

OCTOBER 2022

# TRESTLE BOARD

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(310) 657-2628 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

For those of you who don't know, Rosh Ha'Shana, the Jewish New Year, begins at sundown this September 25th. It is followed by ten days referred to as the ten days of Repentance, at the end of which is Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the Jewish year. In fact, the entire prior month – the Hebrew month of Elul – is actually considered as the lead-up to those two holidays, which are referred to as the High Holidays. It is a time of reflection, of soul-searching, of admitting wrongs, and trying to discover how to improve and make amends in the coming year.

As I have stated numerous times, this year's theme for our Lodge is Rebirth, and at this time in particular it is spiritual, rather than physical rebirth about which I wish to speak, and it is thus that I mention Elul and the High Holidays. At this time, Jews are supposed to look inwards to find out how they can be better, and we do much the same as Masons, but it is more than that. One of the unique things about the prayers of repentance in the Jewish Tradition is that they are always in the plural. We ask for forgiveness "For the sins which we have committed ..." etc. We are taught that there is no forgiveness, no repentance, and no salvation in a vacuum. It is only as part of a community that we can be forgiven; not because we are inherently unworthy as individuals, but because we live and err as a group, and therefore must atone as such as well. It is because while we may pray for forgiveness from the Divine for sins of the soul, we must also beg forgiveness from each other for sins against other people.

As Masons, we have a similar inherent understanding of the power and necessity of the group dynamic. Masons "meet" – they do not simply exist. For all the self-improvement and self-transformative power of Masonry, it is nevertheless a group journey, and it is traveled together, with each of us linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. Masons inherently understand that we are indeed responsible for the problems – and sometimes even the sins – of our brethren, and that it is therefore our responsibility to seek to

improve not just ourselves, but each other as well. We are fundamentally aware of the indisputable fact that we are, indeed, our brothers' keepers, and that as such, we must lead by example and work together.

This coming month is the end of the Grand Lodge year in California, and at the 173rd Annual Communication a new line of Grand Lodge Officers will be installed. It is thus fitting that we should take a moment at this season to consider where we have been, where we are now, and where we hope to be this time next year and in years to come as a Lodge, not just physically, but spiritually as well. What do you – what do we – stand for? What are we willing to do, and how far are we willing to go to make a difference in our Lodge and in the lives of others? How can we be better, as men and as Masons, in the year ahead? Can you commit one Monday night a month to the Lodge? Two? Maybe only one every few months? Can you help an older brother with a ride to Lodge so that they too can attend and be part of our ceremonies and assemblies? Can you afford to donate to our charities, or support our youth orders? Are you willing to wear a symbol of your Masonic affiliation so that others might be inspired by the way you act in public? Are you willing to talk about how Masonry has enriched your life with those who might be curious about our Fraternity and are considering joining it? Can you commit to being an example of civility and honesty in these trying times? There are many ways to be a good Mason – I encourage us all to spend some time in the near future considering some of them, and hopefully rededicating ourselves to the same.

May you all have a Shana Tova, a Happy New Year, both Jewish and Masonic.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Jacob Gershbock  
Master

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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OCTOBER 3, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

Stated Meeting

**Dinner by Rutt's Hawaiian**

\$20 for Dinner.

RSVP required for dinner. All Masons welcome to the Stated Meeting

RSVP to **brokyleware@gmail.com** no later than Friday!

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OCTOBER 10, 2022

Dark because of Sukkot

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OCTOBER 17, 2022

Dark because of Sukkot

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OCTOBER 24, 2022

Dark - Annual Communication

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OCTOBER 31, 2022 7:15PM (IN PERSON)

Possible 3rd Degree Practice

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NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Stated Meeting



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ALL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD AT  
LIBERAL ARTS LODGE  
2244 Westwood Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064



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## PAST MASTERS NIGHT

We are planning night honoring our Past Masters at a 3rd Degree planned for Monday, November 21. We hope to have Past Masters take all the stations in the degree. If you would like to take part in the ritual please contact

**Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262.**



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WE HAVE BEEN REDISTRICTED & ARE NOW PART OF  
THE 626TH MASONIC DISTRICT. OUR NEW INSPECTOR IS  
WOR. JHAIRO ECHEVARRIA P.M.

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# SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2022 6:00PM

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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

Invitations have been mailed!

