

DECEMBER 2022

TRESTLE BOARD

100th Anniversary Special Edition

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(310) 657-2628 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

About a month ago, I received a call from one of the brethren, who informed me that he felt overlooked and ignored by the lodge. He had mentioned something to me previously about a health condition in the family and I thought I had relayed that information to the brethren handling the sick and wellness calls, but I apparently forgot to do so. While I won't identify this brother for the sake of privacy, I want to thank him, and I am sure he knows who I am talking about.

Let me start by saying that I am not perfect. That should almost go without saying, but it bears repeating anyway. In my opinion, perfection does not exist; the journey towards perfectibility is a continual journey of self-improvement, but there will always be rough spots on our ashlar, no matter how diligently we work to smooth them out. I make no claim to being any different in this regard; indeed, I have my faults just like anyone else. Sometimes I drop the ball. Sometimes, as it is truly said, "stuff happens." I already apologized to the brother aforementioned, and ensured that his particular case has since been getting the attention it deserves, so why, one might ask, did I say that I wished to thank this brother?

I want to thank him because he unknowingly pointed something out to me. He made me realize that no matter how hard I work, how much I worry, or what kind of an example I try to set, there will always be ways in which I will fail. Strangely enough, this is actually bittersweet. The bitter, obviously, is that there are ways in which I feel I am not living up to the obligations I agreed to as Master. Sweet, however, in that it reminds me that there is still so much more to learn and do - in that I have the chance to do better next time, and a chance to try and rework the systems we have in place at our Lodge so that similar cases don't fall through the cracks.

I want to start that process with a direct appeal. Please, Brethren, if you feel that the Lodge in general

or I as Master are failing to meet your needs, LET US KNOW! The fact that the brother actually let me know how he was feeling was critical. Brethren, the officers and I are not mind-readers - we need to be informed when something is wrong, because it isn't always obvious. People in the Lodge (and other Lodges) have issues all the time over miscommunications and differing points of view on the same topics of Lodge management, tradition, ritual, values, and a host of other things. The point of Masonry isn't to get mad and walk away because you feel angry or offended. The point is to find a way to reconcile the problem and remain brothers and friends. We have obligations to each other, but we can only truly fulfill those obligations when we have clear and open lines of communication. So please, TELL US when you need us, when you think something needs doing, or when something crops up that you feel needs addressing. It's entirely possible we will already be talking about a potential solution, but it is equally possible that it is something that we somehow overlooked. The worst that happens is that you get to spend a few pleasant minutes on a phone with a brother.

This year, we have slowly begun to shake off the isolationism of COVID times. We have initiated, passed, and now raised brothers in both our old and our new locations. We have plans for more and varied activities for the coming year, and we are instituting changes at many levels, from making Stated Meeting dinners free and having them done by a good caterer, to changing the way we handle prospecting, to increasing our community outreach efforts, to increased social and fraternal events, we are coming back to life. This year was about Rebirth: about new beginnings. Now, have planted and sprouted the seeds of change, it is time to grow.

I look forward to serving once more as Master for the coming year, and I sincerely hope to see all of you more often in Lodge and at our events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 5, 2022

Stated Meeting

Dinner Menu is TBD but Free of Charge

RSVP Requested for Headcount

All Masons welcome to the Stated Meeting

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

DECEMBER 10TH, 2022 6:00PM

101st Installation of Officers

See Below for Info

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Lodge is Dark

DECEMBER 19, 2022

Lodge is Dark

DECEMBER 26, 2022

Lodge is Dark

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520's
101st Installation of Officers

PGM LARRY ADAMSON PRESIDING AS INSTALLING OFFICER

LOCATION: 2244 WESTWOOD BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90064

DATE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH, 2022

TIME: 6:00PM

Please RSVP for the Installation so we may have an accurate headcount:

brokyleware@gmail.com / 323-300-4609



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



100TH ANNAVERSARY GALA MASTERS SPEECH

Brethren,

As the Trestleboards from these past many months and the invitations you should all have received in the mail months ago informed you, on Saturday, November 19th, 2022, Ionic Composite Lodge no. 520 celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a Gala celebration at the Del Rey Yacht Club. I would like to once more thank all those who helped make that evening possible: Wor. Ron Koretz, Wor. Bernie Morse, Wor. Michael Bear, Mrs. Debbie Bear, Brother Stan Sax, Mrs. Ricky Sax, Brother Michael Mosbach, and Wor. Tim Shiner, as well as our Lodge's "First Mom", Faith Gershbock. The evening was magnificent, and the event was very well received by all who attended. As part of this Special 100th Anniversary Edition of the Trestleboard, I would like to relate to all the Brethren who were unable to attend the remarks I gave that evening. To give a bit of background, I will say that I sprung a bit of a surprise on the Gala committee by deviating from the printed program in terms of order of events. This was done with the prior knowledge and approval of the Grand Master, the AGL, and the Inspector, and it was done for a good reason, which will make sense at the end of the speech. For reference, the speech was given after all the introductions save that of the Grand Master himself were completed. The speech went as follows:

