

TRESTLE BOARD



February 2026

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

February is upon us. A month containing several cultural and foundational observations in our society. The most obvious, of which, is Valentine's Day — which, we will observe by recognizing and honoring the Sweethearts and Widows of our Lodge. Another celebrated recognition in February is Black History Month. And, of course, we recognize the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, as Presidents Day. But, did you know that February 22nd (the birthday of Bro. George Washington) is also International Freemason Day??

In February of 1994, Brother Fernando Paes Coelho Teixeira (then Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Portugal), proposed that February 22nd be recognized as International Freemason Day, with the support of the Grand Masters of the US, Mexico and Canada at the Annual Meeting of the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of North America... that's a mouthful.

The history of our nation as it relates to our founding fathers is complex, to say the least. How could the profound notion of a nation rooted in inalienable freedoms of expression, spirituality and independence, come from men who participated in a number of the atrocities which established our society? I have a fantasy-football sort of idea what our fellow Masonic-Brother-Founding-Fathers intended for the Constitution of the United States, and it goes like this:

These arguably virtuous men possessed the wisdom that if the framework for the Constitution was properly erected, our society would grow more and more to operate in the essence of the Universal Architect by progressively amending the laws, as time goes on. That through progress, we would grow to understand each other better and better, realizing that collectively and individually, we are more alike than we are different. It is no secret that Founders, like Washington and Bro. Thomas Jefferson (among others) voiced their confliction relative to the establishment of our great and troubled nation.

So, in the spirit of love, I implore us all to navigate this month of February with curiosity and wonderment about how each of our little parts contribute to such a magnificent sum — the greater Universe, making our world spin to become bigger, better and brighter with every turn.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM
Master

February Calendar

Monday, February 2nd, 6:30 pm: Executive Committee

7:15 Dinner

Menu: Chicken parmigiana with spaghetti, broccoli in garlic sauce, seasonal fruit tart

RSVP via the link below:

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

8:00 pm: Stated Meeting (Secretary/Treasurer annual reports, installation of Secretary, Senior Steward)

Ladies' stated meeting activity*: The February session will not be held because of Sweethearts' Night

Monday, February 9th, 7:00 pm: Sweethearts' Night

See details elsewhere in the Trestleboard)

Monday, February 16th - Dark

Monday, February 23rd, 7:15 pm: Second degree practice

Thursday, February 26th, 7:00 pm

Officer School of Instruction, Anchor Bell #858 – 1st Degree (complete)

* An often-cited model of the family life of a Mason is a man (the Mason) trundling off to his weekly stated meeting leaving his wife at home to take care of herself. In an effort to break down this mold, Ionic Composite #520 is now inviting the wives to come to lodge on the evening of our stated meetings, to enjoy the dinners we serve, and then to participate in a separate session designed just for them while the men do their business in the stated meeting. Each month will feature a different topic that should be of interest to women.

Upcoming events

March 2nd – Dark (Observation of Purim)

March 9th – Stated meeting (Ladies' activity – Game Night)

March 15th – Midnight Mission Dinner Service

April 13th – Masonic education

May 24th – Festive Board Dinner

June 7th – Theater event: Hell's Kitchen

Sweethearts' Night

A celebration of the appreciation we have for the sacrifices of time and for the unacknowledged work that the partners of Masons have provided over the years

Ionic Composite Lodge #520 will recognize and thank the ladies who have not only willingly allowed their significant others to spend time at lodge, but have often participated in lodge activities themselves. We will salute them with a dinner and program in their honor on February 9, 2026, at the lodge. The entertainer will be Clarence Ulrich, who has brought his musical talents to us before. Clarence was a member of the world famous singing group, The Drifters, for a quarter of a century.

All of our sweethearts (as well as caretakers, should that be the case) are cordially invited to be our guests (in other words, no charge) for dinner and entertainment at our current lodge, located at 2244 Westwood Blvd in Los Angeles. We will have a greeting reception at 7:00 PM followed by dinner (salad, chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, asparagus, dessert [chocolate item and fruit]) at 7:30 with the show to follow.

Parking is available on Westwood Blvd in front of the lodge or across the street. We only ask that a reservation be made; this can be accomplished by calling the lodge (424-273-1054). If a ride is needed, please let us know at the same phone number and we will arrange for one of our members to pick you up and take you home.

