

JANUARY 2021

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

FROM THE EAST

Well, another year has come and gone. However, this year has been a very different one, indeed. The type of year that occurs every one hundred years or so. Yes, this was the year that the pandemic hit us. It has been a troubling time for every one of us, ranging from emotional distress to outright financial difficulty. At least I can look back on this year and see that the great majority of Brothers that I have communicated with have weathered the pandemic storm fairly well.

As I write this, I am preparing for the annual installation of Officers at our Lodge, signaling the beginning of another Masonic year. It is pleasing to note that we have continued to meet virtually on a fairly consistent basis, and that our virtual Stated and other meetings have been well attended. Many of the Brothers that live too far away to make it to Lodge have taken the opportunity to attend. As such, we will still

be having virtual meetings from time to time, even after we are allowed once again to meet in person. This will allow us to serve a number of Brethren that previously had limited or no exposure to our Lodge.

As we enter into the new year, we still are unable to meet as we used to. However, with the recent worldwide release of a vaccine, at least we can see the very good possibility of meeting in person sometime during 2021. I personally can't wait to get back into the full swing of Masonry. How wonderful that will be.

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!!

Fraternally,

Steve Resnick
Master



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 4, 2021

Zoom Stated Meeting

7:15 pm

JANUARY 11, 2021

Zoom Executive Committee

7:15 pm

JANUARY 18, 2021

Zoom Fellowship Night and Building Association Meeting

6:00 pm Building Association Meeting

7:15 pm Fellowship Night

JANUARY 26, 2021

Zoom Officer's School of Instruction Hosted by Beverly Hills Lodge 528

7:15 pm

Zoom login information will be available on the Lodge website or sent to members' personal email addresses.

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/events/>

NOW DOING VIRTUAL STATED MEETINGS

Until we get permission from the Grand Master to hold face-to-face Stated Meetings, these are now virtual using Zoom. You will receive an email blast each month with the link.

All business may be conducted with the exception of reports of investigating committees, balloting, examining a candidate in the Candidate's Lecture of any degree or conferring of degrees.

One positive from the Zoom meeting is that brothers living far from the lodge are now participating. Please join us at the next Stated Meeting.



Check out our website for the up to date event information

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/>

FROM THE WEST

Dear Brethren,

I am honored and privileged to be allowed to serve as Senior Warden for this Masonic year. I hope that by the end of it, we may actually be able to meet again in person, as opposed to just on a screen.

As you may or may not know, our lodge is rapidly approaching the 100 year mark. We already have a date for the 100th anniversary celebration approved with Grand Lodge. What we need is members of long standing who know our lodge and/or its constituent pieces from the various mergers who are willing to donate their

time and memories to help put together a 100th anniversary celebration that will be remembered for ages. If you or someone you know fits this description, please do not hesitate to email or call me. We'd like to have you on our celebration committee and put your experience to good use. If you have old photos or memorabilia from our lodge's history, that too would be great.

I wish you all a healthy, happy, and safe New Year, and hope to see you in Lodge, virtually or in person as conditions permit.

Fraternally,

Jacob Gershbock

Important: New Grand Lodge Dues Procedure

Updated 12/20/2020

By now you have received your 2021 dues notice from Grand Lodge.

You may pay Grand Lodge directly either by check or credit card.

If you choose to pay via Visa or Mastercard, a processing fee will be included in your payment.

1. Once posted, payments will be updated on the member's record in iMember 2.0. **Members may then immediately access their virtual dues card.*** Secretaries will be able to see that they've made their payment through a special dashboard. And for lodges using Intacct, that system will also be automatically updated.
2. Every month, lodge secretaries will receive a check from Grand Lodge and an itemized report for all of funds collected, minus any credit card processing fees.

Of course, members are also welcome to pay their dues directly to their lodge secretary via cash, check or PayPal, who will record the payment in iMember 2.0 manually.

*** You must be registered in iMember 2.0 to get your dues card online. Please go to www.member.freemason.org to register. You will need your member number which is on your current dues card. Once enrolled you will be able to download this app to your mobile phone.**

THINK ABOUT IT

The International Institute of Los Angeles (IILA) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1914 to provide assistance to immigrants who are trying to integrate themselves into a new environment. For many years it was located in a Spanish Revivalist building in East LA. However, that building became too expensive to keep up, so the IILA moved its headquarters to Lincoln Heights. It planned on selling the old building and had received offers as high as \$5 million.

Local preservationists were concerned that the building would be torn down, as had other such structures in the area. In order to prevent the building from being irreversibly lost, they applied to the city to have it declared a historical monument. The application was approved by the appropriate city commission and the vote will be occurring soon in the City Council. Unfortunately, because of the more limited use potential of buildings so designated, the offers for its sale have decreased to no more than \$2 million.

The IILA, which never participated in this application, is opposed to such a designation because of the loss of revenue and the two sides are now contesting the entire issue. Officials of the IILA have noted that their job is to help immigrants, not buildings. The preservationists have argued that the IILA should use the building for fundraising and that the building really belongs

to the community. This story was described by a local reporter, Gustavo Arellano, who viewed the situation as a fight in which both sides were right and, at the same time, both sides were wrong. His solution was for both sides to stop fighting and instead combine forces to identify a buyer who would be sympathetic to the building and would even overspend to preserve the purposes of both the IILA charity and the neighborhood historical need.

This conundrum struck me as a demonstration of the conflict that often arises in our current political world between progressives who tend to look to governmental actions to solve problems (often a solution rooted in the philosophies of socialism) and conservatives who tend to look to individuals for those answers (usually a solution based on the principles of capitalism). I assumed that the reporter comes from the former camp, but I fear that his ideal buyer does not exist. Had he come from the other camp, his (perhaps equally unlikely to succeed) answer would have been for the preservationists to take responsibility for the selling price deficit by conducting their own fundraising to pay the IILA the difference in that price.

Think about it.

Ron Koretz, P.M.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dennis Goldberg	02	Mario Sherman	1 6
William Weiss	05	Edwin Siegel	1 6
Jay Markoff	07	Vrej Eskandarian	1 7
Zach Samuels	07	Bernard Kentor	1 7
Richard Friedman	09	Donald Gordon	1 9
David Green	11	Nazareth Guluzian	2 0
Ronald Koretz	11	Stuart Horwitz	2 7
Andre Richardson	12	Bradley Zalben	2 9
Kerin Surents	13	Kyle Ware	3 1
Steven Kierman	14		

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 with long-standing medical problems

Bonnie Miller Is in care facility to build up strength

Evan Weiss Is at care facility in Chino but eye problem resolved

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**

2021 OFFICERS

Master – Steve Resnick (Sheelah)

Marshal – Yuriy Kotlyar

Senior Warden – Jacob Gershbock

Senior Steward – Rob Holmes

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

Junior Steward – Renato Garcia (Minerva)

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

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

Secretary – Kyle Ware

Tiler –

Chaplain – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.

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

Senior Deacon –

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

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Trestleboard Layout – Yuriy Kotlyar