



# Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 Trestle Board

WEB SITE: [www.calodges.org/no520](http://www.calodges.org/no520) • E-MAIL: [ioniccomp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ioniccomp@sbcglobal.net)

Meets Every Monday Stated Meeting First Monday 7:00PM

April 2008



From the East

## *Master's Message*

Brethren,

I want to congratulate all of you who participated in organizing our Grand Masters visit. I was told by many visitors and Grand Lodge officers what a wonderful program we had for them. I was told especially by AGL Worshipful Douglas Eichen that we are an example to all lodges how to organize good events and he also praised us on our rituals.

Please join me in thanking Wor. Bob & Robin Sills, Wor. Ralph Dunn, M.W. Mel & Alice Nahin, Adrane Schafer, Wor. Ron & Ivy Stein, Wor. Howard Steinore and every one else who made memorable reception possible.

On a separate note, when I was about to walk through the main entrance to the Lodge building last Monday, I was approached by a young man who caught me by surprise when he asked me "Can I ask you a question" yes you can, I replied. "Is it true the Great Seal on the back of the \$1 bill a Masonic Symbol?" he asked. I did not want to confuse the young man by giving him any wrong answers. I took him to the Lodge office and asked him to come for our next Masonic discussion group meeting.

This is an article I read about the subject on associated press. If any one of you have any thoughts about this please contact me directly.

### **Great Seal secrets revealed!**

#### **New Exhibition to trace the history and evolution of the symbolism**

Conspiracy theorists take note: The myths surrounding one of America's oldest and most enduring national symbols are about to be debunked ... if you believe government, that is.

The keepers of the Great Seal of the United States, the familiar emblem on the back of the \$1 bill, want you to know what it is not. It is not a sign that Freemasons run the country, it has nothing to do with the occult, and it does not contain clues to a fabulous hidden treasure.

It is rather the nation's stamp of authority, sovereignty and power, gracing our cash and embossing the most important of documents from its home at the State Department, which has held it since the days of Thomas Jefferson, the first secretary of state.

#### **Misidentified, misunderstood and misrepresented**

Not that the Seal's symbols — the all-seeing eye, the unfinished pyramid, the Latin phrases, the bald eagle clutching an olive branch and arrows and the number 13 — aren't powerful.

They are, historians say. Yet their meanings have been misidentified, misunderstood and misrepresented almost since the Continental Congress first commissioned the Seal in 1776.

Continued on page 4

**Wednesday, April 2nd. Dinner reservations for the April 7th, Stated Meeting and Public Schools Night must be received or cancelled by the lodge office. (310) 657-2628**

### *April Calendar*

**Mon. April 7 - Stated Meeting.** Official Visitation of our Inspector, Worshipful Fred Davis and Hawaiian Shirt Night. Also, Public Schools Night. We will be opening at 5:15, with dinner at 5:45 and the program at 7:00. The entertainment is being supplied by the McBride School along with their informative presentation.

**Mon. April 14 - Second Degree Conferral** All Fellowcraft Masons are expected to attend. All Master Masons are invited and your presence will be appreciated. The candidate for the evening is Brother Tom Brown. **5:30pm** No Host Dinner at Norm's on La Cienega near Beverly.

**Wed. April 16 - 7:15pm Masonic Discussion Group.** Open to all men and women. All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are expected to attend. Dress is casual.

**Mon. April 21- 7:15pm First Degree Conferral.** All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are expected to attend. Welcome our new brother into the Lodge! Coaching is available.

**5:30pm: Dinner at King David's** on Pico Blvd. east of La Cienega Blvd.

**Mon. April 28 - 6:00pm Third Degree Conferral.** All Master Masons are invited to help us Raise a new Master Mason. Note the early starting time. Because the candidates are the Brothers Shapiro, we would like to raise both of them this date. Your help would be greatly appreciated. For other candidates, we will have coaching available.

**Tues. April 29 - 7:15pm Officers' School of Instruction.** At the Ionic Composite Masonic Center the Host Lodge is Beverly Hills Lodge. We will be emulating the 2nd Degree and Proficiency. All Officers are Required to attend. All Master Masons are welcome. Anyone who would like to be an officer of the Lodge is certainly welcome.

