

SEPTEMBER 2023

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

At our August Stated Meeting, I was honored to be able to re-institute our Annual First Responders Night, at which we honored two local heroes. First, I presented the Ionic Composite Lodge Firefighter Service Award to Firefighter III Kevin Ramirez from the local Station 92, and then the Ionic Composite Lodge Police Service Award to Officer Alicia Prescott from the West Los Angeles station. I look forward to being able to honor many more of those who dedicate their lives to the service and protection of our community in the future.

In other news, I'm thrilled to be able to announce that our own Senior Deacon, Worshipful Chay Alexander Wright, has been selected by Right Worshipful G. Sean Metroka as his prospective Junior Grand Deacon for the coming Masonic year (should RW Metroka be elected as Grand Master at Annual Communication, of which eventuality I have no doubt). Our deepest congratulations to Wor. Chay on this great honor, and keep your eyes peeled in the coming months for Reception dates, about which I am already in communication with Grand Lodge.

As most of you are by now aware, I am now more than halfway through my first quarter at Antioch University LA, where I am enrolled in a Master's program in Clinical Psychology. As a first quarter student in that program, I was required to enroll in PSY 5450 "Society and the Individual". As Antioch is a school deeply committed to being Multicultural and engaged with Social Justice, this required 1st quarter course (which is the one course a student cannot retake, a failing grade automatically resulting in exclusion from the entire program) takes a hard look at our society, and attempts to help students find their place in it with regards to socialization influences, biases, prejudices, etc. We look at all the various "-isms" (ex: racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, etc.) and attempt to deconstruct not only their origins, but also our personal relations to them.

As a cis-gendered, white, able-bodied, young male, I basically tick all the boxes for "over-privileged", even though I personally do not support, endorse, or condone things like racism or sexism. Nevertheless, I still have continually found myself reflecting during this course about my own privilege, and just as importantly, about those who lack that same privilege. It seems crazy to me that anyone should be treated differently because of their gender, sexual identity, or something as trivial and frankly irrelevant as the color of their skin. I'll admit, dealing with ageism and ableism were harder for me, which just goes to show how even those of us who feel that we are open-minded have our own blind-spots.

The reason I mention all of this is that throughout this course, I keep finding myself coming back to the same thought: the world needs more Masons.

If more people were Masons, or associated with the Masons and sharing our basic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, how different would this world look? How much better would it be? How much more peaceful? More honest? More equitable?

And so, my brothers, as we prepare to honor local educators at our September Stated Meeting, I challenge each of us to consider the ways in which we teach, by precept and example, the next generation to think and act. I challenge each of us to be Ambassadors for our beloved Fraternity, showing the world that indeed, it does need more Masons, and that all should come to our doors to learn how to coexist in harmony. Because if there is one thing that this class has shown me, over and over, it is that none of these insidious "-isms" can exist if we as a society do not allow them to do so. So let us teach those who have yet to learn what our Ancient Brethren clearly knew so well – how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

DARK IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

September Stated Meeting & Public School Night
Join us in honoring local educators! Ladies and Guests Welcome!

6:30 pm Lodge Open
7:00 pm Welcome Guests
7:15 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Program
Closed Meeting to follow

Menu

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

PLEASE RSVP TO BROKYLEWARE@GMAIL.COM

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

TBD

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

LODGE DARK IN OBSERVANCE OF YOM KIPPUR

OCTOBER 2, 2023

STATED MEETING 8:00PM
PRESENTATION OF GOLDEN VETERAN'S AWARD TO
WORSHIPFUL BOB SILLS AND BROTHER SHELDON LODMER (MW MEL STEIN PRESENTING)

DINNER 7:15PM
MENU
CHOICE OF TRI TIP, CHICKEN OR VEGETARIAN

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FROM THE WEST

As Senior Warden, it is incumbent on me to discuss matters of Masonic education. In my studies as a Mason I have, like every other Mason, had to memorize pages of Masonic Ritual. Personally, I cannot do this without taking the time to actually understand, or trying to understand, the words. Otherwise, I'm nothing more than a trained parrot.

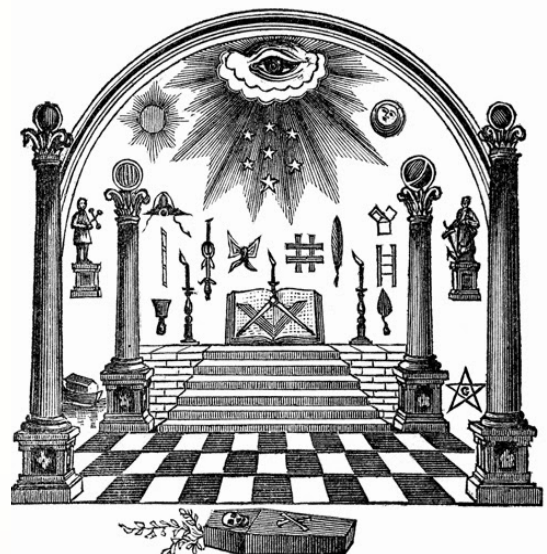
Current events have called my attention to a particular monitorial portion of the Ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree: "Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. . . . Hence while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."

The language of our Ritual is constructed very carefully. As a lawyer, I appreciate its precision. Read these words carefully. Truth is divine, that is, holy. It is the foundation of every virtue: Without it, every other virtue is unsupported and will crumble. Truth is the first lesson we are "taught" in Masonry, which, as my brother, Brother Michael often reminds me, does not mean it is the first lesson we actually learn. Unfortunately, only

while we are influenced by this principle, are hypocrisy and deceit unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity. When we are not so influenced, we cave in to falsehood, lying, envy and jealousy, which conduct has no place in Masonry in general nor in our lodge in particular.

