

MARCH 2018

# TRESTLE BOARD

IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520

## FROM THE EAST

Brethren, ladies and friends.

I have been asked many times, “Is Freemasonry dying?”, “Is Freemasonry relevant today?” and, of course, “Why should I join Freemasonry?” The first two questions are easier for me than the last one.

Freemasonry in California, and to the best of my knowledge, elsewhere, is far from dying. Has our membership gone down since it hit its peak in membership post in the 1945-1960's era? Definitely yes, as would be expected. Not only did you have men, and their families, looking for a fraternal and social organization where they could meet new friends and have social activities, but there was not as many distractions such as computers, social media, and television, but you had men looking for someplace where they could bond with other men and experience the comradeship they had in the military. You also had fewer women working than today and they wanted their men to join groups that had good values and community service. While our numbers have gone down due to the deaths of the brothers who joined in that period our growth in new membership has been going up each year with men in their 20's to 40's. California has over 48, 100, had 953 new Entered Apprentices, 661 Fellowcrafts and 593 Master Masons in 2017. There are 640 lodges currently in California, with four new lodges chartered in 2017 and there are eight new lodges forming this year that should be receiving their charter at the Grand Lodge Communications later this year. That sounds pretty healthy to me!

The second question, to me is more important. After all, you will get out of Freemasonry what you are willing to put into it. If you join, take one or all of the three degrees, never attend lodge or participate in any of the many activities such as social, charitable and community service events, and never attend any Masonic education or discussion programs, then I am afraid that Freemasonry isn't relevant to you. If you do participate, in whatever area(s) that interest you then Freemasonry is not only relevant but life affirming. I

know because I not only see the effect Masonic involvement has upon the many recipients that we help but the positive influence it has upon those that get involved. I've seen the faces of the students we have helped either by helping their school, helping them learn to read, getting a scholarship to help them go to college. I've seen so many happy faces of children going out on the baseball diamond with the new glove they got from our Masons4Mitts program, and also learning the importance of staying in school, good nutrition, getting health exams, and more from the RBI program that our Masons4Mitts program is a part of. I've also seen the happiness and gratitude of the recipients of our Masonic Holmes and Masonic Outreach program has on brothers, widows and children of our fraternity. Yes, to me, Masonry is very relevant since my goal is to have a purpose greater than myself in life.

As I said at the beginning, “Why should I join Freemasonry” is the hardest question I am asked. You see, that question can only be answered by the person asking it. Everything in Freemasonry is “Of your own freewill and accord”, so that is why we don't solicit men to join us. I am always happy to talk to people about our fraternity and answer their questions. But I can't answer if what I say to them and what Masonry does for the individual resonates in their heart as something that is important to them? I want to be with other good men who are striving to improve themselves, no matter what their faith, color, sexual preference, nationality or culture. I want to be involved in something that improves the lives of others. I want to be a part of something that has a history of making the world a better place because it is a part of improving the world and not just complaining of all the problems there are. I find that Freemasonry helps me fulfill what is my heart to do with my life. I hope that you make it a part of your life as well.

Fraternally and sincerely,  
Michael Bear, P.M.  
Master

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Please make a special effort to join us for these events. We really value your participation in the running of the Lodge.**

### **Monday, March 5**

Stated Meeting. Lodge open 6:30p.m., Dinner and Open Portion 7:15p.m., Tiled portion to follow.

### **Friday, March 9**

“Spirit of Hiram 3\* 2nd Section. Master Masons only. 6:30pm Free dinner. Program: 8:00pm. Pasadena Scottish Rite, 150 N. Madison Ave. Pasadena CA 91101. Free dinner by reservation to (626) 795-4213

### **Monday, March 12**

7:15p.m. First Degree. Let's welcome our newest brother.  
Open to all degrees

### **Monday, March 19**

6:00pm Building Association

7:15pm OPEN Masonic Education. We will be showing the movie “33 & Beyond”, which was premiered at the 2017 Grand Lodge Communications and ABC News reviewed it as “Perhaps the Most Important and fascinating documentary ever made about Freemasonry”. Invite a friend or two. Refreshments.

### **Monday, March 26**

7:15p.m., OSI Ionic Composite Lodge. All officers must attend. Interested Master Masons may attend. Casual.

### **Monday, April 2**

Stated Meeting. Lodge open 6:30p.m., Dinner and Open Portion 7:15p.m., Tiled portion to follow.

### **Monday, April 9**

Official RECEPTION of the Grand Master, M.W. Bruce Galloway and his line. See insert below.

### **Monday, April 16**

7:15p.m. Practice

### **Monday, April 23**

7:15p.m., 1\*. Let's welcome our newest brother. Open to all degrees.

### **Monday, April 30**

6:00p.m. Building Association  
7:15p.m. Fellowship Night. Refreshments. Bring a friend. Casual

### **Wednesday, May 2**

Dinner reservations due for the May 7, Stated Meeting.