**Wed. April 30 - Dinner reservations for the May 5th Stated Meeting & Public Schools Night must be received or cancelled by the lodge office (310) 657-2628**

### *May Tentative Calendar*

**Mon. May 5 - Stated Meeting.** Mexican Theme Night. We will be opening at 5:15pm, with dinner at 5:45pm with the program at 7:00pm.

**Mon. May 12 - 7:15pm Lodge Dark.** Program to be decided.

**Mon. May 19 - 7:15pm Officers' School of Instruction.** This is "Move Up Night." Officers Only Please. We will be showing our progress toward the next year's Office.

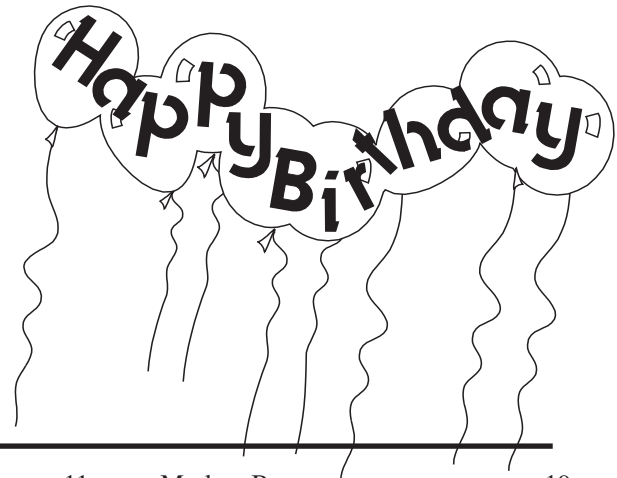
**Mon. May 26 - 7:15pm Lodge Dark** for Memorial Day. There will be a program the Veteran's Cemetery on Monday morning. Your participation and assistance is requested. If we receive permission, we may be in our Masonic Regalia.

**STATED MEETING RESERVATIONS OR GENERAL INFORMATION  
CONTACT RALPH DUNN, P.M.  
(310) 657-2628**

**DEGREE AND PRACTICE DINNER RESERVATIONS CONTACT  
WOR. BILL MILLER, J.W. (805) 579-8650**

**LODGE HALL RENTAL: WOR. HOWARD STEINORE  
(310) 657-2628**

# APRIL BIRTHDAYS



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Donald E. Salisbury	1	Ronald B. Grant	11	Marlow Baar	19
Arthur Lurie	1	Wayne A. Shaphran	11	Theodore J. Wins	19
Jon Wax	1	Albert A. Levingston	11	Jason T. Umias	20
Edward A. Trabin	1	Kenneth N. Klee	12	Robert Hyman	20
Mark A. Mischel	3	Arnold Fazekas	13	Lester Bise	20
Andre Torosyan	4	Stephen Joseph	13	Daniel Bourne	21
Robert I. Ross	4	Harold W. Wax	13	Sol Goldberg	25
Alan Gediman	4	Harvey A. Glaser	14	Hagop Azantian	26
Marc A. Behun	5	Cliff Dorfman	14	Edward E. Segal	27
Richard Barnes	5	Michael Turner	14	Albert Brinhendler	30
Sam N. Gordon	6	Cliff Dorfman	14	Morris Wolfred	30
Brandon Koretz	7	Arteen K. Bedirian	16	Anthony Fernandez	30
Joseph Eshshaghian	8	Jeff Bear	16	Harold Roth	30
Adam Pontrelli	9	Robert Bloch	18	David Harris	30
Hoyt Richards	10	I. Joseph Schwartz	19		

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## FROM THE WEST

Here it is again: Time to write another Trestleboard article. Boy, I sure hate doing this. It seems that I just finished the article for March. I wish I didn't have to do all this work. I could kick back and watch some T.V. or take my Harley out for a ride. Yeah. That's it.