Midnight Mission Dinner Service

The Midnight Mission (TMM) has served the unhoused population on Skid Row for over 100 years. It provides food, clothing, sleeping facilities, and other necessities of life to hundreds of people on a daily basis. It also houses recovery programs as well as seeking permanent housing for those living on the Row. It relies largely on donations from the public as it only accepts limited government support.

On Sunday, March 15th, Ionic-Composite Lodge #520 has obtained the opportunity to assist TMM's program by providing dinner to those who seek this service. While TMM staff will prepare the food, it will be our pleasure and privilege to dispense it to each individual who comes through the line. The lodge has done this service in the past and our members and their families invariably come away from this experience with feelings of accomplishment and gratitude for being able to help those who are less fortunate.

Prior to the day we serve, you will need to go to the TMM website (<https://www.midnightmission.org>), place your cursor over the "Give Hope" heading at the top center of the page, scroll down to "Volunteer", then click on the "Sign up today link". You can then create an account or log in if you have one already. Ionic Composite already has a team signed up for dinner on March 15th, and you can add your name to the list if you are not already on it. If you do plan to serve, please call the lodge (454-273-1054) to get on the list; in doing so, you may be able to skip the above sign-in process.

We will meet at the Midnight Mission (601 San Pedro Street, Los Angeles 90014) at 3:00 PM. Please report to the main entrance (which is on 6th Street) in order to undergo COVID testing (a requirement for admission to the facility). You will then be directed to the kitchen and dining hall, where you will be instructed as to what you will be doing. You will be given gloves and hair nets to wear while serving. The attire for the serving is casual, namely pants, sleeved shirt, and closed toe shoes.

IONIC COMPOSITE LODGE NO. 520

2026 GROUP THEATER EVENT

We have a block of 16 orchestra seats for

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.

For information and reservations please contact Bernie Morse, PM at (310) 704-2262 or email brnhrd18@yahoo.com.

Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

Eniola Taiwo is a 14-year old eighth grade student who lives in Orange County and attends Amity Middle School Orange. Jennifer Marganski, her teacher, asked each member of her social studies class to write an essay about his or her personal hero. Eniola's "hero" was not a single person, but rather the first responders who were involved in fighting the fires in Pasadena and Pacific Palisades last year. In the process of completing her task, she wrote the following letter to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (HCC) asking for a star on the Walk of Fame commemorating these people.

"I know that the first responders aren't exactly celebrities, contrary to all others on the Walk of Fame, but I am confident that there won't be much opposition to recognize our modern day heroes. This star for first responders will reach the hearts of many first responders and let them know that what they do is recognized and appreciated. It will also encourage young people like me to be a change in the world."

Many of us have been to Hollywood and seen the names of individuals from the entertainment industry memorialized with stars embedded on the sidewalk. This Walk of Fame began in 1958 and currently is composed of more than 2800 stars. However, the HCC has no policy for so recognizing groups. That organization does occasionally provide Awards of Excellence to companies or organizations that have undertaken activities that have positively impacted on the entertainment industry, but over the entire existence of the HCC, less than ten such awards have been made. Previous awardees include the LA Times, LA Dodgers, Variety, and the LA Police Department Fallen Officers.

After receiving Eniola's letter, the leaders of the HCC, partnering with the Hollywood Community Foundation, added the Los Angeles Fire Department to that list. Thus, on December 12, 2025, such a star was placed at 6801 Hollywood Blvd, a location that is just adjacent to the Walk of Fame. Present at the ceremony were not just representatives of the Fire Department and local community leaders, but also Eniola, her family, and Ms. Marganski.

When I was just a youngster, on those rare occasions when my sister or I would happen to make a particularly insightful comment about something, my parents would invariably respond "Out of the mouths of babes come gems". This expression comes from the Bible and it still continues to be true.

Think about it.

February Birthdays

First name	Last name	Birthdate
Joseph	Michael	5
Benson	Turner	12
Bruce	Gary	14
Amir	Jandaghi	14
Stanley	Sax	14
Norman	Weinstock	15
Victor	Pinkerton	22
Robert	Rosenstein	26
Robert	Feiles	28
Ira Howard	Steinmore	29

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally.

Masonic doings



Brother Henry Koffman (first row, center) receiving his Golden Veteran's Award at January Stated Meeting.

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)