

# TRESTLE BOARD

May 2026

## Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520

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



My Brothers,

We've had quite a busy year, so far, with a great range of ceremonies, events and honors. The essence of Masonry is strong among us. As I've witnessed our newer Brothers earn their degrees and take up key positions and responsibilities in the Lodge, I've also witnessed a faction of our distinguished Brothers continue to facilitate the Lodge's needs and others return after years of demonstrating the essence of Masonic principles through their accomplishments.

This month's activities are anchored in what our Past Grand Master G. Sean Metroka refers to as the *Light of Masonry*. Here's how I consider this:

When men first bring themselves to “knock,” they walk into a rather illuminated collective of experience, wisdom and practice, which can feel very exciting. With every convening comes greater understanding — understanding of whatever *blank* needs to be filled, in that particular moment or occasion. For example, we have our third Golden Veteran recipient for the year, this month and with Bro. Abelson's visit, I am certain we will come to new understanding of how Masonry has lit the paths of his journey. We will also host a unique 1st Degree ceremony, which I am sure will remind us of what beacons our own forays into Masonry. Our annual Festiveboard dinner — essentially, a theme combining MW Metroka's “light” with our own Past Master Jacob Gershbock's *Masons Are Builders*, will provide us another opportunity to connect even more and bring even greater awareness to the Masonic principles that drive all of our endeavors.

What I am getting at is this: the notion of *light* is all around us, in Ionic Composite 520. Watch closely and listen even closer, every time we meet. Sometimes life gives us a lit view of only 200 yards ahead and it's not always certain we're on the right path, unable to see any further. And, when we finally approach the end of a journey, we realize that 200-yards of light was exactly what was needed to maintain focus and keep from losing our way. I am floored by how much good light each of you shed on me, week after week, month after month. I thank you and I hope I'm not alone in this sentiment. Let's continue to build each other with light.

Fraternally yours,

Chay Alexander Wright, PM  
Master

## **April Calendar**

### **Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, Stated Meeting**

**7:15 Dinner**

Menu (Cinco de Mayo Dinner): Roast Chicken with Chimichurri Sauce, Salad, Spanish Rice, Black Beans, Tres Leche Cake with Strawberries

RSVP via the link below:

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

**8:00 pm: Meeting (Golden Veteran's Award to Br. Robert Abelson)**

Ladies' stated meeting activity\*: Game Night

### **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

Masonic Social Hour (Open to members and prospects)

### **Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm:**

Courtesy First Degree Conferral for Abraham and Benjamin Esshagian on behalf of the Holy City No. 4, Jerusalem (refreshments to follow)

### **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm:**

Officers School of Instruction, Anchor Bell #868 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, 2nd section, lecture and charge

### **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. 7:15 pm:**

Annual Festiveboard Dinner: Builders of Light (see announcement elsewhere in Trestleboard)

Attire: Coat and tie/Cocktail. \$65.00 per person

### **Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Dark

\* 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

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – First degree for Avi and Ben Eshaghian<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

**September 8<sup>th</sup> – Masons4Mitts at Dodger Stadium**

<sup>1</sup> These are the sons of a past master of our lodge, Joseph Eshaghian, who currently lives in Israel (see announcement elsewhere in Trestleboard); degrees being performed as courtesy on behalf of Lodge of the Holy City #4 (Jerusalem)

## 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](http://www.masons4mitts.org)  
Click LA Dodger Logo  
Click Media Central Titans  
Click Give a Mitt  
Click Donate



This year's Masons4Mitts 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. If there are 20 interested brothers, Bernie Morse can obtain 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 Bernie Morse PM at (310)704-2262 or [brnhrd18@yahoo.com](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com).

