



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

NOVEMBER - 2023

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 <i>Stated meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | 2 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | 3 <i>Mission Peak Lodge Constitution Ceremony 5:00 PM Oakland SR</i> | 4 <i>FRIENDSHIP Grand Master's Reception SJ Scottish Rite 5:30 to 8:30 PM SJ 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i> |
| 5 <i>Stated meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | 6 <i>Stated meetings Mt View De Anza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | 7 <i>Stated meetings Mt View De Anza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | 8 | 9 <i>FRIENDSHIP 2nd Degree Glo Fularon 7:00 PM</i> | 10 <i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i> | 11 <i>Outreach Meeting Division III 8:30-11:00 AM Island City 215 Alameda</i> |
| 12 | 13 | 14 <i>SCVMOA Mt. View DeAnza 194, 6:30 PM Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i> | 15 | 16 <i>Mount Moriah 292 Hiram Award for Tony Alarcon 6:30 PM</i> | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 <i>Thanksgiving Day No lodge meetings</i> | 24 | 25 <i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i> |
| 26 | 27 | 28 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i> | 29 | 30 <i>FRIENDSHIP Installation Practice 7:00 PM Officers & Install Team</i> | | 2 <i>South Valley 187 Installation 11:00 AM</i> |

From the East



Last month was the 174th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California, held at the California Masonic Memorial Temple, located at 1111 California Street on San Francisco's Nob Hill.

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.

Friendship Lodge was well represented this year by WM Daniel Doornbos, PM; SW Gilbert Cruz, JW Andrew Litfin, Treasurer Kendall Mills, PM; Secretary Helmuth Litfin, PM; and next year's Junior Warden, Ronald Rebong.

Ceremony of Constitution

The Ceremony of Constitution for Mission Peak Lodge, UD is scheduled for Friday, November 3 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr, in Oakland.

Who cares about Mission Peak Lodge? I do! Because I'm a charter member. And our Inspector, Wor. Dinesh Chhabra, is the charter Master. Those of you who are working your way through Friendship's officer line might want to earn a little extra appreciation from our Inspector, and this is a great way to do it.

5:00 PM – Welcoming social

6:00 PM – Constitution ceremony

7:00 PM – Dinner and libations

See the RSVP information under *November Events* on page 6.

Mission Peak Lodge was formed in the hope of starting a Masonic Lodge that would meet in the city of Milpitas. There are lots of Masons living in Milpitas, and they have a substantial drive to attend their respective Lodges in the South Bay area.

Mission Peak's goal is to acquire a meeting place of its own. Real estate in our geographic area goes for a premium, whether you buy or rent, and that is the major challenge Mission Peak currently faces. For now, most of their meetings take place at the Masonic Home in Union City. And that is a very nice venue.

Grand Master's Reception

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

If you only go to one event Masonic even in 2023, this is the one to attend.

5:30 PM – Welcoming social

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Ceremonies

8:00 PM – Western music and dancing

Admission is by prepaid ticket. Friendship Lodge has purchased 20 tickets which are available to our members and families at no cost (a \$25.00 value). See JW Andrew Litfin for yours.

Dress is western/casual, so leave the suit and tie at home.

Daniel Doornbos, PM
Master

From the West



Greetings Brethren,

I do hope that everyone had a joyous OKTOBERFEST. It's one of the BER months I look forward to. Thanksgiving day is just around the corner and hopefully everyone is looking forward to the Thanksgiving week.

One thing I'm thankful is we have some brethren who will be giving their proficiency to be able to advance to the degree of Fellowcraft. Isn't that exciting? It means we will be busy as we close 2023.

We are still coordinating with 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. We will also be looking for alternatives for raising Bro Omar to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Our iMember 2.0 is in the process of being updated. Though not updated there's the 20 inquiries sent by the Grand Lodge. I'm still hopeful that there will be some who will show up during our Stated Dinner.

I like to share some few things I learned from one of our Masonic speakers:

How to improve our membership and attendance and participation: "CCC" stands for Connect, Communicate and Commit.

Why Do Masons Wear Aprons?

All Masons wear an Apron.

Along, long time ago, the Masons that build the King Solomon's Temple wore an apron when they were cutting stones in the quarry and during the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, in order not to dirty their clothes.

Today, some workers copied this good practice and also during food preparation in the kitchen.

Inside the lodges today, Masons wear an apron as a symbol of being a "Builder of a strong and true men of character and of nations"!

Looking back at the history, these are many countries that were liberated by the Freemasons: United States, France, the Philippines, all Latin American countries, all westernized nations that practice the Rights of Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness.

I was made a Mason in my heart. We are the oldest Fraternity with more than three million of us in the whole wide world.

We are not: A religion, a salvation group, a secret society, world rulers, devil worshippers, money-lending usurers, or any other such thing.

We are: Free born, without boundaries, liberators of the enslaved, strong donors to charity, helpers to a Brother or neighbor in need.

