

JULY 2022

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(310) 657-2628 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

It is often said that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. I would argue that there is but one true constant in this world: change. Change is everywhere, encompasses everything, and it is built into the very fabric of the universe in the form of Time and Entropy. Death and taxes are forms of change, it is true, but they hardly represent the extent of its ever-present and ever-certain effects. Nor by saying "ever-certain" do I mean to imply that the changes we encounter are necessarily predictable; it is certain that the world, and all who dwell upon it, will change, but how that change will manifest is often a mystery. That is perhaps why it is so often feared. People go to great lengths at times to justify maintaining the status quo. It is part of the reason for the human propensity for nostalgia, even though if we are being honest with ourselves, the "good old days" so very often weren't so good at all.

The simple fact is that change is unavoidable. It is inevitable. It is necessary. Most of all, though, change is hard. It forces us to abandon comfortable habits and routines, to overcome the inertia of well-established patterns of thought and behavior, and instead adapt to something new and unknown. It can mean turning one's world upside down and being forced to effectively start anew in unfamiliar territory, both literally and metaphorically, but that very reboot also spurs innovation and advancement.

Masonry is an institution that both reveres and abhors change. We agree that no man or body of men can make innovations to the foundations of Masonry, and we make our Constitution and Rituals extremely resistant to idle manipulation or shifts in direction. Yet at the same time, change is fundamentally at the very core of Masonry. Our classic, almost clichéd mission statement is to "Make Good Men Better," but how does one do so if not through inducing change? Each and every one of our rituals and ceremonies are designed around the concept of change. From our Degree rituals in all three Degrees to our basic Stated Meet-

ing routines, from the laying of a Cornerstone to the Rededication of a Lodge, from a Golden Veteran or Diamond Jubilee presentation to a Masonic Funeral, each and every one of our assemblies is focused on change. From friend to brother, from plan to execution of design, from celebrating long life to acknowledging the transition to the life that awaits in the Great Beyond. Masonry is journey of self-improvement, with the goal of improving the world one person at a time. Thus, despite our aforementioned resistance to change, we nevertheless revere it. It is through change that we grow, through change that we evolve and develop, and through change that we ultimately improve ourselves.

This is a time of great change, for us and for the world at large. It is a time of changing routines and shifting paradigms due to a global pandemic. It is a time of division, of extremism, of near-complete partisanship; a time when elected officials in all corners of the world seem more interested in power and self-aggrandizement than in honestly serving and representing the needs and views of those whom they claim to represent. It is a time when the ambitions of the powerful to stay in power and gain more are tearing apart countries, destroying friendships, and even dividing families. A time when the greatest tools ever invented for bringing humanity together are instead being employed more and more for the spread of hate, disharmony, misinformation, and distrust. But those who would see the world in flames are not the only ones who have tools that can effect change.

We as Masons are gifted with and taught to employ our Working Tools to bring Light to the darkness, to restore civility to society, to relieve the distressed, to improve ourselves and our communities, and most of all to remind the world and the people in it that in the end, we are all the same. We are all inhabitants of the same planet, children of the same Great Architect, and are all bound by the same laws of Nature. It is our duty as Masons to show the world that even those who disagree with one another can be civil and work together for the common good, that Earthly power is and always

ought to be a means rather than an end, and that by an adherence to our principles it is possible not only to make ourselves better, but to raise up others with us. It is not the purpose of Light merely to exist; it is rather meant to guide, to illuminate, and to give of itself that the Darkness might be held at bay.

Brethren, our work as Masons begins at the Lodge. As you know, this month we make the move to a new location, meeting in a new place for the first time in some seven decades. We bring with us our shared history, our culture, our traditions and accomplishments, but most of all, we bring our Brethren. That, in the end, is what makes our Lodge our Lodge. It is only when we as Brethren join together that we can accomplish our goals and effect change on ourselves, our community, and the world at large. I urge you to come join us in our efforts, because now,

more than ever before in living memory, the world needs Masonry, even if it doesn't know it. I sincerely hope to see you at Lodge - which will, beginning with this month's Stated Meeting on July 11th, be held at 2244 Westwood Blvd.