## Get Social!



**Get online and get social  
with our Social Media Apps!**



**facebook**



**Up to date information, Calendar, Degrees, Activities. Need help?--call or email:**

**ioniccomposite@gmail.com**

## Website





***The Master of Ionic Composite Lodge  
Urges You to Attend Our Lodge's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Reception  
Honoring***



**Bruce Galloway  
Grand Master of Masons in California**



**April 9, 2018**

**Social 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Program 7:00 pm**

**\$35.00 per person**

Gr. Lodge Officers, PGMs, Past Grand Officers, Inspectors & Committeemen: Tuxedo

Other men: Business attire

**RSVP a must and by March 26, 2018**

Choice of beef tri-tip or sea bass with our famous Sundae Bar

Bob Sills, PM, Asst. Secretary 310-945-9631 [trialreview@rlsills.com](mailto:trialreview@rlsills.com)

Make payment to "Ionic Composite Lodge" with memo "GM Reception"

Mail to *Ionic Composite Lodge, 1122 So. La Cienega, Los Angeles, CA 90035*



**Festive Board**

**Saturday, October 13, 2018**

**7:00pm**

Please join us for what has been our most fun and well attended events.

**Honoring Wor. Kerin and Suzanna Surents  
and  
celebrating our 96th anniversary**

Open to All Masons, ladies, and guests.

Multicourse buffet dinner including beef bourguignon and chicken breast with sun dried chutney glaze, beverages, and more.

Dress: Men: suit and tie

Ladies: Cocktail attire

By Reservations only

\$35.00 per person

to Lodge office no later than October 8, 2018

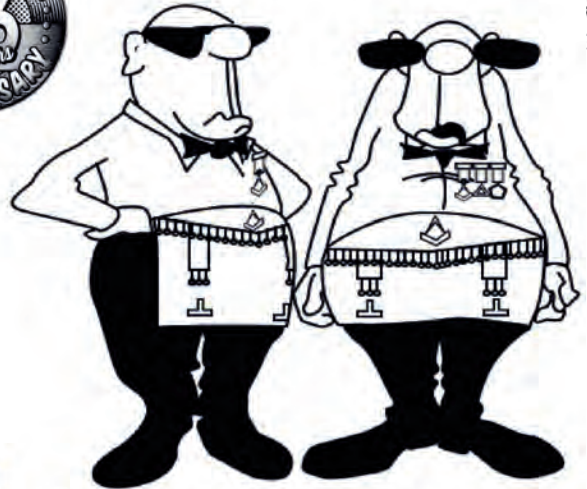
## FROM THE WEST

Ah yes, the beauty of the ritual. My first real experience with Masonic ritual of course occurred when I was made an EAM, and I must say that I was very much impressed with the whole event. Much to my pleasure, I also found future exposures to ritual to be equally satisfying. To see so many Brothers going through verbal lines, movements and signs with little or no prompting was always a bit amazing. What makes the ritual even more beautiful is the fact that it has been going on for at least 300 years, in pretty much the same way. It is truly moving to think of our predecessors, including such great men as Churchill, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Mozart, performing such ritual.

While all I always enjoy observing ritual, it is even more enjoyable when faultlessly executed. There have been various times when the Grand Line Officers literally took over our Lodge for certain events, such as the reception for the Grand Master. To watch these Grand Lodge Brothers perform ritual, well to say the least, it is something to behold. Having been lucky enough to attend two Annual Communications, I have observed some awesome ritual there as well.

Upon becoming JW for 2017 and SW for 2018, I have been performing ritual myself. While this has taken a huge amount of memorization on my part, the words do carry so much meaning to me that it does make it a bit easier to learn my lines. Not to mention the fact that as you progress through the degrees, the meaning and symbolism continue to build, to the point that you can really see where this is all going. The point that I am trying to make here, is that as I progress in preparing for acting as Master of the Lodge in all degrees, the ritual has become progressively more enjoyable and enlightening. I am also certain that the more any Brother comes to Lodge and observes the ritual, the more enjoyable and enlightening it will become to them as well.

Steve Resnick, SW



### STATED MEETING

MONDAY MARCH 5

MONDAY APRIL 2

Open Lodge: 6:30 p.m. | Dinner: 7:15 p.m.

#### March 5 menu:

Chinese

#### April 2 menu:

Mediterranean food including chicken shawerma, beef & chicken kabob, roasted chicken and falafel.

W.M. Michael Bear presiding

RSVP by Wednesday of the prior week and invite a friend.

Dinner is \$20.00

Reservations are Mandatory

Reservations must be made on sign-up sheet, or (310) 657-2628, or [ioniccomposite@gmail.com](mailto:ioniccomposite@gmail.com), and may be made and paid for on the lodge website:

<https://ioniccomposite.com>

If you do not make a reservation extra meals will not be available. Brothers, if you make a reservation and don't cancel by the date specified, you will be billed.

