

TRESTLE BOARD



September 2026

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

Wow - how time flies! I hope everyone enjoyed your Summer and have returned from any travels and activities, safely. I am looking forward to seeing all who have been away.

To begin with, I want to congratulate Past Master, Wor. Jacob Gershbock on a job well-done with our 2026 First Responders Award program, at the August Stated Meeting. It was an absolute pleasure to have such a strong turnout of our award recipients' family and colleagues, which brings me to our focus for September:

In accordance with our Grand Master's proclamation for September, we are acknowledging this as Public Schools awareness month. As a product of public education, under very special circumstances, I know first-hand just how effective and productive public schools in America can be. It goes without saying that a solid education is an essential foundation for every young person to maximize their future's potential. Even more importantly, a well-rounded education is not just scholastic, it also offers exposure to the many facets of our culture: government observation, societal impacts and of course, fine arts.

Annually, we honor Charnock Road Elementary School with supplies and the funding of a field trip for its 3rd graders. Although it is beyond a pleasure for us to support Charnock Road Elementary in this way, it is a shame that so many public schools require subsidies in this fashion, in order to provide such essentials to a balanced education for their pupils.

Think about your own educational journey, whether it be through public and/or private institutions. Prominently known Freemasons, such as: Harry S Truman, Gerald Ford, John Glenn and Douglas Fairbanks, are all products of public schools — prime examples of how a sound public education is a gateway to a young person's ultimate potential. I bid everyone a great Labor Day and remember, our Stated Meeting will be held on September 14th, due to the holiday. I look forward to seeing you all, then!

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

September Calendar

Monday, September 7th – Dark (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 8th – Masons4Mitts at Dodger Stadium

Monday, September 14th, Stated Meeting

7:15 Dinner*

Menu – Mediterranean chicken, Grilled veggies, Rice pilaf, Hummus/Pita bread,
Orange olive oil cake

RSVP no later than Friday September 11th by 6 PM via the link below:

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

**8:00 pm: Meeting (Public Schools Night and Stated meeting,
Business or Business Casual attire)**

Tuesday, September 15th, 7:00 pm:

Officers School of Instruction, Liberal Arts Lodge – Demonstration 2nd Degree
(Dinner at 6:15 PM)

Monday, September 21st, 7:15 pm:

1st Degree practice

Monday, September 28th, 7:15 pm: - First Degree

Candidate – Mr. Shlomo Castro

Join us in celebrating Mr. Cruz's introduction to Masonry

* \$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

October 5th – Hiram Award Presentation to Jacob Gershbok, P.M.

October 9th -11th – Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of California (San Francisco)

Public Schools Night

Every year, Ionic-Composite Lodge #520 sets aside an evening to recognize the importance of public education by saluting a neighborhood school. For the past few years, we have recognized Charnock Road Elementary School. The school is located in the Palms area in West Los Angeles and enrolls children from kindergarten through the fifth grade. Charnock Road is a “Community School” which offers, in addition to the usual academic instruction, wraparound programs to provide wellness support and on-site mental health and other family services. Its governance policies are expanded to include parents and other members of the local community.

As part of our support to this school, we provide an annual stipend of \$1500 to sponsor an off-site educational outing for third graders. We also donate about \$500 in school supplies to supplement the educational materials at Charnock Road. While we decided not to recognize individual teachers or staff with personal awards, we do invite them to attend our dinner, where, ideally, we can learn more about what is happening at the school on a one-to-one basis.

This year, we will have our recognition event on September 14, 2026, at the lodge. We plan to serve dinner (menu on previous page) at 7:15 PM with the program to begin afterward, around 8:00 PM. This program is open to everyone; there is no need for a Masonic affiliation. However, we would ask that you make dinner reservations for yourself and your other invitees on or before Friday, September 11th at 6:00 PM, as we do need a total count. At the time that the reservations are made, please inform us if anybody in your party has a special food restriction. Reservations can be made on-line (<https://www.ioniccomposite.com/lodge-events/stated-meeting-2/stated-meeting-rsvp>) or by calling the lodge (424-273-1054).

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
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. Bernie Morse has obtained 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 the lodge to see if any are available.