Fraternally,
Jeff Bear , P.M.

Senior Warden





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

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

HOW TO GET YOUR DUES CARD

With the installation of the iMember 2.0 online system a few years ago that all brothers can access upon registration lodge secretaries no longer receive all the dues cards to mail out after payment.

The dues card is now online in an 8 ½ x 11 format which can be printed and also downloaded to a phone.

There are 2 ways to get your dues card:

1. Login to www.member.freemason.org, select Ionic Composite Lodge bar, then select Virtual Card.
2. Send an email to our lodge Secretary Kyle Ware (brokyleware@gmail.com) requesting that it be mailed to you.

If you need help registering contact the Secretary.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Arthur Vanetek 5

Daniel Ferszt 10

Roberto Morales 11

Patrick Levy 12

Allen Steiner 12

Sanford Paris 14

Seymour Roberts 17

Bernhard Morse 18

Barry Hinden 21

Jack Revel 21

Ken Duke 24

Stanley Getz 24

Ehron VonAllen 27

Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau Presents The Annual Clothing Drive for the Midnight Mission



November 5, 2023

START COLLECTING NOW for our NOVEMBER 5, 2023, ANNUAL CLOTHING DONATION TO THE MIDNIGHT MISSION.

(Clothing collection will start at 7:30 am, full buffet breakfast at 7:45 am, and Meeting at 9:00 AM.)

Every year Lodges that make up the Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau (LAMSB) do their very best to fill a Midnight Mission truck with new and slightly used clothing, shoes and other personal items.

Start collecting new and slightly used clothing now for our annual clothing donation to the Midnight Mission that will take place at our **November 5, 2023** meeting at the Pasadena Scottish Rite, 150 N. Madison Ave, Pasadena. ***A special full buffet breakfast is being offered by the Midnight Mission starting at 7:45 am as a thank-you for your Masonic support of the Mission and its services.*** All Masons and their adult guests are invited, with hope that they will contribute to the clothing drive, to demonstrate our concern and aid to this worthy organization.

The new items you buy, and/or the slightly used clothing you have outgrown or no longer desire, can warm the lives of those less fortunate. Let's make this year's donation the largest ever. In addition to used clothing, here is a list of items Lodge members might want to purchase and donate to the mission.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bath Towels & Wash Cloths• Deodorant (men & women)• Diapers (all sizes for men, women & children)• Disposable Razors (men & women)• Face Wipes• Feminine Soap & Spray• First Aid Kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hygiene Kits (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, etc.)• Socks & Underwear/Bras (NEW – men & women's)• Shaving Cream• Soap• Toilet Paper• Twin Size Bed Sheets (new or used, flat or fitted)
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At the meeting, we will hear from Bro. Mike Arnold, the head of the Mission, and will also be presenting him with a financial contribution in further support of their charitable work.

Your support will allow The Midnight Mission to provide a path to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction.

All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the tax code. Midnight Mission staff can supply a receipt upon request (Federal Tax ID 95-1691293).

Drop donations off at any lodge meeting!

THINK ABOUT IT

RON KORETZ, P.M.

Ron Koretz, P.M.

When I was younger, I was an avid baseball fan, first of the Hollywood Stars

(a Pacific Coast League baseball team in Los Angeles) and then the Los Angeles Dodgers. To this day, I can joyfully remember the names of my favorite players on those teams (Carlos Bernier, Mike Sandlock, Johnny Lindell, and Chuck Stevens for the Stars and then a host of Dodgers from the earlier years). I am not alone in this passion. Just mention the names of Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Maury Wills, Steve Garvey, or Fernando Valenzuela to a fan and he or she will immediately think “Los Angeles Dodgers”.

Now fast forward to 2023 and the recent flurry of baseball trades that occurred prior to August 1st. According to information published by Major League Baseball (MLB), there were 61 such transactions. There are currently 30 MLB teams and all of them took part in at least one such event. Over 130 baseball players, about half of whom were then playing in the major leagues, found themselves changing uniforms. Looked at another way, about 8% of all major league players were traded in just a few weeks. The Los Angeles Dodgers replaced almost 20% of their current active roster.

The driving forces for these changes were the desires of those teams who were still competing for playoff positions to make short-term improvements for particular weaknesses and for those who were not so positioned to obtain future prospects to replace players whose contracts were expiring and were likely to go elsewhere in 2024. This trading phenomenon is not unique to 2023; it has always been there to some degree, but as the amounts of money involved have gotten larger and larger, the complexities of how individual

players are being paid have also increased. The current minimum MLB salary is \$720,000 per year and most players earn more than \$1 million annually. This is not to begrudge the players. Making it to the major leagues is a feat that the large majority of participants in professional baseball never achieve.

However, there may be an unintended consequence of wholesale trading on young baseball fans. As these trades become more frequent, and especially since they are driven by short-term objectives, we are approaching a time when a player’s name will no longer be closely associated with a particular team. While I was able to identify role models on my local teams, those future children will be less likely to have such heroes. The only way a player will stay with the same team (and have a relationship created in the minds of those young fans) is if he signs a very long-term contract without any clauses that allow for an early departure. Given the vagaries of baseball, especially the ever-present threat of injury, baseball teams usually will not find it to be advantageous in the short-term to make such long-term agreements. It will be unfortunate if future generations of fans will not be able to share similar memories to those that I accumulated about baseball in my youth.

Furthermore, a few of the players will be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. That institution enshrines players wearing the regalia of a particular team. However, since the elected players are likely to have played for multiple teams, they will have difficulty deciding which uniform they will use.

I guess that baseball is no longer going to be what it used to be.

Think about it.

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

Bill Miller
Art Vanetek

Recovering from right shoulder fracture. The weather is hot in Arizona.
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.

2024 Officers Needed - Secretary & Assistant Secretary

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