



# Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 Trestle Board

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

Meets Every Monday Stated Meeting First Monday 7:00PM

March 2008



From the East

## *Master's Message*

What Makes a Mason Different?

Brethren,

I often wonder what makes us any different from other people. I actually tried to find few things that separate me from my neighbor. I consider myself to be a good human being and I wanted to somehow believe that I am a better person than my good neighbor. Then I started comparing the things we do differently.

I get up in the morning and go to work and so does my neighbor. I have a wife and a child and my neighbor does too. I love, care, provide, and protect my family and he does as well. I participate in religious activities and I happened to know he does as well. Sometimes I know him to be an individual who supports some local charities and I certainly support our Masonic charities. I have made mistakes in my life and I am sure he has made his fair share of mistakes as well. So what make me any better or different from him?

Brethren, this is something to think about. Sometimes we go on with our lives and forget what we are taught in Masonry. Once I asked a Mason what makes you a Mason and he replied "My obligation". Well, what is my obligation? Several things came to my mind. We are taught to make use of the common gavel for "divesting our hearts and consciences of all vices and superfluities of life". We are also taught "to keep our passions within due bounds".

Brethren, if we learned and implemented the basic lessons taught us in our degrees I think we would find out for ourselves that we have in fact become more productive and better citizens. If we don't live by the lessons taught us, it doesn't matter if we are card carrying members of Masonry for life. Being a member of Freemasonry is not the same as being a Freemason.

Masonry makes good men better. Let us live our lives as the better men we are taught to be. Hypocrisy and deceit must be unknown among us. Sincerity and plain dealing should distinguish us. After you read my article, please look back and ask yourself the same question, "I am any different from my neighbor"? Let us live the way the mighty Creator meant for us to live.

Thank you,  
Don Wijesinghe  
Master

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

### 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 PARTICIPANTS 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. Second Degree.** 5:30pm dinner at Coco's on Pico Blvd. east of Robertson Blvd. Coaching available.

**March 26: NOON.** Dinner reservations must be received by the secretary for the April Stated Meeting

**March 31: 7:15pm. Lodge Dark**

**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**

### Official Notice

Due to increase costs to the Lodge, Stated Meeting Dinners are **\$15.00**. Exact change is appreciated

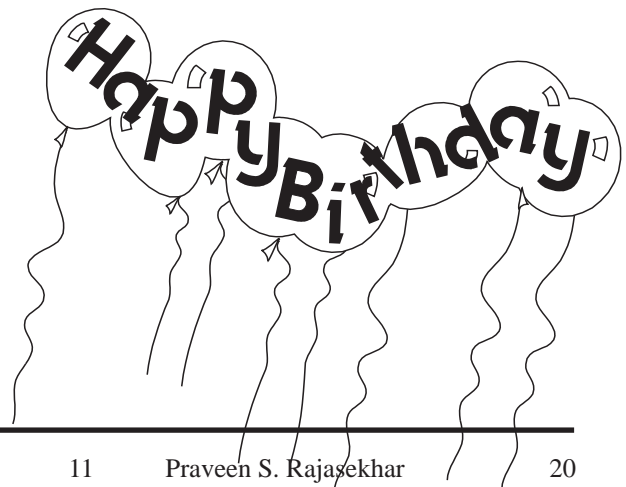
Pre-paid annual dinner plan is available

Please make your Stated Meeting dinner reservation on time and cancel them if you will not be able to attend.

