

FEBRUARY 2022

# TRESTLE BOARD

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

1122 S. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035

(310) 657-2628 / ioniccomposite.com

## FROM THE EAST

Dear Brethren

As of now, the closing date of escrow for the sale of our building has moved to February 15, 2022. The buyers have, to this point, deposited \$600,000 into escrow which is non-refundable. Of that, \$400,000 has already been deposited into our lodge account, thereby effectively tripling the amount of money in said account. The final \$200,000 was only just received, and must first be sent to the building association, clear with the bank there, and from there the building association writes a check to the lodge. All in all, everything is on track. I have been in personal contact with leadership at Liberal Arts Lodge, and they are holding our place for us, so we have a place to land. We are also exploring multiple avenues of looking for a new property, either to buy or to lease/rent long term.

I am sorry to say that, due to the Omicron surge of Covid, we are not having our usual Sweethearts night in February. Stay tuned later in the year, as we intend to hold it when things calm down a bit and would not unduly expose our vulnerable elderly widows to danger. That said, this month's stated meeting should be both informative and pleasant, as MW Russ Charvonia will not only be giving a short talk about Civility

(a topic on which he has recently written a book), but he will also be presenting our own Wor. Bernie Morse with his 50 year pin. I am also pleased to announce that we received our first application of the year this past stated meeting, and that we can therefore look forward to resuming degrees in the near future.

Finally, I would like to advise you that in the coming weeks or month, please expect a call from one of us at Lodge. We want to know how you are doing, how Covid has affected you, if you need Masonic assistance or if you would like to be put in touch with Masonic Outreach services, and what kind of activities you would like to see this year. I would like to invite you to come to the Grand Master's Reception and the awarding of the Kiermans' 75 and 50 year pins (father and son, respectively) on March 6th. This is the kind of congruence that happens once in a lifetime, so it promises to be an afternoon to remember. I hope to see you all soon in Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Jacob Gershbock  
Master

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

Stated Meeting + Dinner - \$20 at the Door  
*Golden Veterans Award & Special Speaker*  
(See Page 2)

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

Executive Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY 28, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

1st Degree Practice

MARCH 6, 2022 1:00PM (IN PERSON)

Reception of the Grand Master of Masons in California  
(Watch for Details)

MARCH 7, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

Stated Meeting + Dinner - \$20 at the Door



RSVP for Stated Dinners: [brokyleware@gmail.com](mailto:brokyleware@gmail.com) / 323-300-4609

[IonicComposite.com](http://IonicComposite.com)

# FEBRUARY 7TH STATED MEETING

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Presentation of the Golden Veterans Award  
to

*Bernie Morse, P.M.*  
Treasurer & Officers' Coach

Speaker

*P.G.M Russ Charvonia*

Author of the New Book

**THE CIVILITY MOSAIC**

How Anyone Can Use the Principles of Freemasonry to Repair the World

Dinner 7:15PM \$20/Person

Catered by Andres Italian

Choice of Chicken Parmesan or Vegetable Lasagna

RSVP with choice to **Kyle Ware** by Noon Friday February 4

[brokyleware@gmail.com](mailto:brokyleware@gmail.com)

Open Program 8:00PM

*Proof of Covid Vaccine or negative test during 3 days is required!*



# FROM THE WEST

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Dear Brethren,

Looks like a can't miss Stated Meeting coming up on Monday February 7, 2022, at 7:15PM. A genuine double header. First of all, Most Worshipful Russ Charvonia (Past Grand Master of Masons in California) will be presenting our own Worshipful Bernie Morse with his Golden Veterans award, for 50 years of service. Not only is Bernie earning this phenomenal award, but he is also still one of the most active Masons in our Lodge and elsewhere in Masonry. No signs of slowing down for this Past Master, as he currently serves as our Treasurer and Officer's Coach. Not to mention his huge long term contribution to the success of Masons 4 Mitts, serving as Co-Captain of the Media Central Titans, and Ambassador for the Masonic Outreach Program, along with Worshipful Mike Bear. Let's all be certain to offer Worshipful Bernie our well-earned support and attend the next Stated Meeting show casing his illustrious and still continuing service. I know that I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Besides presenting Bernie with the GV Award, MW Russ will also be making a presentation on civility, coinciding with the recent roll out of his new book "The Civility Mosaic". In a nutshell, the book is about

using civility to work more productively with all our brothers and sisters for the greater good of society, in these dark and turbulent times of discord. I just ordered the book and can't wait to read it. It will definitely be with me at the next Stated in hopes that I can get MW to sign my edition.

In my early days of Masonry, I was lucky enough to attend a presentation by MW Russ on Civility, or more actually the lack thereof. During his presentation, Russ made me realize how easy it was to take the first steps to becoming a more civil individual. In just describing his very long commute to the Lodge that evening, Russ pointed out how something as simple as trying to not become agitated and therefore drive overly aggressively or unnecessarily honk at anyone was a valuable exercise. Now years later, I eagerly await the chance to jump back into improving my civility by reading Russ's new book.