But wait. Then I'd be just like everybody else. What would set me apart? I got to thinkin' about this. What it means to do something different. To work instead of lounge. To do what we don't want to because it is the right thing to do.

Y' see, as Masons we set ourselves apart. We're different. So different that in the past our Brethren were persecuted. In fact, in many countries that's still the case. Why do we have secret modes of recognition? Because in some places our ideals of Brotherhood: of people of all backgrounds, races, religions and economic groups is not just unpopular, but actually subversive. Odd how when Communism fell, we found out that so many Masonic Lodges were operating clandestinely.

Being a Mason takes work. Not just writing articles, coming to Stated Meetings and working at Degrees, but going out of your way for a Brother.

What makes you a Mason? We've all answered that question. It's our commitment to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

It takes work to meet all people on the Level. To treat them as equals or brothers when our natural inclination is to be selfish and act in our own self interest.

It takes work to act by the Plumb: To be upright and give relief and I don't mean just giving money to charity, but giving of our time.

It takes work to part on the Square, that is, to leave having been truthful in our dealings with others and I mean even when we would not be caught.

Whoa, Jeff. This really does sound like a lot of work. It is, but only when you're doing it by yourself. That's where your lodge comes in. When we're working by ourselves, we truly feel the full weight of our burdens. When we're in a group with everybody working together as a band of Brothers our burdens are lifted by many shoulders, not just our own.

We all know that your Lodge needs you, but, my Brothers, you need your Lodge too. When you want to catch a cold go where sick people are. When you want to catch the ideals of Masonry, come to your Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Jeff Bear, Senior Warden

Continued from page 1

It would be another six years before the original design was approved and another 128 before it evolved into its current form. Along the way, a movement to decipher the Seal's meaning with ancient Egyptian, mystical and otherwise other worldly explanations has gained currency.

The internet age has seen an explosion in such conspiracy theories, many which have now been ingrained in public consciousness through the popular "National Treasure" movie franchise that serves up a combination of Masonic lore and historical myths in blockbuster Hollywood fashion.

Among them:

- That the Seal proves the domination of the United States by a powerful, quasi-religious cult. The Ancient Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is a perennial favorite of conspiracy theorists as some Founding Fathers were Masons and the Seal uses several Masonic symbols.
- That the Seal draws on Satanism or polytheistic ritual to promote a universal new world order under which Earth would be ruled by a single omnipotent government.
- The repeated references to 13 — the number of steps in the unfinished pyramid, stars in the constellation over the eagle's head, arrows in the eagle's claw, striped on the eagle's shield, letters in the phrase "Annuit Coeptis" — demonstrate the power of 13 American families.
- That there are two seals: one in which the eagle's head faces the arrows for times of war and another in which the eagle's head faces the olive branch for times of peace.

All rubbish according to historians, who say the Seal's symbolism is far less ominous or revelatory than many believe.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the Seal's current custodian, will inaugurate a new exhibition to commemorate its 225th birthday and trace the history and evolution of the symbolism.

The Seal will remain at the State Department but the interactive exhibit is designed to travel and curators hope it will dispel the rumors and educate Americans about the real meaning of the symbols.

Among the highlights:

- That known Masons like the first U.S. President, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin had no role in designing the final seal, which uses elements of traditional heraldry, such as the unfinished pyramid to symbolize a work in progress, arrows for war and an olive branch for peace. Masons share some of those symbols, but they have never been exclusively the domain of the order.
- That the phrase "Novus Ordo Seclorum" below the Roman numerals for 1776 at the base of the pyramid translates as "A New Order of the Ages" that began with independence and does not imply the United States will be the lynchpin of a sinister "New World Order."
- That the words "Annuit Coeptis" ("Providence favors") and the eye of providence that hovers over the pyramid refer to unexpected interventions of fate that assisted the colonists in creating a new country.
- That the references to 13 refer to the number of colonies that formed the original United States.

"People are just not aware of the complexity and intent of the symbolism and what our Founding Fathers were trying to do with it," said Priscilla Linn, senior curator at the U.S. Diplomacy Center. "The hidden in the Seal is the courage and presence of mind of the people who created it and created these values for the whole country."

