

# TRESTLE BOARD

March 2026

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

As we move into a new season, I ask that we reflect a bit on how fortunate a number of us may be, compared to others. And, I don't ask this lightly, as there may also be any number of us experiencing difficulties in this particular economic climate — however, quietly.

It goes without saying that living here in Los Angeles, we don't have to travel very far to see (up-close and personal) people not well-fed, chemically challenged and unhoused or displaced for various reasons. This month, we will conduct our annual trek to the Midnight Mission to help serve dinner to some of those in need. As you may well know, California Freemasons have played a major role in the leadership of L.A.'s Midnight Mission, since its beginning in 1914.

I'm reminded of an incident a couple of years back in Little Tokyo (blocks from Skid Row), where I encountered a seemingly troubled young man rolling on the ground, wearing barely any clothing and behaving extremely erratic. What presented particularly peculiar to me is that he had the Masonic implements tattooed on a part of his body that made it quite apparent he truly is a Brother. Ironically, I witnessed this with another Brother and our immediate inclination was to help this Brother to his feet and get him further aide. Sadly, we resorted to calling the authorities for help, being uncertain of his physical health in order to look after our own selves.

This is what makes our annual service at the mission so important and necessary. Not just for the sake of serving food to the unhoused, but to serve as an opportunity to survey a situation which any one can find themselves at any given point, in life. It makes no sense that we live in a society and time that is, collectively, the most prosperous ever known to mankind. And yet, we seem to be the most tight-fisted and disengaged generation of people, when it comes to the welfare of others — with average-income household charity dropping from 60 percent to 44 percent over the last twenty years, while a majority of charitable contributions come from affluent households with \$5 million or more in wealth.

So, I ask that we move through the rest of this winter with benevolence on our hearts and minds. Remember, we give not with the expectation to receive, but with the understanding that the goodness of charity is the most important benefit of prosperity and that we, ultimately, prosper because we give.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM  
Master

## **March Calendar**

### **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Stated Meeting**

**6:30 pm: Officers' photo (Attire: dark business suit with IC520 tie)**

**7:15 Dinner**

Menu: Grilled jerk chicken or Smoked Angus brisket, charred cream of corn, roasted mashed potatoes, charred green beans, arugula salad with roasted peaches and sherry vinaigrette, house pickled red onions, dinner rolls, dessert (TBD)

RSVP via the link below:

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

**8:00 pm: Meeting (Inspector's Official Visitation)**

Ladies' stated meeting activity\*: Game Night

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm: Second Degree Conferral for Bro. Isaac Cruz**

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm – Dinner service at the Midnight Mission**

Dinner afterward at a restaurant at LA Live

**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> - Dark**

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**

Officer School of Instruction, Liberal Arts #858 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree (complete)/Calling up and calling down

**Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:15 pm:: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, 1<sup>st</sup> section practice\*\***

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - TBD**

\* 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.

\*\* For demonstration at the April OSI.

## **Upcoming events**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> – Masonic education<sup>1</sup>**

**May 24<sup>th</sup> – Festive Board Dinner**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – Theater event: Hell's Kitchen**

<sup>1</sup>Note: This is a date change from what was announced last month.

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

**Evan Weiss**

## March Birthdays

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Birthdate</b>
Stephen Lynn	Shapiro	2
Yefim David	Ben	3
Karen	Meymaryan	5
Kevin Michael	Snyder	7
Sanford Ross	Climan	10
Michael Allen	Silverman	10
Nir	Hanien	14
William Logan	Hicks	14
Kirtland	Ash	16
William Henry	Miller	17
Kevin Frank	Silver	18
Robert Michael	Thomas	19
Jean Claude	Aghadjanian	20
Myron Kalman	Roberts	21
Richard William	Sharpe	21
Earl Rogest	Hellum	22
Arthur William	Levy	23
Ronald Melvin	Lawrence	24
Daniel Jacob	Seidner	24
Spence Brandon	Bilkiss	29

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

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## **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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

In order to serve, a volunteer has to be at least 4 feet, 6 inches in height. Individuals 18 years of age or younger can serve, but they will need a separate account at TMM that will require the signature of a parent or guardian.