**If you do not have a 2008 dues card please pay your dues**

**PLEASE SAVE THE LODGE UNNECESSARY EXPENSES**

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS



William Hymes	1	Daniel Shuster	11	Praveen S. Rajasekhar	20
Marvin Seidman	1	J. Frank Epstein	11	Murray Win	20
John R. Anderson, IV	1	Paul Firestone	11	Richard W. Sharpe	21
Jay Richards	1	Marvin Marshall	11	Myron Roberts	22
Steven Shapiro	2	Norman Krevoy	13	Earl R. Hellum	22
Van A. Martin	2	Milton J. Golden	13	Irwin Parker	22
Yefim Ben	3	George Streisfield	13	Gordon A. Rifkin	23
Robert Faries	3	Norman Simon	13	Ante Simunac	23
Leonard Kanner	4	Logan Hicks	14	Arthur Levy	23
Julius Pechner	4	Robert Sheldon	14	Dan Seidner	24
Louis Friedenber	4	Irvin Puskin	16	Ronald M. Lawrence	24
Thomas Minahane	4	Soly Melamed	16	Eric Seif	25
Siyamak Arael	5	Kirt Ash	16	Leo Kaye	26
William Nemoy	6	Fred Robbins	16	Elliot Scramberg	27
Kevin Snyder	7	Arkady Petrowizky	16	Robert Feiles	28
Henry Silverberg	8	William H. Miller	17	Alvin J. DeBre	29
William McNamara	8	Maurice Rasgon	18	Spence Bilkiss	29
Sanford R. Climan	10	R. Michael Thomas	19	George Harrison	30
Michael Silverman	10	Alan Fisch	20	Nathan Cowen	31
Harold L. Block	10	James W. Petersen	20	Oscar Siegel	31

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

## FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

March marks the turning of the seasons, and is that time of year when nature displays the bounty that is all around us. This is a time of renewal and rededication. We are working very hard to make your visits enjoyable, and I would like your input on what we can do to improve it. As the ritual says, "a survey of nature, and the observations of her beautiful proportions first determined man to imitate the divine plan" and to appreciate the wonders of creation and to adore the great Creator.

This is also a time when we should remember those who cannot fully appreciate the blessings that abound, because of illness, age, or lack of resources. Some of our brethren, their widows and orphans, depend on our brotherly love and our generosity. We have several widows of our lodge, and some older brothers, who are receiving aid from the Masonic Homes and the Masonic Outreach Service.

Masonic generosity is much more than giving money, involving as it does accepting the faults and foibles of each brother. We are none of us the same. We live differently, work differently, worship differently, and look different. Yet we are all brothers. We are bound to "promote each others welfare and rejoice in each others prosperity". Some of us, however, do not enjoy the prosperity or good health, and for these people we are honor bound to provide aid. Your donations to the Masonic charities are the primary way in which this can be done by all.

Your generosity was proven last year, when we were seen to be the most charitable of the 15 largest lodges and 10<sup>th</sup> over all. We would like, indeed, must maintain that level of giving. Your brethren are depending on you.

The amount you give is not as important as the simple act of giving. I am not asking anyone to give beyond what they are comfortable with, but even if the amount is small, it helps.

To those of you who have already made your contributions, I say "Thank You" on behalf of the Masons you have helped.

Please make your annual donation to the Masonic Homes, Masonic Outreach Service, and/or the Masonic Foundation, so that we may show the fraternity how generous this great Lodge is. Our brethren are counting on us. I have made my donation, have you?

Fraternally,  
Bill Miller, JW

## FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Effective 2/11/08 the fee for the degrees in our Lodge are as follows.

**For all 3 Degrees  
including  
Grand Lodge Fees  
\$250.00**

Please contact the Lodge Office  
for updated Application and  
Affiliation Applications

## Mark Your Calendar

**March 19, April 16, 7:15pm  
Open Masonic Discussion Group**

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

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## FREEMASONS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

ANDREW JOHNSON, 17th President, born 1808 died 1875; initiated, passed and raised in Greenville Lodge No. 119 now No. 3 at Greenville, Tenn. in 1851. Probably a member of Greenville Chapter No. 82 Royal Arch Masons, since he joined Nashville Commandery of Knights Templar No. 1 in 1859. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in the White House in 1867.

