

APRIL 2023

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

On March 6th, we had our 53rd Annual Reception of the Grand Master, where we honored Most Worshipful Randall Brill and his wife Susan. It was a well-attended event where much fun was had by all who attended. Special thanks to Wor. Jeff Bear, Wor. Bob Sills, Wor. Bernie Morse, Wor. Ron Koretz, Brother Varun Dadabhoy, and "First Mom" Faith Gershbock for their assistance in making the evening a success.

Recently, a brother of our Lodge sent me this definition of a Freemason, which was in turn found by another brother in the 1823 Farmer's Almanac:

"The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflect; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He vener-

ates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principle."

While I find this entire definition to be a good one, I want to highlight the part about offense in particular. The above quote says that "He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended," and this is true, to a certain extent. As Masons, we are expected to do our best to remain calm, to avoid piques and quarrels, especially with our brethren, and to be generally decent people. However, we are all still human. From time to time, we all fall short of this rather lofty ideal and find ourselves taking offense at things, sometimes even for things that were not intended to be offensive, whether or not we knew such to be the case. We get impatient, we get surly, and we get testy or short with each other. We have failures of communication, slips of the tongue, and sometimes, we just have off days where we are not even at our usual level of consideration for others, much less being at our best. This is all perfectly normal.

So what is it about Masons, then, that actually distinguishes us from everyone else in this regard? The difference is that we as Masons are expected to try to determine whether these failures in communication were such before we set ourselves into a pattern of thought wherein we find ourselves offended. We are expected to try and determine if offense was actually intended, and if it was not, to explain how and why offense might have nevertheless been taken in order that the one inadvertently giving it might in the future avoid similar missteps. We are expected to be patient enough not to jump to being offended, and instead, we are asked to step back and ask ourselves if, by placing ourselves in another's position, we might have honestly and without malice have made a similar mistake. By the same token, we are expected to try and anticipate the way other people might take our words such that we do not give offense. We still of course will fail from time to time, and mistakes happen. Again, we're only human, after all. But again, the difference is not only that we try to be better, but that when we make mistakes, we try to fix them and be tolerant and understanding. We try to see things from other positions, and we hold that the truth is sacred, and that which is honestly (if mistakenly) done can be honestly forgiven.

In these polarized times, it is easy to find ourselves offended by the words or actions of others. As Masons, we must remember to give them the benefit of the doubt at least to the extent that we find out if they are being intentionally offensive or malicious or if it was unintended. Even if it is determined that their offense was intentional, we nevertheless owe it – not to them, but to ourselves – to try and keep a fair and honest perspective, a calm and inoffensive demeanor, and to avoid narrow thinking in our responses. I am by no means saying that we need to justify, excuse, or condone offensive words or behavior, but rather, that we ourselves do not stoop to the same level in response. As the definition points out, we always have the option to choose not to let the actions of others cause us to lessen ourselves. In other words, we need to hold ourselves to a high standard, even when others do not.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 3, 2023 7:15PM

April Stated Meeting

Menu

Caprese Salad

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

Choice of Beef lasagna / Veggie lasagna

Please RSVP to brokyleware@gmail.com for headcount

Cost is \$15 payable at the door.

APRIL 10, 2023 7:15PM

2ND DEGREE FOR BROTHER EDUARDO CORTES

APRIL 17, 2023 7:15PM

3RD DEGREE PRACTICE

APRIL 24, 2023 7:15PM

3RD DEGREE CONFERRAL FOR BROTHER JONATHAN KLEIN

MAY 1, 2023 7:15PM

May Stated Meeting

Menu

Tostada Salad Cheese & Chicken Enchiladas

Rice & Refried Beans

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)

FROM THE *FAR EAST* (COAST)

Dear Brethren,

This month, rather than our usual “From the West” article by our Senior Warden, I am putting in this article under the heading of “From the Far East (Coast)”, which will talk a bit about the recent 100th Anniversary of the Cornerstone laying for the George Washington Masonic Memorial and Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. As I mentioned in the March Trestleboard, my mother and I traveled to the east coast, both to visit with my brother and his family there as well as to attend this historic event.

I have brought back with me from Virginia both a program for the reenactment of the Cornerstone Ceremony, which was conducted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia on President’s Day (March 20, 2023), as well as a program of the Gala celebration of Washington’s Birthday that took place at the Memorial that Wednesday evening. I will include a couple pictures of both.

I would like to start by saying that I was proud to note both that our own Past Grand Master, Kenneth Nagel, was the Presiding President of the Memorial’s association and it was under his signature and supervision that the entire event was accomplished, but also that there was a large delegation at the parade from the California Masons. Many officers of our Grand Line were in attendance including our current Grand Master, MW Randall Brill, as well as many Past Grand Masters, including MWs Jeff Wilkins, Arthur Weiss, Frank Loui, and others, not to mention MW Ken Nagel of course, as he was presiding over the entire affair. Notably, the Grand Masters of every State Grand Jurisdiction in the United States (those of all 50 states plus the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC) were in attendance, as were Grand Masters from several foreign Grand Lodges (two or three different Mexican Grand Lodges,

Paraguay, and Bulgaria to name a few) and those of several Prince Hall Grand Jurisdictions.

