

TRESTLE BOARD

August 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

As we move into August and what have traditionally been our slowest and least busy months of the Masonic year, I find myself in a strange frame of mind. On the one hand, I am proud of what our Lodge has accomplished thus far, and on the other hand, I find myself preoccupied with how much more we could and should do. To put this in context, since the beginning of this calendar year alone, we have had multiple first, second, and third degrees (more than one of each, I am pleased to report), we have had a Lodge delegation help do a meal service at the Midnight Mission downtown, we have raised money for dozens of mitts for the Masons4Mitts campaign, we have held a Festive Board, held our 55th consecutive reception for the Grand Master of Masons in California, completed our \$100,000 staged pledge to the Masonic Homes from the “Let’s Write the Future” campaign, and we have done it all while always being conscious of being warm, welcoming, and hospitable to guests and prospects who walk through our doors. Last week we held a 1st Degree. Today, I will be putting together the lineup for a 3rd Degree. In my almost four years as Master, I can honestly say we have never been busier.

And yet...

Despite all these accomplishments, I can’t help but think how much more we could be doing, and when I look out at the world around us, I cannot help but think how much more is *needed*. The world may have lost sight of or forgotten the lessons and truths we as Masons have to teach, but it needs them now more than ever. Never before has the world been more in need of the ability to hold *civil* discourse, in which two sides – or even individuals – can have a discussion or even an argument without the inevitable transformation of “the *opposition*” into “the *enemy*”. Never in my lifetime have the divides between people and parties, races and religions, families and friends been so starkly and sharply defined and delineated, with no apparent room for compromise or mutual respect. Nor did I ever expect in my lifetime to have to contend with the resurgence of “outdated” things like censorship – at least not in this country. And yet, here we are, one and all.

If there is one thing that gives me a measure of hope in these trying times, it is our Fraternity: its message, its principles, and its people. Our Gentle Craft serves as empirical proof that Diversity *can* not only coexist with, but in fact is *requisite for* Harmony. That it is not only possible to disagree and remain polite, civil, and courteous even when outvoted, but that the practice of holding space for different opinions in a forum where the *ideas*, rather than the *people*, are judged, and where individuals do not need to fear shame or ridicule for holding opposing or unpopular viewpoints is actually good for everyone, as it expands our minds and modes of thinking. Yes, there are inevitably problems. We are not, after all, perfect beings. We are humans, and while we as Masons work both individually and collectively to improve ourselves, there will inevitably be those who fall short or fail to remain faithful to our ideals and principles. This does not, however, negate the fact that by and large, our Brethren can, should, and – in my own opinion at least – *do* in fact serve as examples and beacons of how to live in a better way.

I generally end these messages with an invitation to join us at Lodge, and while the number of brothers attending our events has been slowly but surely increasing, I can safely say

that most people who read this find reasons to ignore that plea. I hope, however, that this time will be different. Don't think of the reason why you can't come to Lodge. Consider instead the reasons why you *need* to come to Lodge. Come to recharge your sanity. Come to strengthen your resolve to do better and to help others do likewise. Come to revitalize your determination in the face of the seemingly overwhelming chaos. But most of all, come to Lodge to reignite a sense of Hope. Come and bear witness to a living, visible reminder that things not only *should* be better, but that they in fact *can* be better, and that we as Masons know how to start to point people in the direction that will ultimately lead them to a better and brighter future.

I don't pretend that we have all the answers. I don't even presume that we know all the right questions. But one thing I can say, for certain and without any doubt whatsoever, is that if you find a way to take the time to make it to one of our meetings, if you show up and bear witness to the way in which our Brothers interact both with one another and with those from outside, if you put in even the minutest energy into the Lodge, the return on your investment will be exponentially greater than that which was invested.

Remember Brethren, at the end of the day, Masons are Builders. No great structure builds itself; it is through the efforts of the workmen that Wonders of Ages are erected. Join us and see what we are building, one day, one brother, one action, one *choice* at a time.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

August Calendar

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

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting and First Responders Night

Join us as we honor our first responders at this special Stated Meeting

Note: Casual Attire Permitted this month

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, August 11th, 7:15pm 3rd Degree Practice

All Officers and Sideliners who will be taking part in the 3rd Degree on the 18th are asked to attend

Monday, August 18th, 7:15 pm 3rd Degree Conferral

Join us as we Raise Brother Tanvir to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

All Master Masons welcome!

Light Refreshments served after the degree

Wednesday, August 27th, 7:00 pm: OSI at Liberal Arts

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

Master Masons welcome.

September Calendar

Monday, September 8th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting and Public Schools Night

Join us for our monthly business meeting as well as helping us welcome and honor the staff of Charnock Road Elementary School for all the incredible work they do.