\* Guests of the Master, and widows of Ionic Composite Lodge, who have not remarried, are free. Menu is Subject to Change.



# THINK ABOUT IT

The 2018 Winter Olympics have come to an end. Although I am not a fan of winter sports, others in my family are and, overall, they seemed to have enjoyed the spectacle. However, I guess that the same cannot be said for David Wharton. He is a reporter for the Los Angeles Times and he has been quick to criticize the team from the United States.

His story began with a recitation of the event that occurred at the end of the curling competition when the team captain, John Shuster, made a difficult clutch shot that won the gold medal for the US. Wharton went on to say: "Victories in unexpected sports such as curling and cross-country – along with a dramatic win in women's hockey – helped the U.S. forge a late rally and avoid what might otherwise have been a disappointing, if not embarrassing, 2018 Winter Olympics." This late surge resulted in a total of 23 medals for the United States, a sum that was surpassed only by Norway, Germany, and Canada.

Wharton was not satisfied with 23. In 2010 the US won 37, a record that was broken this year by Norway (39 medals). He noted that, four years ago in Sochi, the US still won more, 28, but had harsh words for that

team. He called the performance of the speedskating team in 2014 as a drop off a cliff, the "Sochi disaster". He also decried how just a little more effort this year could have been converted into medals because we had 35 athletes finish from fourth to sixth in various events.

I have always viewed the Olympics as competitions between individual athletes or athletic teams, not between countries. I also used to think that it was all about that competition and the reward that those athletes receive for their hard work. After all, isn't that what we are supposed to tell our children? Aren't they supposed to go out and just do their best?

But the real capper to this story was what happened to Wharton's beloved curling team, an event that he failed to even mention. After winning the gold medal, the team apparently tweeted a message that they should get a first-class upgrade on Delta Airlines for their trip home. Delta's response was that there were no upgrades available, which seemed to me to be a reasonable reply. If upgrade awards are to be a benefit for every person who does something extraordinary, I believe that there are a large number of men and women in our military who would be standing far ahead of the curling team in that line.

Think about it.



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

John Rae Anderson IV .....	01 Marvin L. Marshall .....	11 Irwin Parker .....	22
Jay Richards PM .....	01 Irving Norman Simon .....	13 Arthur William Levy .....	23
Steven Lynn Shapiro .....	02 Nir Hanien .....	14 Ronald Melvin Lawrence .....	24
Yefim David Ben .....	03 Kirtland Ash .....	16 Daniel Jakob Seidner .....	24
Robert Faries .....	03 Irvin Bernard Puskin PM .....	16 Eric Seif .....	25
Sam Ananyan .....	04 William Hartley Miller PM .....	17 Spence Brandon Bilkiss .....	29
Leonard J. Kanner .....	04 Kevin Frank Silver .....	18 Oscar Siegel .....	31
Karen Mermarian .....	05 Robert Michael Thomas .....		19
Harold Louis Block .....	10 Jean Claude Aghadjanian .....		20
Sanford Ross Climan .....	10 James William Petersen PM .....		20
Michael Allen Silverman .....	10 Myron Kalman Roberts .....		21
Joseph Frank Epstein .....	11 Richard William Sharpe PM .....		21
Paul Firestone PM .....	11 Earl Rogest Hellum .....		22

# BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

## Sick and Visitation Committee Report

### We Wish Everyone a Full and Complete Recovery

Geri Edelman .....

Home with a variety of medical problems

Robert Reed .....

Home with medical problem

Joseph Fisch .....

Home with multiple medical problems

Jay Richards .....

At home with multiple problems

Brethren Please, a Telephone call from you could brighten their day.

To get the contact information of those listed please contact the lodge Secretary or Master.

If you know of a Brother or a member of a Brother's family who is ill, please contact the Lodge Office.

Funeral Telephone list: Any brother who would like to be placed on the funeral notification call list, your presence would be deeply appreciated. **Lodge Office telephone: 310. 657.2628**

## 2018 OFFICERS

Master – Michael Bear PM (Debbie)

Senior Warden – Steve Resnick (Sheelah)

Marshal – Kevin Silver (Katherine)

Junior Warden –

Senior Steward – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Junior Steward – Varun Dadabhoy

Secretary – Tim Shiner

Tiler – Evan Weiss, P.M.

Chaplain – Roy Steinfeld PM

Officers' Coach – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)

Senior Deacon –

Inspector for the 622nd Masonic District

Junior Deacon – Yuriy Kotlyar

Trestleboard Editor – Evan Weiss, P.M.

Trestleboard Layout – Yuriy Kotlyar

Head Candidates' Coach – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)