Don Wijesinghe, Master 2008

## **FROM THE SOUTH**

Brethren,

We are now through the first quarter of 2008, and the Lodge has been doing well. Your officers have been working hard to ensure that the Lodge is something you can take pride in. We are known for the quality of our ritual (although we can all have "off nights" occasionally) and our stated meetings have been very enjoyable, with good entertainment and good food. What we need is for more brethren to partake in the good fellowship that is shared in the lodge. The brethren who attend are all very friendly, and wish to make the acquaintance of more of you. To this time, we have had 5 Degrees. We especially want more sideliners at the Degree meetings, and will try to accommodate any one who would like to assist us.

The March Stated Meeting was the annual visitation of the Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Richard Wakefield Hopper. Worshipful Bob Sills put together a fine program for the evening, and our Lodge can be proud of the impression we made, as well as creating an enjoyable evening.

The April Stated Meeting is the Official Visitation of our Inspector, Worshipful Fred Davis. At his request, this will be "Hawaiian Shirt Night." It will be good to let down our hair (as if I had any) and relax while attending the meeting. This is also Public Schools Night and thanks to Worshipful Jeff Gordon we will have an entertaining presentation by the McBride School about their work with "special needs" children. This is a very broad category and, with our help, they have been doing a great job. Come and find out how. We will also have a pianist to entertain us.

Finally, I would like to remind you that if you have access to a computer and the internet, keep an eye on our Lodge web site, as we post any changes to the schedule there. There are also entertaining and informative articles for your enjoyment. Please visit the Education page and let me have your comments. Also, send me any articles you think might be good for this page.

Fraternally,  
Bill Miller, JW

## **McBride School Teacher of the Year**

At our stated meeting in April, we will be honoring the "Teacher of the Year" for McBride School. Nominated by his peers, Michael Whitfield has been chosen as this year's recipient.

Part of the Los Angeles City Schools, McBride School specializes with youths having mental and physical disabilities. The facility schools kids up to age 18.

Graduating from UCLA with a Major in Sociology with Education courses in 1994, Mr. Whitfield is now the lead science teacher at McBride. He attributes "love of kids" as a great motivation.

His personal hobby is singing and writing songs with lyrics. At this meeting we may get to enjoy a sample of his music. Please join us for an informative and entertaining night.

Jeff Gordon, event chairman

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**April 16, 7:15pm  
Open Masonic Discussion Group**

**April 7  
Public Schools Night  
and  
Inspector's Visitation**

## Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

Prince Harry, the young man who is third in the line for succession to the British throne, is currently in the British Army. In December, he was assigned to four months of duty in Afghanistan on the front line. In keeping with his belief in tradition, he accepted this assignment and went to war. Of course, from the perspective of the enemy, the Taliban forces, any knowledge that he was here was an open invitation to try to capture or kill him along with anybody who happened to be there at the same time.

In deference to this threat, the British press were provided with this story and asked not to publish it until he returned in April. Interestingly, the entire press corps, consisting of a number of newspaper and media outlets, agreed to keep this information secret and did so. Prince Harry was sent to war in December and remained there for over two months until the story broke. At that time, and because of concerns that the knowledge put not only Harry, but also his comrades-in-arms, at increased risk of harm, he was brought home.

The remarkable thing about this story was that the British press decided that there were more important things than headlines. While the story is now being spun by all of them, depending on their political persuasion, they did the right thing during the two-plus months under consideration. In fact, while the story did break prematurely, it was not the British who did it. Rather, the voluntary news embargo appears to have been broken through a combination of stories from Australia and Germany, followed by an expose on the Drudge report in the United States.

We often hear about reporters going to great lengths to dig up information, and even to harass particular individuals, in order to satisfy what they call "the right of the people to know". All too often, individuals who justify questionable behavior by saying that they have a right to do so fail to appreciate the fact that rights do not come without responsibilities. In the case of Prince Harry, the protection of the other soldiers (as well as the Prince himself) was more important than selling more newspapers, or achieving a higher rating, for a day or two. The British press understood this principle; it is too bad that journalists from other countries lacked this insight.