Monday, September 15th, 7:15pm Masonic Speaker Night

Save the date for our third quarterly Masonic Speaker Night of the year!
More details on this speaker will be forthcoming – stay tuned!

Thursday, September 18th, 7:00 pm: OSI at Anchor Bell

Officers' School of Instruction. All Officers are required to attend.
Anchor Bell Lodge hosting (at Culver City Foshay building)
Topic: Elections and balloting

And stay tuned to our Email Blasts for upcoming social functions!

Brethren:

If you have not already paid your 2025 dues you are past due and no longer in good standing. You can pay your dues on iMember with a credit card.

ALSO:

The California Grand Lodge has made the process of paying DUES simpler, automatic and less painful (specially this who are dual members, or members of concordant bodies). Instead of several lump sums, it can be taken out in increments as shown below.

Process Map: How to sign up for AutoPay in iMember 2.0

Step 1: Access Your Profile

- Action: Log in to iMember 2.0
- Click: My Profile from the dashboard

Step 2: Add a Payment Method

- Click: Add Payment Method
- Enter: Your credit or debit card details
- Save: Your payment information securely

Step 3: Configure AutoPay Settings

- Click: Auto-pay Settings Configure

Step 4: Choose a Payment Interval

- Options:
 - o Monthly – Charged 15th of each month
 - o Quarterly – Charged March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
 - o Annually – Charged Dec 15

Monthly and Quarterly options allow contributions to accumulate over the year, covering your dues in advance without a large single payment.

Confirmation

AutoPay is now enabled – you’ll receive confirmation of your setup.

Why Enroll in AutoPay?

Convenience: One-time setup, always in good standing.

Financial Flexibility: Smaller payments spread over time.

Peace of Mind: Never miss a due date – it's automatic.

Stay Current: Be sure to update your credit card information if it expires or changes to avoid any disruptions in your AutoPay setup.

Fraternally,

Michael Bear, P.M.

Secretary, Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520, F.& A.M.

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

Think About It

Sometimes I am astounded at the peculiar stretches of thinking that our elected officials can employ when they have to find rationales for doing what they do. My latest experience with this phenomenon was an event that occurred in San Francisco. As is true in most other cities, as well as in counties and states, and even in our federal systems, there never seems to be enough money to fund everything that these government officials want. The problem in San Francisco related to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, or Muni as it is known there. It began with the fact that Muni's recent budget contained a deficit of over \$300 million.

In order to solve this problem, the agency took the standard bureaucratic first step, namely to create the Muni Working Group, a task force (in other words, a committee) to address the shortage. That group found that San Francisco “likely has more private driveway curb cuts than any other city of its size and density, since most east coast cities of similar density make more use of back alleys for trash and car access...and [t]hese curb cuts are essentially permanent privatization of public space”. The group added: “Charging an annual fee to the owners of curb cuts would put a fair price on this privatization of public space, encourage owners whose curb cuts no longer lead to active driveways to return those curb cuts to the public, and generate significant revenue for the agency”.

In other words, the city would put an annual assessment on any structure that had a driveway. This recommendation was favorably accepted by anti-automobile interests such as Streets Forward, a nonprofit that encourages cycling, walking, and public transit. Apparently, even city staff began planning how to implement such a tax.

However, and perhaps at least in part because any such action would violate Propositions 13 and 218, the plan ultimately was abandoned. A professor of Transportation Studies at UC Davis, Daniel Sperling, viewed it as a property tax hike. Willie Brown, a former mayor, laughed at the idea and asked “What kind of nonsense is this?” There was a substantial public backlash over this proposal with critics saying it was ridiculous and an unfair burden on homeowners.

When I have a problem with my budget being greater than my income, my solution is to find ways to reduce my expenditures. However, it does appear that prioritizing and then lowering government expenditures is not a solution that our elected officials like to practice. I fear that similar proposals will continue to appear because there is no shortage of “public resources” that could be viewed as being privatized simply because individual people use them. What about the public space that we all occupy for our own private use when we walk down the street? How

about the public air that we each individually inspire (even as contaminated as it often is)? Will we need to pay for the shade we enjoy on warm days by sitting under a public tree? Will the government of San Francisco also view these as public possessions and then tax them to resolve fiscal deficits?

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.

August Birthdays

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Albert	Solnit	4
Steven	Resnick	5
Allen	Sackler	8
Fred	Gross	8
Clifford	Wolosin	11
Sheldon	Ellis	12
Jesse	Rivas	13
Harry	Barron	22
Gene	Horst	25
Sarkis	Babian	25
Marc	Seidner	28
Jordan	Brodie	31
Philip	Roman	31

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)