

TRESTLE BOARD

October 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

In this world where deliberate misinformation campaigns have become commonplace, where accusations of misrepresentation and malfeasance are flung every which way with abandon, and where there always seems to be someone else at whom to point a blaming finger regardless of which side of any given issue a person finds oneself on, the thing that I find myself most proud of in Masonry is our ability and willingness to own up to the Truth. Not only to even accept the fact that there *is* such a thing as Truth in the first place, but to accept responsibility for the things we have done – good *and* bad – learn from them, and then move on, rather than dwelling in recriminations.

Do Masons sometimes assign blame to other parties? Yes, but (hopefully) only as appropriate and in the spirit of figuring out how to improve ourselves, our communities, and our processes, rather than in the spirit of attempting to divest ourselves of any part of the responsibility for making things work properly. It is often necessary to know *how* and *why* things went wrong to plan for a better future, but that doesn't mean we don't personally own a share in *what* to do about it, regardless of our own involvement (or lack thereof) in the first place. Masonry understands this. This is part of the symbolic message of the Plumb. Moral rectitude. Integrity.

Do Masons have arguments? Of course we do. We're human. But at the end of the argument, we part as brothers and friends. This is part of the lesson of the Level. Equality and community based on an understanding that we are all just trying to do our best as we each see it.

Do Masons sometimes hurt others? Inevitably. Again, we are human, and thus imperfect beings. The difference is that, by and large, when we do so, it tends to be the unintentional side effects of otherwise well-intentioned actions, or the necessary result of justified criticism and judgement involving those that have themselves mis-stepped and need correction. Let's face it: no one likes being told they messed up (even, or perhaps especially, when they indeed *have*) – it can be interpreted as a form of harm to inform someone that they are not acting properly or performing up to a given standard, but the only way to grow is to first realize that there is room for improvement. After all, most people tend not to try to fix things they do not believe to be broken in the first place. It can hurt to be told a hard truth, but it is, in its way, an act of love, especially when it is accompanied by the means for making things better. And that, in the end, is part of why the Square is the Masonic emblem of Virtue. It is a *right* angle, and though it necessarily involves a sharp turn from one's current course, it leads to a proper path, even as it reminds us to always consider how those pathways can so easily turn without careful attention.

During this season, amid the Jewish High Holidays, as I reflect on what I have and have not accomplished during my tenure as Master of the Lodge before leaving the East, I find myself drawn repeatedly back to the fundamental principles and symbols of our Fraternity. Brotherly Love. Relief. Truth. The Plumb of Integrity. The Level of Equality. The Square of Virtue.

How much better might the world be if everyone understood and abided by those lessons and tenants?

I can't pretend to know the answer to that question, but I would like to think that, in the last few years, I have done what I could in some small way to help contribute to that goal. Nor do

I intend to stop upon stepping down from the East. I invite everyone to join me in that effort, and in this time of increasing darkness and lengthening shadows, see if we can bring just a little more light to the world.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master

October Calendar

Monday, October 6th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting

Join us for our monthly business meeting and dinner.

Menu: Garden Salad, Beef Tri Tip, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Apple Cobbler

Click on the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, October 13th: LODGE DARK

In deference to our Jewish Members, the Lodge will be dark in honor of Shemini Atzeret (final night of Sukkot)

Monday, October 20th: TBD

No Lodge events scheduled at present. Possible unofficial social night if a sufficient number of people express interest

Monday, October 27th: LODGE DARK

Many of our Officers will not yet be back from the long Annual Communication weekend. No Lodge event scheduled.

November Calendar

Monday, November 3rd, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting and Annual Election of Officers

Join us for our monthly business meeting and dinner and vote on next year's Elected officer positions.

Monday, November 10th: Hold for Degree/Practice

Monday, November 17th: Hold for Degree/Practice

Monday, November 24th: Hold for Degree/Practice

SAVE THE DATE!



