

# TRESTLE BOARD

June 2026

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

Summer is upon us. And, as we get into the groove of a fresh season, I can't help but consider Most Worshipful Garrett Chan's theme for his proclamations, this year: *Peace and Harmony*.

Depending on how dialed-in to the world you are, right now, there doesn't seem to be a whole lot of peace and harmony being demonstrated. People are frustrated. People are confused. I think it may even be fair to say that some people are exasperated. It seems as though, minute-by-minute, there's a new status quo — a new "normal" when there's not a single thing normal about many of things people are experiencing, today.

In recent news, we've not just heard but witnessed (thanks to modern camera technology) individuals lashing out in public or taking their own lives, while putting others at risk. I mention these things, not for the sake of grim topics but to consider the fact that it's more difficult to achieve collective peace when people are struggling with their own peace, individually.

I've said this before: we ARE our Brothers' keeper. Let's stay listening and looking out for everyone who may be managing their day-to-day in confusion or disenchantment. Let's deliver the patience we obligated ourselves to practice, as Masons.

As if our city isn't already busy enough, this is the season where L.A. becomes that much busier to tourism and events and everybody's patience can be tried, a bit. Let's find the peace within ourselves, so that we may positively and effectively promote harmony everywhere we are.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM  
Master

## **June Calendar**

### **Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Stated Meeting**

**7:15 Dinner**

Menu – Santa Maria Beef Tri-Tip, Potato Salad, Corn Salad, Strawberry Shortcake

RSVP via the link below:

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

**8:00 pm: Meeting (Business meeting)**

### **Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

First Degree practice

### **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

Dark

### **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm:**

Officers School of Instruction, Liberal Arts #677 – Flag presentation/retirement  
and open degree topic

### **Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

Casual Masonic discussion and Mastermind

### **Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>:**

TBD

## Upcoming events

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – Theater event: Hell’s Kitchen, 6:30 PM – See announcement below (contact Bernie Morse for possible late ticket availability for purchase)**

**September 8<sup>th</sup> – Masons4Mitts at Dodger Stadium**

## 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.

2026	Master – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M. (Virian)	Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)
	Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Marshal –
	Junior Warden –Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
	Treasurer – Aaron Gonzales	Junior Steward –
	Secretary – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
	Assistant Secretary - Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Musician –
	Chaplain – Robert Smerling (Maureen)	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)
	Senior Deacon – Jacob Gershbock, P.M.	Trestleboard Editor – Ronald Koretz, P.M. (Grace)

Batter Up!  
**Be a Supporter by Funding a Child's Mitt**  
**For the 2026 Masons4Mitts Fundraiser**  
**supporting the LA Dodgers Dreamteam Program**

For each \$20 donation a quality baseball glove will be provided to a needy youth in the LA Dodgers Dreamteam program. This program is more than just baseball and softball. Kids and parents attend programs about leadership, teamwork, health, safety, finances and good citizenship.

Support your lodge's participation in this great program.

Go to [www.masons4mitts.org](http://www.masons4mitts.org)  
Click LA Dodger Logo  
Click Media Central Titans  
Click Give a Mitt  
Click Donate



This year's Masons4Mitts presentation will occur on Tuesday, September 8 at Dodger Stadium. All of the California Masons in attendance will sit in the Reserved Level Aisles 8 & 10. If there are 20 interested brothers, Bernie Morse can obtain a block of tickets in Reserved aisle 10, Rows G and H (just below the Grand Lodge block) for \$69 each. If you are interested, contact Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or [brnhrd18@yahoo.com](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com).

