



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

JANUARY – 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	2 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	3 <i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	4 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Suit or coat and tie</i>	5	6 <i>Mtn View DeAnza 194 INSTALLATION 12 Noon San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
7	8	9 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7 PM</i>	10	11 <i>FRIENDSHIP 1st Degree Practice 7:00 PM Mt Moriah 292 INSTALLATION 6:30 PM in Los Gatos</i>	12 <i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	13 <i>Golden Rule 479 INSTALLATION 4 PM At SJ Scottish Rite</i>
14	15 <i>Brother Jim Greer's Memorial Service SJMC 2:00 PM</i>	16	17	18 <i>FRIENDSHIP 1st Degree Practice 7:00 PM</i>	19	20 <i>Willow Glen 399 INSTALLATION 3:00 PM At SJ Scottish Rite San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
21	22	23 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>	24	25 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Liberty 299 Officers Mandatory</i>	26	27 <i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i>
28	29	30	31			

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

I hope that everybody spent the Christmas Holiday and New Year celebration joyfully with your family.

I would like to give special thanks to Brothers Sean O'Hara, Mike Smith, and Ronald Rebong, who stayed behind to help in the clean-up, after the Installation last December 9, 2023.

Congratulations to Bro. Henry Peña, who was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on December 14th. Thanks to the brothers who performed and supported Brother Henry during the ceremony.

January 4, 2024 is our first Stated Meeting. We will install our elected Senior Warden, appointed Junior and Senior Steward, and Organist right after the Stated Meeting dinner.

For the officers of our Lodge please add to your schedule the subsequent Thursdays, January 11th and 18th for degree practices. For candidate coaches and candidates, please join us in learning the candidate lectures for Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft.

Our dear Bro. Secretary Jim Greer's Masonic Memorial Service will be held on Monday, January 15 at 2:00 PM at San Jose Masonic Center. Please, if your schedule permits, join us for the Masonic Service.

January 25, 2024 is the scheduled Officers Association meeting at Liberty Lodge No. 299, 1675 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara. The 6:30 PM dinner is followed by the School of Instruction and the Association's business meeting.

All Officers are required to attend. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chabra (908) 247-9288 or dchhabra9@gmail.com if you're not able to attend.

Gilbert Cruz, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

A happy close to the holiday season for all, and fraternal greetings for the new year!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday, spent with family and friends and attending every other Lodge's installation. You did attend all the other installations, not just our own, yes? Of course, you did! The spirit of Friendship and Universal Brotherly Love is what guides Masons at all times and places; may it live on through our actions and not just our words.

To be honest, I've been looking forward to being able to write about Masonic education, that duty traditionally assigned to the Senior Warden. As a lodge, it certainly feels like we've been doing a lot of Second Degrees recently as well; that degree which most emphatically extols the excellence of elucidation.

The Staircase or Carpet Lecture is a firehose of information and insight, some factual and some... well, "Masonic tradition informs us..." Over the course of this year, I intend to go into a little more depth on some aspects of the carpet lecture. As such, I invite you, dear reader, to think back on your own second-degree experiences.

Break out your *Useful Aide to the Memory* if you need a refresher, and really read into it. Read it out loud to taste the poetry inherent in the rhetoric. Open up the Good Book to read again the story of

Jephthah and the Ephraimites (see the Book of Judges, Chapter 12).

Don't worry, there will be no quizzes... Yet.

Faternally,

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

From the South



Dear Brothers,

The Installation of Officers for 2024 has come and gone and I now find myself in the honorable position of Junior Warden. As I try my best to fill the requirements of this position and to set an example for all the Brothers of the Lodge, I must look first at what the Junior Warden is charged with doing. At the Installation, the following words were read to me, and I think you may find them interesting.

“To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshments. It is therefore indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations but that you should carefully observe that none of the Craft be suffered to convert the means of refreshment into intemperance and excess.”

Well, taken literally, one might think this is a warning to not let the Brothers or myself drink too much. But, as we know, much of the writings of Masonry are meant to be taken metaphorically and applied to our lives outside of the Lodge as well as in it. The metaphorical meaning is not always clear. Luckily, something else was read to me that sheds a little light on the previous, and also illuminates the meaning of the symbol of my office.

“The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scale of justice in equal poise, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure and to make our

passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty...Look well to the South!”

Such and eloquent way of saying, be fair, everything in moderation, and make sure your likes and dislikes are conducive to your values, beliefs, and the way of life you would like to be known for.

What an honor it is for me to wear the Plumb second time in my Masonic career! As I invite you my Brothers, who belong to this Lodge of Friendship No. 210, to join me in “Looking well in the in the South!”

In Leadership, Friendship, and Service.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Ron Rebong, Junior Warden

From the Reservations Desk



Greetings!

I will be assisting our Junior Warden with Stated Dinner Reservations, as well as handling the money at the door (as in the past). For that matter, you can just contact me directly for the reservations. You can reach me at 408-421-9381 or helmuth.litfin@gmail.com.

Stated Meeting dinners are \$10.00 per person, except for December, when the price is \$15.00. This means that the Stated Dinners for a full year will be \$125.00.

