

TRESTLE BOARD

February 2024

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / ioniccomposite.com

Dear Brethren,

I'm excited and pleased to announce that we are finally poised for actual growth! We had one qualified candidate put in an application for degrees last month, and we have another planning to do so at the next Stated, along with at least one or two affiliation petitions. Extra special thanks must go to Stan Sax for his continual work on behalf of our Lodge and helping make sure prospects aren't slipping through the cracks.

In other news, you may have noticed that we did not announce a February Sweetheart's night. This was not an oversight. Grand Lodge is currently helping us go through our list of Lodge Sweethearts to make sure that we have valid contact information for all who are still living, and to remove those from our records who are sadly no longer among us. For reference, we had just shy of 500 names on that list at the beginning of the year, many of whom we (the officers) were positive were no longer alive, but without official information, we were unable to remove them from our roster. Once Grand Lodge has returned the corrected list, we will send out formal, written letters to all Lodge sweethearts with information on our program, the date for which will be dependent on when we get the list back. Don't worry, Ladies, we haven't forgotten you – we just want to make sure that we get things right this time and clean up our records.

On a completely unrelated note, for those who have never been to the Masonic Homes in Covina – you really need to visit. I've seen assisted living facilities and other skilled nursing facilities, and the Homes is *nothing* like the others. More care and attention – not to mention space and facilities – are allotted to each of the residents at the home than 3 or 4 residents at other facilities, and that is not an exaggeration in the slightest. If you or someone in your family needs assistance or skilled nursing, contact Masonic Homes. You will be glad you did. Trust me. By the same token, I would like to remind the brethren that the Masonic Homes is only able to provide that exceptional level of care because we – the brethren – help offset the costs with our donations to the Homes and the Masonic Foundation. Please, if you haven't done so already for this year (or if you feel you can give a little more than you already have), donate.

Lastly, please RSVP early for the March 4th Stated Meeting, at which we will be honoring our own Senior Deacon, worshipful Chay Alexander Wright, in his role as this year's Junior Grand Deacon in association with Beverly Hills Lodge no. 528 (of which he is a Past Master and a life member as well). I look forward to seeing you all there.

Fraternally, Jacob Gershbock, PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Schedule:

February 12th: Stated Meeting 7:15pm

Menu

Lemon Herb Vin Mixed Greens, Garlic Herb, Flank Steak, Potatoes Gratin, Peach Cobbler

Please RSVP to Bernie Morse - brnhrd18@yahoo.com

February 12: 1st or 2nd Degree? 7:15pm TBD

February 19: Social Night (7:15)

Join us for a night out! Dinner with possible drinks to follow, location TBD. Please RSVP if interested in joining to the lodge email address. Open to Masons and non-Masons.

Sunday, February 25th: Academy Museum Tour (11:00am)

We are putting together a group to tour the new Academy Museum attached to LACMA. Please RSVP to Bernie Morse - brnhrd18@yahoo.com if you intend to come (see ad in TB). Open to all - Masons and non-Masons

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - March 4, 2024 7:15 PM

In Honor of our own Wor. Chay Alexander Wright PM being formally received by the Lodge in honor of his being the Junior Grand Deacon. The Grand Master and many of his officers will be attending. Invite friends!

Please RSVP if interested in joining to the lodge email address.

Watch for more details!

IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520

A Visit to the
Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

6067 Wilshire Blvd

Los Angeles, Ca 90036

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Time: 11AM

Group Fees: Minimum 10

Adult	\$22
Senior 62+	\$17
Students 18+	\$13
Children to 17	Free

Discount valet parking is available with ticket. Enter on Fairfax.

For reservations, please contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or email brnhrd18@yahoo.com by February 8th. Bring check payable to Bernie Morse or Cash to February Stated Meeting.

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 and can be printed or downloaded in an 8 ½ x 11 format which can be printed or downloaded to a phone.

There are 2 ways to get you dues card:

1. Login to www.member.freemason.org, select Imposite Lodge bar, then select Virtual Card.
2. Send an email to our lodge Secretary Mike Bear PM (michael.bear@mac.com) requesting that it be mailed to you.

If you need help registering for iMember contact the Secretary.

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

When I was in high school in the late 1950s, standardized testing was routine, and the results would become part of one's application to college. More recently, however, those tests, usually the SAT or ACT, have come into disfavor because members of certain minorities have not scored as well as other ethnic groups. In fact, standardized tests have even been labeled as "racist" in some circles. Some colleges have ceased asking for those results, thereby removing them as factors to be considered in decisions about admission.

I spent several years as the chairman of a scholarship committee that had many more applicants than we had the ability to reward. In fact, the main purpose of the committee was to go through all the applications and select those whom we believed would be the most likely to succeed in college. Over the course of the time that I reviewed applications, it became clear to me that the grade point averages, or GPAs, were becoming higher and higher. When I was in high school, the highest GPA that could be attained was 4.0, representing As in all a student's classes. However, by the time I finished my tenure as chair (2022), it was commonplace for us to review paperwork from high school students who had "adjusted" GPA's of 4.5 or even higher. This occurred because the students were taking advanced placement, or AP, classes that earned them extra GPA point scores. I also suspected that many teachers in high school were providing "grade inflation", namely giving higher grades to students in general. Since the grades all came from disparate sources, I did not have the ability to compare what a particular grade meant at any one high school.

The standardized tests were developed, in part, to predict how a particular student would do in college. In fact, there is a good correlation between one's SAT or ACT scores and one's college GPA. Thus, and especially when I was evaluating a student who had a high GPA in high school but a relatively low SAT or ACT score, to put less emphasis on the GPA (and I also only considered the unadjusted GPA in my decision-making).

To be fair to the GPA, there are several studies that have compared the predictive value of both standardized tests and the GPA. Many (but not all) of these studies have suggested that the GPA is a better predictor of success in college. These studies have been cited by college admission officials as the reason to disregard the standardized scores in favor of only using the GPA. Curiously, what has been less intensively studied is the ability of using both scores to predict success. In my brief Google search of the Internet, I came across one such study that found that the use of both tests was superior to either one alone.

I am no longer a member of any admissions (or scholarship) committees. My opinion, should I be asked, would be to use both, but it is unlikely that anybody is going to ask. What I am concerned about is a decision not to use standardized test simply to try to fix a perceived problem with ethnic or racial bias in society.

THINK ABOUT IT

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

February Birthdays

Robert Malinow 3	Norman Weinstock 15
Richard Shapiro 3	Robin Silverman 17
Joseph Michael 5	Chay Wright 17
Roberto Jo 7	Tony Napoli 21
Joshua Jason 11	Victor Pinkerton 22
Benson Turner 12	Robert Rosenstein 26
Bruce Gary 14	Karam Al Yateem 28
Amir Jandaghi 14	Robert Feiles 28
Stanley Sax 14	Ira Steinore 29

BRETHREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Sick and Visitation Committee Report

Ron Koretz Recovering at home from knee surgery.

Roy Steinfeld On the mend after a fall & hip related injury.

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	Master – Jacob Gershbock	Marshal – *
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M.
	Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Junior Steward – *
	Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M	Inspector for the 626th Masonic District Gevork Asatryan P.M.
	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)	Trestleboard Layout – Michael Mosbach
	Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Assistant Secretary – Michael Mosbach
	Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Chaplain – *	Officers' Coach – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)