

TRESTLE BOARD

December 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

For the past five years, it has been my honor to write to you each month. First as the Senior Warden, and these past four years with my From the East messages as Master. It has been a time of great change, not only for our Lodge, but also for me.

As a Lodge, we left our old home, celebrated 100 years of fraternal bonds, and reestablished ourselves in a new place. We built new connections, started new traditions, and relaunched old ones that had fallen by the wayside. We took the best of who we were – our commitment to charity, our care for community, and our strong sense of brotherhood and hospitality – and have found ways to start to inspire a new generation not only with those same ideals, but also with a renewed commitment to education, both public and Masonic.

For myself, it has been a tumultuous time in other ways. I returned to the Lodge in the wake of the death of my father, and while stepping into Lodge again, I was simultaneously having to step into many of the roles he filled in my family. I saw my brother married, became an uncle for the first time, and, along with the rest of the world, weathered a global pandemic. I became even more active at my Temple, started and completed a Master's Degree program in Clinical Psychology, and have found renewed purpose in my life. I have now coached new Lodge Brethren all the way through the degrees, including one with whom I worked (and still work) while he is literally on the other side of the world (Brother Brodie is in Botswana as I write this, though I believe he will be moving to another location through his program shortly). I have learned more about myself in these last five years than I would have believed possible and have grown in ways both big and small.

So, my brethren, with Thanksgiving later this week, and as this is my last Trestleboard message to you all (at least for now), it seems only appropriate to give thanks. Thank you all. For everything. For the ups and downs, the fun and the frustrations, and for everything that this position has both brought me and meant to me. I cannot express how different I think my life would have been if it were not for Masonry in general, and for the opportunity to serve as a leader in this Lodge for the past several years in particular. Thank you to all those who helped, especially all those who served as officers with me during this time.

Thanks to Stan Sax, for jumping in and taking on new roles when the Lodge needed it, and setting the bar for me for what I think of as a Mason deserving of a Hiram Award, as well as setting a high bar statewide for a Lodge Prospect Manager. To Luis Tananta, for his quiet, constant presence, his steadfast devotion to our Lodge and to our brethren, and for his friendship. To Kyle Ware and Michael Mosbach for their contributions during parts of my term. Most special thanks to the dedicated core of Past Masters who have stuck it out with me and on whom I have had to lean so heavily. To Worshipful Steve Resnick, who not only held things together as the Master before me for three years, but remained to help us hold it together just a little longer thereafter, giving us the time to find, attract, and begin to train a new generation. To Worshipful Tim Shiner, who even when not at Lodge nevertheless made time for me on the side when I needed it, and always did his best to come in a pinch, in addition to having done so much to catalogue our Lodge's history before and during our move. To Worshipful Kerin Surents, for

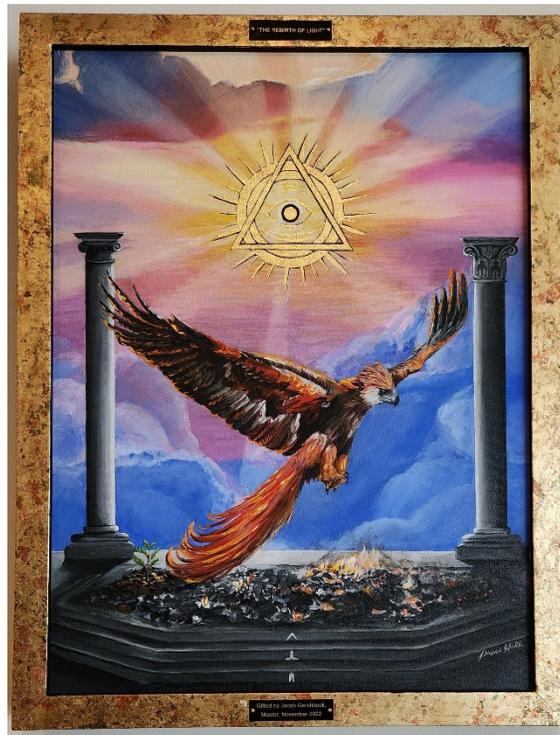
stepping up and making a comeback despite everything. To Worshipful Roy Steinfeld, for demonstrating sheer grit, commitment, and unwavering dedication. Thanks also to Worshipfuls Ron Koretz and Bob Sills, who, while not officers themselves, often stepped in and helped. Extra special thanks go to Worshipful Bernie Morse, who kept me organized much of the time and provided consistent, great advice, and without whom I would not have made it through my first year as Master, let alone four. Likewise, to the inestimable and irreplaceable (and often irrepressible) Brothers Bear, Worshipfuls Mike and Jeff; words cannot express just how grateful I am to the both of you for *everything*.

Finally, thank you to Worshipful Chay A. Wright, our new Master Elect. Not only for your support these last few years, but also for agreeing to take on the burden for a while. Don't worry – I'll still be here to help.

