



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

OCTOBER - 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | <i>Stated meetings</i> Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM | <i>Stated meetings</i> Mt View De Anza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM | <i>Stated meeting</i> Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM | FRIENDSHIP <i>Stated Meeting Dinner</i> 6:30 PM | | <i>San Jose Rainbow</i> 10:00 AM |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | | <i>Santa Clara</i> <i>DeMolay</i> 7:00 PM | | FRIENDSHIP <i>Practice</i> 7:00 PM | <i>Bethel 129</i> 7:00 PM | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| FRIENDSHIP <i>Masonic funeral for</i> <i>Ed Merced,</i> 9:30 AM Oak Hill Memorial Park | <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM</i> Los Altos 712 <i>Officers required to</i> <i>attend</i> | | | FRIENDSHIP <i>Practice</i> 7:00 PM | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | <i>Santa Clara</i> <i>DeMolay</i> 7:00 PM | | FRIENDSHIP <i>Practice</i> 7:00 PM | GRAND LODGE <i>Annual</i> <i>Communication</i> <i>Child ID</i> <i>Chandler Trip</i> <i>School</i> 10:00 AM | GRAND LODGE <i>Annual</i> <i>Communication</i> |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | Nov 4 |
| GRAND LODGE <i>Annual</i> <i>Communication</i> | | | | | | <i>Grand Master's</i> <i>Reception</i> <i>San Jose Scottish Rite</i> 5:30 to 8:30 PM <i>Tickets required</i> |

From the East



October is the month of the 174th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California. The event takes place at the California Masonic Memorial Temple, located at 1111 California Street on San Francisco's Nob Hill. The Annual Communication will commence at 1:00 PM on Friday, October 27, 2023.

The Annual Communication is where you can get key updates on the latest organizational initiatives, learn more about the work of the fraternity's related entities, and vote on legislation and the Grand Lodge officers for the year ahead. This is where the work of the fraternity comes to pass—and your chance to have your lodge's voice heard.

Downstairs in the exhibition hall, is a showcase for Masonic vendors and retailers. For-sale items include fraternal regalia, gifts, and clothing. You can also meet the members of, and learn more about, the Masonic Youth Orders, the Masonic Homes, and other Masonic organizations.

You can also visit the new Freemasons' Hall, and Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry, which contains more than 10,000 titles (books) and 20,000 object collection that includes Masonic art and artifacts from California and around the world. You can also visit the museum online at <https://masonicheritage.org/>.

Each of the 330 Lodge in California sends its Master, Wardens, and one Past Master to vote at Grand Lodge. Any Master Mason in good standing may attend the Annual Communication. But you can't just show up and expect to get in. You must register first at:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/80cb2588-81b8-4a07-a25a-a92537d3eec7/summary>

See a summary of the legislation on page 6.

Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie.

Grand Master's Reception

Our biggest and grandest event comes up on week after the Grand Lodge Communication, on Saturday November 4th, when Friendship Lodge hosts the Grand Master's Reception on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Masonic Officers Association.

Tickets are required. Friendship Lodge purchased 20 of them. Contact Junior Warden Andrew Litfin if you would like to attend. Dress is western/casual, so leave the suit and tie at home.

We're still working on the menu. Hristo Kolev volunteered to cook for the event. Whatever we eat, you know it will be delicious. And if you have a suggestion, please let me know.

In Memoriam

Our perennial Secretary, Bro. James Ralph Greer, laid down his working tools September 13, 2023. Jim was raised in Friendship Lodge on November 17, 1988. He served as Lodge Secretary since 1991, a tenure of 32 consecutive years. He was a Hiram Award recipient and a Mason for 35 years.

Since the Lodge cannot function without a Secretary, per the California Masonic Code, I have appointed Wor. Helmuth Litfin to serve until the Lodge elects a new Secretary at the October Stated Meeting.

On Sunday, October 15th, we will perform a Masonic funeral service for Bro. Eustaguio "Ed" Merced, who recently passed at the age of 97. He was a member of Friendship Lodge for nearly 60 years. It will be in the Chapel of the Oaks at Oak Hill Memorial Park, at 9:30 AM. Please take a little of your time to honor our departed Brother.

Daniel Doornbos, PM
Master

From the West



Greetings.

I hope everyone is well. The first of the BER month passed and we're on Fall season.

