

MARCH 2023

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

As I write this message, I have only just yesterday tested positive for COVID. Please do not worry; by the time you read this when our monthly Trestleboard is published, I will likely already be completely recovered. It appears to be a mild case, involving just a stuffy nose and some periodic sneezing. I don't mention this because I need any prayers for recovery. Rather, I mention this fact because the situation reminds me of an important lesson; that of humility.

It is said that "Man Plans and God Laughs." Ironically, I had just the other day been speaking about COVID with a friend, and mentioned how I was the only remaining member of my family on the West Coast who hadn't contracted the virus as yet. Even when my own mother had contracted it in the wake of Grand Lodge, where we had both apparently been exposed back in October at one of the events, I remained negative. Also, I'm planning on traveling in the near future to go to Washington DC, to visit my brother who lives there with his wife and two small children, as well as to attend the 100th Anniversary of the George Washington Masonic Memorial and take part in the celebration and the parade leading to the reenactment of the laying of the Memorial's cornerstone, which will take place on President's Day (Monday, February 20, 2023). Our own Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Ken Nagel will be among the presiding officers, and our current Grand Master, Most Worshipful Randall Brill, will be present.

If my symptoms had started even one day later, I would likely have had to alter my travel plans. As it stands, I'll just barely be out of the required isolation period if I test negative on time according to the usual CDC COVID progression timeline and in line with their published and posted recommendations, which I am of course following. My point brethren, is that while I am (and hope to continue to be) lucky in that I have been spared a severe case, and that (hopefully) I'll still be able to make it to this historic event, I nearly forgot one of our most important lessons: we cannot control everything. There will always be that which is beyond our ability, as humans, as men, and as Masons,

to control, prevent, or account for.

Whether you believe this to be a function of a Divine plan, fate, destiny (which latter I personally distinguish from fate), random chance, or just a manifestation of Murphy's Law, it is axiomatic that life is full of the unexpected. Nor, brethren, is this necessarily a bad thing. Yes, there are unpleasant surprises, terrible and tragic accidents, and natural disasters, the aftermath of which we of course regret, but despite all of these things, there are also good surprises in life. There are the unexpected meetings with old friends or loved ones, the miracle survivors who beat deadly diseases against impossible odds, the familiar but ever new miracle of birth - of new life, of the looks of wonder on the faces of children as they discover something amazing about the world and how it works for the first time. We are so inured to the little wonders of life that we often forget to appreciate them, and focus only on the tragic or unfortunate surprises which get in our way, but we should remember that everything exists in a balance. In order to appreciate the good, we must experience the ill as well. Being briefly sick makes me all the more appreciative of being generally healthy, just as remembering those whom we have lost helps us appreciate those whom we still have that much more. Brethren, we are all connected by ties that cannot always be seen or even felt, but that nevertheless bind us, each to the other, forever unbroken.

This March 6th, we will have our 53rd Annual Reception of the Grand Master, honoring MW Randall Brill, who I believe to a particularly worthy model of humility and Masonic values. I invite you all to come and join us, but even if you can't be with us in person, never forget that you are with us in spirit, and we with you. We cannot always control everything in life, so let us choose to do what we can to spend what time we are given together in friendship and harmony.

Faternally,

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock PM
Master

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARH 6, 2023 6:00PM

*You are Cordially Invited to the 53rd
Reception of the
Grand Master Honoring
MW Randall L. Brill*

6pm Social Hour

7pm Dinner

MENU

Caesar Salad

Croutons, Cherry Tomatoes,

Choice of: Grilled Tri Tip or Soy Ginger Glazed Salmon

Potatoes Au Gratin Mixed Roasted Vegetables

*Vegetarian Options Available

\$25 per person, RSVP Required.

Contact Wor. Jacob Gershbock at jgershbock@gmail.com

Include names and meal choices by Feb. 26.

**Make checks payable to Ionic Composite Lodge
(with "GM Reception" on the memo line)**

8pm Official Program

Homemade Ice Cream Cake social following program.

Business Meeting to follow

MARH 13, 2023 7:15PM

1ST DEGREE PRACTICE - ALL ENTERED APPRENTICES WELCOME!

MARH 20, 2023 7:15PM

1st Degree conferral for Mr. Jordan T. Brodie. Come support our newest brother!

