

TRESTLE BOARD

July 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

This month has been one of many changes, for the world, for our city, for our Lodge, and for me personally. On the world stage, tensions run high as violence continues in so many places around the world, framed against the backdrop of a global climate crisis that is rapidly intensifying. At the National, State, and local levels, unrest, concerns over rights and freedoms, and all manner of protests and partisan politics have taken center stage, provoking fear, uncertainty, and anxiety about the future from all sides. To me, all this only highlights the need the world has for Masonry and the lessons we can teach it.

In our own Lodge, we came together this month with brothers from other lodges to raise brother Jordan Brodie, who has been largely living in Europe for these last two years, and with whom I have been working remotely on a periodic basis to do his proficiencies, to the sublime degree of Master Mason. He, in truly Masonic fashion, has been busy finding his path, having just completed his first year of study towards becoming an engineer. I too also just celebrated my own graduation, having now been officially conferred with a master's degree in clinical psychology. At the same time, I regret to have to announce that others are preparing to lay down their working tools for the final time in the coming days or weeks.

In mid-June, I got a call from Worshipful Irv Puskin, a Past Master from the Composite side of Ionic Composite. He was involved in my own Raising back in 2009. He asked that I retrieve his Past Master's apron for him, which was in one of the custom drawers that were placed in our storage unit during the move from our old La Cienega location back in 2022. After finding the apron, I offered to deliver it personally, and he asked if I could stay and talk for a while, which of course I was more than happy to do. What I was less happy about was that when I got there, he informed me that he was now in hospice care and expects to be called from labor at some point during July. He wanted to ask me several questions to hopefully set his mind at ease regarding the state of the Lodge, the Fraternity, and the direction it has been moving. While I was fortunately able to assuage most of his concerns, I walked away from that conversation somewhat troubled. On the one hand, here was a man – a Past Master – who casually informed me that he was at the point where he was genuinely looking forward to setting down his burdens at the end of a long life, much in line with our teachings. At the same time, I felt regret that the world should have to lose such a great man, when it is so clearly in need of more great-souled individuals in such a turbulent and troubled point in history. That dichotomy bothered me.

As I reflected on the conversation and on the feelings it provoked in me, I realized that I had it all wrong; the conversation wasn't just to set *his* mind at ease – in a strange sense, it was to set *my* mind at ease. What I concluded was that it is the stories we tell and memories that we shape, and which are in turn told to others, that are our truest legacies. The people we touch, the communities we help reshape, the lessons we pass on, even in our last days and hours, that ripple outward and onward through time, passing from person to person, changing and growing with a life all their own. Seeds that we plant in the minds of others become mighty trees that bear their own fruit, and in time plant new seeds in the minds of others that we ourselves will never meet.

Brethren, we are planting seeds here at Lodge. We have our 55th Annual Reception for the Grand Master coming up this month on Sunday the 20th, our First Responders night at our

August Stated meeting, and our Public Schools night at our September Stated meeting. We have degrees lined up, candidates ready to advance, others still working on getting ready. If you haven't been back to Lodge in a while, it's time to come home and get to planting. This world was once a great garden; it can be so again with enough help.

It's time to get our hands dirty and do some global gardening.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

July Calendar

Monday, July 7th, 6:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting and Inspector's Review of the Books

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting

Join us for our monthly business meeting

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, July 14th, 7:15pm 2nd Degree for Bro. Tanvir Hannan

Come join as Brother Hannan is passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft.

Fellowcrafts are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, July 20th, 8:00 am: LAMSB Men's Breakfast

The Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau's annual Men's breakfast honoring the Grand Master will take place at the LAX Hilton

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

Join us in one of our Lodge's longest-standing traditions as we host a reception for the Grand Master of Masons for the 55th year in a row! This year, we are thrilled to be honoring the Most Worshipful Arthur L. Salazar Jr.

12:00 pm: Doors open, 12:30 pm: Lunch and Program

Business Casual Attire

Masons, Ladies, and Guests Welcome

See full page ad for full details! 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, 7:30 pm: OSI

Officers' School of Instruction. All Officers required to attend.

Master Masons welcome.

Ionic Composite Hosting. Topic: 2nd Degree Complete

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

Join us as we initiate our newest brother into the Fraternity!

