

AUGUST 2023

# TRESTLE BOARD

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

At our 100th Anniversary Gala last November, and again starting with Installation and the New Year, I announced that I intended to bring back events at which we honored our First Responders and Public Education teachers and workers this year. I am pleased to announce that this month, we do indeed start with the first of those events. This August Stated Meeting, we will be honoring two dedicated first responders; one from the nearby West Los Angeles Police station and one from the local fire station no. 92 just a few blocks away from the Lodge on Pico.

I'm also pleased to welcome Brother Aaron Gonzales to our Lodge. Brother Gonzales comes to us from Belize, where his Lodge is the single regular and recognized Lodge in the entire country. Steadfast Lodge is actually chartered under the Grand Lodge of Florida, and while we are currently going through the process of helping Brother Gonzales transfer his membership to our Lodge (which as an EA, involves a demit from his parent Lodge), I wanted to share with the Brethren an interesting and rather surprising fact about where he comes from. When asked about the dues structure for our Lodge, Brother Gonzales evinced total shock when he learned our total annual dues were \$185. When asked why he was so surprised by this amount, he informed me that his Lodge brothers pay \$400 for their Lodge membership ... per month!

That's right – \$400 per month! That translates to \$4,800 a year in total! The application for the 3 degrees alone is \$1,500 at their Lodge!

Apparently, some large chunk of that goes back to the Grand Lodge of Florida, and his lodge does boast Prime Ministers both present and historical, the Mayor, Chief of Police, Chief Justice, and other members of the Belize elite. Brother Gonzales, however, is proof that not only the elite are welcomed at that lodge, however, despite the high price of membership (which does not, in case you were wondering, include dinners, events, or anything other than

base membership). Brother Gonzales is not a man of political or social honors; he is just a man who is dedicated to the principles of the Craft, and believed that \$400 a month was worth the cost.

I bring this up not to scare anyone – we have no intention of modeling our dues after their Lodge; I firmly believe that Masonry should be accessible to all, not merely the wealthy or elite – but it does bring up an interesting point. When asked about the relative level of engagement and activity at his Lodge, Brother Gonzales told me that practically everyone regularly attends the Lodge meetings. After all, as he pointed out, it would be absolutely crazy to pay that much not to come to Lodge, right?

This made me think about the number of sadly empty chairs we see on a regular basis in the Lodge room during Stated Meetings and Degrees. I understand that many of our Lodge brothers are of an age where they are no longer as independently mobile, and many live some distance away from our present location, but there are certainly younger members who could spare one night a month to get away from the outside world and take a moment to recharge their spirits with some time spent with their Brethren. I am reminded of the assurance that we give to all potential candidates that we will never ask them to do that which would interfere with their lives or previous commitments. I myself have just started a Master's program in Clinical Psychology (specializing in Trauma). I am busier than ever, but I am at Lodge, week in and week out, to ground myself with the anchor of the Fraternity. I get to recharge my own psyche by being viscerally reminded that there are still good people in this world, and that despite all the ugliness all the hatred, and all the division that we see outside our walls, inside the Lodge room there are only Brothers on whom one can always depend. Come back to Lodge and remind yourself too.

Fraternally,  
Jacob Gershbock, PM

# UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 7, 2023

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August Stated Meeting & First Responders Night

6:30 pm Opening  
7:00 pm Welcome Guests and Honorees  
7:15 pm Dinner  
8:00 pm Program and Awards Presentations  
Closed Business meeting to follow

## Menu

Three Bean Salad  
Sloppy Joes  
Cajun Steak Fries  
Lemon Bundt Cake

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AUGUST 14, 2023

3RD DEGREE PRACTICE 7:15PM  
SIDELINEDERS WELCOME! CONTACT BERNIE MORSE PM FOR DETAILS.

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AUGUST 21, 2023

POSSIBLE 3RD DEGREE / SOCIAL NIGHT 7:15PM

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AUGUST 28, 2023

TBD

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SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

DARK IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

STATED MEETING 8:00PM

DINNER 7:15PM

MENU

ARUGULA SALAD  
BURATTA, HONEY MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE  
FLANK STEAK  
MIXED ROASTED VEGETABLES  
CHOCOLATE POT DE CREME

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## BRO. MICHAEL BEAR PM

Has been selected to receive the DeMolay Legion of Honor award.

It will be presented August 27th...

***Long Beach Scottish Rite***

855 Elm Ave

Long Beach, CA

**Brunch 11:30am**

**Investiture 1:00pm**

**CONGRATULATIONS, MIKE!**

*If you would like to attend, please contact Mike.*

# FROM THE WEST

It was just over eighteen years ago that I submitted my Petition For The Degrees Of Masonry. On one hand it seems that I have been a Mason much longer than that, but, on the other hand, much shorter. Some of you already know my story of asking my brother for a Petition (although I didn't know that was what I was doing), but it bears repeating for those of you who have not heard the story in keeping with the Grand Lodge "I Am A Mason" campaign.

Our family was attending Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) services at Temple Emmanuel. Michael was in his usual position as Head Usher diligently attending to his duties. We came to a part of the service where the prayer is essentially an alphabetical list (in Hebrew) of every sin known to mankind coupled with asking forgiveness for the sins known as "Al Chet". It crossed my mind that many of these sins applied to my conduct over the years. While I had had the same thought over the years, I had never done anything about it after the High Holidays passed. I just trotted along my merry way, kind of like we do with New Year's resolutions. We mean it when we make the resolutions, but life just seems to go on and we fall into the same old way of doing things. Eighteen years ago, I decided it was time to actually do something about becoming a better man.

