



# 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

February 2008

## From the East

### *Master's Message*

*Brethren and friends,*

*As I look to the future of our Lodge, one thing that comes to my mind is the need of your strong support and involvement in Lodge activities. Freemasonry requires your active involvement and participation to bring about the "brotherly love" that is part of the foundation of our fraternity.*

*Lately there has been a significant drop in the attendance for the stated meetings. I would personally like to know why this is happening. If you were someone who was a regular attendee of our stated meetings and has stopped coming, for any reason, I would like to know why. You can send me an email or call me at the number listed in the Trestleboard. It takes a great deal of time and money to put on a stated meeting with a catered meal, servers, valet parking, cleaning staff, and entertainment. If something needs to be changed to bring you back to lodge, I want to know about it!*

*Please read your Trestleboard, go on the Lodge website, or call the Lodge office, and keep up with our activities. February 4 is our Sweethearts Night and March 3 is the official visit of our Grand Master Richard W. Hopper. Please come and join us in welcoming the Grand Lodge officers. We always get a good turnout of the Grand officers and other dignitaries. Entertainment will be provided.*

*To all officers, members, and their spouses, the time for annual Masonic giving has begun and we need your support more than ever. Please make a donation, of whatever amount you can afford, to one or all of the Masonic charities of your choice as soon as possible. We may not all be able to give a large amount, but we all can give something. What ever you give will be appreciated. You now can make your donations on-line through our website, Grand Lodge website or by sending a check to our Lodge office.*

*Thank you.  
Don Wijesinghe  
Master*

**January 30, 2008 12 Noon. Dinner reservations for the February 4 Stated Meeting must be received or cancelled by the lodge office. (310) 657-2628**

### February Schedule

**Feb. 4: Stated Meeting. Masonic Sweethearts Night**  
Entertainment Dinner: 5:45pm. Program 7:00pm.

**Feb. 11: 7:15pm. Second Degree.** All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are expected to attend. **5:30pm Dinner at Jan's** on Beverly Blvd. east of LaCienega Blvd. Coaching available.

**Feb. 13: 7:15pm. Officers practice. First degree.**  
Candidate coaching available.

**Feb. 18: 7:15pm. First Degree.** All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are expected to attend. Coaching Available. Welcome our new brother into the Lodge!  
**5:30pm: Dinner at King David's** on Pico Blvd. east of La Cienega Blvd. Coaching available.

**Feb. 20: Masonic Discussion Group.** Open to all men and women. All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are expected to attend. Dress is casual.

**Thursday, Feb. 21. Dinner reservations for the March 3, Stated Meeting and Grand Master's Reception must be received or cancelled by the lodge office. (310) 657-2628**

**Feb. 25: 7:15pm. Officers School of Instruction** at Ionic Composite Lodge. 2nd section, 3rd degree. **5:30pm: Dinner at Versailles** on La Cienega south of Pico Blvd. All officers must attend unless excused by the Officers Coach. No candidate coaching available.

### Tentative March Calendar

**March 3: Stated Meeting and reception of the Grand Master and other Grand Officers. This is a truly special evening. See insert for details.** Dinner: 5:30pm. Open program: 7:00pm.

**March 10: 7:15pm. Third Degree Practice.** ALL OFFICERS AND OTHER PARTICPANTS MUST ATTEND. NO COACHING AVAILABLE TONIGHT.

**March 17, 7:15pm. Third Degree.** All Master Masons are expected to attend. **Dinner: 5:30pm at Factor's Deli** on Pico Blvd. and Beverly Dr. Coaching available.

**March 19: 7:30pm. Masonic Discussion Group.** Open to all men and women. All Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are expected to attend. Dress is casual.