I know that change is hard, change is scary, and inertia is difficult to overcome, but if we work together, we can make this a change for good. If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, consider coming back. If you don't attend because of transport issues, please reach out to myself or other Brethren and we will do our best to provide transport to and from Lodge. In today's world, it is no longer enough to merely be good; we must do good, and we must do so together.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock
Master

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 11, 2022 7:15PM

Stated Meeting
First meeting at **Liberal Arts** location
2244 Westwood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064
Dinner is choice of Chicken Pasrmesan or Vegetable Lasagne
from Andre's Italian Restaurant - Cost is \$20
Inspector Visitation
Ladies are Cordially Invited for Dinner
Valet Parking will be available
Please RSVP brokyleware@gmail.com / 323-300-4609

JULY 17, 2022 7:30AM (IN PERSON)

LAMSB Men's Breakfast at the LAX Hilton
~Honoring the Grand Master of Masons in California~

JULY 18, 2022 6:00PM (IN PERSON)

Building Association Meeting
Followed by **Second Degree practice at 7pm**

JULY 25, 2022 7:00PM (VIRTUAL)

Hold for Virtual Fellowship Night
(Info will be sent out later this month)

AUGUST 1, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

Stated Meeting



**ALL FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT
LIBERAL ARTS LODGE
2244 Westwood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064**



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2022 6:00PM

IONIC COMPOSITE NO.520

100th Anniversary Gala

1922 - 2022

At the Del Rey Yacht Club

**Choice of Prime Rib, Salmon or Vegetarian
\$19.22/person**

**Watch for your formal invitation.
For any questions or suggestions contact:
Bernie Morse PM (310)556-4463 or
Ron Koretz PM (818)360-2708**

Black Tie Optional



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.

Check Out Our Website for Up to Date Information

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

FROM THE WEST

Dear Brethren,

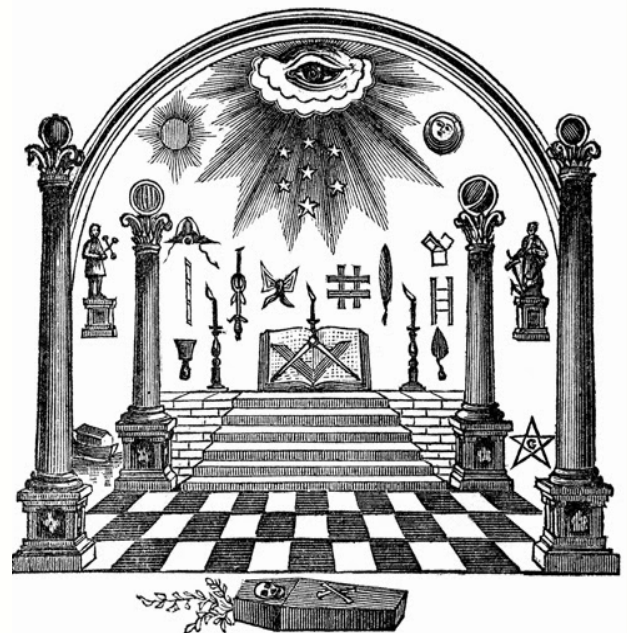
Okay, just so everyone knows, **THIS LODGE CAN STILL DO RITUAL AND DO IT VERY WELL!!!** As you all know, we will be moving to Liberal Arts Lodge at 2244 Westwood Blvd, effective for the July Stated Meeting. This would mean that the double 1st Degree that we performed on 6/13/22 was the last degree that will be performed at the old building. Well let me say that we knocked it out of the ballpark. With Worshipful Bernie as Officers Coach and Worshipful Jeff in the East how could we do anything other than a fine job. To further celebrate our last degree here, our Worshipful Master Jacob very wisely and unselfishly drove out to pick up both Worshipful Evan Weiss and Worshipful Howard Steinore. Not only did these past luminaries attend, but they also served as Marshal and deliverer of the Charge. It was a real treat to see these gentlemen back in Lodge strutting their stuff.

Now for the not so great news, even though we did put on a high quality double First Degree, the majority of individuals working it were Past Masters. This can only go on so long, until we find ourselves very short handed. It is really time for all of our EA's and FC's to step up and learn their proficiencies while advancing to Master Masons and hopefully as Officers and participants of ritual. Doing this is not only crucial for our Lodge but would also be a big boost to your Masonic lives. I know that when I first became an EA, it was my true desire to advance to Master Mason ASAP. It is true that Masonry is a progressive science taught by degrees only and when you do reach that sublime degree of Master

Mason, you will truly be enlightened regarding the mysteries of Freemasonry. Once you become a Master Mason, you are entitled to venture out anywhere in the big beautiful Masonic world, further enjoying and enhancing your Masonic progression.

