

JULY 2020

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

FROM THE EAST

Okay, let us face the facts. We are currently in perhaps the most trying times of the country, the world and Masonry, for as long as I have been on this planet. Right now, just trying to take it one day at a time. As such, it is my goal to enjoy each day as much as possible and look on the brighter side of life. Was just reading an article about the Actor Kevin Bacon and how thankful he was for his family, a roof over his head and food to eat, during these times of trouble. Well, I should certainly be appreciative of these things as well.

One of the things that I miss most in life right now is my interaction in the non-virtual Masonic world.

However, at least I can say that it is the Masonic life that I enjoyed so much, prior to March 2020, that is helping me get through life right now. It will truly be a delight when we are again able to gather for Masonic functions. Once we reach that day, I will always remember how much I had missed the Masonic world, and this should make it all the more wonderful.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back in Lodge and elsewhere in the Masonic world, just as soon as it is safe to do so.

Fraternally,

Steve Resnick Master



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

FROM THE WEST

Current events have once again called my attention to a particular monitorial portion the Ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree, this time to the first of the three principal tenets of Masonry, that is, Brotherly Love. The Lecture teaches us, "By the exercise of Brotherly Love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, --who, as created by one almighty parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, we are to aid, support and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion; and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise remained at a perpetual distance."

The Charges Of A Free-Mason as set forth in Anderson's Constitution of 1723, required, "A Mason is oblig'd by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious Libertine. But though in ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true, or Men of Honour and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Center

of Union, and the Means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must else have remain'd at a perpetual Distance."

I am writing this missive on June 15, 2020, shortly after the protests and violence that followed the killing of George Floyd and the day that the United States Supreme Court decided *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* (17-1618), which holds that an employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Look, I'm not some sort of Pollyanna. I know that even Freemasonry does not have an unblemished record of putting its lofty principles into action. Our own Lodge was formed to give Jewish men a Masonic home when some other lodges did not make them welcome. But Freemasonry in general and our own Grand Lodge in particular are at the fore front of putting these ideals into action.

I'm going to step on Wor. Koretz's line and ask you to Think About It: Wouldn't this be a better world if we could all set the rhetoric aside and just act by these Masonic ideals?

I am looking forward to the day, hopefully soon, when I can see all of you in Lodge.

Fraternally,
Jeff Bear, P.M.



Happy Independence Day!

THINK ABOUT IT

My professional career was in academic medicine. As a result, I spent more time than the typical doctor would do in reading the medical literature. Over the decades, I developed an in-depth understanding about the elements of evidence-based medicine. This has, in turn, provided me with insight into the research that is currently going on regarding the Corona virus.

Dr. Fauci has repeatedly commented that the real proof that any particular agent works must come from randomized trials. In a randomized trial, patients are assigned by chance to receiving one of the treatment options (including placebo or no treatment). If the outcome is better in the group receiving the experimental treatment, that treatment is viewed as having been proved to be useful. If we have no idea what the experimental treatment will do, an untreated group provides insight into what happens if the treatment is not given; sometimes experimental treatment has been proven to be harmful.

There were two studies that received much attention in the press regarding the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine. A French report described good results in some patients and a VA study indicated that the drug did harm. Neither of these studies were randomized trials. In fact, the French study did not even have a control group (other than the investigator's experience in the past). The VA trial did compare treated with untreated patients, but we do not know why treatment was,

or was not, provided. Was the medication given as a last resort? (In other words, were the treated patients sicker?) Such differences between treated and control groups represent "confounding" factors, namely factors other than the treatment that may explain the observed different outcomes. Randomization removes confounding and, for this reason, is the scientific gold standard.

These basic principles of evidence-based medicine are not difficult to understand. Thus, I have been disappointed with the response of the media to the studies. It is their job to investigate the facts and present the truth. In this case, they should have learned these principles about evidence-based medicine as part of that process. Instead, both the liberal and conservative reporters seem bent on presenting their slants, using one or the other study as support. None of them seems to understand that both studies are very weak scientifically. Both are incapable of providing any insight into the usefulness of the treatment. Given how the media have handled an issue that I do know about, I am reluctant to accept what they report about things that I do not know about. Credibility, when lost, is very difficult to regain.

Think about it.

Ron Koretz, P.M.

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

You can do so by PayPal or check mailed to the office. If you need to discuss your situation or need any assistance, please call the Lodge Secretary
Michael Bear at 310-962-4346

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Morton Devor	04	Michael Bear	17	Howard Brandes	25
Kenneth Bourguignon	10	Stephen Fenster	18	Alan Nisperos	26
Arnold Bristol	11	Jay Stambler	18	Carmel Levy	27
William Ellison	11	Robert Nelli	21	Howard Hallis	28
Timothy Slone	16	Jacob Smerling	23	Richard Ellman	29
Paul Troy	16	Glenn Ardizzone	24	Theodore Blumenfeld	30

The 2020 Masons 4 Mitts Fundraiser supporting the LA Dodgers RBI Program has just Kicked Off Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers RBI program. Due to Covid-19 they may not be playing baseball, but they are still providing mitts and an enriching summer experience for kids. They are developing programs about leadership, teamwork, health, safety and good citizenship.

Support your lodge's participation in this great program.

Go to www.masons4mitts.org

Click Los Angeles Region

Click Media Central Titans

Click Donate

Contact Bernie Morse at (310)556-4463



Bringing leading voices
on Freemasonry to the fraternity.
All live lectures are online, free,
and open to the public.



Lodge App Replaced in iMember 2.0

The social media-style lodge app feed is now live in iMember 2.0, the new web-based member management system that is replacing both iMember and the previous lodge app. The new system, which will be fully rolled out beginning July 1, works on any web-enabled phone, tablet, or computer, no extra downloads necessary. Check out the system today and start getting familiar with this and other new bells and whistles.

The new platform includes several new features and upgrades, including:

- A digital dues card
- Private social feed, replacing the current lodge app
- Lodge locator for more than 20 jurisdictions, including California
- Lodge calendars
- Masonic education resources

For lodge leaders, the platform includes easy-to-understand member dashboards, communication tools like email, robo-calls, and mail-merges, and easy processes for updating member and lodge data, document storage, and more

As a reminder, all content and functionality from the current Member Center on freemason.org will transition to the new platform July 1. Please do not update any information until July 1st as it will be lost when the new version goes live.

To Register, visit...https://member.freemason.org/membership_registration



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

Evan Weiss - Problem with his leg

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)

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

Junior Warden –

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

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

Chaplain – Kyle Ware

Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Marshal – Yuriy Kotlyar

Senior Steward – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.

Junior Steward – Renato Garcia (Minerva)

Assistant Secretary - Tim Shiner, P.M.

Tiler – Evan Weiss, P.M.

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

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

Trestleboard Layout – Yuriy Kotlyar