**March 24: 7:15pm.** Degree or practice. Coaching available.

**March 31: 7:15pm.** Degree or practice. Coaching available.

**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**

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Gary R. Speckman	1	Joshua Jason	11	Floynn Rurner	19
Harry Sussman	1	Benson P. Turner	12	Tony Napoli	21
Charles Francis	3	Norman Kern	12	Victor H. Pinkerton	22
Robert Malinow	3	William Berman	13	Eugene D. Fink	22
Melvin Peltz	3	Mitchell O. Locks	13	A. Jeffrey Gordon	23
Richard S. Shapiro	3	Yuriy Buntiy	13	Jack S. Burkenheim	24
Raymond Simkin	5	Amir A. Jandaghi	14	Rob Faverman	24
Joseph Michael	5	Norman Reicher	14	Bret D. Richards	24
Joseph Fisch	6	Bruce Gary	14	Peter Koustas	25
Robert Jo	7	Hyman Paskal	14	William Gaberman	25
Andrew Rawuka	7	Norman Weinstock	15	Auri Spelman	26
Richard Spencer	8	Bob Silverman	17	Samuel Crofts	26
Jan Storm	8	David C. Underwood	17	Robert Rosenstein	26
Nathan Shaphran	10	Arnold Donner	18	James D. Kraus	28
Varun S. Dadabaoy	10	John Beatty	19	I. Howard Steinore	29
Aerial Afar	10				

## Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

In early December of 2007, a disgruntled resident of Omaha, Nebraska, decided that life was not worth living. This person, henceforth to be referred to as Person X, went to a shopping mall with an automatic weapon and opened fire on innocent people who were shopping there. Person X killed eight people at that time and wounded at least five others, some seriously, before using the gun to commit suicide. Person X left a suicide note claiming to be sorry for everything but adding that "Now I'll be famous".

Indeed, the story achieved national attention. It was covered by all of the national media and you probably saw the story played and replayed, first as a "breaking news story" and then on the evening news.

I first heard about this story as I was driving home in the evening. The commentator, who was hosting a talk show, made a particular point about not disclosing Person X's real name. Unfortunately, that commentator seems to have been in the minority. Person X's identity was revealed by the major news media as they sought interviews with people who knew Person X prior to the event. Person X's victims did not receive any such attention.

We live in a society where unhappy people have access to all sorts of things that can cause damage to themselves and others. Most of the time, the general public never finds out what heinous things they did. However, a few of these people are driven to commit more spectacular acts, largely in an effort to obtain some type of posthumous notoriety. Clearly, this was at least one of the goals of Person X.

I would submit that one effective way for society to discourage such actions is to make a conscious decision not to provide such temporary fame. I would propose that, if and when future such events occur, the media not publish the assailants' names. Rather, we should simply refer to all of them by some anonymous appellation such as Person X. While we cannot stop many of them from doing whatever distasteful acts that they decide to do, we can stop rewarding them for those atrocities.

## FROM THE WEST

Although this is the February Trestleboard, this is the first article I've written since the New Year and the first opportunity to tell those of you who missed the January Stated meeting that Trisha has accepted my proposal of marriage. Those of you have met her know what a truly special lady she is. Those of you have not yet had the opportunity, should come to the next Stated meeting and meet her. You will then know first hand how luck I am and how fortunate our Lodge is to have her on the Team. She is very committed in joining me in making our Lodge the place to be.

As Senior Warden, I would like to use at least part of my column to discuss matters of Masonic education. In my studies, which have been at an accelerated pace to say the least, I have had to memorize pages of Masonic ritual. I cannot do this without taking the time to actually understand, or try to understand, the words. Otherwise I'm nothing more than a trained parrot.

Current events have called my attention to a particular monitorial portion the Ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree: *"Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. . . . Hence while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."*

The language of our Ritual is constructed very carefully. As a lawyer, I appreciate its precision. Read these words carefully. Truth is divine, that is, Holy. It is the foundation of every virtue: Without it, every other virtue is unsupported and will crumble. Truth is the first lesson "taught" in Masonry, which, as my brother, Brother Michael reminded me, does not mean it is the first lesson we actually learn. Unfortunately, only while we are influenced by this principle, are hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity. When we are not so influenced, we cave into falsehood, lying, envy and jealousy. Such conduct has no place in our lodge or in Masonry.