At last, we come to my actual speech for the evening, which, like the rest of the program, is somewhat out of the usual order. It actually starts with the future, proceeds to the present, and makes its way to the past, where they all come together, and where the reason for tonight's scheduling irregularities will be made clear.

Speaking broadly, the future of Freemasonry in general and our Lodge in particular must be inextricably linked to what makes it relevant in the 21st century. That is to say, if we don't focus and expand on those elements that give us meaning in today's world, we will inevitably disappear. However, we are fortunate in that Masonry has much to offer to the world in general and our community in particular. We can and do provide a place where men can come together and feel a true sense of community in the old-school sense of the word. Where people physically come together and genuinely come to care about one another, not just insofar as they can be said to be useful to one another, but as people for their own sake and in their own right. We can and will continue to be a place where civility is expected, taught, and exemplified, and where it is not only possible for people who disagree on any number of matters to come together peaceably and maintain both friendship and decorum despite their differences and even disagreements, but where such is in fact the norm, not merely an ideal to be given lip service. The Lodge is a place where individuals embark on a lifelong journey of self-improvement, but do so together, and in so doing,

raise each other up to new heights they would be unable to attain on their own.

As I see it, the Lodge will continue to be a place where we go to be and do more than we could on our own, because the impact of a true group is greater than that of the same number of individuals acting alone. And make no mistake; we are, and will continue to be, a group – a fraternity – a sacred band, a Society of Friends and Brothers, who can and will impact the lives of those around them in ways that will resonate through future generations. People today can go onto their computers or phones and find a bubble of faceless avatars who are just like them anywhere and everywhere. They can find those who agree with every idea, thought, and opinion they hold, and all they ever need hear are those same thoughts echoed back at them infinitely. But for all of those online micro-“communities” (and I use that word with severe reservations), they are nevertheless still very much alone in truth. “Lo tov he’ot ha’Adam l’vado”, says the Almighty in the second chapter of Genesis – “It is not good for man to be alone.” It is when we are together that we thrive. When we reach beyond ourselves and stretch forth our hands to those whom we did not know that we learn not only about them, but about ourselves as well.

At this past Stated Meeting, the brethren honored me by once again electing me to the position of Master for the coming year. Normally, I would speak about my plans for the next year at Installation, and I intend on doing so in detail, but tonight, considering both the unique opportunity I am given, and the nature of both the evening’s purpose and my theme for this upcoming year, I thought it appropriate to take just a moment to mention, in brief, my thoughts on the matter. My theme for this coming year is “Making Connections” – which is uniquely appropriate for both our times and our Lodge’s present situation. My brothers, the day of the mega-lodges is past. We will likely never again see in our lifetimes Lodges with 1400-odd members, where Stated Meeting dinners are regularly so big that there have to be two seatings just to accommodate everyone. It is unlikely that we will again see our own Lodge’s community be so broad as to not necessitate reaching beyond it. We need to make new connections with our new geographic community, reestablish lost connections from our past one, and forge a new normal that combines the best of our heritage and our traditions with the needs of the new era and the new realities that we face.

We will once again begin to directly support public education at our Lodge, adopting not one, but two schools, from two different districts. We will begin to honor our first responders, and adopt both police and fire stations not only near our new location, but in Beverly Hills as well, since our departure from our old location severed the bonds of that city from the Lodge we used to rent to. We will begin a campaign for outreach to our community, and see what kind of positive impact we can have locally, while working with and maintaining close ties to our nearby neighbors

in Freemasonry. We may be in a new Masonic District as of this past August 1st, but that doesn't mean we abandon longtime friendships with Brethren and Lodges with whom we have associated since time immemorial.