Prior to the day we serve, you will need to have an account at the TMM. If you do not have one, go to the TMM website ([midnightmission.org/volunteer](http://midnightmission.org/volunteer)), place your cursor over the "Give Hope" heading at the top center of the page, scroll down to "Volunteer" and click on it. On the page that appears, click "Check Volunteer Opportunities". The Opportunities page will appear and you can click on "Prerequisite needed" and sign up to create an account. (There may be a delay of one day or so while the Midnight Mission checks to make sure all of your information is complete.) Ionic Composite already has a team signed up for dinner on March 15<sup>th</sup>, so, after you have an account, let the lodge know that you are coming (454-273-1054) to get on the list.

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. After we do the service, we will reconvene for our own dinner at a yet-to-be-determined restaurant in LA Live.

# *Festive Board*

*A traditional practice of Masonry since its inception is a formal multicourse meal that is conducted after a meeting or as an independent event. Historically the event occurred in a tavern above the lodgehall and represented brotherhood because of the great deal of socialization that occurred between the participants. The formal ceremony includes a number of toasts reflecting the respect Masonry pays to various leaders and institutions inside and outside the craft.*

*Ionic-Composite Lodge #520 will conduct such a festive board on May 24, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM. Its theme will be “Builders of Light: A Spring Festive Board”. The attire will be business suits and cocktail dresses and the cost will be \$65.00 per person.*

*The menu will be as follows:*

*1<sup>st</sup> course – Chicken and vegetable potstickers*

*2<sup>nd</sup> course – Chicken noodle soup*

*3<sup>rd</sup> course – Caesar salad*

*4<sup>th</sup> course – Grilled chicken breast with Marsala wine sauce, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables*

*5<sup>th</sup> course – Beef tenderloin with peppercorn and Merlot wine sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, French cut green beans with roasted almonds*

*6<sup>th</sup> course – New York cheesecake with raspberry sauce*

*Dinner rolls and butter throughout the meal*

**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](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com). Please note that tickets must be purchased by April 2<sup>nd</sup>; those that are not sold have to be returned to the Pantages Theatre.**

# Think About It

**Ron Koretz, P.M.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become the electronic phenomenon of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and is being widely applied to many aspects of our daily lives. In most of these applications, we have been quick to recognize its advantages and frequently amazed at its results. For example, if you do a search of the internet for a particular subject using Google, the first item that usually appears is an AI summary of what is known.

Unfortunately, AI has also created some problems. You are probably already aware of the issues that schools and colleges are confronting. A student who is assigned an essay on any particular subject can simply type the topic in as a title and then have the computer write the text. The teacher, being unaware of how the paper was written, is probably impressed with the discussion that the student seemed to have written and gives it a good grade. While this process did produce a beneficial short-term outcome for the student, he or she really did not learn anything from the exercise and the grade was not warranted. Of course, as teachers become aware of this practice, even the short-term benefit for the student will disappear.

AI has now spread to the world of science and has done so in an unexpected way. As part of the process of preparing research for publication, scientists will routinely put their studies into perspective by discussing and citing previous related work. The practice of preferentially referencing work that agrees with the observations of the particular researcher has long been recognized (termed “selective citation”), but AI has made this process more complicated. More and more often, citations in scientific papers have been found to be completely falsified. AI is equipped with the ability to identify and then insert names, institutions, journal titles, etc. that are the same or similar to real ones. It has been estimated that 15% of the references that are cited in recent publications are non-existent. Furthermore, if these fake papers are not immediately recognized, ideally at a time before a submitted manuscript is formally published, they will then be cited by others who are not aware of their history and thereby become entrenched in the scientific literature. In a related field, attorneys have been caught using AI to generate briefs that contain false legal precedents; of course, one must worry about the ones who were not caught.

There are techniques for identifying these fictitious references. However, one has to be willing to spend the extra time that is required to employ them. One of the best places to put such a responsibility is in the hands of editors and peer reviewers whose job is to critically evaluate individual manuscripts when they are submitted for publication. Unfortunately editors are poorly paid and do the work largely for the prestige of being asked to be an editor. Peer reviewers are typically not paid at all, receive very little if any credit for this work when they come up for promotion, and have many other obligations in their professional lives. On the other hand, in the long-term, the credibility of science is at stake.

AI is not going to go away. It behooves all of us to remember that, while it is good at assembling and organizing information, it is a function of a machine that is far less concerned with truth than a human is.

Think about it.

# *Masonic doings*



Ionic Composite Sweethearts, along with Clarence Ulrich, all gathered for the annual dinner celebrating our ladies at the lodge on February 9, 2026

# 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)