Based on iMember 2.0 we received from the Grand Lodge 22 inquiries since last year. We currently have 8 Entered Apprentices, 2 Fellowcrafts, and 111 Master Masons.

We have two candidates who mentioned to me getting comfortable to do their proficiency. My hope is we could do two Fellowcraft degrees before the year end. We are also in coordination for our Spanish Speaking Degree team in the south for our Bro. Omar to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. We will announce the date and hope that many of our Brother will travel to the south to support him.

I'm still mournful when I heard that our Worthy Brother Secretary laid down his working tools. I did not had a chance to visit him because of my bronchitis, but thank to one of our brother I was able to see him through Facetime. Looking back, I first met Bro. Greer during the Treasurers and Secretaries Retreat in 2014. Our group was amazed for the length of his service as Secretary of Friendship Lodge 210. I did learn a lot from his insight about the role of a Secretary and issues we discussed and how to align to the vision of the Grand Lodge of California. I was with Acacia Lodge 243 at that year. He's a great brother and I wished I could have worked and learned more from him now that I'm with Friendship Lodge 210.

Looking at our roster, we have 121 members. If among our friends and relatives, if we can invite, enlighten, have at least 10% from among our influence, decided to join our Lodge, I foresee a more vibrant and solid bond of friendship and fellowship. Let's have more new faces during our Stated Meeting dinner.

Fraternally,
Gilbert Cruz, Senior Warden

From the South



Fraternal Greetings from the South,

As we enter the last few months of the year and fall is upon us, we enter into a time of year more traditionally reserved for heartier foods and drinks. That will be exemplified this October Stated Meeting, as Friendship lodge puts on its own Oktoberfest dinner! My aunt has graciously agreed to assist us this year with our very own Litfin family recipes.

If you are a purist about your German food, these foods have recipes that originated in Bavaria and traveled with my Oma's family to Ukraine, and then with Oma to the States after WWII. We hope very much to see you there to be able to share with you these delicious morsels.

Don't forget to place reservations with either myself or Wor. Helmuth so we know how much food to acquire. Dinner is \$10.00 per person.

Fraternally,
Andrew Litfin, Junior Warden

Training Camp



All degree practices happen on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. If you cannot attend the practice, kindly let me know so we don't wait for you. Even if you miss a practice, you are still expected to learn your work.

We have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) on Monday, October 16. Los Altos Lodge No. 712 is hosting the event at the Los Altos Masonic Center, 146 Main St #103, Los Altos, CA 94022. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM.

Friendship Lodge covers the cost of our Officers' meals. Casual dress is acceptable.

The SOI begins at 7:30 PM. This month's topic is Candidate Education & Proficiency, Elections, and Reception of the Flag. 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



Dear Brethren, (Care/Kindness)

When we think about care, we also need to add kindness. Where there is care, kindness is there also, they go hand in hand. We might say that we care about world events, our country, city, and even our neighborhood. We always include our friends and family.

Right now, our newest Lodge Sweetheart, Sherri Greer and her family, are in need of our prayers, care, and kindness. If you have not been contacted by email from Janet Mills regarding how you can help, please do get hold of Kendall.

We have the opportunity to aid our deceased Brother's family with meals or gift cards. The affirmation, "I am here, and I care", really means a lot at this time. Again, our kindness and giving from the heart is God's love in motion.

This is when our hearts with care and kindness reach out. We also reach not only to those who we know but also to strangers in need. Our hearts break when we hear about disasters like the fire in Maui or the earthquake in Morocco.

We feel the urge to help. We turn to prayers for healing, peace, and comfort. We can offer financial support with what we are able to give, and also give material goods. We can text, call, or visit a person in need. We can show we care. We might feel our efforts are not enough, because the need is so great. But prayers are always a way of caring.

We all have the impulse to care. When we care and show kindness our actions and words speak volumes. When we activate it is God in motion. God's love pours forth. When we join our efforts with the many, great things happen. God in motion. So, we are caring, ready to help, serve and love.

Secretary's Table

All this is done with kindness in our hearts and our actions. Our thoughts, words, and actions bless us also. When we give, we also receive.

As we show kindness and caring, we are grateful for the kindness others show us.

Our hearts are full of God's love. It flows freely in all we do. And that shows when we reach out and touch another's life.

