

TRESTLE BOARD



November 2026

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

I love how our Lodge is growing... kinda like a rose bush with vibrant blooms all over, ranging from fresh-bulbs to full-bloom. Even in recognizing our growth, I can't help but acknowledge that our growth is due to the strength of our roots. Ionic Composite No. 520's roots run deep. From the origins of Ionic through the mergers, our roots are quite significant. We are coming up on our 105th anniversary, next year and still with a solid Brotherhood and strong traditions, in place.

Last month, we initiated a new Brother, Shlomo Castro (BIG congratulations to him, by the way), who was obligated with the Torah on our alter. Seeing the pride he expressed being initiated in that tradition, I could not have been more proud, myself, as a fellow Brother of Ionic Composite 520. As our diversity continues to expand and broaden, our essence stands firmly planted even in this tradition. I guess what I'm trying to say is if you make no mistake in observing, it is possible for us to grow and evolve without losing sight of the things that keep us grounded and disciplined, in order to exist for at least another 105 years.

If the essence of Masonry is making good men better, Ionic Composite No. 520 is a stellar example of the best of men. I am honored to be amongst such bright and exemplary Brothers. I continue to look forward to seeing everyone of you, from week-to-week, month-to-month. Please, remember, the Lodge is open on Monday nights, so no matter what's going on, drop by, come on in and be reminded of what a remarkable collective our corner of the Brotherhood is.

Fraternally yours,
Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

November Calendar

Monday, November 2nd, Stated Meeting

7:15 Dinner*

Menu – Turkey with gravy and stuffing, Mashed potatoes, Vegetables, Pumpkin pie

RSVP no later than Friday October 30th by 6 PM via the link below:

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

Attire: Men coat/tie; Women dressy

8:00 pm: Meeting (Annual election of officers)

Monday, November 9th

Casual/social, Qualification prep for officers

Tuesday, November 10th

Officers School of Instruction, Liberal Arts Lodge

6:30 pm: Dinner

7:00 pm: Topic - Installation of officers

Monday, November 16th

Casual/social, Qualification prep for officers

Monday, November 23rd

TBD (possible First Degree or casual/social)

Monday, November 30th

TBD (possible First Degree or casual/social)

* \$15/person. Please note that we are requesting that those planning on attending make a reservation in order that we can prepare an appropriate amount of food. Those with reservations will be fed first; those without reservations cannot be assured that there will be adequate food remaining.

Upcoming events

December 12th – Installation

The Midnight Mission is constantly in need of new or used clothing for the men, women, and children whom it services in Skid Row and houses elsewhere in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau conducts an annual clothing drive and is planning to do so again on November 15th at its meeting. In order to facilitate this effort, Ionic-Composite Lodge will be collecting such items at the lodge and transporting these to that November meeting. Please bring any new or used clothing that you no longer need to the lodge at some time before November 15th; perhaps the most convenient time will be when you are attending a meeting or other activity at the lodge.



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.

**Brothers departing to that undiscovered country
from whose bourn no traveler returns**

Michael Mosbach (October 12, 2026)

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)

The following is from the December/January 2013 issue of the California Freemason and written by Heather Boerner

Discovering the fraternal life of Mark Twain

Mark Twain – born Samuel Langhorne Clemens – was the trickster storyteller of American letters, so it should be no surprise that he applied his particular brand of observation to the Masonry as well. Take, for instance, his description of a character in his 1897 “Tom Sawyer’s Conspiracy”:

“[H]e was Inside Sentinel of the Masons, and Outside Sentinel of the Odd Fellows, and a kind a head bung-starter or something of the Foes of the Flowing Bowl, and something or other to the Daughters of Rebecca, and something like it to the King’s Daughters, and Royal Grand Warden to the Knights of Morality, and Sublime Grand Marshal of the Good Templars, and there warn’t no fancy apron agoing but he had a sample, and no turnout but he was in the procession, with his banner or his sword, or toting a bible on a tray, and looking awful serious and responsible, and yet not getting a cent. A good man, he was, they don’t make no better.”

The idea of the 19th century man as a brother to many and a joiner of multiple fraternal organizations is not based on Twain’s own life. A Mason for a scant eight years – less, if you include a period in which his dues went unpaid – there is nonetheless evidence that the craft had an indelible influence on Twain.

Twain was born in 1835 in Missouri. The death of his father and his natural intellect sent him to work before his teens as a newspaper typesetter. Shortly thereafter, he was a columnist at his brother’s newspaper where he later became assistant editor and, when his brother was out of town, boldly whipped up a feud with another local paper.

Twain found homes throughout the United States, from St. Louis to New York, Philadelphia, small-town Iowa, and New Orleans. He worked many years as a newspaperman and typesetter before taking up the unlikely vocation of river pilot. Eventually, he’d also work as a miner, serve briefly in the Confederate Army, tour the Hawaiian Islands, and live abroad.

