

TRESTLE BOARD

September 2025

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



Dear Brethren,

My mother worked as a special education teacher for 41 years in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). During my life, I have witnessed, both firsthand and vicariously, the immense struggles that teachers, aides, and other school staff go through daily, year in and year out. It has never ceased to amaze me that, as a society, America seems to value its teachers so little.

Consider for a moment the axiomatic cliché; “Knowledge is Power.” In this “Information” age, perhaps more than ever before, this is undeniably true. One would therefore assume that those individuals whose job it is to give people the tools by which to accumulate, evaluate, analyze, synthesize, and integrate information and knowledge would be highly revered, highly paid, and well respected and regarded.

One would be dead wrong with that assumption.

Teachers are, by *far*, the lowest paid group compared to their respective levels of required education and certification. That is to say that on average, going into teaching nets individuals a lower return in terms of income potential compared to required time and monetary training investment than any other field in this country. And yet, they do one of the most important and valuable jobs in the entire system. They not only act to give children and young people the tools by which to gain their own power in the world, they also help socialize and instill values and ethics into these individuals for the bulk of most of the waking hours of most of the year.

If parenting is the hardest and most important job in the world, teaching – especially at the elementary level, where most people either develop a love of learning or an antipathy for it that will last a lifetime – is and ought to be considered a pretty close second.

While I admit to certainly being biased due to my background, I maintain that teachers – especially those in the elementary public-school setting – are vastly underrated, underpaid, and underappreciated. Snide comments like, “Those who cannot *do*, teach,” fail to in any way acknowledge the incredible impact a teacher – good or bad – can have on a child. I still both remember and keep in touch with some of the most influential teachers of my own childhood, and I know many, many people who can easily call at least one special teacher to mind who changed the course of their life – for better or worse.

It is therefore my true pleasure to be able to say that Masonry understands and respects the phenomenal impact that teachers have, as well as the importance of their role in society, and that we as Masons make it a point to support public education. I am also pleased to confirm that this year Ionic Composite Lodge will be continuing to support Charnock Road Elementary School, which we adopted last year. We will be honoring their teachers and staff this year at our September Stated Meeting on the 8th (the 1st being Labor Day and therefore dark).

The Lodge will be donating not only money for a grade level field trip, but also school supplies for the teachers and their classrooms, since the average public-school teacher spends between \$3,000 - \$5,000 annually out of pocket on their classroom supplies in LAUSD. If any of the brethren are so moved as to want to help with this, please bring whatever you can afford to the September meeting. Good items are things like Dry Erase markers, #2 pencils, erasers, printer paper, composition notebooks, boxes of crayons, markers, or colored pencils, etc.

Take a moment and think back to that one (or more) teacher that really changed *your* life. Then join us at the September Stated Meeting to help us honor those continuing that good work.

Fraternally,
Jacob Gershbock, PM
Master.

September Calendar

Monday, September 1st: Lodge Dark in observance of Labor Day

Monday, September 8th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting
7:15 pm: Stated Meeting and Public Schools Night

Join us as we honor the teachers and staff of Charnock Road Elementary School at this special Stated Meeting

Use the link below to RSVP:

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

Monday, September 15th, 7:15pm Masonic Speaker Night

Join us for a fascinating talk by Worshipful Ralph Shelton II on “Masonic Magicians of the Golden Age”

This talk is open to ALL – masons and non-masons

Light Refreshments will be served

See insert for RSVP link and details

Thursday, September 18th, 7:00 pm: OSI at Anchor Bell

Officers’ School of Instruction. All Officers are required to attend.

Anchor Bell Lodge hosting (at Culver City Foshay building)

Topic: Elections and balloting

Monday, September 22nd: Lodge Dark in observance of Rosh Hashanah
(Jewish New Year)

Monday, September 29th: Planning meeting for the 2026 Masonic Year

Those interested in planning events, programs, or otherwise helping chart the course for the upcoming Masonic year are welcome to join. Open to all.

Pizza Dinner will be served. Please email the secretary Mike Bear, PM, to indicate your interest so we can get a headcount for dinner.

October Calendar

Monday, October 6th, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 pm: Stated Meeting

Join us for our monthly business meeting and dinner.

Due to both Jewish Holidays and the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the remainder of October is being left dark or otherwise unscheduled for the time being.

If this changes, due notice will be sent via email blasts.

MAGIC AND MASONS ON A MONDAY, OH MY!

