

MAY 2020

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

FROM THE EAST

Well, here we are in month two of the Coronavirus lockdown. I have to admit that I would really like to see life return to normal as soon and as much as possible. But until further notice, the current situation continues. Whenever I consider whether or not I should be overly concerned about getting through this, I just think back to my Masonic education. Especially in regard to being prepared to welcome death, not as a grim tyrant, but as a kind messenger, and so forth. If Masonry has enabled me not to be overly concerned about my own mortality, then I should be more than capable of getting through these times of trouble.

This experience, in the long run, will undoubtedly make us realize how special and rewarding are normal everyday lives truly are. Yes, for the most part, we do all live very fulfilling lives. How wonderful it will be when things do return to normal.

When we are reunited with our everyday lives, we should look back on these troubling times and never lose sight of just how lucky we are when on those sometimes rare occasions we think we are living a dull everyday life, what I wouldn't do to have that dull everyday life back right now. Because looking back now, I can see how rewarding and fulfilling it really is.

I can honestly say that one of the things that I miss the most is my active Masonic life. In other words, we will get through this, and it will be a true delight seeing each other back in Lodge.

Stay safe and healthy.

Fraternally,

Steve Resnick
Master

All future in-person meetings have been cancelled pending authorization from the Grand Master.

UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE

ON FREEMASON.ORG

Log in to freemason.org

Under "My Profile" click "Change my contact information"

Enter changes in selected sections, Click Save

If you have any questions contact Member Services (415)292-9180



FROM THE WEST

COVID-19 continues to affect us both as Masons, but also at work and as families and friends. My family just celebrated Passover and my birthday using Zoom. I have been making court appearances by telephone rather than going to court and, then, only to continue matters with nothing substantive getting done.

As a Mason, these are very strange times indeed. After all, a Lodge is not a room or a place, it is the Brethren assembled. We can continue to be Masons, however, by doing what Masons do every day. First among our Masonic duties is supporting our own. As many of you know, Grand Lodge has set up a special fund to support masons and our families who are suffering financial hardship due to the current pandemic.

You can and, if you are able, should support this effort. Simply click this link <https://masonic-foundation.org/ways-to-give/give-now> or call (415) 292-9117 to donate whatever you can afford to give. You can choose to give a restricted donation to the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund or to Masonic Homes, which also has increased need of support. Be sure to enter your Member Number and Lodge

name. I found this to be a very easy way to donate to support our Brothers.

On the other hand, if you are facing a financial crisis due to these troubled times click here <https://masonichome.org/masonic-homes/covid19/masonic-relief-during-covid-19> or call (888) 466-3642 to find out more about services that may be available to you. Our M.O.S. Representatives, Wor. Bernie Morse or Wor. Michael Bear are also available to assist you.

Also, just because we cannot meet as a lodge, does not mean that we should not meet as Brothers. Why not call at least one Brother every day just to see how he and his family are doing? Set up your own cyber get together with some Brothers with whom you share a common interest.

I really miss you guys and am looking forward to seeing you all in Lodge sooner, rather than later.

Fraternally,

Jeff Bear, P.M.
Senior Warden

We have a block of seats for the Tony Award Winning Musical

The Band's Visit

Sunday, July 26, 2020

6:30PM

\$84/person

at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood

For information and reservations please contact
Bernie Morse PM at (310)556-4463 or email
brnhrd18@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Roll Call Meeting & Dinner Monday

June 29, 2020

Scotch Tasting Saturday

October 3, 2020

Obligation Renewal

November 9, 2020

Brethren: Please don't forget to pay your dues!

If you paid and do not have your dues card or if your dues card was not signed, please contact the Lodge secretary.

THINK ABOUT IT

Crises can often bring out the best in people. We have seen countless such examples during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen people taking care of elderly neighbors by doing their shopping or even just inquiring about how they are doing. Volunteers are spending their money, and, perhaps more importantly, their time preparing and delivering food and other necessities to the poor and homeless. One of the most dramatic examples was an Italian doctor who continued to take care of COVID-19 infected patients even after he ran out of personal protective equipment and was ultimately fatally infected himself.

Unfortunately, sometimes crises also bring out the worst. Consider two “concierge doctors” in the Los Angeles area. Concierge doctors charge their patients a premium, often in the thousands of dollars annually, in order to be allowed to keep having medical care. In exchange, the patients presumably gets more personal and timely attention.

A story in the March 23, 2020 Los Angeles Times cited these doctors by name. One is a pediatrician in Santa Monica and the other a primary care physician in Beverly Hills. Both of them obtained the COVID testing kits early in the outbreak. The primary care physician obtained “rapid tests” (which were blood tests, not nasal swabs) that have been used in Asia; he planned to open a drive-through facil-

ity for anybody willing to pay \$5-600. The pediatrician has ordered hundreds of cheek-swab testing kits and is charging \$250 for each one.

These doctors seem to be justifying their actions by claiming that they are just providing good care to their patients. Of course, to an outsider, it does have the appearance of providing good care to their bank accounts. As a physician myself, I viewed the actions of these doctors as being indefensible from an ethical perspective. More importantly, I was not convinced that any particularly good care was being provided. If a doctor is going to provide tests to patients just because they want them, are they also going to provide prescriptions (such as antibiotics) or even surgeries for that reason as well? Healthcare workers, not patients, should make medical decisions; the patient can then agree or disagree with that decision.

As far as I could tell, these tests had not yet been approved for use by the FDA. The reason medical tests need FDA approval is that we need to know how accurate they really are. Damage can occur both when a test is falsely negative (and the patient goes on to spread infection) and when it is falsely positive (and the patient undergoes needless interventions such as quarantine).

Think about it.
Ron Koretz, P.M.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Arthur Obrand	01	Evan Weiss	12	Max Solomon	19
Joseph Reinke	01	Joseph Brewer	13	David Israel	23
Harold Kirman	02	Mark Crugnale	13	David Philips	23
Bob Sills	02	Robert Goldman	13	Robert Weissman	26
Robert Gordon	04	Richard Kaplan	13	Jeffrey Platt	27
Barry Sporn	05	Edward Novshad	14	Mark Ameli	29
William Bilkiss	11	Stephen Rennick	14	Neil Sherman	29
Peter Kaplan	11	Matthew Rodman	17	Dale Effren	30
Errol Stambler	12	Michael Savage	17	Zev Vered	30

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

We Wish Everyone a Full and Complete Recovery

Len Cohen .. Home with several medical problems

Earl Hellum.. Home after recent hospitalization

Bruce Shaphran.. Home after knee surgery and
other medical 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**

2020 OFFICERS

Master – Steve Resnick (Sheelah)

Marshal – Yuriy Kotlyar

Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

Senior Steward – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.

Junior Warden –

Junior Steward – Renato Garcia (Minerva)

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

Assistant Secretary - Tim Shiner, P.M.

Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)

Tiler – Evan Weiss, P.M.

Chaplain – Kyle Ware

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

Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock

Inspector for the 622nd Masonic District
O. Gary Pealer PM (Lelah)

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Trestleboard Layout – Yuriy Kotlyar