By the time Twain became an Entered Apprentice at Polar Star Lodge No. 79 in St. Louis, he’d already published his first story, “The Dandy Frightening the Squatter.” But just after he was raised to Master Mason in July 1861, he left Missouri and his lodge to join his brother in Nevada. Not long after, he continued his journalism career, working as the editor for a Nevada newspaper, as well as several others, sometimes under his own name and other times favoring pseudonyms. During his travels, Twain stopped paying his lodge dues and his Masonic membership was suspended.

But his association with Masonry was not at its end. In February 1865, Twain served as senior deacon at Bear Mountain Lodge No. 75 in California’s Gold Country.

Later that year, he published his first well-received short story, “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.” Using the keen observation of a journalist and the humor of a fiction writer, Twain soon found himself writing travelogues of his trips to Europe and around the West for magazines in New York, some of which were turned into books. Lecture tours followed.

Unfortunately, as Twain’s career blossomed, his participation in the fraternity waned. He demitted in 1869. But it appears that Masonry still remained on his mind.

In 1868, Twain traveled to Jerusalem and cut a branch from a cedar tree just outside the city walls. He had it made into a gavel, which he sent back to his lodge in St. Louis with this uncharacteristically serious note: “This mallet is a cedar, cut in the forest of Lebanon, whence Solomon obtained the timbers for the Temple.”

The following decade, Twain’s most famous works were published. “The Prince and The Pauper”; the “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer”; and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.” By this time, he’d been long married, and had a family.

In his later years, however, Twain had a run of bad luck. Bad investments left him struggling financially. His publishing house went under. His wife, Livy, and daughters, Susy and Jean, passed away. Twain’s mood, perhaps understandably, darkened – a change that was clearly reflected in his autobiographical writing.

And yet, in these moments of despair, Twain seemed to find solace in the concepts of Masonry. In 1900 – a decade before his death and many years after he demitted – Twain stood before the New York City Lotos Club, a club for writers of which Twain was a member, and spoke of the pain that had befallen him and the world.

“Seven years ago when I was old and worn and down, you gave me the grip and the word which lifts a man up and makes him glad to be alive,” he told the group. “I come back from my exile fresh and young and alive, ready to begin anew.”

November Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth Date
Louis	Dalesandro	3
Laurence	Friedman	3
Lester	Riskin	5
Gene	Pira	8
JohnRobert	Wilson	9
Sheldon	Lodmer	15
Lawrence	Lebowsky	16
Timothy	Shiner	17
Edward	Trabin	19
Michael	Pecina	21
Steven	Bailin	22
Oliver	Viletta	22
Bernard	Talmas	24
Mauricio	Leon	25
John	Rasor	26
Zachary	Lodmer	30

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

While I was looking around for a topic for this column, I came across an article in Wikipedia about Harland Sanders, perhaps better known to you as Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame. He was born in 1890, quit school at age 12, and lived and worked in a variety of locations and jobs for the next three decades, often being fired for insubordination or fighting. He even had a brief legal career, but that ended when he engaged in a courtroom fight with his own client. During this time, he patented a method for cooking chicken in a pressure cooker. In 1930 he ran a service station in Kentucky and began serving food as a side operation. A restaurant subsequently evolved from this enterprise that became very popular and he was even granted the honorary title of Colonel by the Kentucky governor in 1936 (and recommissioned in 1950). He went on to perfect his chicken recipe and, in his 60's, went on the road attempting to franchise it, obtaining his first one in 1952. Incidentally, he also became a Mason in 1917 and ultimately achieved the 33rd Degree in Scottish Rite Masonry.

One of the characteristics attributed to him was his perseverance in establishing his food enterprise. The online material also had references to Thomas Edison's quotes: "I have never failed. I have just discovered 10,000 ways that won't work" and "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Perseverance is a quality that most of us do admire and we all know about people who kept working hard before finally achieving success. It is also a certainty that those who just give up will not succeed. However, perseverance is not a guarantee; while it is a necessary condition for achieving goals, it is not a sufficient one. Curiously, we rarely hear about the failures. How often have you seen interviews of winners where the question was posed "Was it worth it?" For almost as long as I can remember, when I see such interviews, I am not surprised that the response is universally "Yes". At those times, I wish that the interviewer would query the losers. After all, they likely pursued the same goals diligently and for the same lengths of time, but they had nothing to show for it. I would always wonder if they believed that it was worth the months or years of work, or if they now regretted not using that time for something else.

Think about it.

Masonic doings



Shlomo Castro's First Degree on October 19, 2026



PMs Kerin Surents, Jeff Bear, Roy Steinfeld, Jacob Gershbock, and WM Chay Alexander Wright enjoying lunch during the Saturday noon break at Grand Lodge



John Pomroy PM (our inspector) presenting a Golden Veteran pin to Bro. Barry Sporn in his home.

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.