Join us for our 3rd quarterly Masonic Speaker's Night on Monday,
September 15th at 7:15 pm for a presentation by

Worshipful Ralph Shelton II

Entitled "Masonic Magicians of the Golden Age"

This talk is OPEN TO ALL

Light refreshments will be served

Brethren:

If you have not already paid your 2025 dues you are past due and no longer in good standing. You can pay your dues on iMember with a credit card.

ALSO:

The California Grand Lodge has made the process of paying DUES simpler, automatic and less painful (specially this who are dual members, or members of concordant bodies). Instead of several lump sums, it can be taken out in increments as shown 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:
 - o Monthly – Charged 15th of each month
 - o Quarterly – Charged March 15, June 15, Sept 15, Dec 15
 - o Annually – Charged Dec 15

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

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 any disruptions in your AutoPay setup.

Fraternally,

Michael Bear, P.M.

Secretary, Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520, F.& A.M.

Think About It – Ron Koretz, P.M.

Think About It

When I was much younger and a student in the Los Angeles Unified School District, I developed an avid reading habit. As a result, I made regular trips to both the local and central libraries to check out a number of books at the same time. For each book that I borrowed, a card was placed within a pocket on the inside front cover indicating a date two weeks later, by which time the book was to be returned. Failure to do so resulted in a fine, namely two cents for each day that it was returned late. If, for some reason, I was not able to get that book back in time, it was my responsibility to pay that fine.

I remembered all of this when I read a story about a book that was returned to the San Antonio Public Library. It apparently had been checked out by Maria del Socorro Aldrete Flores (Cortez). She had apparently forgotten to return it when she moved to Mexico City to work in the United States Embassy. The book was titled “Your Child, His Family, and Friends” by a marriage and family counselor named Francis Strain. At the time when the book was checked out, Maria had an 11-year-old son. It is likely that she used it to help her advise that boy about personal relationships. When I looked up the title on Amazon.com, a leather-bound edition was being offered for \$59.99 plus an additional \$25 if the purchaser desired a completely leather copy.

We have no idea about what happened to that book up until recently. Maria’s son did grow up and have at least one child of his own. Whether or not he gleaned any information from the book about raising that child is unknown and likely to remain so, as that son recently passed away. However, he did pack a number of books into a few boxes and passed those boxes on to at least one child who lived in Oregon. That grandchild ultimately browsed through them and

discovered that the inside of the book was inscribed with the San Antonio Public Library’s name and an affixed paper with a series of dates on it, likely representing a chronologic enumeration of the various due dates. The grandchild wrote a letter to the San Antonio Central Library on May 9, 2025, explaining what he or she believed had happened and enclosed the book. The letter was simply signed P.A.A.G. and also stated: “I hope there is no late fee because Grandma won’t be able to pay for it anymore.” P.A.A.G. also promised to make a donation to the library to show appreciation for all that the library does.

The library has put the book and letter on display because officials there had never before received a book so long overdue. You see, the last listed due date was July 30, 1943. I calculated

that, had I checked that book out and had it due on July 30, 1943, but only returned it on May 9, 2025, my fine would have been \$597.38 for 29,869 days.

Think about it.

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.

August Birthdays

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Arthur	Vanetek	5
Daniel	Ferszt	10
Roberto	Morales	11
Patrick	Levy	12
Allen	Steiner	12
Sanford	Paris	14
Seymour	Roberts	17
Bernhard	Morse	18
Jack	Revel	21
Barry	Hinden	21
Stanley	Getz	24
Ken	Duke	24
Ramiro	Gonzalez	28

2025 OFFICERS

Master – Jacob Gershbock	Marshal – *
Senior Warden – Jeffrey Bear, P.M. (Trisha)	Senior Steward – Kerin Surents, P.M. (Suzanna)
Junior Warden – Steve Resnick, P.M. (Sheelah)	Junior Steward – Michael Mosbach
Senior Deacon – Chay Alexander Wright, P.M (Virian)	Inspector for the 626th Masonic District Gevork Asatryan P.M.
Junior Deacon – Luis Tananta (Maria)	Trestleboard Layout – Jacob Gershbock, PM
Treasurer – Bernie Morse, P.M. (Carolyn)	Piano –
Secretary – Michael Bear, P.M. (Debbie)	Tiler – Roy Steinfeld, P.M.
Assistant Secretary - *	Prospect Manager – Stan Sax (Rikki)