Can't wait to see everyone in our new Lodge, especially any revitalized EA's or FC's that realize that the time is now!!!

Fraternally,
Steve Resnick, P.M.
Senior Warden



THE 100 CORNER

Answer to June question:

Why should we consider Winnie the Pooh in this column? Because he lives in the Hundred Acre Wood.

Question:

What is the Hotter 'n Hell Hundred?

Editor's note: The 100 Corner will be, for most of 2022, an ongoing feature in the Trestleboard. It is designed to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Ionic-Composite Lodge. A grand celebration (black tie optional) of this occasion will occur on November 19, 2022 and will be held at the Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey. The cost for this dinner and evening, which will be attended by the Grand Master, will be \$ 19.22 per person. Save the date and we hope to see you there.

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. 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.



Batter Up!



Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt
For the 2022 Masons4Mitts Fundraiser
supporting the LA Dodgers Dreamteam Program

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers Dreamteam program. This program is more than just baseball and softball. Kids and parents attend programs about leadership, teamwork, health, safety, finances and good citizenship.

Support your lodge's participation in this great program.

Go to www.masons4mitts.org

Click LA Dodger Logo

Click Media Central Titans

Click Give a Mitt

Click Donate

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Morton Devor	4 Michael Bear	17 Howard Brandes	25
William Ellison	11 Stephen Fenster	18 Carmel Levy	27
Sidney Richlin	14 Thomas Ortiz	20 Howard Hallis	28
Eduardo Cortes	15 Robert Nelli	21 Richard Ellman	29
Timothy Slone	16 Jacob Smerling	23 Theodore Blumenfeld	30
Paul Troy	16 Glenn Ardizzone	24 Barry Charles	30

THINK ABOUT IT

When I was in the Air Force, there was an unwritten practice. If something went wrong and your commanding officer called you to task, there was only one acceptable response, even if you had nothing to do with the problem. That response was “No excuse, sir!” In the real world, however, taking responsibility for one’s actions is not so common.

M.O. is a woman who lives in Missouri. In 2017 she was sexually involved with a man (M.B.) on a regular basis. One or more of those episodes occurred in M.B.’s car, where they had unprotected sex. In 2018 she was diagnosed as being infected by the human papillomavirus (HPV). M.B. was known to have been infected by HPV prior to his becoming involved with M.O., a fact that M.O. claims to have learned about after the fact (although M.B. has claimed that he told her that he had been previously diagnosed with HPV-related throat cancer). M.O. knew that M.B. was insured by Geico (presumably car liability insurance) and she filed a claim in February 2021 asking for \$1,000,000 for “negligence and negligent infliction of emotional distress” (per a story published on-line by Timothy Bella for the Washington Post on June 9, 2022).

After reviewing that claim, Geico denied it based on several grounds. The company believed that the woman could have been infected elsewhere and/or by another person, that she knew about the infection, and that this type of incident was not covered by the insurance. M.O. then sought arbitration for her case. The

arbitrator determined that M.B. was responsible because he did not disclose the infection and that the sex in the car “directly caused, or substantially contributed to cause” the HPV infection. He ordered Geico to pay M.O. \$5,200,000. Curiously, this decision was upheld by the Missouri Court of Appeals.

Within a day or so after this article was posted, over 1000 responses came in. While I did not read them all, the last 10% or so were from people who were mostly outraged either by this woman or by the judicial decision and/or had unfavorable things to say about the insurance industry. I am writing this column because I am disappointed that M.O., like many other people in our society, was so incapable of accepting personal responsibility for her own act and even went so far as to try to make money from it. It did not help when others around her facilitated these behaviors, perhaps for personal gain (e.g., the lawyer who took her case) or because they are reluctant (perhaps unable) to use common sense. Maybe such issues should be tried in military courts.

Think about it.
Ron Koretz, P.M.

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/>

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

Len Cohen	Home with several medical problems
Earl Hellum	Home with long-standing medical problems
Irv Kierman	Broken leg – in rehabilitation center
Art Vanetek	Home after recent hospitalization and “on mend”

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, P.M. (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