## May Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth date
Joseph	Reinke	1
Harold	Kirman	2
Robert	Sills	2
Robert	Gordon	4
Barry	Sporn	5
William	Bilkiss	11
Peter	Kaplan	11
Errol	Stambler	12
Joseph	Brewer	13
Robert	Goldman	13
Richard	Kaplan	13
Edward	Novshad	14
Stephen	Rennick	14
Matthew	Rodman	17
Michael	Savage	17
Cedric	Malambu	20
David	Philips	23
Jeffrey	Platt	27
Mark	Ameli	29
Neil	Sherman	29
Dale	Effren	30

Apologies for any brethren who might have been left out unintentionally

IONIC COMPOSITE No. 520

DOF THE HOLY CITY No. 4



*You are Cordially Invited to the*

# FIRST DEGREE INITIATION



*Abraham (Avi) and Benjamin (Ben) Esshaghian*

Monday, May 18th, 2026 | 7:15 PM

Liberal Arts Lodge  
2244 Westwood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

*Refreshments to Follow*

**TWO LODGES, ONE BROTHERHOOD**

This will be a Courtesy Degree performed by Ionic Composite Lodge on behalf of Lodge of the Holy City #4, Jerusalem

*United in Freemasonry*

RSVP to [Shahriare@hotmail.com](mailto:Shahriare@hotmail.com)

# *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**

**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.

**Please note that tickets are no longer available. However, in the event somebody has to cancel, you can put your name on a waiting list by contacting Bernie Morse, PM at (310) 704-2262 or email [brnhrd18@yahoo.com](mailto:brnhrd18@yahoo.com).**

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## Think About It

Ron Koretz, P.M.

It is spring and my thoughts again turn to baseball. Being a Dodger fan, I am particularly looking forward to this season because my team seems to have assembled a very talented roster. While the official season is just starting now, we were recently consumed by a parallel baseball tournament, the World Baseball Classic, or WBC. This series replaced the Baseball World Cup, which had been played at times between 1938 and 2011.

The WBC began in 2006 as an invitational event created in large part by Major League Baseball (MLB) and the related MLB Players' Association. It has been played in 2006, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2023, and most recently in 2026; the 2021 series was cancelled because of COVID. In principle, teams are based on the home of the players, namely where they were born and raised. Unlike the Baseball World Cup, professional baseball players are allowed to play in the WBC, and the teams now largely consist of men who are playing in the MLB or the Nippon Professional Baseball Organization (the Japanese equivalent of MLB).

The point of both the Baseball World Cup and the WBC has been to identify a country that can claim to be the world champions in baseball. While the World Series might seem to identify that team, it has always been a contest between two North American teams. As the decades have gone on since baseball first became a recognized game in 1846, we have seen more and more players from other areas of the world come to the United States (and Canada) to play professional baseball.

It should be appreciated that, shortly before the WBC, the major sports event was the Winter Olympics in Italy. That competition included almost 3000 athletes from about 90 countries. Thus, as the WBC went on, I thought about the differences in the constitutions of the teams. At least the majority of those competing in the Olympics clearly come from, and still live in, the country that they represented. However, while the members of each team in the WBC had some relationship to the country they represented, those relationships were more tenuous. For example, the player does not have to be a citizen of the country for which he plays. If he has a parent who was born in that country, even if the parent is also not a citizen there, he can play for that country. It is likely that many of the players from the non-United States teams currently live in the U.S. Perhaps the extreme example of this was the Italian team; only three of the thirty players were born in Italy. In fact, only four of the twenty teams had all of their players born in that country (Cuba, United States, Japan, and Venezuela) and 28 men on the Venezuela team played baseball in MLB or its affiliated minor leagues.

However, as I thought some more about this situation, it occurred to me that only a minority of the Dodgers were born in Los Angeles. The city did not win the World Series in 2024 and 2025; rather a group of mostly outsiders who just work here did. This disparity between geography and home is actually the rule, and not the exception, in sports today; the Olympics may be the outlier.

Think about it.

# *Masonic doings*

Brethren and friends/family of Bro. Alan Block on his reception of Golden Veteran's Award on April 6<sup>th</sup> at lodge.



## *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.