annual Grand Master's Reception (a lunch affair on Sunday, July 20th), and a whole host of other events are already on our master calendar.

It's been a dark and difficult winter, brethren, but the memory of the lost help light the path forward through the darkness, and the light of spring is visible on the ever-nearing horizon. We just this week initiated a new brother, and I for one am eager to see where, in due time, he and his cohort will take our Lodge in years to come.

I wish everyone good health and comfort in the wake of fires and losses, and hope that all the brethren remember that the Lodge is always a place they can turn to for help, comfort, and support. Our doors are always open for you, brethren. I'll see you at Lodge.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

March Calendar

Monday, March 3, 7:15pm: Stated Meeting

Menu: Mediterranean Braised Lamb Shoulder
Rice Pilaf-V
Hummus and Lavash-V
Baklava

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, March 10, 7:15pm: Masonic Education Night

Join us as we kick off our quarterly speaker series with a lecture from
Worshipful Nicholas Mitchell

Light Refreshments will be served

Open to Masons of all degrees only

Please use the link below to RSVP for headcount:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

Sunday, March 16, 3pm: Midnight Mission Service

Join us as we go to the Los Angeles Midnight Mission to serve dinner and help give back to those who are in need in our community. If you wish to attend you must fill out the registration form and sign the waiver BEFORE Friday, March 14th. The brethren will likely gather for a dinner of our own after the service. Location TBD.

Please use the link below to RSVP for headcount:

[RSVP For Midnight Mission Service - Ionic Composite Lodge №520](#)

Please use the link below to complete the waiver form REQUIRED by The Midnight Mission:

https://na2.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhCSGF8Sk7F7vj-x7tA_-1woNoCXkjoIKkdGa63TWgU587qy0Nd2RNNIS_RV2zz7Gk*

Monday, March 17, 7:15pm: 3rd Degree Practice

All Officers Required to Attend

Master Masons are invited to come help practice for an upcoming 3rd degree. Sideliners are welcome, and in honor of St. Patrick's Day, liquid refreshments will be made available **after** the practice.

Thursday, March 20, 7:00pm: OSI

Anchor Bell hosting at Culver City Foshay Lodge

All Officers **REQUIRED** to attend without prior approval of **BOTH** the Master and the Inspector

Monday, March 24,: Prospect and Brethren Social/Fraternal Night

Masons, Friends, and Prospects are all invited to Lodge for an evening of social bonding. Light refreshments will be served, and the Master will be available to answer any questions about Masonry that those interested in possibly joining might have. Come get to know prospects!

Use the link below to RSVP:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

Monday, March 31, 7:15pm: 3rd Degree Conferral

All Master Masons are encouraged to come and assist in welcoming our brother as he is raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Refreshments will be served after.

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

April Calendar

Monday, April 7, 7:15pm: Stated Meeting

Menu: Chicken Piccata
Roasted Herb Potatoes-V
Roasted Mixed Vegetables-V
Arugula Spring Salad-V
Chocolate Pt De Creme

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, April 14, 7:15pm: 3rd Degree Practice

Master Masons are invited to come help practice for an upcoming 3rd degree. Sideliners are welcome.

Monday, April 21, 7:15pm: 3rd Degree Conferral

All Master Masons are encouraged to come and assist in welcoming our brother as he is raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Kosher-for-Passover Refreshments will be served after.

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

Monday, April 28, 7:00pm: OSI

Ionic Composite 520 hosting

Topic: 3rd Degree Opening and 1st section. Please review your parts as we are hosting. Officers **required** to attend without prior approval from the Master and the Inspector.

2024 GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS FROM IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE BROTHERS

Many thanks to the following Brethren of Ionic Composite 520 for being living and exemplary examples of Masonic Charity for us all.

21ST CENTURY CLUB

IONIC LEVEL

Steve Resnick

DORIC LEVEL

Jeffrey Bear

Bernie Morse

Bruno Samuel

Robert Sills

SILVER GRAND MASTERS'S CIRCLE

Steve Resnick

GRAND MASTERS'S CIRCLE

Joseph Esshaghian

Bernie Morse

Robert Sills

CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

(Members who included the California Masonic Foundation in their estate plan)

Jeffrey Bear

Michael Bear

Bill Miller

Bernie Morse

Steve Resnick

Stanley Sax

Robert Sills

Roy Steinfeld

Chay Wright

LODGE 100% OFFICER GIVING

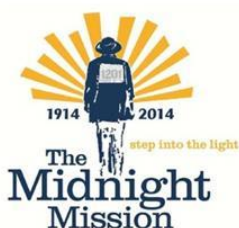
Ionic Composite No. 520 (every year since 2007)

**Masons4Mitts
Masons Night at Dodger Stadium**

**Dodgers vs Arizona Diamondbacks
(Vin Scully Bobblehead Night)**

Monday May 19, 2025

If there are enough interested brothers, I will place a group order in the reserved level. Price will be around \$53 per ticket including fee. If interested contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or brnhrd18@yahoo.com by March 10.



**SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025, 3PM
MIDNIGHT MISSION
DOWNTOWN, LOS ANGELES**

For more than 110 years Midnight Mission LA has been at the forefront of service to the most vulnerable among us. Please join us as we join in helping our fellowman!

RSVP TODAY SO WE CAN HAVE A HEADCOUNT

[RSVP For Midnight Mission Service - Ionic Composite Lodge №520](#)

**VERY IMPORTANT – FILL OUT THE WAIVER IN ORDER TO SERVE AT THE
MIDNIGHT MISSION HERE:**

https://na2.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhCSGF8Sk7F7vj-x7tA-1woNoCXkjoIKkdGa63TWgU587qy0Nd2RNNIS_RV2zz7Gk*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

2025 Masonic Speaker Series Kickoff!

Join us on March 10, 2025, as Worshipful Nicholas Mitchell delivers the first of our quarterly Masonic talks with a look at the significance of the number 15 in
Masonry and Masonic History.