MARH 27, 2023 7:15PM

2ND DEGREE PRACTICE

APRIL 3, 2023 7:15PM

April Stated Meeting

Menu

Caprese Salad

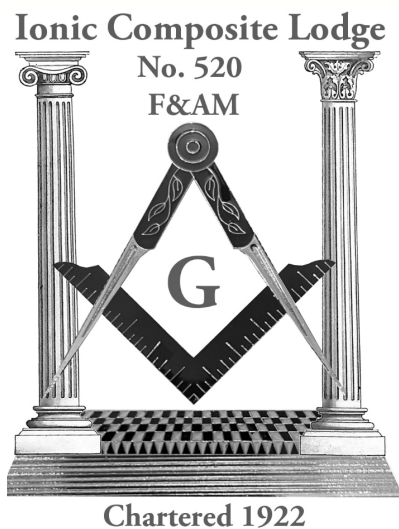
Cherry tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, olive oil and balsamic glaze

Chouce of Beef lasagna / Veggie lasagna

SHOW YOUR LODGE PRIDE

BY ORDERING AN

IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NAVY POLO SHIRT WITH OUR NEW LOGO



ORDER WILL BE PLACED BY THE MARCH 1 STATED MEETING.

(MINIMUM QUANTITY - 20)

\$36 (SMALL-XL); \$38 (2XL); \$40 (3XL)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

BERNIE MORSE

2142 CENTURY PARK LANE #114

LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

OR BRING TO LODGE

CALL (310) 704-2262 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

To Our Life Members

To help the lodge finances it would be most appreciated if you could donate this years Per Capita of \$60.50 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,

Here it is again: Time to write another Trestleboard article. Only eight more to go for this year. Boy, I sure hate doing this. It seems that I just finished the article for February. I wish I didn't have to do all this work. I could kick back and watch some T.V., read or take the dog for a walk. But wait. Then I'd be just like everybody else. What would set me apart? I got to thinkin' about this. What it means to do something different. To work instead of lounge.

Y' see, as Masons we set ourselves apart. We're different. So different that in the past our Brethren were persecuted. In fact, in many countries that's still the case. Why do we have secret modes of recognition? Because in some places our ideals of Brotherhood: of people of all backgrounds, races, religions and economic groups is not just unpopular, but actually subversive. Odd how when Communism fell, all of a sudden there were so many Masonic Lodges in operation.

Being a Mason takes work. Not just writing articles, coming to Stated meetings and working at Degrees, but going out of your way for a Brother.

What makes you a Mason? We've all answered that question. It's our commitment to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

It takes work to meet all people on the Level. To treat them as equals or brothers when our natural inclination is to be selfish and act in our own self interest.

It takes work to act by the Plumb: To be upright and give relief and I don't mean just giving money to charity, but giving of our time.

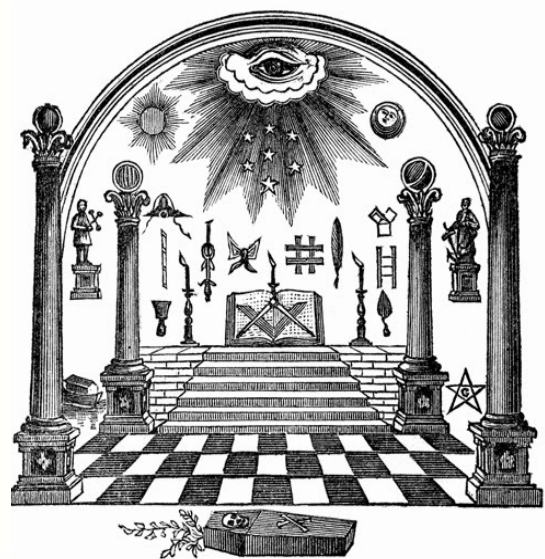
It takes work to part on the Square, that is, to leave having been truthful in

our dealings with others and I mean even when we would not be caught.

Whoa, Jeff. This really does sound like a lot of work. It is, but only when you're doing it by yourself. That's where your lodge comes in. When we're working by ourselves, we truly feel the full weight of our burdens. When we're in a group with everybody working together as a band of Brothers our burdens are lifted by many shoulders, not just our own.

We all know that your Lodge needs you, but, my Brothers, you need your Lodge too. When you want to catch a cold, go where sick people are. When you want to catch the ideals of Masonry, come to your Lodge

Fraternally,
Jeff Bear, P.M.
Senior Warden



IC520 THEATER NIGHT

We have a block of 24 seats for



Sunday, May 28, 2023

6:30PM

\$92/person

at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood

SIX is a modern musical comedy retelling of the lives of the six wives of Henry VIII presented as a pop concert, as the Queens take turns singing and telling their story to see who suffered the most due to Henry and should, therefore, become the group's lead singer.

For information and reservations please contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or email brnhrd18@yahoo.com.

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.