The basic Rights of Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness is our guiding principles that were copied by all westernized and free countries.

The Apron represents that we are builders of men and country!

Fraternally,
Gilbert Cruz, Senior Warden

From the South



Fraternal Greetings from the South,

I welcome you all once more to these last few months of the year. November sees the holiday of Thanksgiving in the US. Formally pinned to the fourth Thursday of the month by President Roosevelt in 1942, it is a commemoration of both the Pilgrims who arrived from England in the 1600s, and the fall harvest more generally.

Continued on the next page.

From the South, cont.

Notably, Thanksgiving did not start with them, rather, it was a continuation of Thanksgiving celebrations from England brought about from the

English Reformation. With the cultivation of New World crops, the tradition's roots as a harvest festival took on the dishes we now associate with the holiday (and some others that have since been dropped. Pigeon pie, anyone?).

In the early days of the United States, Thanksgiving was celebrated by proclamation, without a formal holiday in place, and as such was celebrated on different days at different years. Lincoln recommended pinning the date to the last Thursday of November in 1863, and presidents from then until Franklin Roosevelt kept with that. Roosevelt recommended in 1939 to instead celebrate on the fourth Thursday of November, as that year November had 5 Thursdays.

His rationale was that, as the country was still reeling from the Great Depression, an increased length of time between Thanksgiving and Christmas could help merchant sales. Advertising Christmas decorations and gifts was at the time considered inappropriate to do before Thanksgiving, a tradition I think we all agree should return. Following a few short years of confusion between 1939 and 1941, in 1942 the date was formally set to the Fourth Thursday of the month, and there it has been ever since.

Keeping with tradition, our November dinner will be a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings: Turkey, Mashed spuds, Stuffing, Cranberries, Pumpkin Pie, and Green Bean Salad. Please have your reservations in to either myself or Wor. Helmuth by no later than Nov 1 so that our kitchen crew knows how much to buy.

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 around for you to show up. If you miss a practice, you are still expected to learn the material we discussed that evening.

We have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) on Tuesday, November 14. Mountain View DeAnza Lodge No. 194 is hosting the event at their hall, 890 Church Street in Mountain View. 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 Grand Lodge voting results, Installations, OAM Elections, and the traditional Swan Song.

All Officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please contact our Inspector Wor. Dinesh Chhabra.

Installation Practice

We will hold a Lodge installation practice at 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 30. All 2024 Officers, the Installing team, and our Inspector are urged to attend. The idea is that come Installation day, everybody will know what is expected and what to do, so anxiety and confusion will be minimal.

The Installation of Officers for 2024 will be held on Saturday, December 9, 4:00 PM, at the San Jose Masonic Center.

Daniel Doornbos, PM
Officers Coach

Reverend's Corner



Dear Brethren, (Protect/Grateful)

At this time with the holidays coming, we are in the midst of trying times. We have lost a long-time member of 60 years, Ed Merced and our beloved Secretary Jim Greer. We have in our nation and the world the conflict in Israel. So, my subjects of protect and grateful seem appropriate.

We know that the state of the world can be troublesome, and we might have feelings of fear and scarcity. Now is the time for us to turn to our Creator. This is our source of comfort and protection. Fear cannot penetrate this shelter of love. The faith in our hearts brings us closer to God.

We can return to this shelter time and time again when times are too hard to handle. Let's affirm: "Spirit within is my protection. Nothing and no one is greater than God." These are powerful words to fill our minds and hearts each time we speak them.

We trust that we are divinely protected and place our attention not on the situations of the world but in our love of God, our creator. In that truth we are safe.

We need, with all that is going on in the world, to turn to what we are grateful for. We reap the harvest of love and joy especially for the love of God.

We are grateful for our families and friends; they give life meaning. We thank God for the roof over our heads that brings comfort, warmth, and security. As we sit down and share Thanksgiving meals we are grateful for the food, it nourishes our bodies. We become abundantly aware that God is present in our lives. Not only around us but within.

We give thanks for prosperity, peace, and joy. Our prayer is for world peace and comfort. That all can share in the grace of God. We ask God for the greater good.

AFFIRMATIONS:

I find my protection in Spirit.

I am wonderfully blessed and so grateful.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Job 11:18 – And you will have confidence, because there is hope; you will be protected and take your rest in safety.

Psalms 100:4 – Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his court with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

God bless,
Reverend Gene

Member Dues for 2024

Annual dues for Friendship Lodge in 2024 are **\$113.50**. The change is due to an increase of \$5.00 in the per capita tax that we pay to the Grand Lodge of California for each individual member. Your 2024 dues are payable on the first of January 2024.

Two ways to pay

If you have an iMember account, you can pay your dues online with a credit card. And you can always pay with a check made out to Friendship Lodge No. 210, in the amount of \$113.50, and mail it to our Secretary:

Helmuth Litfin, Secretary
Friendship Lodge No. 210
2500 Masonic Drive
San Jose CA 95125-2019

When it's a problem...