Brethren, when I made the motion to sell our old home, I promised I would not let our Lodge disappear. I promised that I would ensure we had a bright future. That we would not be forced to merge or consolidate or fade out of existence just because we sold our old building. Today, with a core of new faces, including some new officers, with young men knocking at our doors and coming up through the degrees, with our financial situation doing brilliantly and our Traditions and reputation holding strong, I believe I am able to say that I have delivered on that promise. So thank you all for taking the leap of faith with me and putting your trust in me to lead you through.

I look forward to seeing what this next chapter will bring.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master



December Calendar

Monday, December 1st, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting

Join us for Worshipful Gershock's Last Stated Meeting as Master and help us wrap up this year in style!

Menu: Chicken alforno (roasted chicken with olive oil & lemon served with parsley salsa)

Garden salad, braised carrots, creamy mash potatoes

Dessert: caramel banana bread pudding

RSVP via the link below:

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

Thursday, December 4th, 6:30 pm: Officer's Appreciation Dinner

Officers and their partners are invited to the Home of Worshipful Gershock for a homemade dinner in appreciation of their service.

Drinks and social: 6:30 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Casual Attire.

Saturday, December 13th, 5:30pm: Annual Installation of Officers

You are all cordially invited to Ionic Composite Lodge's Annual Installation of Officers.

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Program begins *promptly* at 6:00 pm.

Dinner to follow (free to all).

Attire: Tuxedos for Officers, Suit and Tie or equivalent for all others.

This ceremony is open to all – Masons and non-Masons. Please bring family, friends, and other guests. All are welcome!

Following Installation, we are Dark for the remainder of the 2025 Calendar Year

IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520

2026 GROUP THEATER EVENT

We have a block of 16 orchestra seats for

Hell's Kitchen

Sunday, June 7, 2026

6:30 PM

\$86/person

at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood

Hell's Kitchen is a jukebox musical built around the music and lyrics of Alicia Keys with a semi-autobiographical plot about her upbringing in Manhattan in the 1990's.

For information and reservations please contact Bernie Morse, PM at (310) 704-2262 or email brnhrd18@yahoo.com.



Names (years a Mason)

Back row, Left to Right: Bob Sills PM (52),
Bob Abelson (49), Sheldon Lodmer (52),
Stan Sax (39), Bernie Morse PM (53)
Kneeling: Zack Lodmer (16)

Congratulations and happy birthday to Bro. Sheldon Lodmer (back center) who this past month celebrated his 80th birthday with other brothers of our Lodge, representing 261 combined years of Masonry and Lodge history between them.

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

As time has passed, I have noticed that an increasing percentage of the mail that is delivered to me by the U.S. Postal Service consists of requests to send money to one or another nonprofit organization. Some of these are charities that my wife and/or I have donated to for many years, so I am not surprised that they have our address. However, many are organizations with which I am completely unfamiliar. Fortunately, our blue trash bin is situated between our mail box and our front door, so most of this unsolicited mail never actually even gets into our house.

Beginning many years ago, these requests were accompanied by inexpensive gifts, such as calendars, supplies of holiday and other greeting cards, gift wrapping paper, pens, socks and other wearing apparel, postage stamps, and personal address labels. While most of these things have also found their way to the trash bin, I have kept the labels because I long ago wearied of writing that information on the upper left corner of the envelopes that I send out; for purposes of this column, I now know that I have 6,052 usable labels.

This all came to a head for me several weeks ago when I found a particularly large stuffed envelope in our mail box. Being curious as to what could be taking up so much room, I opened it and found a tote bag, a long-sleeved shirt, a pen, and a check for \$1.50, all from some veterans' organization. They were asking for money to support their programs. A week later I received a follow-up letter asking if I had received these gifts, another \$1.50 check, and an appeal to donate at least \$15.00 to their cause. A third large envelope arrived today; it contained a third check, greeting cards, a hand calculator, two more pens, and a 2025-2026 planner, all accompanying a request for a donation.. These missives were all sent with a postage indication that it was a non-profit organization, so I assumed that the sender had received a bulk rate reduction. On the other hand, the return envelopes that I was sent required postage stamps for my donations.

I had not heard of this organization, and I chose not to contribute. Moreover, I wondered about the wisdom of this fund-raising effort. The cost of all of the stuff that I had been sent, as well as any postage that they paid, may not have even been covered by a \$15.00 donation.

There were actually two reasons for my failure to donate. The first was that I did not know the organization. Secondly, and more importantly, my wife and I have a policy of not sending money to groups that send gifts. Why don't they use the money that is spent on unrequested gifts to support whatever their cause is? After all, if they have excess money for gifts, why do they need any more?

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.

December Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
Marshall	Krupp	13
Etan	Goldman	16
Norman	Langer	19
Bruno	Samuel	20
Harold	Forster	22
Yukihiro	Matsumoto	22
Michael	Maroko	23
Ezra	Ozer	24
Stanley	Ziegler	27

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally, now or in previous editions.

2025 OFFICERS	Master – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.	Marshal – Aaron Gozales
	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)	Musician –
	Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - *	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)