Masons of all Degrees welcome to attend.

Light Refreshments will be served. RSVP using the link below:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

Ionic Composite 520's Annual Festive Board!

Join us on Sunday, May 25th at 6:30pm for our annual Festive Board where we will be honoring the Very Worshipful Matthew Vander Horck and his wife

Kimberly. Masons, Ladies, Friends, and Guests are all
welcome! More details to come.

**55th Annual Reception of the Grand
Master of the Grand Lodge of
California!**

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, July 20th as we
come together to honor the Most Worshipful Arthur L.
Salazar Jr. More details will be forthcoming.

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

Think About It

Beginning about 40 years ago, I became very disenchanted with sports in general. I viewed professional athletes as being overpaid, selfish, and only interested in promoting themselves. I learned about autograph sessions where fans, often children, would be charged \$10 to \$20 just to stand in line and ultimately receive a piece of paper signed by a particular sports figure. Driven by these large salaries and by desires for profit, the costs of tickets to attend games skyrocketed. It was a hardship for many people even to take their family to a single game and season tickets were largely owned only by wealthy individuals or businesses and corporations. College athletics were becoming tainted with these same behaviors. Even before college athletes started getting paid for the use of their NILs (names, images, likenesses) and transferring schools through portals, the universities were looking for larger television and radio contracts. My final straw was when UCLA added a surcharge to the season football tickets; in order to obtain them, one had to make a sizeable contribution to the school. I surrendered my own season tickets in protest (even though, as faculty, I did not have to contribute).

About 15 years ago, I discovered that I had to become reacquainted with sports because my grandchildren, especially my grandsons, wanted to talk about them. I then had a remarkable experience with one particular athlete, Mike Trout, which demonstrated to me that some of these athletes are worthy of respect. As the years have passed, I have seen other professional athletes demonstrating their appreciation and regard for the fans and their concerns about what is happening in the world in general. Consider the recent efforts by many of them locally in donating their time and money to assist victims of the fires and salute first responders.

I was thus particularly taken with the actions of Saquon Barkley, a running back for the Philadelphia Eagles, during that team's celebratory parade after winning the Super Bowl. Mr. Barkley chose not to ride on top of the team transport, but rather walked the parade route and greeted fans in the process. During that walk, he happened to see the ball boy for the team standing in the crowd. He stopped, lifted the boy over the barricade, and had him join the march. He then stopped to greet a 3-year old girl who carried a sign declaring it was her birthday, picked her up, and took photographs with her, much to the delighted surprise of her parents. He chose to make some remarks at the end of the parade, but only did so accompanied by Ryan Quigley, a man whose friend had been killed in the terrorist attack in New Orleans a few weeks earlier.

Athletes are idolized by fans, and it is gratifying to see that some of them understand that fact and are willing to give back to their communities.

Think about it.

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 Imposite 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 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.

From the Secretary

Brethren

This being the start of a new year, I want to remind you that your 2025 lodge dues are due to the lodge. By now you have received several mailings reminding you of this and how to pay them.

If you have any questions about this or, if you have any situation whereby you would have difficulties in paying them, **please** contact me and we can discuss the options you may have. Being a member of this lodge and Freemasonry has many benefits even if you are unable to attend lodge meetings.

To those of you who have not been advancing in your degree proficiencies, **please** contact me and I will find someone to work with you, I know that it may have been a long time since you took your degrees, again, together we can get you back of the road of becoming a Master Mason!

If you have any changes to your contact information, **please** contact me, or make your changes on your iMember page. If you are not on iMember, you guessed it, contact me and I will help you create your account.

Lastly, if you have ideas for programs, activities, speaker topics, or things you would like to see your lodge get involved with, contact the Master or me. We want your input. This is your lodge!

Fraternally yours and best wishes to you and your family and friends for a great 2025.

Michael Bear, P.M.

Secretary

michael.bear@mac.com

C: 310-962-4346

Sick and Visitation

Since the last publication, the following Brothers are known to be in ill health:

Evan Weiss - Recently diagnosed with colon cancer and is under the care of the Masonic Homes in Union City.

Let's remember our ill, homebound, and bedridden brethren by calling, visiting, or sending notes of encouragement.

March Birthdays

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Steven	Shapiro	2
Yefim	Ben	3
Karen	Meymaryan	5
Sanford	Climan	10
Michael	Silverman	10
Nir	Hanien	14
Kirtland	Ash	16
Irvin	Puskin	16
William	Miller	17
Kevin	Silver	18
Robert	Thomas	19
Jean Claude	Aghadjanian	20
James	Petersen	20
Myron	Roberts	21
Richard	Sharpe	21
Earl	Hellum	22
Arthur	Levy	23
Ronald	Lawrence	24

2025 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 – Michael Mosbach
	Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M (Virian)	Inspector for the 626th Masonic District: Gevork Asatryan P.M.
	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)	Trestleboard Layout – Cody Blair (Adair)
	Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Piano –
	Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - *	

CALIFORNIA MASONIC MANIFESTO

Masons are builders. Where once we built wonderful structures, today we build character. Steeped in tradition and ritual, our values are based on a bedrock of friendship and philanthropy. We believe that harmony between diverse individuals is a powerful force for good. Just as ancient stonemasons perfected their craft, we employ timeless lessons that create meaningful change in ourselves, stronger communities around us, and a better world for all.



Batter Up!

**Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt
For the 2025 Masons4Mitts Fundraiser
supporting the LA Dodgers Dreamteam Program**

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers Dreamteam 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

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