Let's pray that others know this divine love of God.

Remember – A.R.K. – Act of Random Kindness.

AFFIRMATION:

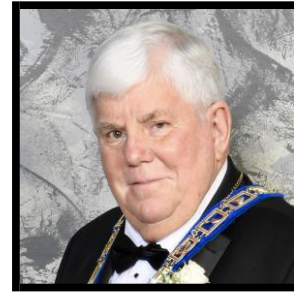
I am here, and I care. I am joyously, generously kind.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Proverbs 31:26 – She opens her mouth with wisdom, and teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

God bless,
Reverend Gene



Bro. James Ralph Greer, born October 16, 1945, laid down his working tools September 13, 2023, age 77 years, 11 months. Jim was raised in Friendship Lodge on November 17, 1988. He served as Lodge Secretary from 1991 to the present, a tenure of 32 consecutive years. He also served as a Fraternal Services Support Ambassador and as a Candidate Coach. Bro. Jim received the Hiram Award in 1995 and the Sciots Cornerstone Award in 2010. 2023 was Jim's 35th year as a Mason.

At this writing, we are still waiting to hear the family's plans for a service. If the family chooses a private arrangement, we can still hold a separate Lodge Room Memorial Service in Jim's memory.

October Events:

October 5th – Stated Meeting dinner, cost is \$10.00.

Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie.

October 15th – Masonic funeral service for Bro. Eustaguio “Ed” Merced at Oak Hill Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Ave, San Jose. 9:30 AM in the Chapel of the Oaks. For those who can stay, his burial is onsite at 11:30 AM. Please wear a dark suit or a dark sports coat and tie.

October 16th – Masonic Officers Association meeting at the Los Altos Masonic Center, 146 Main St #103, Los Altos, CA 94022. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM.

The SOI begins at 7:30 PM. This month’s topic is Candidate Education & Proficiency, Elections, and Reception of the Flag. Casual dress is acceptable.

October 27th – Child ID services and delivery of pumpkins at the Chandler Tripp School annual pumpkin patch celebration. Chandler Tripp School, 780 Thornton Way, San Jose. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Dress is Fall outdoor casual.

October 27th thru 29th – Grand Lodge Annual Communication, San Francisco, CA

This year’s legislation:

Grand Master Brill’s Recommendation No. 1: Sets a Lodge’s anniversary date at the earlier of its Dispensation Date or its Charter Date. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 22-02 seeks to give the Grand Master the right to grant the title of Past Master upon a member that does not complete his term as Master due to the suspension or revocation of his Lodge’s charter. As a carryover from last year, requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 22-04 seeks to increase the threshold amount of a contract requiring the approval of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Properties from \$25,000 to \$50,000. As a carryover from last year, requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 23-01 seeks to give each Lodge the right to e-mail Stated Meeting and Special Meeting minutes to its members. This action would, in most cases, allow the Lodge to dispense with reading the minutes at the monthly Stated Meeting. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 23-02 seeks to permit a member to hold the office of Secretary in more than one Lodge. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 23-03 seeks to allow Special Meetings to be held on the same day as a Stated Meeting. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 23-04 seeks to transfer Vallee de France Lodge No. 329’s right to perform its ritualistic work in the French language to La France Lodge No. 2056. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 23-05 seeks to permit Lodges to designate the specific Past Master entitled to cast the vote for the Past Masters of such Lodge at an Annual Communication and to collect the ballot for said vote. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

Resolution No. 23-06 seeks to change a member’s years of service to be measured from the date of his initiation rather than the date of his raising. Requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

If you would like to read the full text of each resolution, you can read or download the information using your iMember account. After signing in, go to My Portal > Resources > Annual Communication, and click Annual Communication Resources.

If you have an opinion to express on any of the legislation, please contact the Master or one of the Wardens.

We plan to have a brief overview of the legislation at the October 5th Stated Meeting.

October Birthdays

1 – Bruce Weller
4 – Kyle Schmidt, PM
13 – Scott Peterson
14 – Ronald Reed, PM
16 – James Greer
21 – Michael Baughn
26 – Robert Wilson, PM
28 – Kirk Wells, PM
30 – Steven Carpenter
31 – Jonathan Blank



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

Helmuth Litfin (Evonne) 408-421-9381

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/>