

NOVEMBER 2023

TRESTLE BOARD

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

(424) 273-1054 / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

I would love to dedicate this article to the lovely Golden Veteran's Award ceremony we held in October for Worshipful Bob Sills and Brother Sheldon Lodmer, which was officiated by Most Worshipful Mel Stein. I would also love to talk at length about the need for the brethren to be more vocal about our Youth Orders, which desperately need our attention and care. I would likewise love to be able to devote my whole attention to the goings-on of our upcoming Annual Communication. But today, I am unable to do any of these things. Today, I find that I must instead address an issue that will undoubtedly make some uncomfortable, possibly upset others, and without question raise many eyebrows and take many aback as it flies nearly in the face of our customs by venturing into the realms of the political. But still, I find that I must do it.

When Grand Lodge adopted its current five year plan, it created three pillars; True Friendship, Diversity and Harmony, and Positive Awareness. The first speaks for itself and needs no elucidation. The second acknowledges the fact that Harmony can only occur where there is Diversity, and when different voices and viewpoints are heard, for Harmony is different than unity. Using the analogy of music, consider the fact that Harmony can't occur when everyone sings the same note. The last and arguably most difficult pillar is Positive Awareness, and it is one aspect of that Pillar I wish to address today.

Over the last half century, positive awareness of Masons in America has steadily decreased. Sure, many people knew that we exist, but we were that secretive group their grandfather, uncle, or maybe father belonged to. They had and still have no idea what we do and what we stand for, much less what we offer to the world. Part of this is no doubt due to misconceptions about what we can and cannot discuss publicly – a topic I have previously written about, and for which Grand Lodge has published a helpful guide called "Opening the Door," which you can pick up in Lodge or on our website. Another aspect of this lack of knowledge of our principles, I think, is due to the fact that when events

occur that run counter to our principles, we generally have not, as Masons, made it clear just where we stand. If we wish to increase our Positive Awareness, we must change that trend. Today, therefore, I will discuss where I, as a person and as a Mason, stand, and what I stand for. Please note that I emphasize that these are my thoughts and opinions.

I stand for Brotherly Love. When people teach hate and call for the annihilation of an entire group of people, withersoever dispersed, as Hamas and similar groups have done with regards to the Jews, I stand for rights of all good people to live. I stand for my Masonic Brothers in Israel, who have lived for so long with the constant specter of terror looming over their lives, never sure if the morning would bring peace or a hail of rockets and gunfire. I stand for my Muslim Brothers, both here and in Israel, whose religion is continually smeared by association with those who clearly use it as no more than an excuse to continue to preach hatred and obtain personal wealth and power at the expense of the lives of others. I stand for Worshipful Joseph Esshaghian, a Past Master of our own Lodge, who lives in Israel, and whose twin boys are even now in training in the Israeli Defense Forces, and who faces the daunting prospect of having to send his children into a battle he did not ask for. That is what I stand for.

I stand for Relief. When people are in need, and when lives are being destroyed and trauma inflicted, I stand for healing the victims, regardless of religious preference or nationality. I stand for sending aid and resources to help combat terrorist organizations and to assist their victims. I stand for helping fund hospitals and first response agencies that are quickly being flooded with more need than they have the resources to address. I stand for supporting those people and causes which seek to benefit others, not only themselves. That, too, is what I stand for.

But above all else, I stand for Truth. In Masonry, we say that Truth is a Divine Attribute, and is the foundation of every virtue. If there is a single defining characteristic that makes a Mason different from members of every other charitable organiza-

