



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

2500 Masonic Drive – San Jose, CA 95125 Stated
Meeting – First Thursday of Every Month

SEPTEMBER - 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<i>Stated meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Stated meetings Mt View De Anza #194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Stated meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	FRIENDSHIP <i>Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		<i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>		FRIENDSHIP <i>2ND Degree Proficiency 7:00 PM</i>		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Golden Rule 479 Funerals Officers Mandatory</i>			FRIENDSHIP <i>3RD Degree Proficiency 7:00 PM</i>		<i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		<i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i> <i>Masons' Night at Oracle Park SF Giants vs SD Padres 6:45 PM</i>		FRIENDSHIP <i>1ST Degree Proficiency 7:00 PM</i>		

From the East



Right before our Stated Meeting on August 3, Friendship Lodge awarded scholarships to seven children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of Friendship Lodge members. This was the first year that we gave a scholarship to a great-grandchild, Bro. Gene Meyer's great-granddaughter Audry Doan, who is studying Nursing at USF.

Friendship Lodge hosted the Officers Association Meeting and School of Instruction on Thursday, August 17. The Ladies Oriental Shrine served a delicious dinner. Then we moved into the lodge room to learn about balloting on new members and making objections. The team, consisting of Friendship officers, provided a detailed and informative learning experience for the leaders of the other local lodges.

On Thursday the 24th, we performed a lodge room memorial service for our Brother Harold Detrick. His son-in-law reached out to us and we were pleased to offer "the final tribute of our affection". Bro. Detrick was born in California on June 22, 1929. He was raised a Master Mason in Friendship Lodge No. 210 on February 16, 1956. He laid down his working tools on July 22, 2023, at the age of 94. He was a Mason in good standing for over 67 years. A few of our "oldtimers" still remember him.

The annual Sciots Cornerstone Award ceremony took place on Friday, August 25. Our nominee this year was Brother Jim North. He was a little uncomfortable with all the attention, but he was in the company of award recipients from nine other lodges, so he managed to get through it alright. The Sciots Cornerstone Award is the heaviest award given in Freemasonry. You should ask Bro. Jim about that.

The long-awaited and highly anticipated Master's Trip to Monterey, California happened on Saturday, August 26. We visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium, explored and shopped along Cannery Row, and had a nice dinner at the Fish Hopper restaurant. There were nine of us.

Our Inspector, Wor. Dinesh Chhabra, has called for officer ritual proficiencies during the month of September. We've been preparing for that big moment. And we will prepare even more intensively this month.

At this moment, we have no candidates prepared to receive their next degrees in the month of September. Senior Warden Gilbert Cruz has been talking with the coaches and their candidates to prod them along. Whenever they are ready, we will be ready to confer their next degree.

My birthday is in September. To celebrate, I decided that we should wear casual dress at our September 7th Stated Meeting. Note that summer ends on September 22 with the autumnal equinox. That means we go back to wearing business suits, or coats and ties beginning with the October Stated Meeting.

This year's Masons4Mitts program in Northern California culminates on Tuesday, September 26 with Masons' Night at Oracle Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94107. The San Francisco Giants are playing the San Diego Padres. See our Treasurer, Kendall Mills, for discount tickets. Be in your seat by 6:45 PM.

Have you donated a mitt? If not, point your browser to <https://masonicfoundation.org/masons4mitts/> and make a donation online. \$20.00 buys a new, full-leather Rawlings baseball mitt for a boy or girl who otherwise would not have one. That would mean no baseball league for them. And it would be just plain un-American. So far this year, the lodge members and families of the Northern California Region have donated 3,283 mitts.

Daniel Doornbos, PM
Master

From the West



Greetings. Wow it's now the BER Months* and were getting close to some of our favorite Holidays!

Hope everyone had a wonderful month of August. Congratulation again to our scholarship recipients. One thing I'm sure would have enjoy is the Master trip to the Aquarium in Monterey.

Here's the update from iMember 2.0: We now have 10 Inquiries; 3 Applicants; 8 Entered Apprentice; 2 Fellowcraft and 112 Master Masons.

Four of our Entered Apprentice brothers who are working diligently learning for their proficiency. Please continue to work and make appointment with your coach. If you and your coach feel ready for your proficiency, contact me and we can schedule a date during Stated Meeting. Will some be ready for October?

Brethren continue to invite you friends, relatives, co-worker to inform them about Masonry and invite them to join us on our Stated Dinner.

Are you in search of caregiver, senior care for a loved one or searching for services and resources in your community. The Masonic Value Network is something as a member you can explore. Please contact them for information. The number is (888) 446-3642.

This is one great benefit of being a Masonic member of our fraternal organization. The Masonic Home of the Grand Lodge of California is the envy of other Grand Lodge Jurisdictions.

Hope to see everyone on our Stated Meeting.

Fraternally,
Gilbert Cruz, Senior Warden

* The months of SeptemBER, OctoBER, NovemBER, and DecemBER.