For some members, paying annual dues is a challenge. Maybe you live on a fixed income, are between jobs, or have major family obligations.

If paying your dues requires an unreasonable sacrifice, place a confidential call to the Master of the Lodge and request a remission of your dues for this year.

Secretary's Table



With the passing of Bro. James Greer, our Lodge Secretary for the last 32 years, and pursuant to CMC §805.620, Friendship Lodge elected Wor. Helmuth Litfin as our new Secretary. He will serve until our Installation of Officers in December.

Wor. Helmuth was Raised in Friendship Lodge on July 19, 2007. He served as Master in 2014. He has also served as Marshal, Chaplain, Tiler, Candidate Coach, and Officers Coach.

Wor. Helmuth received the Sciot's Cornerstone Award in 2016 and the Hiram Award from Friendship Lodge in 2017. He is an officer in the San Jose Scottish Rite and San Jose York Rite, and a member of El Camino Research Lodge.

2023 Membership Dues

As of this writing, there are 17 members of Friendship Lodge who have not yet paid their 2023 dues. Note that member dues are payable on the *first* day of the year, not the last day.

2023 member dues are \$108.50. Check your dues card to see if you paid for 2023.

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2023, write a check made out to Friendship Lodge No. 210, in the amount of \$108.50, and mail it to our Secretary:

Helmuth Litfin, Secretary
Friendship Lodge No. 210
2500 Masonic Drive
San Jose CA 95125-2019

You can also pay your 2023 and 2024 dues at the same time with one check.

November Events:

November 2nd – Stated Meeting dinner, cost is \$10.00.

Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie.

During the meeting, we will nominate and elect our officers for next year. And we will formally present the flag of our country.

November 3rd – Ceremony of Constitution for Mission Peak Lodge, UD. Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, in Oakland.

5:00 PM – Welcoming social

6:00 PM – Constitution ceremony

7:00 PM – Dinner and libations

RSVP with Bro. Jonathan McCune,
jonathanmccune@gmail.com / 715-383 4725

or Bro Ernesto Moya,
ecmoyajr@yahoo.com / 510-320 1489

Dress: Dark suit for Brothers, evening dress Ladies.

November 4th – The Santa Clara Valley Masonic Officers Association, Grand Masters Reception.

Friendship Lodge is hosting this year. That makes this the biggest event on our 2023 calendar. It will be held at the San Jose Scottish Rite Center, 2455 Masonic Drive, beginning a social half-hour at 5:30 PM.

Admission is by prepaid ticket. Friendship Lodge has purchased 20 tickets which are available to our members and families at no cost (a \$25.00 value). See Junior Warden Andrew Litfin for yours.

If you only go to one Masonic event in 2023, this is the one to attend.

5:30 PM – Welcoming social

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Ceremonies

8:00 PM – Western music and dancing

Continued on the next page.

Grand Masters Reception, continued.

The menu includes:

- Smoked tri-tip
- Grilled chicken
- Ranch beans (more flavor than baked beans)
- Smashed potatoes and gravy
- Grilled vegetables
- Cornbread with honey butter
- Vegetarian lasagna (for vegetarians only)
- Two special desserts from the kitchen of Bro. Hristo Kolev

The GM's Reception is a western/casual event. Cowboy hat and boots are the preferred dress.

November 9th – Bro. Glo Fularon receives his Fellowcraft Degree. 7:00 PM. Officers wear tuxedos. Sideliners wear a business suit or sports coat, tie, and slacks. Refreshments to follow the degree.

November 14th – Masonic Officers Association meeting at the Mountain View DeAnza Lodge, 890 Church Street in Mountain View. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM.

The SOI begins at 7:30 PM. This month's topic is Grand Lodge voting results, Installations, OAM Elections, and the traditional Swan Song. Casual dress is acceptable.

November 16th – Hiram Award for Tony Alarcon at Mount Moriah Lodge No. 292. Los Gatos Masonic Center 131 E Main St, Los Gatos. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. We are taking a break from practices to visit another Lodge and recognize a distinguished brother Mason.

Dress is business suit, or sports coat, tie, and slacks. All Friendship members, their spouses and partners are welcome.

November 23rd – Thanksgiving day. One of the few Thursdays when Friendship lodge does not have a meeting, practice, or degree conferral. Enjoy!

November Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 – Edward Osgood | 18 – Max del Hierro, PM |
| 9 – Tad Espiritu, PM | 18 – John Mc Clelland |
| 10 – Noe Lopez | 19 – Rodolfo Tan |
| 16 – Dan Chaid | 20 – Jeff Porges |
| 17 – Billy Mills, PM | 26 – Tony Gonzales |



2023 Officers

Officers

(Wives/Ladies)

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/>