

JUNE 2023

# TRESTLE BOARD

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / [ioniccomposite.com](http://ioniccomposite.com)

Dear Brethren,

As we reach the halfway mark of my second term as Master of Ionic Composite Lodge, I want to take a moment to talk about a dirty word in Masonry: Change. I've written in the past about how Masonry, for all its resistance to change, is in fact predicated and built upon the very concept of change, but that isn't what I want to focus on this time. Instead, I want to talk about the kind of change we actually do claim to dislike in Masonry – changes in Freemasonry itself.

Any long-time Inspector, Officer's Coach, or Past Master who is familiar with today's ritual will tell you that for all our talk about not introducing changes into the Body of Freemasonry, things nevertheless do change all the time. Mostly, it's little things, which we jokingly refer to as "clarifications" – which is just a fancy way of saying "the new way of doing things until the next revision comes along." These often include minor, unimportant aspects of the floor-work during the ritual, such as how to properly stand with respect to the podium or the Altar, how properly lay out the working tools on the podium for presentation, or other seemingly (dare I say?) trivial items. Frankly, I think that I can safely say that while we all agree that the ritual should be done in a consistent, impressive, and meaningful way, beyond that, not too many of us care all that much about this kind of change. We're glad to make the necessary adjustments, and we don't deny their relative importance in context, but the simple fact is that these aren't "Changes" that shake the foundations of the Craft by any set of definitions. They don't really affect our lives.

There is another kind of change, however, that most certainly does. Part of the Grand Lodge

2025 plan, for example, is focused on Positive Awareness, and that in turn has led to Grand Lodge stepping up efforts to get all Masons to start to feel comfortable actually talking about Masonry – publicly. Now that represents a change that truly makes an impact. Not only are we free to talk about Masonry – we're both encouraged and expected to do so. We are the Ambassadors of the Craft to the people of the world. It is our actions and our words that will inspire either rejection and disdain or praise and emulation in others. More than that, though, when you take a moment to stop and think about the changes Masonry has made in you, you realize just how much the Fraternity gives you. Since joining the senior Officers' line as the Senior Deacon in 2020, for example, I find that I myself have become more grounded, less introverted, and more willing to put myself forward, and that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Brethren, the fact is that Masonry does Change. It not only changes us when we take the Degrees, or when we become Officers or even the Master of the Lodge, but it changes us the more we think about what it means to us to be Masons. The more you stop and think about what it means to you to be a good Mason, the more you will go out of your way to act in those ways. By the same token, as we ourselves change, so to does Masonry. This isn't your Grandfather's Fraternity. Or rather, it is, only more so. In a world of unprecedented communications technology, people are more isolated and divided than ever before. Now, as before, Masonry is a force of unity and tolerance. In a world full of greed, Masonry is a bastion of generosity – so much so that we are often targets of scammers and criminals eager to take advantage of that fact to feed their own greed, as unfortunately occurred recently to one of our brothers. The fact that even criminals

know that Masons are good-hearted says something profound, I think.

Brethren, I know that many of you have busy lives, and time and energy are limited resources, but I urge you not to take, but rather to make time for Masonry in your life, because it will change you in ways you could hardly imagine if you let it. Not only that, but you – your energy, your ideas, your leadership, both at the Lodge level and out in the world as an Ambassador of our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity – will change Masonry in return.

And, while I may get in a bit of trouble for saying this, perhaps that isn't such a bad thing. After all, those that cannot change with the tides of history are swept away by them, and I, for one, would see Masonry standing proud and tall for ages to come.

Brethren, I urge you to come to Lodge.

Come to an event – we'll be starting to schedule more social events outside of Lodge starting in the summer months. And when – not if – you come, bring someone along with you who you think would benefit from our teachings. True, you can't tell them "I think you should become a Mason," but you can tell them that you would like to introduce them to a group of people you like and admire, and who you think they could learn something from. Let the rest happen on its own. If you have an event idea or a project that you think the Lodge should be involved in, let us know about it! Masonry cannot and does not exist without you. So many of us – myself included – often take Masonry for granted. When I stopped regularly coming to Lodge around 2013 while taking classes full time at college, I did so knowing that I had a Life Membership, and that the Lodge would be there when I returned, safe and unchanged.

Brethren, I tell you now that I was unequivocally wrong. When I returned in 2019, I found the Lodge struggling; its membership down, its building partially shuttered and in disrepair,

and its leadership struggling to fill critical Officer roles. Case in point: the night I first returned was two weeks before a scheduled 2nd Degree, and the Lodge had no Senior Deacon in place, either as an installed Officer or a qualified sideline prepared to take the role. I myself quickly learned the work in time to step in, and qualified to be officially installed as Senior Deacon for the next year, which only goes to show that the Lodge and the Craft really do need us all.