tion in my opinion, it is his dedication to and zeal for the Truth. Where others are willing to tell convenient lies and distort facts, Masons are taught to speak only the Truth as the facts show it to be. Where others report on occurrences without proper investigation, condemning and finger pointing before doing their due diligence, Masons have a belief that people are innocent until proven guilty, and therefore strive to investigate first, gather information, and only then draw their conclusions. Good Masons avoid confirmation bias, and try to see what truly is, rather than what they expect, and only on the basis of facts do they judge with candor. As a Mason, I stand for calling out lies from wherever they come. When a terrorist missile is misfired and hits a hospital, and the immediate response is to use that as an opportunity to blame Israel for striking a civilian target, I stand for calling for a real apology from news outlets and media that reported on Israel's guilt when American Defense Department satellites clearly established Israel's non-involvement. I stand for holding leaders accountable for their decisions, and for being required to live with those decisions, rather than being able to live in safety and luxury in a foreign country while their people live in fear and squalor. I stand for holding people accountable for spreading hatred and prejudice, under whatever name and however packaged. I stand for Truth against lies, against hypocrisy, against prejudice and projected blame. That is what I stand for.

As Masons, I firmly believe that is what we all ought to stand for.

I am well aware that large-scale, regional conflicts like those in the Middle East are steeped in history, awash with conflicting accounts, and highly charged on every level. It is certainly true that there can be multiple valid viewpoints and perspectives on any event, even from the first-hand witnesses thereof. It is most certainly the case that each of us views the world through our own, unique lens, and our upbringings and preexisting opinions and inner working models for viewing the world will color our perception of events as they occur. Regardless of all of this, the Truth is that the modern trend of "alternative facts" is just another name for lies, and we need to be ever cognizant of that fact when people attempt to inject fiction into fact.

Brethren, I am Jewish, as are many of the Brethren of this Lodge; but it is not as a Jew I write to you today. I am a lover of Israel, and have friends and family there, for whom I am deeply concerned and afraid, but it is not thus I speak to you. I am an American citizen, and America has always recognized the right of the State of Israel

to exist and to defend its people, and its policy has ever been one of support for Israel; but it is not even as an American I speak today. Today I speak as a Mason, and it is as such that I ask you to act. It is as a Mason that I urge you all to stand with me for Brotherly Love against hate and prejudice, for Relief against selfish and wanton use of civilian lives as shields behind which to hide and tools to be used to further person agendas, and for Truth against those who would distort the facts and blame others for their own vile actions, or seek to somehow justify atrocity. Brethren, as Masons, it is time to take a stand for what we believe in, and remind the world what we stand for, because when Masons stand together, we show the world that it is possible for True Friendships to exist among those of different faiths, even when those religions have often been at war. When we stand together, we show the world that Diversity actually creates Harmony, and that to destroy those with whom you differ does not make the world a better place. And when we stand together, we show the world that Masonry has something incredible left to offer; a path towards a world where peace and freedom are possible, where disagreements need not end in violence, where civility can reign and honesty can be treasured, and where none need go to bed at night and wonder if they will wake to a sky of blue or a sky of gray filled with smoke and ash.

So stand with me for our values. Stand with our Masonic Brothers in Israel. Stand with the innocent victims of terror, both Israeli and Palestinian, who are victims of a hatred propagated by those who use it as a tool to gain personal power, and who show their true colors by calling for worldwide genocide. Stand with Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and when you see or hear others who would be swayed by the lies of those with questionable motives, speak up and do not remain silent, for the silence of good men is what allows evil to flourish in the world.

Brethren, I ask that you all join me in praying for the swift arrival of a day when war and bloodshed cease around the world, when good men of all races, religions, and opinions can freely come together in Harmony, when the example that Masonry sets is embraced by all.

Until that day, my brethren, we labor on.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

NOVEMBER STATED MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS 8:00PM

DINNER: 7:15 PM

MENU

GREEK SALAD

FETA, CUCUMBER, RED ONION, ROMAINE

LULA KABOB & RICE PILAF

BAKLAVA

DINNER IS \$15, PLEASE EMAIL BROKYLEWARE@GMAIL.COM TO RSVP

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

SECOND DEGREE PRACTICE

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

POSSIBLE SECOND DEGREE

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

SOCIAL NIGHT!