Will I be at the next Stated Meeting?  
Just try and stop me.

Fraternally,  
Steve Resnick  
Senior Warden

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We are planning an  
**All Day Summer Sightseeing Tour of LA**  
*Conducted by Roy Steinfeld PM*  
**Watch for details!**

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Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520  
**100th Anniversary Gala Reception**  
Saturday November 19, 2022  
Watch for details

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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 \$57.50 by check through PayPal on our website.  
If you have already done so, we thank you.

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# THE 100 CORNER

## Answer to January question:

Which of the following books was a 7-season series on the CW Network and now is streaming on Netflix? ***The 100 by Kass Morgan***

1. One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez book
2. A Hundred Summers by Beatriz Williams
3. The 100 by Kass Morgan
4. A Hundred Sweet Promises by Sepehr Haddad
5. A Hundred Small Lessons by Ashley Hay
6. A Hundred Flowers by Gail Tsukiyama
7. A Hundred Suns by Karin Tanabe

**Question:** Using only the numbers 0 and 1 as well as mathematical symbols (+, -, X, ÷, !, Σ), how many ways can you write a series that represents the number 100?

Editor's note: The 100 Corner will be, for most of 2022, be an ongoing feature in the Trestle-board. It is designed to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Ionic-Composite Lodge. A grand celebration of this occasion will occur on November 19, 2022. Save the date.



**Annual Reception of Grand Master *Jeffrey M. Wilkins***

**Sunday, March 6 - 1:00PM**

***Watch for Details***

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### ***Are You Receiving Our Email Blasts?***

If not please provide your email address to our Secretary Kyle Ware. You can email him at [brokyleware@gmail.com](mailto:brokyleware@gmail.com). Currently we only have 81% of our brothers' addresses in iMember and 77% of their home phones.

If you are not signed up for iMember the California Mason online system which has many valuable features, he can help you. You can update your personal information and set preferences plus even print our your dues card.



# CASTING CALL

## **Wannabe Actors, Thespians And Those Who Want Great Ritual**

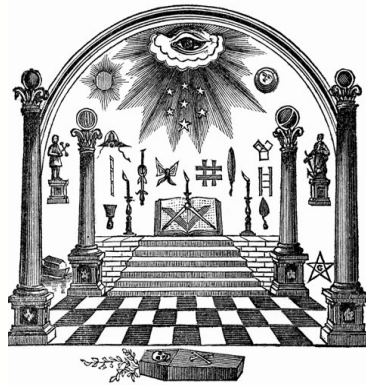
You can help enhance the Masonic degrees for our candidates by taking part in the ceremonies. We want to put together ritual teams in all three degrees that will create memorable experiences.

Note that Entered Apprentices can take part in the 1st degree, Fellowcrafts in the 1st and 2nd degrees, and Master Masons in all three.

We are also looking for Master Masons who want to be officers. We have openings for 2022.

We want and need your involvement.  
If interested please contact:

**Bernie Morse, PM  
Officer's Coach  
(310)556-4463**



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Harry Sussman	1	Joshua Jason	11	Tony Napoli	21
Robert Malinow	3	Benson Turner	12	Eugene Fink	22
Richard Shapiro	3	Bruce Gary	14	Victor Pinkerton	22
Joseph Michael	5	Amir Jandaghi	14	Robert Rosenstein	26
Roberto Jo	7	Stanley Sax	14	Karam Al Yateem	28
Carl Smith	10	Norman Weinstock	15	Robert Feiles	28
Varun Dadabhoy	10	Robin Silverman	17	Ira Steinore	29

# THINK ABOUT IT

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For decades, one of the rites of passage for high school seniors desiring to attend college has been the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT. However, in the more recent past the SAT and other standardized tests have come under fire, even being labeled “racist”. Minorities have, on average, lower scores on these tests, but it is likely that a multitude of non-racial factors at least contribute, including language barriers, economic disadvantages (which make special SAT tutoring less available in addition to the impact of poverty on a school), and personal values that encourage non-academic preferences. However, for those who equate racism with numerical disparity (i.e., the percentage of minorities in college is lower than that percentage in the general population), it is an easy leap to associate the lower SAT scores with racial bias.

Recently both the University of California and California State University systems have chosen to no longer consider SAT scores in admission decisions. This policy was made in both systems after representatives of the faculty (who are not politicians) studied the issues. According to stories in the Los Angeles Times, it was observed by both groups that standardized testing is not as good a tool as high school grades in predicting success in college and this fact appeared to be the force that drove the decision.