From the South



Fraternal Greetings from the South,

September's Stated Meeting dinner will be Tony's home style Mexican dinner. Carne Guisada (sliced flank steak sautéed in bell peppers, yellow onions, tomatillos, and tomatoes), Mexican rice, refried beans, chicken enchilada casserole, fresh green salad, drinks, and dessert. If you plan to join us for dinner, please make your reservation with me at andrew.litfin@gmail.com or (408) 832-5846.

I look forward to seeing you all in September!

Fraternally,
Andrew Litfin, Junior Warden

Training Camp



Our Inspector, Wor. Dinesh Chhabra, is calling for lodge officer ritual proficiencies during the month of September. Here is what he is looking for:

2024 Senior Deacon Sean O'Hara — 1st degree: Prayer over the candidate at center, 2nd degree: Middle chamber lecture, 3rd degree: Prayer over the candidate at altar.

2024 Junior Warden Ronald Rebong — Opens the lodge on the 1st degree, administers the obligation, gives the Master's lecture, and closes the lodge. He must also complete at least one LMCP course.

2024 Senior Warden Andrew Litfin — Opens the lodge on the 2nd degree, administers the obligation, gives the Master's lecture, and closes the lodge. He must also complete at least two LMCP courses.

2024 Worshipful Master Gilbert Cruz — Opens the lodge on 3rd degree, administers the obligation, gives the 2nd section prayer, gives the Master's lecture, congratulates the candidate, and closes the lodge. Gilbert has already completed all four LMCP courses.

Lodge Management Certification Program

The Lodge Management Certification Program (LMCP) courses have been prepared by California Masons, for California Masons. They will help prepare you for leadership in your lodge. They are designed to give you the basic knowledge you will need to help manage the business administration of your lodge.

These courses are free of charge. Any Master Mason can take them. All you need is an iMember account, and a little time and interest.

To access the LMCP program, log into iMember, go to My Portal > Education, and scroll down to the LMCP courses. Choose a course and click Study Guide. You can read the Study Guide online as well as download a digital copy.

When you are ready to test your knowledge, click Take Exam. 70% is a passing score. You can retake the exam as many times as you wish. Your highest score is shown. I suggest you keep studying and testing until you score 100%.

OAM / SOI

We have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) on Monday, September 18. Golden Rule Lodge No. 479 is hosting the event at the San Jose Masonic Center. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Friendship Lodge covers the cost of our Officers' meals.

The School of Instruction (SOI) begins at 7:30 PM. This month's topic a preview of Grand Lodge (the Annual Communication will be held October 27 through 29) and Masonic Funeral services. All Officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please contact our Inspector Wor. Dinesh Chhabra.

Daniel Doornbos, PM
Officers Coach

The Reverend's Corner



In C. S. Lewis's classical book, *The Screwtape Letters*, Wormwood, a demon apprentice, must secure the damnation of a young man who's just become a Christian. He seeks the advice of an experienced devil, his uncle Screwtape. Their correspondence offers invaluable—and often humorous—insights on temptation, pride, and the ultimate victory of faith over evil forces.

[*The demon Screwtape writes:*] The humans live in time, but our Enemy (God) destines them to eternity. He (God) therefore, I believe, wants them to attend chiefly to two things, to eternity itself, and to that point of time which they call the Present.

For the Present is the point at which time touches eternity. Of the present moment, and of it only, humans have an experience analogous to the experience which our Enemy (God) has of reality as a whole; in it alone freedom and actuality are offered them.

He (God) would therefore have them continually concerned either with eternity, which means being concerned with Him, or with the Present, either meditating on their eternal union with, or separation from, Himself, or else obeying the present voice of conscience, bearing the present cross, receiving the present grace, giving thanks for the present pleasure.

Our (the demons') business is to get them (humanity) away from the eternal, and from the Present. With this in view, we sometimes tempt a human—say a widow or a scholar—to live in the Past. But this is of limited value, for they have some real knowledge of the past and it has a determinate nature and, to that extent, resembles eternity.

It is far better to make them live in the Future. Biological necessity makes all their passions point in that direction already, so that thought about the Future inflames hope and fear. Also, it is unknown to them, so that in making them think about it we make them think of unrealities.

In a word, the Future is, of all things, the thing least like eternity. It is the most completely temporal part of time—for the Past is frozen and no longer flows, and the Present is all lit up with eternal rays.

AFFIRMATION:

The present time, not the future nor the past, is the time for me to contemplate and prepare myself to meet the Great Architect of the Universe.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Titus 12:11-13 – For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope... (NIV)

God bless,
Reverend Gene

Masonic Charities of Hawaii — Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief

In the wake of the devastating Maui wildfires, Brother Freemasons have tragically faced the displacement of their homes and the loss of their businesses. The tight-knit Masonic community, known for its mutual support and fraternity, has been deeply impacted by this unforeseen catastrophe. As these brethren work to rebuild their lives, the Masonic Charities of Hawaii stands as a beacon of hope, offering assistance and aid to those in need.



