

APRIL 2021

# TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

## FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

Well, I think we are starting to slowly get back to normal. I know that for myself, I had been working remotely since the Pandemic showed its ugly face. In the past month or so, I have noticed that the businesses that I am auditing now have their employees working at the office, with much fewer working at home. I, too, have started to venture out and do my audits in person. I still wear my KN95 face mask, but I am getting out there. Of course, this also means that we are moving closer to the opening of Masonry.

There are now two very important Masonic events, tentatively scheduled. The Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau is hoping to host MW Art Weiss at the Grand Master's Breakfast on Sunday, 9/12/21. Also, following our long-standing tradition, we at Ionic Composite Lodge are planning to have a reception for MW Art at our Lodge the following Monday, 9/13/21.

Meanwhile, Ionic Composite Lodge continues to be quite vibrant, as evidenced by a

doubleheader event that we hosted on Monday, 3/15/21. We were lucky enough to both present Worshipful Jack Revel with the Golden Veteran Award and present MW John Trauner and his wife Dana with their long-overdue gifts from the reception, which was supposed to go down about a year ago during March 2020.

It was actually most MW John that presented Wor Jack with the award. Jack is still quite active with his travel business, and he was also very pleased and proud to receive his award.

John and Dana seemed quite happy with their gifts, and MW mentioned that he would be proudly displaying his engraved shovel at his abode.

Yes, Masonry continues to thrive, both throughout California and at Ionic Composite Lodge. I can't wait until we get totally back to normal and start meeting in person. We are getting ever closer.

Fraternally,  
Steve Resnick

## FROM THE WEST

Dear Brethren,

In Masonry, we talk a lot about light. So much so that I don't even feel the need to elucidate, knowing full well that appropriate thoughts, metaphors, and connotations will already be going through your mind at the mere word. Instead, I want to draw your attention to darkness for a moment. Darkness is not merely the absence of light. It is the contrast that allows light to be seen and appreciated.

This past year, with the advent of COVID, we have seen a lot of darkness in the world. We have seen some of the worst that people can be, such as those who would criminally defraud the system for personal gain amidst a

crisis of the first magnitude. But at the same time, we have seen an incredible outpouring of light, in the form of higher rates of charitable giving than ever before, with Masons and non-Masons alike joining together to help those who were hurt the worst by the pandemic and its fallout.

So, one year later, let us give thanks for surviving thus far, say a prayer that we will soon be together again, and pay a little more attention to the darkness around us, that we might do our best to bring light to those areas of the world as well.

Fraternally,  
Jacob Gershbock

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 5, 2021**

**Zoom Stated Meeting**  
7:00 pm

**APRIL 19, 2021**

**Zoom Fellowship Night**  
7:00 pm

**APRIL 12, 2021**

**Building Association Meeting and Pillar Officer Meeting**

6:00 pm Building Association Meeting  
7:00 pm Pillar Officer Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**September 12:** Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau Grand Master's Breakfast.

**September 13:** Ionic Composite Reception Of the Grand Master.

Up to date events and Zoom login information will be available on the Lodge website or sent to members' personal email. <https://www.ioniccomposite.com/events/>

## CALIFORNIA GRAND LODGE 2050 VISION

A World in Harmony

## GRAND LODGE MISSION STATEMENT

Building peace and understanding  
through friendship, service and self improvement

## GRAND LODGE 2025 PILLARS

True Friendship  
Diversity & Harmony  
Positive Awareness  
Engaging Member Experience  
Community Improvement and Leadership

## UPDATED LODGE iMEMBER PROFILE STATISTICS

As of March 23 the iMember 2.0 Administrative Dashboard revealed some slightly improved signed-up statistics regarding our member profiles. Grand Lodge currently has only:

- 77% of member emails
- 41% of member mobile phones
- 77% of home phones
- 36% signed up for iMember 2.0

If we do not have your email you are not receiving our email blasts or Trestleboards.

If we do not have your mobile phone we will not be able to send out a text blast when it is important to do so. In some cases mobile phones are listed under home phones which needs to be corrected.

We are asking all our brothers to insure we have your complete and accurate contact information. You may correct this yourself by registering for iMember 2.0 and updating your Member Profile. To register go to [www.freemason.org](http://www.freemason.org) and click "For Members" in upper right corner.

iMember 2.0 has tremendous features for all brothers including member posts, lodge calendar, deciding how you want to receive communication from our lodge and printing your 2021 dues card.

You can also update your info by emailing Secretary Kyle Ware at [brokyleware@gmail.com](mailto:brokyleware@gmail.com) or calling him at (323)300-4609.

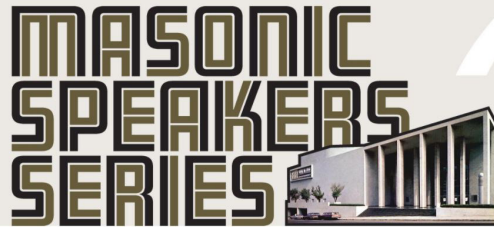


# TRESTLE BOARD

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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Bringing leading voices  
on Freemasonry to the fraternity.



All live lectures are online, free,  
and open to the public.

