

TRESTLE BOARD

April 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

This month, a contingent of representatives from our lodge went to do a dinner service at the Los Angeles Midnight Mission. For those not familiar with the organization, the Midnight Mission is a food bank, rehab center, and transitional housing facility on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. Started by Masons over a hundred years ago, the Midnight Mission offers food and other forms of assistance to those that the bulk of society often entirely dismisses or refuses to see or interact with.

On Sunday, March 16 th , 8 individuals from our Lodge, including prospects, partners, and brothers, showed up at 3:00 in the afternoon to first help prepare and then serve around 450 hungry individuals. It was fast paced, exhausting, and utterly rewarding work, and I fully intend to schedule another such service later this year. I believe that everyone should go there at least once, if only to see the contrast between the blocks surrounding the place and a mere two or three blocks away, where desperation gives way to privilege and tagged, dirty, old and worn buildings give way to pristine high rises and upscale eateries and amenities. Two blocks in any direction and the entire world seems to change.

As many of you know, I'm currently working on a master's degree in clinical psychology, with a focus on trauma studies. I am, in fact, about to enter my final quarter of that program. As part of my training, I am working at the westside Exodus Recovery Crisis Residential Treatment Programs (CRTP), where many of the same kinds of individuals I saw at the Midnight Mission come through the doors, after having been put on 5150 psychiatric holds for one reason or another. What continues to shock me, even after working there for over two months now, is just how varied the clients are in their backgrounds. Some have barely a middle-school education, having dropped out of school early because of the need to work, take care of family, or because of substance use issues. Others have multiple graduate degrees and were brought low by the onset of mental illness or (again) substance use problems. What strikes me is that they represent a cross-section of the full breadth of society – just as we ourselves do.

In other words, to paraphrase a fairly famous sentiment, there but for the grace of the Great Architect go each one of us. It is easy to drive past a homeless encampment, see the accumulated trash and judge the inhabitants for being filthy. It is conditioned from an early age in our society to judge the unclean, the different, and the poor as somehow “lesser”, no matter how much lip service we pay the matter of poverty or equality in our houses of worship, our homes, schools, or even our Lodges. It is quite another thing to look them in the eye and see the hopelessness of one on whom most of society has given up. For many, their eyes hold the shadow of knowledge that they are likely beyond help – not because of their own choices, necessarily, but because by and large, society has forgotten them – or chosen to ignore them.

During the dinner service, one of our prospects handed one of the people in line their food with a sincere and well meaning, “Here you go, sir.” My mother, who was among our group for the dinner service, related to me the homeless man’s response (I was at the far end of the serving line and didn’t witness the interaction directly). According to her, the man paused, looked our prospect in the eye, and said, “It’s been a really long time since anyone called me ‘sir.’ Thank you.”

Such a simple, small thing; being treated with the tiniest shred of dignity, but for that individual in that moment, it meant so much more than one might think. I find the same true at my clinical training site. By and large, they are ordinary people who, because of poor choices or bad luck in the form of genetics, trauma, or lack of access to proper care, fell through the cracks

of society, and are thus judged for needing help. Or perhaps, it is for the more unforgivable crime of making those who see them feel uncomfortable, because deep down they know that there, but for grace or luck or circumstance, is the very picture of what their own life might have looked like.

The motto of the Midnight Mission is “Step Into the Light” – a fitting and highly Masonic sentiment that is entirely in line with both its purpose and its origins. As we enter a new Spring season, and approach holidays of Easter and Passover, so deeply associated with Freedom, Rebirth, and Renewal, let us not forget those who have been less fortunate than we. At the Passover Seder, we open our doors, uncover the plate of Matzah and proclaim, “Let all who are hungry come and eat.” I pray that we all take care that such not be mere empty words, said by rote, but paired with meaningful and directed action in the year(s) ahead.

There was one other interaction my mother felt worth telling me about. She spoke of a relatively clean-cut, young-looking man, likely in his late teens or early twenties by her guess. He told her it was his first day on the streets, and he didn’t know what to do. “Get some food,” she told him, “Then talk to the men wearing staff shirts and ask for help. This is a place that Masons built. They’ll help you.”

May the places Masons build always be deserving of coming so well recommended.
I urge you to come and help us make our Lodge so – now and in the future.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master, Ionic Composite Lodge no. 520

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 on Bro. Aaron

Gonzales

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.

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.

May Calendar

Monday, May 5, 6:30pm: Executive Committee Meeting

All Executive Committee members are required to attend.

Monday, May 5, 7:15pm: Stated Meeting

Menu: Chicken Enchiladas

Tostada Salad-V

Chips & Salasa & Guacamole-V

Rice and Refried Beans-V

Bunuelos

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, May 19, Dodgers vs Arizona Diamondbacks
(Vin Scully Bobblehead Night)

Monday May 19, 2025

Cost is around \$70/ticket, and you can register at www.masons4mitts.org

Wednesday, May 21, 7:00pm: OSI

Liberal Arts hosting

Topic: 3rd Degree Open 2nd section. Officers **required** to attend without prior approval from the Master and the Inspector.