The following is from The Leader, September 2026, a Masonic education commentary provided by the Grand Lodge of California:

The Cable-Tow and Obligation

A Mason first encounters the cable-tow as a simple rope at the moment he takes his obligation. At first glance, it is merely the obligation made visible—the tie that binds him to the craft. But what can such a thing really do? How can a length of rope, or a promise spoken once in a lodge room, hold a man for the rest of his life?

The philosopher Hannah Arendt offers an answer, though she was writing about far more than Freemasonry. In *The Human Condition*, she argues that because the future is uncertain, and the closest we come to making it dependable is by making—and keeping—promises. A promise is what makes a person someone others can count on over time.

Her second insight speaks directly to the cable-tow: A promise made only to oneself has no hold. It binds because it is made to others, and before them. The cable-tow, then, is not a private resolution but a public bond—the mystic tie to one another, as Masons have long called it.

And to keep such a promise, Arendt argues, is also to preserve oneself. Left to drift, a man changes from day to day. A promise fixes a point. It gives him something outside himself to which to remain faithful.

In holding himself to a word once given, a man remains recognizable across time—the same man tomorrow that he pledged himself to be today. Others, by holding him to that promise, help make that continuity real. The oldest expression of that bond in Masonry is the obligation of secrecy: a man kept whole because he has kept his word.

So the cable-tow is no leash. It is the sign that a man has bound himself to others—and in that bond has become someone he can remain.

Question to consider: If the cable-tow represents obligations one takes upon oneself, how does he then balance the duties he owes to his family, his job, and his lodge?

September Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth date
Arthur	Vanetek	5
Daniel	Ferszt	10
Roberto	Morales	11
Patrick	Levy	12
Allen	Steiner	12
Sanford	Paris	14
Seymour	Roberts	17
Bernhard	Morse	18
Barry	Hinden	21
Jack	Revel	21
Ken	Duke	24
Stan	Getz	24
Ramiro	Gonzalez	28

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

When I was actively practicing medicine, I would attend national meetings of various professional societies. A highlight of those meetings was seeing friends from other areas of the country. A few of us had a regular practice to have a dinner at some special restaurant, with the person who lived closest to the meeting site picking the dining establishment. About twenty years ago, one of these friends introduced me to a restaurant reservation website which made the reservation process free and fairly simple; it was called Open Table.

Reservation services were the topic of an article from the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) that decried what these reservation apps have done to the process of dining out. Open Table was founded in San Francisco in 1998 and initially only included local eateries. However, over the years, it has grown into an international organization servicing over 50,000 dining establishments world-wide and valued at over \$2 billion. More importantly from the WSJ perspective is that the reservation app business has grown and expanded enormously.

In fact, the reservation app industry has upended the restaurant reservation process, particularly for popular and/or high-end establishments. In 1998, a restaurant would pay \$1 for each diner who kept a reservation made through Open Table; however, now some restaurants are being paid by the reservation app company (often owned by a credit card company) for providing limited, and at times exclusive, access to their individual reservation system. It has even gone so far that as soon as a restaurant opens up its dates for future reservations, bots from the reservation app company automatically book the prime times even before any of the reservation app customers think about going to dinner. For those people who want to be sure to get a reservation, they can pay significant annual membership fees, typically in the 100s of dollars, to the particular reservation app for that privilege.

Thus, diners seeking reservations are finding it more and more difficult to book a table at a desirable dinner hour. When they go to their app (and there are now many such apps available), they are finding that the only times that are available are very early (e.g., 5:00 PM) or very late (e.g., 10:00 PM). To assist diners, websites that describe methods for getting around these apps are now proliferating, suggesting such techniques as using a “Notify” feature offered by some of the apps that alert the user when a cancellation occurs. Interestingly, that suggestion was accompanied by a warning that “highly coveted tables are often snapped up by third-party bots within milliseconds”.

While I will continue to use a reservation app for most of my dining-out experiences, at times I will just come full circle instead. When I am not able to obtain an acceptable time for dinner, I will just go back to what I used to do, namely call the restaurant directly.

Think about it.

Masonic doings



First Responders' Night on Monday August 3rd at lodge – The night represented our recognition of the ongoing contributions of our police and fire departments.

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.