### MASONIC SPEAKER SERIES: RESTORING ORDER WITH MASONRY

<https://freemason.org/speakerseries/>

How can Freemasonry help to create peace and goodwill within our society? Learn more starting February 3 in the newest [Online Masonic Speaker Series](#) as author and academic C.R. Dunning explores how meditation and mindfulness are intertwined with the contemplative elements of the Masonic ritual. On February 17, Past Grand Master Russ Charvonia will discuss how we can help improve our civil society by improving ourselves.

These lectures – as well as all other [Masonic Speaker Series](#) events – are entirely free and open to the public. Simply register in advance to secure your spot.

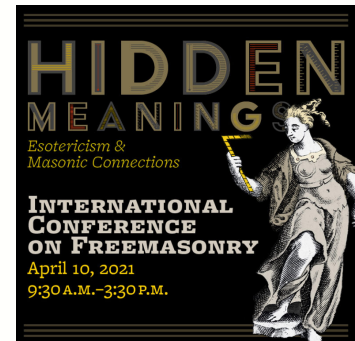
**April 10 9:30 a.m.**

#### 2021 International Conference on Freemasonry

Freemasonry offers members a pathway to self-improvement, fellowship, and community. For the committed few, it holds the promise of even more.

For more than 300 years, Masonic teachings and symbolism have attracted those in search of deeper, secret meanings about the natural and even supernatural world. These esoteric pursuits, shrouded in mystery and mysticism, have endured through the centuries and even today, continue to fascinate seekers around the world.

Online for the first time, experts and scholars on Freemasonry will meet on April 10 to discuss the eternal quest for esoteric knowledge and its broader relationship to the craft. The ninth annual [International Conference on Freemasonry](#) is a rare chance for Masons and non-Masons alike to dive into metaphysics, antiquity, and the occult.



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### TO OUR LIFE MEMBERS

To help the lodge finances it would be most appreciated if you could donate this years Per Capita of \$55.25 by check or \$57.15 through PayPal (which includes the Service Fee) on our website.  
If you have already done so we thank you.

# THINK ABOUT IT

Dipti Barot is a primary care physician in the San Francisco area. She recently wrote an op-ed piece in the Los Angeles Times that dealt with the problem that most of us are facing regarding the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. Both of her parents live in the San Francisco Bay area and are near 80 years of age. Unfortunately, they both have some type of blood cancer for which they are receiving chemotherapy. Given their conditions, it would appear that they both would be high up in the line for being vaccinated, or at least so Dr. Barot thought.

In mid-January, the state of California expanded the pool of eligible vaccine recipients beyond healthcare workers and residents of nursing homes to include those who were over the age of 65. Her father happened to have an appointment the next day with his own doctor and he inquired at that time about getting the vaccine. He was told to call the "vaccine hotline" to schedule one, but was unable to even get through for the following two days. However, he was ultimately successful, although the date he was given was weeks away and at a facility 50 miles from their home.

Dr. Barot then described the hardships of making that 100-mile round trip in congested traffic and rain, witnessing an overturned vehicle in the midst of a three-car accident along the way. Dr. Barot also noted that, in order for her to take them, she had to "manage to take the day off work". Dr. Barot concluded her tale of travail by expressing concern for other elderly and sick people who have even fewer resources to work the system.

While the story is certainly one worthy of some sympathy, I was struck by Dr. Barot's emotional response to it. By her account, she did not

feel any elation over being able to accomplish the goal of getting the vaccine to her parents. Instead, she stated that she was enraged at how hard it was, blaming a "broken" healthcare system and failure at all levels of leadership.

What surprised me was Dr. Barot's lack of awareness about how to deal with a scarcity of resources. While her parents' plight was obvious, why did she think that their situation was that much different from many others who were also trying to get vaccinated? In fact, given her front-line view as a doctor, one would think that she would be more prepared for it. It was interesting that she did not mention whether or not she herself, as a doctor, had already received the vaccine and how hard that process was.

I graduated from medical school in 1967 and, ever since then, I have been struck by how poorly my colleagues appreciate the limitations of healthcare resources. In the name of doing whatever they can for individual patients (and perhaps for their own benefit as well), they continue to order tests and medications (often unnecessarily), blaming the high cost of healthcare on greedy insurance companies and lawyers, demanding families, and anybody else other than themselves. The reality of the vaccine is that it is truly scarce and money alone won't fix the problem in the near future. What might have been a more useful piece of information from Dr. Barot would have been suggestions about what we should stop doing if we are going to give a higher vaccine priority to elderly people with blood cancers. Where has her anger been up to now?

Think about it.  
Ron Koretz, P.M.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jon Wax	01	Shahriar Esshaghian	08	Michael Turner	14
Mark Mischel	03	Renato Garcia	09	Jeff Bear	16
Koorosh Moshtahedian	03	Luis Tananta	10	Hamid Shooshani	23
David Gediman	04	Arnold Fazekas	13	Edward Segal	27
Andre Torosyan	04	Clayton Jones	13	Michael Leiaghat	28
Marc Behun	05	Harold Wax	13	Jack Rapke	28
Brandon Koretz	07	Harvey Glaser	14	David Harris	30

# BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

## Sick and Visitation Committee Report

### We Wish Everyone a Full and Complete Recovery

<b>Len Cohen</b>	Home with several medical problems
<b>Earl Hellum</b>	Home with long-standing medical problems
<b>Bonnie Miller</b>	Recovering at home
<b>Arnie Schoenfeld</b>	Hospitalized in January for severe infection; home now and much improved

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 –
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



Ionic Composite Lodge №520  
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Los Angeles, CA 90035