I hate to end on such a down note, but I did give you the good news first. I look forward to seeing you all in Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Jeff Bear,  
Senior Warden

## New Eastern Star Club in Santa Monica, CA

As the Order of the Eastern Star moves further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a new format for an Eastern Star chapter has emerged in Santa Monica, CA. Rob Morris Star Club has started as of Friday January 4, 2008 and will start holding regular meetings on the first Friday of each month at the Santa Monica Masonic Center until we receive enough to make it an Eastern Star Chapter. The format that we are instituting is an hour long meeting with ritual and business once a month. After each meeting there will be a dinner with a speaker that will focus on an element of the ritual of the Order and other interesting topics. Escorts and introductions will be held once a year at annual installation. Baby-sitting services will be available at each meeting. The main purpose of the new Eastern Star club/chapter is to focus on the interesting aspects of our ritual and to enjoy fellowship and social outings with our members, which allow us to learn more about each other. The Order of the Eastern Star Chapter is yet another place for Masons and their families to enjoy fellowship with those that share similar interests and the new format of Rob Morris Star Club/Chapter is a great opportunity to be the start of something new and exciting in the state of California. For more information, please contact Stephanie or Brian Bezner: 310-750-6483 or BPBezner@gmail.com or SFBezner@gmail.com.

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## Have You Heard...?

Michael Bear, PM

Brethren and friends,

2007 was a great year for Ionic Composite Lodge. We had degrees almost every week of the year, except when we take a well earned vacation in August and December, and raise 8 brothers to the degree of Master Mason.

We grew in other ways as well. As you know, our Jr. Past Master, Bruno Samuel and his wife Anju had a baby girl named Abigail earlier in the year. Bruno proudly reports that Abigail has started to walk and can say "Momma and Dada!" Our new Master, Don Wijesinghe and his wife Summer had a boy named Nicholas Charles. Don't worry, he already has a petition ready to fill-out when he asks. Lastly, one of our new Master Masons and current Senior Steward, Joseph Shahrian Eshaghian and his wife Jamie had just had a baby boy named Judah Isaac. That makes four boys for them. Now a girl for the next one!

Do you have any news that you would love to tell everyone but you don't have all of our phone numbers, (and who has the time). With one letter, call or email you can let everyone in the lodge know the latest news. My contact information is in the front of the Trestleboard.

## FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

It looks like we have a great year ahead of us. Not only do we already have a full slate of degrees for this month, but we are also planning many events to take place during the year. Those of you who have not been coming to our monthly Stated Meeting dinners have been missing some great entertainment. In January, we had a couple of jazz guitarists, and they were very well received by those of you present. Too bad so many of you missed it. We also had a surprise visit from the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, the Right Worshipful Larry Adamson, who somehow managed to make the tiled portion of the meeting more fun than usual.

The February Stated Meeting is usually the time for the Official Visitation of the Inspector, but this year that has been postponed to April, as Worshipful Fred Davis is being installed as the President of the Past Masters Shrine Club that same night. We wish him a successful year and look forward to his "official reception" in a few months.

March is the annual visit to our Lodge by the Grand Master, a tradition which stretches back many years, and is envied by many other Lodges, as it is a unique honor. Then in April, we have the aforementioned visit from the Inspector and our annual Public Schools night. Please be sure to get your dinner reservations in on time.

We have many other events planned during the year, including a visit to the Museum of Tolerance, a picnic at the Masonic Homes in Covina, and our annual Table Lodge, held in conjunction with Southern California Lodge. I would also like to plan a visit to the Ronald Regan Library and the Air Force One pavilion. This is a great family event, as the Museum is very interesting to all. The Air Force One pavilion is a delight to children of all ages (even me) with its display not only of the presidential plane, but also Marine One, the President's official helicopter, and other flight related displays. I have heard a few comments that two museums in one year might be too much. I would like to hear an expression of interest from you regarding these events or ideas for any other activities. Please call me at **805-579-8650** or email me at [b2miller@pacbell.net](mailto:b2miller@pacbell.net). Be sure the email indicates it is Lodge business as I am up to 100 spam messages a day. I am especially interested in hearing from some of our newer members, as I am not that young anymore, and they may have ideas I wouldn't have thought of.