I looked over to the aisle to my left and saw my brother standing there. He was the kind of man I wanted to emulate, so I got up and walked over to him and said, "So, what do I have to do to get involved in that thing?"

My brother replied, "Go talk to Scott (one of the Ushers) and he'll find something for you to do."

I said, "No, I don't want to be an usher. I'm talking about that Mason thing you do."

This was the last thing that my brother expected from me. He had been patiently "not asking" me about becoming a Mason for years and I always made it clear that it was

just not for me. Well, my brother scraped himself off of the floor and made sure I was given a Petition. Now my brother is also my Brother along with all of you.

We were all asked where we were first prepared to become a Mason. We all gave the same answer. We all had to be first prepared to be Masons in our hearts, because until our hearts are so prepared, we can never be a Mason.

While the same proposition is true throughout our lives, this is particularly true in Masonry, which is purely voluntary. Unlike our jobs and home lives, we don't have to do anything in Masonry. We don't have to join and, once we join, we don't have to attend Lodge, learn the Proficiencies, attend events, or become active Brothers or officers.

Why did you become a Mason? I would very much like to hear your story if you care to share. If you are one of the Brethren who are not attending Lodge and events or not learning the Proficiencies, I would also like to hear those stories as well.

I look forward to seeing you all in Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Jeff Bear , P.M.





## MASONS4MITTS DODGER DREAMTEAM FACT #4

### PROGRAM ELEMENTS

#### Education

College and Career Accelerator  
LA Reads  
Science of Baseball  
Recycle challenge

#### Healthcare

Fitness and Nutrition Education  
Vision Screenings  
Dental Screenings  
Health Screenings and Exams

#### Homelessness

Food Boxes and Resources  
Basic Necessities  
Transportation Resources

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

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**Our Lodge has a block of tickets for Masons Night at Dodger Stadium**

**Dodgers vs San Diego Padres**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

Similar to last year tickets are in Reserved Level Aisle 28 just beyond 1st base

Price \$42 including \$1 service charge

*We have a block of 33 tickets; 4 remain*

For reservations and information contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262

Check is payable to Bernie Morse 2142 Century Park Ln #114 LA, CA 90067

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### Graphic / Print Designer Needed

**Beginning ASAP the Lodge is in need of assistance with monthly Trestleboard Editing. Please contact Lodge Secretary Kyle Ware if you can lend a hand [brokyleware@gmail.com](mailto:brokyleware@gmail.com)**

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## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Albert Solnit	4 Clifford Wolosin	11 Gene Horst	25
Steven Resnick	5 Jesse Rivas	13 Marc Seidner	28
Fred Gross	8 Harry Barron	22 Jordan Brodie	31
Allen Sackler	8 Sarkis Babian	25 Philip Roman	31

# THINK ABOUT IT

RON KORETZ, P.M.

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Especially since the George Floyd incident in 2020, discussions have been held regarding reparation payments to living Black Americans because their ancestors had suffered the injustices of slavery. At that time, California's governor, Gavin Newsom, created a task force to make recommendations about reparations in his state. The nine members of that task force recently released their 1080-page report, along with a 74-page executive summary. They recommended that a large sum of money be directly paid to every descendant who had at least one ancestor who was a slave; in fact, some reports in the press indicate that a person who was a descendant of any Black person (slave or not) living in California up to the end of the 19th Century would be eligible. The total cash payment to eligible recipients in California has been estimated to be \$800 billion. The city of San Francisco has gone even further, recommending that every Black resident in that city should receive a \$5 million payment. Not surprisingly, these recommendations have been met with a large public outcry. The sum is seemingly unrealistic, since that total is 2-3 times the entire state budget.

This entire scenario seems analogous to a civil lawsuit in which one party (the plaintiff) sues another (the defendant) for damages. In this case, the Black descendants are the plaintiffs and the state is the defendant. If the plaintiff prevails, the defendant's penalty typically is to pay a sum of money to the plaintiff. Once the settlement is culminated, the case is over and the plaintiff has been compensated for his or her loss. The plaintiffs cannot go back and demand more money.

From this perspective, a reparation payment does not seem to make any sense. The problems outlined in the panel report largely focused on the history of what were perceived as short- and long-term effects of racism. Giving money to a group of Blacks does not seem to solve any current residual racist issues in the state. However, by accepting the payments, Black Californians would seem to be sacrificing any further efforts to resolve these issues. After all, those past injustices have now been "repaired". Organizations that are based on past racial inequalities would no longer be necessary or appropriate.

What has been less-well publicized is that the report also contained a host of other suggestions to deal with past and current alleged racial inequalities. Many of them would require substantial funding and, in this regard, it was curious to me that the panel did not estimate those or deduct them from the total reparation that they believed the state owed the eligible Black Californians. While I did not necessarily agree with all of those suggestions, at least some of them more directly address current issues and would do more to improve the situation in the Black community than would a one-time payment to people who, for the most part, are not in positions to change what is going on in society.

Think about it.

# BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

## Sick and Visitation Committee Report

Bill Miller	Recovering from right shoulder fracture. The weather is hot in Arizona.
Jackie Mannheim	93 years young July 29, 2023 has allergies enjoying life.
Sol Marco	100 years young, recent birthday celebration at his home.
Art Vanetek	All is good. He will be 90 years young September 05, 2023.

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