SAVE THE DATE

You are Cordially Invited to

Tonic Composite Lodge no. 520's

2023 Annual Festive Board, Honoring our Lodge Sweethearts

Saturday, May 20, 2023

All Lodge Sweethearts attend Free!

Commemorative keepsake shot glasses will be provided to all attendees.

Open to All (Masons and non-Masons)



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Steven Shapiro	2 Nir Hanien	14 Myron Roberts	21
Yefim Ben	3 Kirtland Ash	16 Richard Sharpe	21
Karen Meymaryan	5 Irvin Puskin	16 Earl Hellum	22
Sanford Climan	10 William Miller	17 Arthur Levy	23
Michael Silverman	10 Kevin Silver	18 Ronald Lawrence	24
Joseph Epstein	11 Robert Thomas	19 Daniel Seidner	24
Paul Firestone	11 Jean Claude Aghadjanian	20 Spence Bilkiss	29
Marvin Marshall	11 James Petersen	20	

THINK ABOUT IT

Kareem Abdul Jabbar is a well-known former basketball player who retired in 1989 after a 20-year career in the National Basketball Association (NBA). During that time he scored 38,387 points; he actually broke the then-existing record of 36,928 (set by Karl Malone) in 1984. His record was set even though the 3-point basket was not introduced in the NBA until 1979 and his point total was viewed as a record that would never be broken.

Now fast forward to February 7, 2023. LeBron James, also in his 20th year in professional basketball, scored 38 points to bring his life-time total to 38,390. When he scored on a 2-point basket at the end of the third quarter, the game was stopped for 10-15 minutes while the crowd saluted James, a few words were spoken by James and the NBA commissioner, and James was presented with the game ball by Kareem Abdul Jabbar.

There is no question that LeBron James is an extremely talented basketball player, certainly one of the best that has ever played in the NBA. He has been an NBA All-Star every year since 2005; he only missed that accolade in 2004, when he was the NBA Rookie of the Year. On four different occasions, he was named the NBA Most Valuable Player. His teams have played in the NBA Finals (the series determining the NBA champion) 10 times. He holds almost innumerable other NBA scoring records.

I have not been a particularly avid follower of professional basketball. In fact, I had never even heard of LeBron James until July 2010. James was the first selection in the 2003 NBA draft, chosen by the Cleveland Cavaliers. When his contract expired on midnight of July 1, 2010, he became an unrestricted free agent and was pursued by several other teams. For reasons that I have never understood, James chose to announce the team that had been success-

ful in signing him as part of an evening 1-hour TV special ("The Decision") on July 8th. He joined the Miami Heat, stating that he was taking his talents to South Beach. That team did win NBA championships in 2012 and 2013, only to see James opt out and re-sign with Cleveland in 2015. After winning a championship with the Cavaliers, he again opted out of his contract and signed with the Los Angeles Lakers; he was part of the team that won the championship in the COVID-shortened 2019-2020 season.

Because of his seemingly unnecessary display of ego in 2010, I have never been enamored with him as a professional athlete, his talent notwithstanding. While he does score a lot of points, those points usually do not translate into his teams winning championships. Yes, he did win 4, but his teams lost 6 of the remaining appearances in the championship finals and did not even reach the finals in the other years. He has been rumored to recurrently put pressure on the front offices to obtain or fire the players or coaches he wants or does not want. He is alleged to have been the first athlete to make over \$1 billion and what he does seems largely motivated by money. (How many million dollars does a person really need?)

As has often been said, there is no I in TEAM. However, there is a ME in JAMES. Team sports are usually about having the team win; developing superstars is only an epiphenomenon. LeBron James is not a team player. After all, LeBron James' nickname is "King" and Kareem Abdul Jabbar's was "Captain". The latest testimony to James' perspective is that, in spite of his 38 points on February 7, 2023, the Lakers lost the game 133-130. Given the hoopla that night and since, it is unclear that LeBron James even noticed that loss.

Think about it.

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.

Wor. Howard Steinore

Recovering at home from a bout of pneumonia.

Wor. Bill Miller

On the mend from a broken arm.

Steve Kierman

Whose wife is undergoing chemo therapy.

**Wellness Calls And Funeral Notification List Please Contact Bro. Stan Sax
310-429-6785 / stan456sax@gmail.com**

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.

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**

2023 OFFICERS

Master – Jacob Gershbock

Marshal –

Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)

Senior Steward – Varun Dadabhoy

Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)

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 – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M

Inspector for the 626th Masonic District
Jhairo Echevarria P.M.

Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)

Trestleboard Layout – Kyle Ware