## June Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth date
Gary	Armstrong	1
Robert	Abelson	2
David	Golde	2
Isaac	Cruz	3
Henry	Koffman	3
Jacob	Gershbock	8
Ernest	Dancy	9
Yuriy	Kotlyar	9
Trevor	Nathanial	10
Lazlo	Borsai Jr.	12
Alvin	Livingston	12
Joseph	Mayesh	14
Axel	Del Cid	15
Robert	Black	18
Martin	Levine	18
Don	Wijesinghe	18
Tanvir	Hannan	20
Daryl	Bristol	23
Justin	Koretz	27
Aaron	Ganz	29
Howard	Fabrick	30

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

**IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520**

**2026 GROUP THEATER EVENT**

**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.

**Contact Bernie Morse, PM at (310) 704-2262 or email  
brnhrd18@yahoo.com for information about tickets.**

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## Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

Amanda Tully was a ward of the state of Colorado as a teenager and attempted to get to a better place in life by obtaining a college education. In 2017, at the age of 28, she graduated from the University of Oregon with a master's degree in historic preservation. Unfortunately, she was not able to find a job in her chosen field and had an outstanding college debt of \$65,000. However, she had been placed on an income-based repayment plan; it required her to make monthly payments for 20 years. In 2018, those payments were \$60. If she had continued in her job at that time and, for the moment, if we assume that no changes were made, she would have paid a total of about \$14-15,000 until 2037, after which her debt would have been forgiven.

She was interviewed recently and claimed that she had never achieved financial stability because she was never taught how to do so. Thus, instead of continuing to make payments, she chose to move to Prague (where she had completed an internship) and just defaulted on her loan. She had not made any payments since that time. Curiously, she made that decision in spite of a rule that would have allowed her to make no payment while she was living abroad. Currently, she is still residing in Prague, living a relatively comfortable, debt-free life on local jobs and freelance work.

Ms. Tully's story is not a unique one. There are about 40 million people in the United States who have federal student loan debt and almost 20% have defaulted on them. Many of the latter, like Ms. Tully, appear to be on repayment plans that appear to include manageable financial remittances. According to Michele Zampini, who is an associate vice president of federal policy and advocacy at the Institute for College Access and Success, these seemingly amicable arrangements are not sufficient to overcome relatively low incomes and senses of hopelessness on the parts of the former students. She said, "It's not necessarily 'I can't afford it.' It's sometimes 'It feels like I had no other choice but to go to college and I had to take out loans to go, and now I'm going to be stuck with this', which can define people's lives in a way that feels very unfair and harmful."

While I can have some empathy with Ms. Zampini's opinion, I fear that this phenomenon of defaulting on federal education loans reflects a wider practice in our society, one that I have commented on before. One should only get into debt after a thoughtful consideration of the consequences and, once that debt is incurred, one has the responsibility to fulfill the obligation. As the king of Siam stated in *The King and I*, "a promise is a promise". Taking responsibility, especially when things do not work out as planned, is a fundamental and important component of good character. Defaulting on a loan seems to be more unfair and harmful to the rest of us than having to deal with a bad feeling is to one of us.

Think about it.

# *Masonic doings*



Presentation of Golden Veteran's Award to Bob Abelson on May 4, 2026

## *Dues payments simplified*

The California Grand Lodge has made the process of paying dues simpler, automatic and less painful (especially for those who are dual members or members of concordant bodies). Instead of several lump sums, it can be taken out in increments as shown below. If you need to, please use the format below.

### ***Process Map: How to sign up for AutoPay in iMember 2.0***

Step 1: Access Your Profile

- Action: Log in to iMember 2.0
- Click: My Profile from the dashboard

Step 2: Add a Payment Method

- Click: Add Payment Method
- Enter: Your credit or debit card details
- Save: Your payment information securely

Step 3: Configure AutoPay Settings

- Click: Auto-pay Settings Configure

Step 4: Choose a Payment Interval

- Options:
  - 1) Monthly\* – Charged 15th of each month
  - 2) Quarterly\* – Charged March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
  - 3) Annually – Charged Dec 15

Step 5: Confirmation

- AutoPay is now enabled – you'll receive confirmation of your setup.

### ***Why Enroll in AutoPay?***

- Convenience: One-time setup, always in good standing.
- Financial Flexibility: Smaller payments spread over time.
- Peace of Mind: Never miss a due date – it's automatic.
- Stay Current: Be sure to update your credit card information if it expires or changes to avoid avoid any disruptions in your AutoPay setup.

\* Monthly and Quarterly options allow contributions to accumulate over the year, covering your dues in advance without a large single payment.