August Calendar

Monday, August 4th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting and First Responders Night

Join us for our monthly business meeting as well as our annual tribute to our First Responders from local Fire Station #92 and the West Los Angeles Police Station.

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Details of other August events are as yet to be determined, but expect a number of social and fraternal gatherings of a more informal variety during the Summer months.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

After the LAMSB Men's Breakfast,

You are cordially invited to the

55th Annual Reception of the Grand Master

At Ionic Composite Lodge (2244 Westwood Blvd)

Sunday, July 20th

12:00 pm: Doors Open/Social

12: 30 pm: Lunch and Program

Menu (Catered by "First Mom" Faith Gershbock):

Salad Bar (featuring several homemade dressings, including Ceasar)

Pasta Bar (including gluten free options)

Grilled and fresh toppings and sides

Bread and other add-ons

His-and-Hers Ice Cream Cakes (vanilla with fudge brownie and black cherry flavors)

Cost is \$25/person (children under 18, members of the youth orders, and Masonic Homes residents eat free!)

Attire is Business Casual

Please use the link below to RSVP now!

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

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

Think About It

One of the late-term but little-recognized aspects of being a doctor is that, as we age, we ultimately also become patients. Having been both, I already have realized that, given my choice, I would strongly prefer to be the former. However, it turns out that none of us have that choice. This phenomenon came to my attention recently when I received a phone call from the wife of a man with whom I shared two years of medical residency (1968-1970) at the University of Minnesota, where we both began training in Internal Medicine. We subsequently went our separate ways. I went into the Air Force and then completed my Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology training; he also finished his Internal Medicine training and went on to a career in Cardiology. He was in practice in the San Fernando Valley until late 2006, when he retired. It happened that we were both members of the same temple, so I would occasionally run into him and/or his wife there.

In that recent phone call, I was told that, in his later years (he now being in his 80's), he had developed some age-related medical problems. He had somehow found out that my son was a geriatrician at UCLA and his call included a request for medical follow-up by some such expert. Although my son was fully scheduled for the next 4 months or so, he did arrange for one of his colleagues to see him in a more timely fashion.

In the process of making all of these arrangements, I was speaking to his wife and she asked me if I knew another doctor, a friend of hers, who was an ophthalmologist in the Valley. It turned out that I had gone to medical school with this ophthalmologist and, more remarkably, that doctor's son, who also went into medicine and became an orthopedic surgeon, was the person who performed a knee replacement on me. I was struck by the coincidence that, in two

cases, older physicians were being taken care of by the children of other doctors whom they knew. This coincidence grew even greater when the wife told me that she was seeing a gastroenterologist who was the daughter of a gastroenterologist whom I have known for decades and who had been one of my teachers during my training, bringing the total number of people in my sphere who were seeing offspring of other doctors whom I had known since my training years to three. And all of this in just one conversation.

What especially pleased me about all of this was that, in each case, doctors whom I literally grew up with in my medical career had not only had successful professional lives, but also had produced children who were successful and competent practitioners themselves. Since I

now am a patient far more often than I am a doctor, it is comforting to know that some in my generation of physicians have been able to replace themselves in the doctor ranks with worthy successors. Apples really do not fall far from trees.

Think about it.

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.

July Birthdays

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Morton	Devor	4
Eduardo	Cortes	15
Timothy	Slone	16
Paul	Troy	16
Michael	Bear	17
Stephen	Fenster	18
Thomas	Ortiz	20
Robert	Nelli	21
Jacob	Smerling	23
Glenn	Ardizzone	24
Howard	Brandes	25
Carmel	Levy	27
Howard	Hallis	28
Richard	Ellman	29
Barry	Charles	30

With Deepest Regret

We announce that the following brothers have been called from their Earthly Labors to that Celestial Lodge Above, in that undiscovered country from whose borne no traveler returns:

Brother Don Gordon:

Born January 19, 1938
Raised November 17, 1969
Called From Labor June 4, 2025

And

Worshipful Brother Irving Puskin:

Born March 16, 1931
Raised November 25, 1957
Called From Labor July 1, 2025

“Soft and Safe to Thee my Brethren, be thy Resting Place”

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 – Jacob Gershbock, PM
	Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Piano –
	Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - *	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikky)