

TRESTLE BOARD

June 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
(424 273-1054) / <https://www.ioniccomposite.com>



Dear Brethren,

On May 25th, we held our Annual Festive Board. Around 30 Brothers, Ladies, and Guests were in attendance for this wonderful evening of Fraternal fun and brotherly bonding. Much enjoyment was had by all as, once again, Worshipful Nicholas Mitchell, a Past Master of Southern California Lodge no. 529, acted as our Master of Ceremonies. He took us through the formal toasts, guided us with grace, and gave us all some great laughs. Many thanks to him and his wife Doreen for coming out again this year. We look forward to next year's event.

One moment I wanted to highlight from the evening was the response Worshipful Jeff Bear gave to one of the evening's formal toasts. He rose and spoke of the day he first asked his own biological brother (or "Brother Brother," as he likes to say) how he could get involved in Masonry. Now, I'm not going to lie; I've heard Jeff relate that story before – many times. I've even heard him tell it with a couple more embellishments and fun one-liners. What I had never seen, however, was Jeff start to tear up as he alluded to his brother Michael, whom he called, "The most Masonic man I know." As Jeff sat down, Mike rose and went over to hug him, and without a single word, everyone else in the room stood up and applauded the Bear brothers.

Brethren, I won't tell you that there haven't been times when I was frustrated with this job. In the course of four years, I'd be frankly surprised and amazed if *anyone* could sit in the East without a certain amount of frustration at *some* point. But it's moments like that, watching two "brother brothers" embrace who grew better and closer in so many ways because of this Fraternity that I am reminded of why I took the job in the first place. I took the job to ensure that Ionic Composite Lodge would continue to be a place where moments like that would continue to occur. To ensure that our Traditions, our culture, our reputation as a place of warmth and hospitality, service and philanthropy, dedication and history would not fade or be forgotten.

In short, I took this job and keep doing it every day because of people like Michael and Jeff Bear. Because of the commitment they demonstrate not only to doing the work of the Lodge, but of living in a way that reminds everyone around them that there is a major difference between being related by blood and being *brothers*. Blood simply makes people biologically related. Loyalty – reciprocal devotion and dedication – *that* is what makes people *family*. That is what it means to be *Brothers*, Masonic or otherwise. The Bear brothers have, since my first days as a Mason, been a continuing example of that truth.

Brethren, if you haven't been around the Lodge recently, you are doing yourself a disservice. We have a string of great activities planned for the months ahead, and every time I come to Lodge, I find both familiar and new, young, eager faces in our halls. At this moment, I can honestly say that for the first time in my tenure as Master, we have more demand for degrees than we have open nights on our schedule to arrange them. We have had to start scheduling out degrees two months in advance, and even longer in a couple of cases. We have an incoming cohort of prospects, applicants, EA's and FC's, all actively moving through the degrees and eager for everything we can teach them.

For myself, I can't wait to see what *they* will teach *us*.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

June Calendar

Monday, June 2nd, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting
Followed by 7:15 pm: Stated Meeting

Menu: Chinese Food

Use the link below to RSVP:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>

Monday, June 9th, 7:15pm: Second Degree Practice

All Officers Required to Attend!

Fellow Crafts and Master Mason sideliners welcome

Monday, June 16, 7:15pm: Masonic Education Night

Join us as continue our quarterly speaker series with another great lecture!

Light Refreshments will be served

Open to Masons of all degrees **only**

Please use the link below to RSVP for headcount:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

Thursday, June 19, 7:00 pm: OSI

At Culver City Foshay, Anchor Bell Lodge Hosting

Topic: 1st Degree

Officers are required to attend without prior approval from the Master *and* the Inspector.

Monday, June 23rd, 7:15pm: Third Degree for Bro. Jordan Brodie

Join us as we raise this outstanding young Mason to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

Light refreshments following the degree

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

Monday, June 30th, 7:15pm: 2nd Degree for Bro. Tanvir Hannan

Come support our brother as he takes his next step in his Masonic Journey

Light refreshments following the degree

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

July Calendar

Monday, July 7th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting

Followed by 7:15 pm: Stated Meeting

Menu: TBD

Use the link below to RSVP:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp/>

Monday, July 14th, 7:15pm: First Degree Practice

All Officers Required to Attend!

Entered Apprentices are encouraged to attend! Fellow Crafts and Master Mason sideliners welcome

Sunday, July 20th, 8:00am: Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau Men's Breakfast Honoring the Grand Master

Honoring Most Worshipful Arthur L. Salazar Jr.

LAX Hilton

Sunday, July 20th, 12:00 pm: 55th Annual Reception of the Grand Master at Ionic Composite Lodge

Join us for an afternoon of Good Food, Fun, and Fellowship, as our Lodge proudly continues its 55-year traditional Annual Reception for the Grand Master. The event will feature our Lodge's signature Mel Nahin-style Grand Lodge Introductions, presentations, and, of course, great food catered by "First Mom" of Ionic Composite, Faith Gershbock.