Please return your Gala Invitation response cards as soon as possible!

**Please enclose a check payable to Ionic Composite Lodge with the return of your RSVP.**

Space is limited and we need an idea of numbers.

**For any other questions or suggestions contact:**

**Bernie Morse PM (310)556-4463 or**

**Ron Koretz PM (818)360-2708**

*Black Tie Optional*



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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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***Check Out Our Website for Up to Date Information***

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



# FROM THE WEST

Dear Brethren,

I am always very excited this time of year, because it means that another Annual Communication at Grand Lodge is just around the corner. I am actually lucky enough, that this will be my sixth attendance of this most Grand event. As I have told you before, attending Grand Lodge and all the related activities during the weekend is truly both a humbling and enjoyable experience.

So just what makes this weekend so much fun. Lots of things, like observing the ritual of the Grand Lodge Opening, hearing the debates on the Grand Lodge resolutions and ultimately voting on them. Not to mention hearing the latest the report of the Committee On Trial Review cases and their outcomes. Of course, one of the most enjoyable items is attending the Grand Masters Banquet. The fun wraps up on Sunday by taking in the Grand Lodge Installation and then getting the chance to shake hands with all the newly installed officers in the reception line.

I am also excited for another reason, as I just recently attended Worshipful Jacob's planning meeting for the upcoming year. I can tell you that I am very impressed by the events that he is lining up including a Festive Board and new affiliations with local Police, Fire and LAUSD to recognize

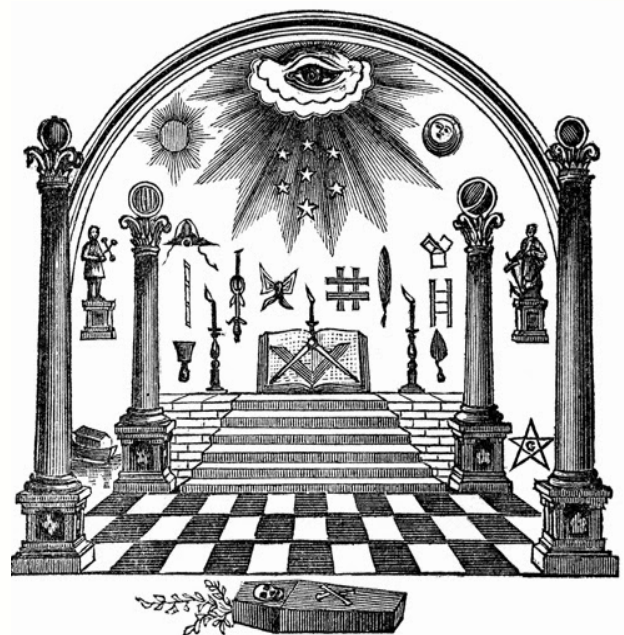
outstanding service.

This upcoming year should be a very enjoyable one regarding both Lodge events and Lodge evolution as Worshipful Jacob has not only set up a solid calendar, but continues to deliver on his theme of "Rebirth".

Yes, some very exciting things are happening at Ionic Composite Lodge. If I were you, I would be sure to attend and see firsthand, as the good times roll.

As always, looking forward to seeing everyone in Lodge!!!

Fraternally,  
Steve Resnick, P.M.  
Senior Warden



# THE 100 CORNER

**Answer to September question:**

**“A coward dies a hundred deaths” is a misquote from what literary work? Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare.**

**Question:**

**How many other 100s have you thought about?**

**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.**

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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.

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## Record Set for **Masons4Mitts Contributions**

A new record of \$70,453 (or 3,526 mitts) was set this year for Dodger Dreamteam baseball gloves donated by Masons. Our Media Central Titans team came in 3rd place with \$12,833 (641 gloves).  
***We want to thank all who contributed.***

Bernie Morse PM

Michael Bear PM

**Media Central Titans Co-captains**

## **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Richard Ameny 4  
Jonathan Klein 5  
Alan Block 5  
Paul Schiek 6  
Alfred Sapper 7  
Mark Neander 9  
Arthur Dakessian 9

Thomas Currie 9  
Jorge Gutierrez 11  
Albert Kaplan 14  
Robert Smerling 15  
Sanford Gage 21  
Lawrence Phillips 23  
Rafael Montejano 24