As a final note, please keep an eye on the lodge web site, [www.calodges.org/no520](http://www.calodges.org/no520), as that is where all changes to the Calendar first appear.

Fraternally,  
Bill Miller, JW

### *Our Senior Officers and Their Ladies*



*From left: Senior Warden, Jeffrey Bear and his fiancé Trisha Zagha. Master, Don Wijesinghe and his wife Summer. Junior Warden, Bill Miller, P.M. and his wife Bonnie*

*Our new Master Don Wijesinghe, receives his lapel pin from Jr. Past Master Bruno Samuel with Officer's Coach Michael Bear looking on.*



*The Jr. Past Master and New Master with Their Families*



*From left: Jr. Past Master Bruno Samuel with his wife Anju and daughter Abigail, and our new Master Don Wijesinghe and his wife Summer and son Nicholas.*



## ***Sweetheart's Night***



***February 4, 2008***

**ALL THE MASONIC WIDOWS, WIVES, AND LADIES OF OUR LODGE WILL BE THE GUEST OF THE LODGE FOR THE STATED MEETING DINNER.**

**WE WILL ALSO HAVE SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT  
SEE MENU SELECTIONS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE.**

**EVERYONE MUST R.S.V.P. BY NOON**

***January 30, 2008  
TO THE LODGE OFFICE  
(310) 657-2628***

**NOT TO BE MISSED! SUPPORT THE LODGE,  
HONOR THE  
GRAND MASTER!**

***Brethren, Your Master and Officers  
Invite You to Attend Our Lodge's 38<sup>th</sup> Consecutive  
Reception for the Grand Master of Masons in California  
The Most Worshipful Richard Wakefield Hopper***

**Stated Meeting, March 3, 2008  
Dinner 5:30 pm (\$15.00 per person)  
Reception and entertainment 7:00 pm**

**Reservations are a must!!!**

**Call Ralph S. Dunn, PM, Secretary by February 21, 2008  
310-657-2628**

FEBRUARY MENU  
SWEETHEART'S NIGHT

Salad, bread and butter

Choice Of:

Chicken Divan

or

Tilapia

Starch & Vegetables

Dessert

MARCH MENU  
GRAND MASTER'S  
VISITATION

Salad, bread and butter

Choice of:

Short ribs of beef

or

Dover Sole

Starch & Vegetables

Special Dessert



*Menu subject to change.*

*Dinners are by reservations only and must be made or cancelled no later than 12 NOON Wednesday before the Stated Meeting. Dinners are prepared by your reservation only. Reservations made and not cancelled by 12 NOON Wednesday will be charged. 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.*

**Brethren and Family Members  
Sick and Visitation  
Committee Report**

**Brothers Name  
& Lady**

**Phone**

**JACK ABRAMS**  
Chronic health problems  
living in San Jose, California

[408] 998-8209

**LEONARD HESS**  
(Muriel)  
At home with  
disabling illness

[310] 472-3212

*Soft And Safe To Thee  
My Brethren  
Be Thy Resting Place*

Brother

Passed

Alan Lewis Owen

January 5, 2008

***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



1122 So. La Cienega Blvd.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90035-2592  
 Secretary, Ralph Dunn, PM  
 Office Phone: 310/657-2628

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**  
 February 2008 Issue

**DATED MATERIAL**

February 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Stated Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Second Degree	12	13 Officers Practice First Degree	14	15	16
17	18 First Degree	19	20 Discussion Group	21	22	23
24	25 OSI	26	27	28	29	