To extend a helping hand, individuals are encouraged to contribute to the Masonic Charities of Hawaii through various means. Donations can be made by check, directly addressing the Masonic Charities of Hawaii and sent to their official address. Additionally, a GoFundMe campaign and Amazon Wishlist have been established to facilitate online contributions, providing an accessible way for concerned individuals to provide support during this challenging time.

Your generosity can make a profound difference in aiding these Brother Freemasons as they navigate the path to recovery and restoration.

How do I make a donation?

1.) Send your tax-deductible donation to the Masonic Charities of Hawaii at:

*Masonic Charities of Hawaii
C/O Scottish Rite Cathedral
1611 Kewalo St #101
Honolulu, HI 96822-3134*

2.) Contribute directly on our GoFundMe page at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/masonic-charities-of-hawaii-maui-wildfire-relief>



Caution: When you donate through GoFundMe, the application automatically adds a 15% "tip", which does **not** go to the Grand Lodge of Hawaii and is **not** tax-deductible.

3.) Support with tangible items: Help by purchasing desperately needed items for those affected by the fire through our Amazon Wishlist at:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GSO8QHRX5L19?ref_=wl_share



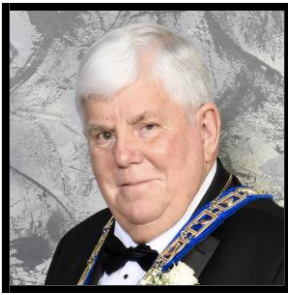
4.) Contribute to the Masonic Service Association of North America's "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Appeal" at

<https://msana.com/current-appeals/>



The content above is from the Grand Lodge of Hawaii website and GoFundMe.

Secretary's Table



Bro. Jim Greer, our perennial Secretary, is out of the hospital and back at home. But he still has a long, difficult way to go to achieve recovery. At this moment, phone calls and text messages are NOT requested. And if you have been sending healing energy, please continue.

Checking our lodge's member information, we see that 17 members still have not paid their 2023 dues. Dues this year are \$108.50. If you have an iMember account, you can log in and pay online.

You can also write a check, payable to "Friendship Lodge No. 210" in the amount of \$108.50. Then mail it to our Secretary's home address:

James Greer
1152 Prentiss Dr
San Jose, CA 95120-5410

What happens when a member is dealing with difficult times and cannot afford to pay dues? That brother should contact the Master of the Lodge, inform him of the situation, and request a remission. Your request is always confidential. You will remain a member in good standing, but you are excused from paying dues for the current calendar year.

Why ask for a dues remission rather than just skipping your payment? About one-half a member's dues goes to pay the Grand Lodge per capita tax. That is the money Friendship Lodge pays annually to the Grand Lodge of California. The amount we pay is based on the number of lodge members. But the Grand Lodge does not count those members whose dues have been remitted. Thus, a dues remission saves the lodge about \$57.00 for each member. Both the member and the lodge benefit.

September Events:

September 7th – Stated Meeting dinner, Hawaiian dress, cost is \$10.00.

September 14th – Officers 2nd degree proficiency. Andrew Litfin the East, Sean O'Hara does middle chamber lecture. Officers in advanced stations.

September 21st – Officers 3rd degree proficiency. Gilbert Cruz in the East. Officers in advanced stations. We are doing the second section, all team members please attend.

September 28th – Officers 1st degree proficiency. Ronald Reboning in the East. Officers in advanced stations.

September Birthdays

1 – Gilbert Sanchez 17 – Jim Kouretas
1 – Adam Sickles 20 – Daniel Doornbos, PM
2 – Joe Alarcon, PM 21 – Ronald Gordon
7 – Jerry Kennedy, PM 24 – Helmuth Litfin, PM
10 – Catelino Alfeloro, Jr. 31 – Mel Fauvor



2023 Officers

Officers

Master

Daniel Doornbos, PM (Gillian) 408-802-7480

Senior Warden

Gilbert Cruz (Monette) 408-483-1964

Junior Warden

Andrew Litfin 408-832-5846

Treasurer

Kendall Mills, PM (Janet) 408-281-4084

Secretary

Jim Greer (Sherri) 408-510-4566

Chaplain

Chase Traficanti (Melissa) 775-750-9921

Senior Deacon

Robert Asuncion (Cindy) 408-717-2448

Junior Deacon

Sean O'Hara (Savannah) 559-862-9372

Marshal

Al Dorji (Hakimeh) 408-313-4781

Senior Steward

Mike Smith (Bonnie) 408-483-8985

Junior Steward

Dan Chaid (Theresa) 408-393-8905

Tiler

Jim North (Tami) 408-202-4813

Inspector 345th Masonic District

Dinesh Chhabra, PM (Meenu) 908-247-9288

Officers Coach

Daniel Doornbos, PM (Gillian) 408-802-7480

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Website: <https://friendship210.org/>