Bruce Shaphran 26  
Robert Nairin 28  
Ray Friedman 28  
Roy Steinfeld 30  
Arnold Schoenfeld 31



# THINK ABOUT IT

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government stopped charging interest on outstanding college loans and suspended all payments, even including collections on defaulted ones. These measures are scheduled to expire at the end of 2022. However, a plan was recently announced to forgive a portion of those loans (up to \$20,000 in some cases) in low income individuals. This decision has caused a turmoil in public opinion. There are those who believe that these loan payments are an unacceptable burden on lower income individuals and that these poor people should be relieved. Others have questioned why economic relief is being provided to college graduates who are in better financial condition than others in society, especially since a college degree is associated with a dramatically increased lifetime income. Arguments have arisen over how much such a policy will impact on inflation and the national debt. No matter which side one is on, the arguments seem to center on money.

I have a different perspective about loan forgiveness. Those who borrowed money to further their education did not do so because a gun was held to their heads. They entered into these arrangements of their own free will and it was their decision to do so, regardless of whether the loans were made through the government or through private institutions (although the proposed plan will only apply to government-funded loans). They all presumably signed papers agreeing to pay the money back at some time in the future along with an agreed-upon interest rate. I do not know what the precise motivations of these students were, and they likely differed from person to person. Probably many of them did so because of the future economic opportunity, but others may have done

so in order to pursue some personal life goal or in response to peer or family pressure. Nevertheless and regardless of the reason, they made a promise to pay the money back.

The time to consider how inconvenient or burdensome an obligation is going to be is before one assumes it; it is not appropriate or ethical for people to break promises after the fact. Thus, it has been curious to me that none of those who received loans have spoken out about their responsibility to fulfill their promise and/or declining the loan forgiveness; it is almost as if they never made the promise in the first place. I have long been concerned about the loss of a sense of personal responsibility in our society and I view this proposal as another example. Also, if it is acceptable not to pay back school loans, how long will it be before it will be acceptable to disregard other serious vows, such as marriage or oaths? We should not forget what the king of Siam emphatically pointed out in the musical *The King and I*: "A promise is a promise."

It becomes more troubling when one realizes that it is our elected officials who are telling us that we do not have to keep our promises. Then again, perhaps this is not a surprising behavior for politicians who habitually make campaign promises that are never fulfilled. For many of them, this is just business as usual. Those who live lives of broken promises probably find it easier, and perhaps even soothing to their guilty consciences, to encourage such behavior in others.

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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**Per the proclamation of the Grand Master at the beginning of this year, our Public Schools Month has been moved to September. This is a chance for us to celebrate the start of the new school year, and to support the public schools in our community with volunteer or charity opportunities.**

**As part of Public Schools Month, the local San Gabriel Valley Public Education Advisory Committee (PEAC) has scheduled a celebration event in the region. It will actually take place in October, in Altadena. Here are the details (also attached):**

***Thursday October 6th at 8:30am – 9:30am at***

***Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet School***

***593 W Woodbury Road, Altadena, CA 91001***

***Pasadena Unified School District***

***Principal: Rita Exposito***

**If it is not too late, hopefully you can add this event to your upcoming September Trestle Boards. You can use the simple flyer attached, or just include the information as you see it here.**

**We would like to drive as much attendance as possible to the event. It is important for Masons to show our support, and have a presence in the community. Since this will be our first time doing school events in two years, it is a good reason to celebrate. The AGL and District Inspectors have been notified separately. There will also be direct invitations sent from our GL Communications team, with a link to an RSVP page.**

**Please let me know if you have any questions or comments (to me only, no need to copy all). Thank you, brothers, for your support and leadership. I appreciate it. And I hope to see some of you at this event.**

**Fraternally,**

**Greg Cherry**

**California Masonic Foundation**

**Director of Philanthropy**

**Mobile: (310) 968-8369**

**[www.masonicfoundation.org](http://www.masonicfoundation.org)**





# BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

## Sick and Visitation Committee Report

**Earl Hellum**

Home with long-standing medical problems.

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

### 2023 Officers Needed

**If you would like to serve your lodge as an officer in 2023 please contact Officer's Coach  
Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262**

## 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 626th Masonic District  
Jhairo Echevarria P.M.

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Trestleboard Layout – Kyle Ware