The Alexandria President’s Day Parade is actually the longest running President’s Day parade in the United States. Alexandria is so proud of their connection to George Washington that they actually have an official George Washington actor. That is, a man who is officially paid by the city to play the role of Washington at various public events throughout the year. I was able to spend a bit of time with that individual later on at the Gala, and I’ve included a picture taken with him. The various Grand Jurisdictions had delegations in the Parade, as did many national organizations. The Girl Scouts, for example, had plenty of troops in the parade, many selling cookies to the onlookers as they marched by. Both the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution (whose members can verifiably trace their lineages back to individuals known to have fought in that war) were present, as were several reenactment groups, including one group dressed in period Colonial Uniforms who not only bore, but actually periodically lined up to fire off muskets (using blanks, obviously). Masonic organizations like the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite, Shriners International, Jobs Daughters, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and other similar groups also were represented, both at the national and local level. Some States (most notably Virginia, for obvious reasons) and even individual districts or Lodges sent delegations as well, some of them not insignificant. Local businesses and groups were also included. A personal favorite of mine was the delegation from the Hard Times Café, which is a restaurant on King Street (the main thoroughfare) in Old Alexandria. Their delegation included a man dressed like George Washington on a fake horse being towed by a truck, who was holding up a sign that said “Hard

Times is my favorite chili" on one side, and "I cannot tell a lie" on the other side. You have to admit, that's objectively amusing and clever marketing.

The Gala that Wednesday evening was not only sold out, it actually was overbooked. The ground level Mason's Hall in the Memorial where the Gala is typically held each year was insufficiently large to hold the number of people who wanted tickets, so the upstairs Memorial Hall was also filled with tables for the dinner on Washington's Birthday. It was a full formal affair (white tie requested, black tie accepted) that was attended by a cross-section of Masons from across the country. The single table I was seated at for that dinner held Masons from four different states, including one who was in line to become the Grand Master in his Jurisdiction the very next weekend. The official George Washington impersonator of Alexandria was seated at the next table over.

The entire affair was enjoyable and, more importantly, a good reminder of what we as Masons can accomplish when we come together. After all, that entire building was conceived of, paid for, and maintained by Masons from across the country. Each and every new applicant in California makes a contribution to the Memorial as part of their application fees, and our Grand Lodge sends a certain amount of money to them each year as well in addition to those contributions. When we come together with a shared vision and a singular purpose, we can literally move mountains.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock P.M.





Batter Up!

Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt

For the 2023 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.

BE SURE TO VISIT

The updated Lodge Website at
ioniccomposite.com

More exciting updates to come in the near future.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jon Wax	1 Joseph Esshaghian	8 Jeffrey Bear	16
Mark Mischel	3 Renato Garcia	9 Hamid Shooshani	23
Koorosh Moshtahedian	3 Luis Tananta	10 Edward Segal	27
Misha Spiegel	3 Simone Totti	12 Jack Rapke	28
Andre Torosyan	4 Clayton Jones	13 Daniel Ben Ari	28
Marc Behun	5 Harold Wax	13 Michael Leiaghat	28
Michael Katz	7 Michael Turner	14 David Harris	30
Brandon Koretz	7 Cliff Dorfman	14	

THINK ABOUT IT

Mateo Sanchez is a young teenager who lives in Arizona. He has been plagued by stuttering for his entire life in spite of having had speech therapy for most of it. His parents spent that time trying to, in the words of his father, “fix his speech” by playing word games with him, reminding him that he did not always have to speak, and even trying to guess what he was going to say and then finishing his sentences. However, as time progressed, they began to realize that their efforts may actually be causing more harm than good by increasing the stress on Mateo. They developed an attitude that the problem could not be fixed, but could only be managed.

As might be expected, Mateo was subjected to continual teasing from his schoolmates. His response to these difficulties was largely to retreat. However, along the way, he took the time to investigate stuttering using the Internet. In that process, he learned that several celebrities with whom he was familiar also stuttered. These included the professional baseball player George Springer of the Houston Astros.

His father, Jesse Sanchez, happened to know Alex Cora, who was the bench coach for the Astros in 2017. Houston was scheduled to play the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix later in the year, so Mr. Sanchez called Cora and explained his conundrum. He told Cora that he thought it would be good for Mateo to meet somebody who had succeeded in spite of a speech impediment. Cora agreed to help the Sanchez’s out.

Thus, Cora arranged for Mateo to get a batting practice pass for one of the games. The pass entitled Mateo to stand in a roped-off area near home plate and watch the players hit the ball or otherwise work out before the game. Unfortunately,

George Springer was not on the field, but was working out at the indoor batting cage. However, Alex Cora suddenly appeared on the field and escorted Mateo to the indoor area. Along the way Mateo interacted with Carlos Beltran, Jose Altuve, and Carlos Correa, other stars of the Astros. Alex Cora then pitched some batting practice to him at the indoor batting cage. Mateo was finally able to sit down and talk to George Springer. He realized that Springer still stuttered, and he saw Springer employ the same techniques that he was learning (choosing words he could say, finding different words when the stuttering began, etc.). Springer’s advice to him was to have fun and develop a thick skin.

This incident inspired Mateo to raise community awareness about stuttering. He forced himself to speak in class and make public presentations. He is currently making a public service announcement about stuttering. He toughened up and paid less attention to the taunts to which he was regularly exposed. In the words of Jesse, Mateo no longer wonders about how he will get past the stuttering; instead, he owns it and has made it part of his identity.

Mateo is a good example of how we need to learn to live with, and not give in to, situations that we cannot control. As an aside, the story also points out that things are not always black and white. After all, 2017 was the year that those same Houston Astro players engaged in the sign-stealing scandal that arguably cost the Los Angeles Dodgers the World Series championship.

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.

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