I was concerned about the reasoning of these faculties. After all, they are responsible for teaching college students how to

think and, as such, one would assume that they are experts in this practice. However, their recommendation addressed the wrong question. The question that they answered was, in a situation in which one can make decisions about admission based either on grades or SAT scores, grades were better. However, the real question was whether grades alone were as good as, or even better than, using both grades and standardized tests.

I am on a committee that awards college scholarships to high school seniors. Part of our deliberations revolve around grade point averages (GPAs). Many of our applicants have GPAs that are close to, or even above, 4.0 (i.e., an A average). What is never clear in the application, however, is what an A means at that particular high school. When a standardized test score is also available, I use that score to validate the GPA. In particular, when the score is only average, I question the reliability of the GPA. (One cannot attribute the difference to the excuse that the student does not test well, because he or she presumably tested well enough to earn an A.)

Thus, my concern about the use of the SAT was diverted to a concern about the thinking ability of the faculties at these universities. Perhaps we need to develop standardized tests to assess that capacity before we hire them.

Think about it.  
Ron Koretz, P.M.

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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/>

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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

**This article was first printed in the 1938 Trestleboard for Ionic Lodge.**

**Written by Secretary: Benj. J. Moss, PM  
with Jerome D. Rosenfield as Master**

**“To move or not to move; THAT is the question.” But if the lodge can save \$45 per month plus free use of banquet room that’s SOMETHING! \$45 per month is \$540 per year and that’s equivalent to the lodge’s share of 10 petitions. If 10 petitions were received at one meeting we’d be quite jubilant. Well—the \$540 saved in rent is the same kind of U. S. currency as accompanies petitions—and is worthy of the same amount of jublations!**

**Sound, sensible, economical home financing decrees that no over 25% of one’s fixed income should be spent for rent. Are you paying more than one-fourth of your monthly income for rent? Most likely no. Then why should the lodge? Audits for 1936 and 1937 show our fixed income at a few dollars below \$3000. 1938 will approximate this same figure. If our income is \$3000 our rent should be \$750. The recent raise places our rent at \$1140, or 38% of our fixed income! Would you operate your business on a 38% rental basis???**

**To prove your Secretary does more than read minutes and issue dues receipts, here’s some information we dug up: We have 168 members residing WEST of Western Avenue; 101 EAST of Western Avenue. Of the 168, 95 live SOUTH of Wilshire, 65 NORTH of Bay region. Of the 101, 47 live NORTH of Wilshire, including Glendale, Alhambra, Baldwin Park, Tujunga, Altadena, and Irving Elson, P.M, in Montrose; 37 live SOUTH of Wilshire (that’s the sector in which Westgate Temple is located),, and 17 reside in Boyle Heights and City Terrace.**

**Distances—From Sunset and Vermont to Westgate Temple, 3.7 miles; from Sunset and Vermont to Culver City, 10.5 miles; from Sunset and Western to Westgate temple, 4.9 miles; from Sunset and Wester to Culver City, 9.8 miles; from Melrose and Fairfax to Westgate Temple, 6.8 miles; from Melrose and Fairfax to Culver City, 6.0 miles; from Pico and Fairfax to Westgate Temple, 3.0 miles; from Pico and Fairfax to Culver City, 3.7 miles; from Westgate Temple to Culver city Temple, 6.8 miles.**

**The starting points are the assumed centres of the four sectors mention above. If we move—and even if we don’t—why not start lodge session at 7:30P.M. instead of 7:00? A later opening would see more members present, would give the lodge a more representative appearance and be a more impressive than the present “skeleton” appearance and hurry-up activity with only officers and one or two on the sidelines. Compare the jovial, warm and friendly atmosphere of a late-starting stated meeting when the sidelines are well filled, in contrast with the cold, cheerless opening on a 7:00 P.M. degree night and you will get the idea. The extra half hour can be partly made up by speeding the degree work. And when work gets heavy we can always make an exception and return to the 7:00 o’clock opening. There appears no real need of a 7:00 P.M. opening and a later opening would inculcate Masonry a bit more by removing the embarrassment of being tardy by those now arriving between 7:00 and 7:30 o’clock.**

# BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

## Sick and Visitation Committee Report

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
David Philips	At Masonic Home in Covina; has some medical problems
Bob Sills	Home with dislocated jaw, is improving
Note: Brother Stan Sax will also be keeping track of our sick and ailing brethren and family members.	

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

### Officers Needed

We currently have openings for 3 officers: Senior Deacon, Marshal, and Chaplain. If you are interested or have questions please contact Officers' Coach Bernie Morse PM at (310)556-4463 or email him at brnhrd18@yahoo.com.

## 2022 OFFICERS

Master – Jacob Gershbock	Marshal –
Senior Warden – Steve Resnick (Sheelah)	Senior Steward – Varun Dadabhoy
Junior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Junior Steward –
Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Assistant Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)
Secretary – Kyle Ware	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
Chaplain –	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 – Kyle Ware