**A BILATERAL MASONIC RED DEGREE CONFERRAL
BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND SONORA**

Saturday, October 4th 2025

5:30PM DINNER / 7PM DEGREE / MASONS ONLY

A historic conferral of a Red First Degree by Alonso Flores
Lodge No. 16, Nogales Sonora hosted at the
South Pasadena Masonic Lodge No. 290,
celebrating fraternal unity, ritual and timeless tradition.

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge
1126 Fair Oaks Ave, South Pasadena, CA 91030
RSVP: EstebanMusicLA@iCloud.com

Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau Presents
The Annual Clothing Drive for the Midnight Mission



November 16, 2025

START COLLECTING NOW for our **NOVEMBER 16, 2025, 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 (LAMSMB) do their very best to fill a Midnight Mission truck with new and slightly used clothing, shoes and other personal items.

Did you know that the Midnight Mission was founded by a Freemason, Brother Tom Liddecoat, in 1914, and Freemasons continue to be involved with its leadership and support. The Midnight Mission, which provides aid to the homeless and those in need, is an example of Masonic relief in action.

Start collecting new and slightly used clothing now for our annual clothing donation to the Midnight Mission that will take place at our **November 16, 2025** 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 	<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)
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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).

YOU CAN DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER STATED MEETINGS AT LODGE!!

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

Think About It

In the mid-1950s, I was a very loyal fan of the Hollywood Stars, a Pacific Coast League baseball team that played at Gilmore Field (currently the site of CBS Television City). For most of the Sundays when the Stars played a home game, I took my bike or a bus to the field and bought a general admission ticket. I frequently sat in the right field bleachers (in foul territory) with the hope that I would catch a batted ball. I never did.

Now fast forward 70 years. Drew Feltwell, who lives in Miami, took his son Lincoln to Loan Depot Park to see the Marlins play the Philadelphia Phillies in early September. They sat in the left field bleachers, which were located behind the left field fence in fair territory. It was a special day for Lincoln, his tenth birthday. Harrison Bader, who was playing center field for the Phillies, hit a home run into those bleachers. The ball landed near an empty seat close to Drew and, in the subsequent few seconds, Drew picked it up and put it into his son's baseball glove, with Lincoln beaming in response. Moments later a woman came over to Drew, screaming at him that he took the ball from her and claiming that the ball was in her hand. This latter claim was not verified by anybody in the stands, however.

In order to avoid a protracted argument or fight, Drew took the ball out of Lincoln's glove and handed it to the woman, who then stormed off to her seat. However, the incident did not stop there. The woman was loudly booed by the fans in the area, leading her to engage in further arguments with those around her. She has been dubbed "Karen" by sportswriters. ("A Karen" is a slang term for a white middle class woman who acts in an entitled manner or is excessively demanding.) At least two women have been said to be this irate fan; both denied it and there is no real evidence as to who she actually is.

For those of you who do not attend baseball games, any ball that goes into the stands is fair game for whoever retrieves it. The unwritten rule is that one fan cannot forcibly take the ball from another fan, but if the ball is loose, anyone can pick it up. It may be that the woman was one of the people who tried to catch it and, in the process, the ball did touch her hand. Unfortunately for her, merely touching it did not establish ownership. Videos of the event have not documented that Dean took the ball from her. On the other hand, other videos do document

her inappropriate use of her third finger to respond to the angry fans around her when she returned to her own seat.

Fortunately, Lincoln did not go home empty-handed. The staff of the Miami Marlins prepared a gift bag for him and the fans around him loudly cheered when they brought it to the boy. Probably a more memorable event for him was that, after the game, Harrison Bader met the boy and gave him a baseball bat after he autographed it.

As I noted earlier, I never did take home a baseball from Gilmore Field. Perhaps one reason for that was that I never behaved as badly as “Phillies’ Karen”.

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.

October Birthdays

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Richard	Ameny	4
Alan	Block	5
Arthur	Dakessian	9
Dale	Jacobs	17
Jonathan	Klein	5
Rafael	Montejano	24
Robert	Nairin	28
Mark	Neander	9
Lawrence	Phillips	23
Alfred	Sapper	7
Robert	Smerling	16
Roy	Steinfeld	30

2025 OFFICERS

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