Doors Open & Social: 12:00 pm

Lunch and Program: 12:30 pm

Menu: Salad Bar, Pasta Bar (including gluten free and vegan offerings), various sides, and homemade (from scratch) ice cream cakes! (Fudge brownie and Black Cherry ice cream options)

Attire: Business Casual

Open to all; Masons, Ladies, Guests, and children!

Cost: \$25/person (Kids eat free!)

USE THE LINK BELOW TO RSVP NOW!

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/upcoming-special-events/special-event-rsvp-form/>

Monday, July 21st, 7:00 pm: OSI

Ionic Composite Lodge Hosting

Topic: 2nd Degree Complete

Officers are required to attend without prior approval from the Master *and* the Inspector.

Please review all your parts in advance so we can do a good demonstration!

Monday, July 28th, 7:15pm: Hold for 1st Degree

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our 2025 Masonic Speaker Series Continues!

Join us on June 16th, 2025, as we dive into the world of Masonic Symbolism with a great talk from an outstanding Speaker.

Masons of all Degrees welcome to attend.

Light Refreshments will be served. RSVP using the link below:

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/non-stated-meeting-rsvp-form/>

You Are Cordially Invited

To the 55th Annual

Reception of the Grand Master

at Ionic Composite Lodge

Sunday, July 20th, 12:00 pm

Business Casual Attire

Open to All (Masons, Ladies, Guests, Children)

Lunch Catered by Faith Gershbock, including:

Salad Bar with multiple homemade dressings

Pasta Bar (including gluten free options)

Grilled Chicken, vegetables, and other assorted sides and toppings

Homemade (from scratch) His and Hers Ice Cream cakes (Fudge Brownie and Black Cherry options)

Cost: \$25/person (kids eat free!)

<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/upcoming-events/upcoming-specialevents/special-event-rsvp-form/>

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

In the past few years, baseball teams have adopted a practice of celebrating home runs by their players by having them wear or carry some article when they return to the dugout after circling the bases. For example, a Cincinnati Red sports a Viking helmet complete with horns and a trident is given to a Seattle Mariner upon entering the dugout. These various symbols are typically representations of power, reflecting the strength of the player who hit the ball hard enough to drive it over the fence. A couple of years ago, the Los Angeles Angels began placing an ornate Samurai helmet on the heads of the players; that helmet was ordered from Japan by Shohei Ohtani when he was on that team.

In the case of the Angels, the tradition was somewhat modified at the suggestion of Mike Trout. This year, the player is rewarded with the temporary wearing of a fire hat. It turns out that Trout had a friend in the fire department and he thought that it would be an appropriate acknowledgement for first responders to celebrate in their “name”. It was part of the response that the Angels, as well as our other local soccer (Angel City FC, Galaxy, LAFC), football (Chargers, Rams), basketball (Lakers, Clippers, Sparks), hockey (Kings, Ducks), and baseball (Dodgers) professional sports teams made to the victims of our recent fires. It is the intention of the Angels to have all of the players on the team sign the fire hat at the end of the season and then auction it off as a further contribution. In the meantime, first responders all over southern California can gain a moment of appreciation whenever an Angel hits a home run.

I was reminded of the meaning of the fire hat when I had the occasion to have lunch with some doctors who had all been in my medical school class. We were discussing how medicine had changed over the decades, realizing that many of those changes were directed more at increasing income than improving patient care. I posed a question to the group, namely if they had the opportunity to redo their career decisions today knowing what was happening in the field, would they still choose to go into medicine. One of them, who had spent decades as a pediatrician, said he would. I asked him why and his response was not exactly what I had expected. While he did recognize that he had had enough financial success that was able to retire comfortably, his real rewards came at the hands of patients at unexpected moments. He cited a time when he walked into a restaurant and one of his young patients became excited and joyfully exclaimed to his parents. “Oh, look, there is my doctor” (referring to him by name). The

knowledge that he had had a positive impact on that young man was a reward beyond compensation and represented why he had chosen medicine many years earlier.

For me, the take-home lesson from both of these examples is that true happiness and satisfaction come from experiences that we do not, and cannot, pay for, or even measure in dollars. Life is really at its best when people take the time to let us know that we are important to them.

Think about it.

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 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 Mike Bear PM (michael.bear@mac.com) requesting that it be mailed to you.

If you need help registering for iMember contact the Secretary.

BRETHREN 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.

June Birthdays

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Gary	Armstrong	1
Robert	Abelson	2
David	Golde	2
Henry	Koffman	3
Jacob	Gershbock	8
Ernest	Dancy	9
Yuriy	Kotlyar	9
Trevor	Nathanial	10
Lazlo	Borsai	12
Alvin	Livingston	12
Joseph	Mayesh	14
Axel	Del Cid	15
Robert	Black	18
Martin	Levine	18
Don	Wijesinghe	18
Tanvir	Hannan	20
Robert	Thomason	21
Daryl	Bristol	23

2025 OFFICERS	Master – Jacob Gershbock	Marshal – *
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
	Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Junior Steward – Michael Mosbach
	Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M (Virian)	Inspector for the 626th Masonic District: Gevork Asatryan P.M.
	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)	Trestleboard Layout – Cody Blair
	Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Piano –
	Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary – Cody Blair	