JAMES A. GARFIELD, 20th President, born 1831; died 1881; initiated and passed in Magnolia Lodge No. 20, Columbus, Ohio, and raised in Columbus Lodge No. 30, 1864. Affiliated with Garrettsville Lodge No. 246 in 1866. Affiliated with Pentalpha Lodge No. 23 Washington, D.C. as charter member in 1869. Exalted in Columbus Royal Arch Chapter, 1866 and Knight Templar, 1866. 14th Degree Scottish Rite, 1872.

## FROM THE WEST

Recent events have caused me to reflect on another of our three principal tenants, that of Brotherly Love. *"By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, who, as created by one almighty parent and inhabitants of the same planet are to aid, support and protect each other. On this principle, Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."*

Outside of our Lodge, we are seeing for the first time people who exemplify this principle, not just running for our country's highest office, but doing so with a real chance of victory. Whatever you think of the candidates, we have a woman running whose mother was born when women were prohibited from voting, a man with his familial roots in slavery and disenfranchisement, and another man whose religion has the victim of scurrilous attack.

When we reflect on recent events in our own family, we should remember and give meaning to the first of our three principal tenants, Brotherhood, and "let true friendship exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance."

We all come to Lodge for our own reasons. While, as I said, Truth is the foundation of all virtues, Truth is not the reason we walk through the doors. A lack of Truth may keep us away, but it won't get us there. Brotherly Love IS the reason we come. Without it, why be here? After all, "Fraternity" means "Brotherhood".

I am proud to call all of you "Brother". I am proud of the fact that when I attended Wor. Bruno's wedding as a brand new Entered Apprentice, I, with all of the Brethren present, as introduced as a member of his family. We are, in fact, family. Family may disagree, sometimes strongly, but we are, and will always be, family.

Fraternally,

Jeff Bear

Senior Warden

### 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*

## Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

Nataline Sarkisyan was an unfortunate young woman who died from a complicated illness. She received a bone marrow transplant for leukemia and then developed liver failure from it. Her insurance company (for probably good medical reasons) viewed a requested liver transplant as experimental therapy and initially refused to pay for it. This action led to a public outcry and the company then made a political decision to pay. That decision became moot when Nataline succumbed to her illness before the liver transplant could be accomplished. The failure to perform the transplant was, in part, also due to the decisions of the doctors and hospital, who passed up two livers and would not perform the transplant without being paid.

A CNN story about the problems of healthcare in the United States related the plight of another unfortunate family. In this case, a few-months-old daughter developed severe heart disease. She spent months in an intensive care unit before her death. The family was left with a debt in excess of \$700,000.

It is easy to feel sympathy for these patients and families. However, there is another side to consider. In both cases, the expensive healthcare was not likely to cure the underlying disease. Curiously, the same public that demands expensive interventions regardless of the likely outcome also complains about the high cost of healthcare. We cannot have it both ways.

The interested parties have not come together to solve the problem. Doctors and hospitals spend the money regardless of the consequences and then get paid for doing this. Politicians make unrealistic promises in order to get elected. The lawyers sue whenever something goes wrong (and they get paid for that). The third party payers (including Medicare) protect their resources (and get paid for it). The public simply demands more care for less money. The common denominator to all of this is that each group is only concerned with its own special interest. It is hard to hold a national dialogue in the absence of a willingness to promote the common good. Thus, the problem will continue to fester until all of us are willing to make some sacrifices.

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### Don't Miss Public Schools Night And The Official Visitation of Our District Inspector, Fred G. Davis, P.M.



We will be saluting the McBride School for their

wonderful support of special

needs children



We will be entertained by one of their talented teachers!

**TO HONOR OUR WONDERFUL INSPECTOR, THE DRESS FOR THE EVENING IS HAWAIIAN  
CASUAL  
WEAR YOUR WILDEST HAWAIIAN SHIRT!**

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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 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.*

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

**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

***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**  
 March 2008 Issue

**DATED MATERIAL**

March 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Stated Meeting	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Third Degree Practice	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Third Degree	18	19 Discussion Group	20	21	22
23	24 Second Degree	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Lodge Dark					