This brings me to the present, where I can announce with some degree of pride the accomplishments we have made and continue to make this year. In addition to finalizing the sale of our old building and the move to our new present location at Liberal Arts Lodge, we have thus far this year initiated two new brothers, passed another, and, this coming Monday night, November 21st, we will be raising our own Brother Koorosh Moshtahedian to the sublime degree of Master Mason at the first Past Master's night of our Lodge in over a decade. It is notable and appropriate that it be for Brother Moshtahedian's 3rd degree. He was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft back in 2011, after which he left Los Angeles to join the United States Army, where he served in the Army's Special Forces abroad with distinction and honor. He now works as a contractor for the Department of Defense doing similar work to that which he did while he was in service. He was planning on being here this evening, but his leave was unexpectedly canceled for today, though he will still be able come into town tomorrow in time for Monday's degree. It is appropriate that we should be the ones to raise our worthy brother, and I invite all Master Masons to come to Lodge this Monday night to be there and celebrate this event with us.

But we have done and are doing more than that. We made it a point this year to call – or attempt to call where possible – every single brother of this Lodge, to check in on them after the trials of COVID, and to see what we could do to help them if and where possible. Our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, some of whom have been on the books for years – or in a couple of cases, decades – are finally beginning once more to progress, and several are in fact near to being, or already are, ready for advancement, at such time as we can schedule their degrees. Put simply, my friends, we are coming back to life, which brings me to the past.

Last year, when I pleaded with the brethren to accept the terms of the sale of our old building, and made the motion that we finalize that sale, I made a promise. I promised that as Worshipful Master, I would do everything in my power to ensure that we, as Ionic Composite Lodge, would not disappear. That we would not lose ourselves, our traditions, our unique history and perspective, and that we would carry all of that with us into the future. I promised that the sale of our old building would not be the sale of our soul. I would like to think that I have, in some measure at least, begun to make good on that promise, and I reaffirm that promise here and now. We will not disappear. As I said then, and as I maintain today, the Lodge is not a place; it is the people that inhabit it. It is not a physical, but rather a spiritual building. It is a community, and it will continue to be such so long as I – so long as we – are around to keep it so.

Those of you who were at my Installation back in December and who have subsequently been reading my articles in the monthly Trestleboards – which of course means all of brethren of our Lodge who are present (*cough*) – know that my theme for this year is and was Rebirth. I chose that theme not to imply that we would be starting completely over, or that we were in fact dead or dying, but rather that we were in need of a new beginning. This year marks our 100th Anniversary, and we are gathered here tonight to celebrate that fact. But we are not here only to smile and reminisce over the achievements of the past, but to rededicate ourselves to the future. We are reborn, not only in finding a new home, not only in starting a new century of spreading light, but in renewed purpose to show the world not only that it can be better, but how to go about improving it, one man, one Lodge, one community, one choice at a time.

The idea of Rebirth is ancient. Legends about rebirth abound in every time and culture since the beginning of recorded history, and likely even before. There is one legend, however, that stands out. Or perhaps I should not say one legend, but legends. For there is one creature who so embodies the idea of rebirth that it has been found in places and cultures around the world for millennia. From Ancient Egypt to Babylon and Persia, from China to the frozen wastes of Siberia, from Europe all the way to the Americas, where even today, there is a notable city named for it. It is a creature with the remarkable property of living its life in a blaze of glory, and, when it is finally time for it to die, it bursts into flame one final time and burns to ashes, and from those ashes it rises anew to live again, and blaze anew, all the brighter. It is, of course, the immortal Phoenix, or Firebird of legend, which has spawned stories from every corner of the world for ages untold.

Tonight, as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary as a Lodge, and as we rededicate ourselves to improving ourselves and our community, it seemed appropriate that there should be some visible symbol or token of that promise, both to ourselves and our Lodge. For that reason, I took it upon myself to commission for the Lodge a symbol of my promise; a lasting reminder that even when the times are darkest, there is still hope to be had, that the dawn will come anew, and that the impact of our Light on the world can and will never truly die. My brethren, tonight, November 19th, 2022, I hereby present and gift to Ionic Composite Lodge no. 520, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California, the piece of artwork by a local artist by name of Presa Hall entitled “The Rebirth of Light”.



The piece features a phoenix rising from the ashes of its previous form, set between Ionic and Composite columns, under the watchful gaze of the rising All-Seeing Eye. There are other symbols present in the piece, which I am sure you will be able to discern for yourself upon perusal of it, which will be made easier after it is mounted on the walls of the Lodge on the 28th, when we will be hanging much of our artwork at Lodge. For now, however, I would ask that you all please rise (* * *) and pick up whatever it is you happen to be drinking, however humble, and join with me in a toast and a prayer.