Don't deny your talents and your gifts to the Craft. If you are proud to be a Mason – if Masonry has made you a better person – then for goodness sake pay it forward and become a model for the next person! You needn't be an Officer or the Master if you don't want to be. Yes, it can be daunting to have to learn so much ritual, but there are plenty of non-ritual positions we need filled. Become the chair of an event committee. Help introduce and welcome new prospective members and other guests. Just be present and give a supportive ear to the troubles of a struggling brother. Whatever form your involvement may take, get involved. Not only does the Lodge and the Fraternity need you, but you need them, in ways that you don't even realize yet.

At the end of the day, Brethren, the most important Changes in Masonry are the ones we ourselves make, because no one else will make them for us. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Fraternally,  
Jacob Gershbock, PM



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 5, 2023 7:15PM**

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**June Stated Meeting and Presentation of the Isadore Moore Award  
Honoring Worshipful Tim Shiner, PM**

## **Menu**

Roasted Beet Salad  
Chèvre, Toasted Pecans  
Pot roast  
Carrots, mushroom and potatoes, Au Jus  
Cheesecake  
Strawberries and cream

7:00 pm Open Lodge  
7:15 pm Dinner  
8:00 pm Open Program  
Closed Portion to follow

**Please RSVP to [brokyleware@gmail.com](mailto:brokyleware@gmail.com) for headcount  
Cost is \$15 payable at the door.**

**JUNE 12, 2023 7:15PM**

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## **LODGE INFO & SOCIAL NIGHT**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!  
THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE TO CATCH UP, HAVE A DRINK WITH FRIENDS, AND LEARN ABOUT THE LODGE  
AND WHAT WE DO.  
DRINKS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED. CASUAL ATTIRE. OPEN TO ALL.**

**JUNE 19, 2023 7:15PM**

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**2ND DEGREE PRACTICE  
SIDELINERS WELCOME.**

**JUNE 26, 2023 7:15PM**

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**LODGE DARK**

**JULY 3, 2023 7:15PM**

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**Lodge is Dark in Observance of Independence Day**

**JULY 10, 2023 7:15PM**

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**July Stated Meeting**

## **Menu**

Coleslaw Mixed BBQ  
Chicken, Beef Ribs, Hot Dogs  
Baked Beans Apple Pie



# FROM THE WEST

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Lodges were anciently dedicated to King Solomon, who was said to have been our first Most Excellent Grand Master. But Masons in modern times dedicate their lodges to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, who were said to be two eminent Christian patrons of Masonry; and since that time, there is, or ought to be, represented in every regular and well-governed lodge a certain Point within a Circle. The Point representing an individual brother, the Circle the boundary line of his duty, beyond which he is never to suffer his passions or prejudices to betray him. This Circle is bordered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist; upon the top rests the Holy Writings. In passing around this circle, we necessarily touch upon both lines, as well as upon the Holy Writings, and while a Mason keeps himself thus circumscribed, it is impossible that he should materially err.

In ancient times buildings were consecrated to God and dedicated to an idea, a virtue, or a person who embodied that idea or virtue. If a building had a sacred purpose, then it was consecrated to God and dedicated as stated before. If a building was not for sacred use, then it was usually just dedicated. Masonic temples are seen as sacred places amongst the craft, so they are both dedicated and consecrated.

Solomon's Temple was consecrated by God himself when a cloud entered and engulfed the temple in both cloud and lightning. Solomon then dedicated the courtyard before the temple and the temple itself with prayer, oil, cleansing, horns of brass, and the sacrifice of 22,000 bulls and 120,000 sheep.

Enough background. Why the Holy Saints John? Why John the Baptist and John the Evangelist? Simple answer because of the values they upheld and personified. John the Baptist, who is said to have been born at the time of the summer solstice, was an extremely moral and righteous man. His zealotry for morality was what made him famous in his own time. The Jewish people and other cultures of the time had ceremonies of ritual

washing so his baptizing was not what made him well known. Here was a man who held himself to the highest standards, standards he was unwilling to compromise. John the Baptist spoke out in public against any lack of morals in society and even condemned the king publicly for his lack of morals. Later he would condemn both the king and queen to their face for their lack of morality. For calling out the king and queen John was imprisoned. He was given the chance to recant his accusations, knowing that his death would be certain he refused. John the Baptist preferred death than compromising his morality, his virtues, not unlike a certain widow's son. John the Evangelist, who is said to have been born at the time of the winter solstice, dedicated his life to charity and brotherly love. He spoke and wrote about caring for widows and orphans, brotherly love, and charity. The traditions surrounding John the Evangelist are all ones of giving to the less fortunate and forgiving and upholding others.

