

JUNE 2020

# TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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## FROM THE EAST

Well, we are now into month three of the Corona-virus lockdown. While things are getting just a bit back to normal as I write this, with beaches, parks, and golf courses now open, Masonry in person is still pretty much on hold. This will most likely continue to at least August or later. However, I am happy to say that Masonry is still alive and well in the virtual world.

Also, per MW Trauner's recent email "as difficult as it has been to cancel our gatherings and remain at a physical distance, Masonry is as strong and unified as ever. Masons know how to "wait a time with patience," and we know the rewards of doing so. We will meet in our lodge rooms again—with likely modifications—but we will do so only when the time is right and the conditions are safe. Until then, let's keep our social connections alive online, and let's keep the light of Freemasonry shining bright in our lives".

As highlighted on Freemason.org, a virtual Masonic Speaker Series is being offered, with two to three distinguished speakers appearing each month. Over 1,000 Masons from around the world registered for the first program on 4/27/20. June presenters will include MW R Stephen Doan - Freemasonry and Mozart's Magic Flute on 6/10/20 and Robert Cooper - Scottish Freemasonry and the United States of America on 6/24/20. And of course, the 9 p.m. toasts every Saturday night on Facebook Live will continue.

While the usual Masonic retreats have been canceled,

they will still be offered by a new virtual program for Masters, Wardens, and other lodge leaders that will begin in June. The California Masonic Symposium has also been modified to a virtual experience and will be offered on July 16. More information about these events will be forthcoming very soon from Grand Lodge.

I personally am very excited as I will get to attend my first OSI since the lockdown. This will be a virtual experience with Ionic Composite, Beverly Hills #428, and Culver City Foshay #467 on 6/23.

Regarding our continuing support of distressed worthy Brothers, I am happy to report that I recently received an email from Worshipful Greg Cherry, Director of Masonic Philanthropy, stating that 2,110 individuals have made contributions totaling \$370,000 to the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund. If you would like to make a contribution as well, this can easily be done at the Freemason.org website.

Yes, California Masonry is definitely still moving forward and making a difference. Looking forward to seeing everyone again as soon as it is safe to do so.

Fraternally,

Steve Resnick  
Master

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

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# FROM THE WEST

Current events have called my attention to a particular monitorial portion the Ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree: "Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. . . . Hence while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."

The language of our Ritual is constructed very carefully. As a lawyer, I appreciate its precision. Read these words carefully. Truth is divine, that is, holy. It is the foundation of every virtue: Without it, every other virtue is unsupported and will crumble. Truth is the first lesson "taught" in Masonry, which, as my

brother, Brother Michael reminded me, does not mean it is the first lesson we actually learn. Unfortunately, only while we are influenced by this principle, are hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity. When we are not so influenced, we cave into falsehood, lying, envy and jealousy. Such conduct has no place in our lodge or in Masonry.

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

Fraternally,  
Jeff Bear, P.M.  
Senior Warden



**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](http://www.masons4mitts.org)

Click Los Angeles Region

Click Media Central Titans

Click Donate

Contact Bernie Morse at (310)556-4463  
if you have any questions.



**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

Bringing leading voices  
on Freemasonry to the fraternity.  
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# 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.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Robert Abelson	02	Alvin Livingston	12	Daryl Bristol	23
David Golde	02	Joseph Mayesh	14	Lloyd Robinson	24
Henry Koffman	03	Axel Del Cid	15	Michael Berner	26
Irving Kierman	05	Robert Black	18	Norman Feinstein	26
Jerome Zerg	07	Martin Levine	18	Justin Koretz	27
Jacob Gershbock	08	Don Wijesinghe	18	Milton Berman	28
Yuriy Kotlyar	09	Hyman Walter	19	Aaron Ganz	29
Trevor Nathaniel	10	Robert Thomason	21	D'Angelo Jones	30
Lazlo Borsai	12	Sol Marco	22		



# 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)

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