DECEMBER 4, 2023

DECEMBER STATED MEETING &
PRESENTATION OF THE HIRAM AWARD TO BROTHER STAN SAX

DINNER: 7:15 PM

MENU

GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD

PASTA BOLOGNESE & MEATBALLS

GARLIC BREAD

PANETTONE

DINNER IS \$15, PLEASE EMAIL BROKYLEWARE@GMAIL.COM TO RSVP

HIRAM AWARD CEREMONY: 8:00PM

CLOSED PORTION TO FOLLOW

DECEMBER 16, 2023

INSTALLATION OF 2024 OFFICERS 6:00PM

MORE INFO TBD

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 you dues care:

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.

IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520

We are considering getting a group together for the

Laguna Art Festival Pageant of the Masters

Where Art Comes to Life

"A La Mode – The Art of Fashion"

Sunday, August 4, 2024

8:30PM-10:30PM

\$65/person

**Attending the Pageant of the Masters should be on
everyone's bucket list**

**For information and reservations please contact Bernie
Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or email
brnhrd18@yahoo.com by November 20.**

CASTING CALL

**Wannabe Actors, Thespians
And Those Who Want Great Ritual**

You can help enhance the Masonic degrees for our candidates by taking part in the ceremonies. We want to put together ritual teams in all three degrees that will create memorable experiences.

Note that Entered Apprentices can take part in the 1st degree, Fellowcrafts in the 1st and 2nd degrees, and Master Masons in all three.

We are also looking for Master Masons who want to be officers. We have openings for 2024.

We want and need your involvement. If interested please contact:

Bernie Morse, PM

Officer's Coach

(310)556-4463

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Louis Dalesandro 3
Laurence Friedman 3
Matthew Wilson 4
Lester Riskin 5
Gene Pira 8
JohnRobert Wilson 9

Sheldon Lodmer 15
Lawrence Lebowsky 16
Timothy Shiner 17
Edward Trabin 19
Michael Pecina 21

Steven Bailin 22
Morris Darnov 22
Bernard Talmas 24
Mauricio Leon 25
John Rasor 26
Zachary Lodmer 30

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)
---	--

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.

Binyamin Appelbaum is a member of the editorial board of the New York Times. On October 2, 2023, he authored a piece calling for a reduction in the work week from 40 hours (i.e., 5 days) to 32 hours (i.e., 4 days). He noted that, over the past century, workers have gone from a 6-day week to a 5-day one as, in his words, the Labor Movement brought us the weekend. He believes that workers still “spend too much time on the job” and that an even shorter work week is better for health, families, and even employers. This latter group would profit by reaping the “benefits of a more motivated and better-rested work force”. Unfortunately, he did not provide any evidence to support these claims. Of note, this is one of the demands of the United Auto Workers, who are currently striking at various car factories across the country for higher pay. According to Mr. Applebaum, the union wants a full paycheck for a 4-day, 32-hour week.

Mr. Applebaum did not comment on the consequences of this demand. For example, in order to maintain current take-home pay that workers receive, employers would have to increase their current hourly wage rate by 25%. Of course, since these workers want more pay, the hourly wage rate would be even higher, with a subsequent dramatic effect on the costs of goods and services.

Perhaps even more concerning, the worker would only provide 80% of what he or she is currently producing in exchange. Some may argue that technological advances could compensate for much of this, so total productivity would not suffer. Of course, if the technology is really that good,

it would appear that fewer workers are really needed in the first place. My fear is that, since people rise or fall to the expectations placed upon them, requiring someone to do less does not motivate him or her to do more or do it better.

It is also not clear how these workers would utilize the extra day. Will we have a better society if they spend it watching television or playing more on their cell phones? Wouldn't such a situation result in even more social isolation and loss of personal contact with other people? We have already seen how working at home, necessitated by the COVID pandemic, has created distancing between coworkers. Being at home without the need to do work will not bring these coworkers closer together.

Going to work is one of the main methods whereby most of us achieve a sense of accomplishment. My experience with people who retire has been that, if they do not find such a reward elsewhere when they stop working, they often either become depressed or return to the workforce.

If people want a 4-day work week, I would suggest that they find a job with 10-hour work days.

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.

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