Therefore, our lodges are dedicated to virtue and brotherly love/charity. Masonically, these men represent two extremes of our nature: John the Baptist our desire for a correct moral and upright walk (The common gavel, square, and plumb); John the Evangelist our desire for brotherly love and to be of service to our fellows (The twenty-four inch gauge and the trowel). In our lectures we talk about a point, within a circle, bounded by two parallel lines representing these two men. This lecture uses these two men because of their passions. As Masons we should touch upon morality, and we should touch upon charity. Both of these it is easy to become overzealous about. The circle represents the due bounds in which we should attempt to live. Warning us to emulate the virtues of both, but to guard against the zealous nature of them both, The Holy Writings serve as a guide for employing both in due measure.

Fraternally,  
Jeff Bear, P.M.  
Senior Warden



## Masons4Mitts Dodgers DreamTeam – FACTSHEET #2

### 2023 COMPOSITION SNAPSHOT

- 80 Projected Baseball-Field Locations
- 11,000 Projected Players (Ages 5-18)
- 900 Projected Teams
- 1,000 Projected Coaches
- 31% Projected Women and Girls
- 18% Projected Teens (Ages 13-18)
- 13% Projected African American

DONATING IS  
EASY! JUST SCAN  
**THE BAR  
CODE!!!**



## 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](http://www.masons4mitts.org)

Click LA Dodger Logo, Click Media Central Titans, Click Give a Mitt, Click Donate

Contact Bernie Morse at (310) 556-4463

## Masons Night at Dodger Stadium Dodgers vs San Diego Padres Wednesday, September 13, 2023

I am currently in the process of identifying seat location and price. For information when details are available contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Robert Abelson 2  
David Golde 2  
Henry Koffman 3  
Jacob Gershbock 8  
Ernest Dancy 9  
Yuriy Kotlyar 9  
Trevor Nathaniel 10  
Lazlo Borsai 12

Alvin Livingston 12  
Joseph Mayesh 14  
Axel Del Cid 15  
Robert Black 18  
Martin Levine 18  
Don Wijesinghe 18  
Robert Thomason 21  
Sol Marco 22

Daryl Bristol 23  
Norman Feinstein 24  
Lloyd Robinson 24  
Justin Koretz 27  
Aaron Ganz 29  
Howard Fabrick 30  
D'Angelo Jones 30

# THINK ABOUT IT

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There have been numerous studies alleging that women are paid less than men for the same work. The designs of these studies are very straightforward. The investigator simply obtains information about how much money each person is paid and then stratifies the data by gender. An important aspect of such studies is that these designs can never establish causation, namely that the lower pay is due solely to the fact that the recipient of the money is a woman. We refer to such studies as “observational” ones and they can only demonstrate an association between two factors. There are many differences in the characteristics of the two groups besides gender, such as prior education, experience, work accomplishments, hours spent each week at work, etc. These other differences are referred to as “confounders”. In order to prove causation, confounders cannot exist and only one factor differs the two groups. (This problem exists in the vast majority of studies in the social sciences.)

I was recently at a medical meeting and heard a paper presented that compared the amount of money Medicare paid to male and female gastroenterologists. Every physician in the United States has a unique identification number known as the NPI; that number is assigned in order and the gender of the doctor cannot be determined from it. The investigators were able to obtain the total amount of money reimbursed by Medicare for the year 2019 for each NPI. They knew that, in that year, there were 2577 female and 11,215 male physicians practicing gastroenterology and had each one’s NPI. The men had higher median total

payments, namely \$94,416 versus \$56,014. The investigators then attempted to adjust the data to account for a number of confounders, including region, practice setting, number of services provided, average complexity and age of the Medicare beneficiary, and number of years in practice. Even then, women received less money.

Unlike the situation in most workplaces, however, Medicare payments are made in the absence of any knowledge about the gender of the person being paid. Rather the payment is based on a coded diagnosis or procedure and the money is sent to a specific NPI. In fact, when the data were further analyzed, it turned out that male and female gastroenterologists did have differences in the various services for which they submitted bills. During the discussion of the paper, a comment was made that women may be less likely to undertake certain more complicated procedures because they required exposure to radiation (another confounder). These more complicated procedures, not surprisingly, were also more costly.

Nevertheless, whatever is responsible for the “wage gap”, one thing that cannot be blamed is a conscious or unconscious bias to pay women less. This principle of association not being able to establish causation is an important one for all of us to remember. A simple comparison of numbers of outcomes in two different groups should never be interpreted as proof that a difference in those numbers is due to the difference defining the separate groups.

Think about it.  
Ron Koretz, P.M.



# BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

## Sick and Visitation Committee Report

**Jackie Mannheim**

On the mend following a recent fall.

**Donna Golden (Wife of Past Master Harry Golden)**

Recently Deceased.

**Wellness Calls And Funeral Notification List Please Contact Bro. Stan Sax  
stan\_sax53@yahoo.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.

### **BEWARE...**

**of scam / phishing emails asking for money or personal information.  
Scammers are pretending to be Masons, even the Worshipful Master!  
We'll never ask you to send money or gift cards via email.  
Reach out to Lodge Leadership directly or by phone.**

### **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