Sunday, May 25, 6:30pm: Annual Festive Board

Honoring Very Worshipful Matthew Vander Horck, Grand

Lecturer, and his wife Kimberly

Link to RSVP will be forthcoming.

Monday, May 26, Lodge Dark

In observance of Memorial Day

2025 IONIC COMPOSITE ANNUAL FESTIVE BOARD

MAY 25, 6:30PM

GUEST OF HONOR: VERY WORSHIPFUL MATTHEW VANDER HORCK, AND WIFE, KIMBERLY

The Festive Board is a formal, multicourse dinner with scripted toasts, responses, and much fun and fellowship. It harkens back to the meals held after Lodge meetings in the days when Lodges met above pubs and inns.

This year our Guest of Honor will be Very Worshipful Matthew Vander Horck, Grand Lecturer, and his wife, Kimberly.

The menu for this momentous evening will be as follows and includes an **OPEN BAR**:

1st Course

Chicken and Vegetable pot-stickers

2nd Course

Chicken Noodle Soup

3rd Course

Caesar Salad

4th Course

Grilled Chicken Breast with Marsala Wine Sauce served with Rice Pilaf and Mixed Vegetables

5th Course

Beef Tenderloin with Peppercorn and Merlot Wine Sauce served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and French Cut Green Beans with Roasted Almonds

5th Course

New York Cheesecake With Raspberry Sauce

Dinner Rolls and Butter

Cost is \$65/person, payable by cash, check, or credit card (by using the forthcoming link) RSVP REQUIRED no later than May 17th

SAVE THE DATE!!!

55TH ANNUAL RECEPTION OF THE GRAND MASTER OF CALIFORNIA

GUEST OF HONOR: the Most Worshipful Arthur L. Salazar Jr.

1pm

Sunday, July 20, 2025

More information about this event will be provided soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

**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! See full page ad above!

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

Most of you probably have the same problem that I do, namely the inordinate amount of spam that arrives each day via email. For some time this past fall, I was receiving almost daily emails of suggested recipes from a website containing the word “cookingdaily”. At the same time, I was also receiving similar emails allegedly from other sites that were also claiming to provide cooking tips. All of these emails were arriving in my spam folder and contained a “View Recipe” link. These were of little interest to me and I never opened those links. In addition, all of these emails were accompanied by a very similar option at the bottom to unsubscribe, and one day I thought that I would try to get rid of these emails by requesting to be unsubscribed. While no cessation of emails occurred after my first two or three tries, I seemed to have been successful after yet another effort, as I received a very curious message informing me that emails were not being sent to my email address.

I initially found it amusing that a website which was supposedly not sending me emails did not seem to appreciate that I was responding to an email that it sent. My thought was that its artificial intelligence, if it even existed, was not programmed to recognize this conundrum and only reported that I was not on the mailing list, meaning that I had successfully unsubscribed already. In fact, the emails then did cease.

I kept a copy of that email, hoping to use it in one of these columns. This month, I decided to use the story and, out of curiosity, googled “cookingdaily website”. That effort turned up a comment from August 2024 by some person named “catholiver”. He or she was also receiving what appeared to be spam from alleged cooking websites including “Cooking Daily”. In the subsequent series of postings, other people stated that they had not heard of the website and all agreed that some type of spamming was occurring.

Upon trying other variants in an effort to find out what cookingdaily represented, I ultimately came across some commentary from the Delta Community Credit Union that was dated June 16, 2021. It was entitled “Don’t click ‘Unsubscribe’ from spam emails and texts”, and suggested that one should just delete it and tag it as spam or block the sender. While most unsubscribe options are part of marketing programs and are legitimate, apparently some spammers want that link selected because it shows that the email account is valid and active. In fact, the link could even take one to a fake site that could result in more serious consequences. It has been almost three months since I clicked that unsubscribe button and, to the best of my knowledge, I have not suffered any adversities as a result. However, I have now been warned that the next time I want to click on a link, I should follow my own advice and...

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 stage 4 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.

April Birthdays

| <u>First Name</u> | <u>Last Name</u> | <u>Birthday</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Jon | Wax | 1 |
| Cody | Blair | 2 |
| Koorosh | Moshtahedian | 3 |
| Misha | Spiegel | 3 |
| Andre | Torosyan | 4 |
| Marc | Behun | 5 |
| Michael | Katz | 7 |
| Brandon | Koretz | 7 |
| Shahriar | Esshaghian | 8 |
| Renato | Garcia | 9 |
| Luis | Tananta | 10 |
| Simone | Totti | 12 |
| Clayton | Jones | 13 |
| Cliff | Dorfman | 14 |
| Michael | Turner | 14 |
| Jeffrey | Bear | 16 |
| Edward | Segal | 27 |
| Daniel | Ben Ari | 28 |

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 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
Click LA Dodger Logo
Click Media Central Titans
Click Give a Mitt
Click Donate