Raise Glass

To the Brethren, Ladies, and Friends of Ionic Composite Lodge no. 520, past, present, and future, for a Century of Light – Great Architect of the Universe, may there be centuries more to come! Amen! (*)

100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA PHOTOGRAPHY



FROM THE WEST

Dear Brethren,

It has been duly noted that Most Worshipful Randy Brill has made fulfilling your obligations the theme for his year. Well, just what are our obligations? Obviously, we have numerous obligations, those to ourselves, our family, friends, our job, etc. To this list, we must also add our Masonic obligations. Said obligations are well documented in each degree. These must be very solemn, as after taking our vows we are told to "bow our heads and in token of our sincerity, kiss the Holy Bible upon which we have been obligated." Sounds like some important stuff to me. Of course, each degree has its own vows. First and foremost, we are told to keep the secrets of Masonry appertaining to each degree, as well as the secrets of a Brother Mason. Another aspect is aiding and assisting distressed worthy Brothers and their families. Finally, after becoming Master Masons, we are told to convince the world by our acts that on becoming a Master Mason, we have become better men.

Wow, those are a whole lot of responsibilities. At first it sounds exceedingly difficult to live up to all those requirements. Luckily at each degree, we not only take vows, but are also given the respective working tools. Of course, we do not carry the actual working tools around with us, but much more importantly we carry what they symbolize. By always carrying the symbolism of these tools in our hearts, we are now most thoroughly equipped to take on all our obligations, both Masonic and otherwise.

I have found that performing my Masonic obligations has also helped me tremendously in fulfilling all my other obligations. Because truth be told, we do in fact become better men on becoming Master Masons. I realize that since having reached that most sublime degree, I have been much more efficient in my relationships with my wife, friends, family, and Masonic Brothers. I have even found myself to be more efficient at the performance of my job.

For the Ionic Composite Brothers that are still EA's or FC's, I would heartily recommend continuing with your coaching, so that you too can become a Master Mason and a better man. Remembering that with the completion of each degree, you will also obtain and understand the related working tools.

For the Brothers that have already become Master Masons, I would also recommend recommitting to Lodge attendance. I can guarantee that fulfilling your obligation to more Lodge attendance will also assist you in fulfilling all your other obligations as well. This has certainly been the case for me.

As always looking forward to seeing you in Lodge!!!

Fraternally,
Steve Resnick, P.M.
Senior Warden

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gary Cremo 1	Marshall Krupp 13	Yukihiro Matsumoto 22
Morris Lazar 4	Etan Goldman 16	Michael Maroko 23
Vartan Gukasyan 6	Norman Langer 19	Ezra Ozer 24
Wesley Challacombe 7	Bruno Samuel 20	Stanley Ziegler 27
Jason Louv 11	Harold Forster 22	

THINK ABOUT IT

I recently read an essay written by a medical student, Chelsea Amo-Tweneboah. She was working on an Internal Medicine ward rotation and was assigned to help care for a woman, Ms. E, who had been admitted with advanced metastatic cancer. When the two met for the first time, it was apparent that Ms. E was severely depressed and unwilling to participate very much in her own care. She largely just laid in bed and wrapped herself in a blanket so only her head was visible. She had drawn the shades in her room to the point that, even on a bright day, it was dark.

The medical team believed that it would be important for Ms. E to get out of bed on a regular basis and it fell to Chelsea to get her to do so. Thus, Chelsea walked into Ms. E's room and spent a half-hour explaining the importance of ambulation to her. However, when Chelsea offered to help get her started, Ms. E simply said no. This interaction repeated itself for several mornings with Ms. E making little if any eye contact with Chelsea and always concluding with a response of "No" or "I don't want to" or "Tomorrow".

Over those few days, Chelsea became more and more frustrated. She finally attempted to be more assertive. She entered the room and just told Ms. E "You're walking!" This technique met with the same lack of success, leading Chelsea to tell Ms. E that she knew what Ms. E was going through and, even

though it was hard, Ms. E should try not to let it dictate her life. Ms. E responded to Chelsea that Chelsea did not know what it felt like and then asked Chelsea if she knew what it feels like to know that you are dying and if Chelsea wanted to change places with her.

Chelsea ended her essay by acknowledging that, even as a health-care professional, she did not always have the answer. Chelsea recognized that she really did not know what Ms. E was experiencing or thinking. In other words, even if Ms. E was not doing what her health-care team believed was best, Ms. E was doing the right thing for herself.

At times in all of our lives, we will have situations in which family or friends are confronted with challenging, even insurmountable, problems. Our instincts invariably are to try to do something to help. However, our good intentions can actually make things worse. As I read this story, it occurred to me that the best service that Chelsea provided Ms. E was just to care. Ms. E's angry response to Chelsea was probably the longest and most meaningful exchange the two of them ever had. It also provided the most revealing insight into Ms. E's perspectives. Even if we cannot do anything, compassion is always possible.

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

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