On February 23rd, Worshipful Don Wijesinghe presented a 50 year pin to Brother Max Stark at his home in Wildomar California. He has been a member of our Lodge for his entire Masonic Career. He was born in New York on 09/03/1920. Because of the distance from Lodge, and his age, he was unable to come to Lodge to receive the award.



Brother Max was initiated on May 13th, 1957, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on November 18th, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 27th of 1958, all in Composite Lodge No. 639 (Now Ionic Composite No. 520). He was an engineer working on Apollo 13, the B52 Bomber and the Challenger. He now resides in Wildomar, south of Lake Elsinore.

On March 5<sup>th</sup> our Inspector, Worshipful Fred Davis, traveled to Twin Peaks and presented Brother Ronald Grant with his 50 yr pin at Rim of the World Lodge #711. Brother Grant was initiated in October 1927, passed in May of 1958, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1958 in Composite Lodge #639. He is now 74 years old. He was very happy Worshipful Fred could make the trip of 100 plus miles to do it and wanted to thank Ionic Composite Lodge.

## Brethren and Family Members Sick and Visitation Committee Report

### APRIL MENU

Salad, bread and butter

Choice of:

Chicken Teriyaki  
or  
Mahi Mahi

Starch & Vegetables

Dessert



*Menu subject to change.*

*Dinners are by reservation only and must be made or cancelled no later than 12 NOON the Wednesday before the Stated Meeting. Reservations made and not cancelled by that date will be charged. Dinners are prepared by your reservation only. Dinner costs are: \$15.00 per person for all members and guests except those invited by the Master. Masonic widows of Ionic Composite Lodge will not be charged for dinner. A Masonic widow is a widow of a member of Ionic Composite Lodge who has not remarried.*

### **Brothers Name & Lady**

### **Phone**

<b>JACK ABRAMS</b> Chronic health problems living in San Jose, California	[408] 998-8209
<b>LESTER CHAGI</b> (Marsha) Has lost muscle strength and hard to get out.	[310] 398-3341
<b>OSCAR HALL</b> (Bess) Chronic medical condition that keeps him at home	[323] 653-0698
<b>LEONARD HESS</b> (Muriel) At home with disabling illness	[310] 472-3212

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### ***FUNERAL TELEPHONE LIST***

ANY BROTHER WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE PLACED  
ON THE FUNERAL NOTIFICATION CALL LIST  
"YOUR PRESENCE WOULD BE DEEPLY  
APPRECIATED"

PLEASE CONTACT  
RALPH DUNN, P.M.  
TEL:(310) 657-2628

"E"mail: ionicomp@sbcglobal.net  
1122 S. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90035-2500

### We Wish Everyone on this List a Full and Complete Recovery

Brethren "Please"  
A Telephone Call from You Could Brighten Their Day  
If You Know of Brother or His Family Who Are Ill  
Please Notify  
For Details of the Brethren and their wives-  
please contact

Ralph Dunn, P.M. Tel: (310) 657-2628

"E"mail: ionicomp@sbcglobal.net  
or Ron Koretz, P.M. R: [818] 360-2708



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 Los Angeles, CA 90035-2592  
 Secretary, Ralph Dunn, PM  
 Office Phone: 310/657-2628

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**  
 April 2008 Issue

**DATED MATERIAL**

April 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Stated Meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Second Degree Conferral	15	16 Discussion Group	17	18	19
20	21 First Degree Conferral	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Third Degree Conferral	29 O.S.I.	30			

**Advertise in the Ionic Composite Trestleboard**

To help offset the expense of printing and mailing our Trestleboard, we are offering advertising sponsorships to the members of Ionic Composite Lodge.

Size/Frequency	3 issues	6 issues	10 issues
Business Card	\$62.00	\$125.00	\$205.00
Double Business Card	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
Half Page	\$112.50	\$220.00	\$370.00

Price does not include any artwork  
*Discounts are available for Masonic Organizations. Contact the editor*