We are again giving members of Friendship Lodge No. 210 the opportunity to pay for their Stated Meeting dinners in advance with a Pre-Paid Dinner Card (PPDC), which will essentially be treated as a reloadable debit card, in that if you don't use it for some reason the pre-payment credits will not disappear at the end of the year (the pre-pandemic paradigm was “use-it-or-lose-it”), but will instead roll-over to the next years. The credits will be maintained until the PPDC is depleted, so nothing is forfeited if not used. The cost for a Pre-Paid Dinner

Card (PPDC) for any 12-month period is \$125.00 (11 months at \$10.00 plus December at \$15.00).

Several of you still have outstanding credits on your Pre-Paid Dinner Cards from the past, and these are still good. See me at the check-in table to see what your PPDC balance is.

For those members who come to all of our Stated Meetings, this is a great opportunity to pay up front and not worry about bringing cash to each meeting. If you are interested in purchasing a Pre-Paid Dinner Card please bring your \$125.00 in cash or check (made out to "Friendship Lodge No. 210") to the next Stated Meeting Dinner. We will accept pre-payments at any time your PPDC needs to be "recharged". You can also pay for a shorter period instead of the entire year (for example, six months at a time); see me at the Dinners to see what your options are. We do not yet at this time have the facility to take electronic payments (perhaps by later next year).

We will continue to have a Standing Reservations List. If your name is on the list, you have a reservation for every Stated Meeting dinner. The names of all lodge officers and PPDC holders are automatically added to the list unless you request otherwise. At your request, we can add your name to the Standing Reservations List without asking you to pay in advance (many long-time members who always attend are already on the list).

If your name is on the Standing Reservations List, your reservation is counted towards the quantity of food purchased and prepared. Therefore, if you cannot attend a dinner, please let us know as far in advance as possible. If your name is on the list and you miss two or more dinners in a row, we will remove your name from the list and go back to accepting your dinner reservation each month.

See you at the dinners!

Helmuth Litfin, PM

Training Camp



Another year has begun, which means another cycle of learning and training for the Lodge Officers.

Last year we worked hard and achieved good results. We can look forward to the same this year.

One thing we can improve upon is attendance at our ritual practices. We practice every Thursday, except for Stated Meetings, degree conferrals, OAM/SOIs, and holidays. And if you cannot attend, please inform me and WM Gilbert Cruz, so we don't wait around for you to arrive.

We believe time is valuable. We start at 7:00 PM and go to 9:00 PM. Please respect everybody's time by arriving on time. And come prepared to work by knowing which degree we are learning and what your part is.

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Thursday, January 25 at Liberty Lodge No. 299, 1675 Scott Blvd. in Santa Clara.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Friendship Lodge covers the cost of our officers' meals.

The SOI begins at 7:30 PM. This month's topics include:

- Jewel march
- Calling-up to a higher degree
- Reception of Grand Lodge Officers
- Short-form closing
- Stewards' and Deacons' rod work

All Officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please our Inspector Worshipful Dinesh Chhabra. And let WM Gilbert Cruz know, so we don't wait send somebody out to find you.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach

The Reverend's Corner



Dear Brethren, (Kindness/Patience)

First, I would like to thank all my Brothers for the visits and the prayers for Pam and me during my ordeal after falling. I passionately believe in the power of prayer. Again, thank you and Happy New Year.

As the new year of 2024 begins, we see chaos around the world. I believe that the subjects chosen feel right for the time. Kindness and patience are needed. When we show kindness sometimes it takes patience to see it through.

In most of us kindness brings forth feelings with warmth, connection, and love in our hearts. I'm sure we can recall ways friends, family, or others have shown kindness. As I have said before, kindness and gratitude are most always used together. We feel gratitude for blessings we experience when we see kindness given with love and caring. What we sow, so shall we reap. When kindness moves from person to person it creates a flow of divine love. Giving and receiving is the current of love flowing.

When we show kindness, we are able to be patient even if we are tempted to react in a negative way. We take a deep breath remembering God shows us kindness and love with patience.

If we have feelings of frustration or self-judgement, we remember we need kindness and understanding with self and others.

When we remind ourselves, we all are doing the best we can, patience and kindness are there.

Divine love, God's love flows. We know we are in difficult times but let's use patience and kindness to help us through it. We may not be able to change the world, we have no control over. But we do have control over how we deal with it.

Remember KINDNESS AND PATIENCE.

AFFIRMATIONS:

I flow with divine love as I give and receive kindness.

I am patient and kind.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Micah 6:8 — What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Colossians 1:11 — May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



January is here. That's when we pay our annual dues. For 2024, the dues are \$113.50. You can pay by check or online.

Make your check out to Friendship Lodge No. 210

You can hand your check to me in person. Or you can mail it to me at:

Daniel Doornbos
2165 Carobwood Lane
San Jose CA 95132-1213

And you can pay dues online through your iMember account.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



January Birthdays

6 – Reynaldo Mamenta 27 – James Grove, PM
8 – Bill Mattson 27 – Joshua Cloud
9 – Julian Mireles 30 – Stephen Grisenti
10 – Henry Peña
11 – Jack Fry
17 – Anastasios Papapsomas, PM

January Events

January 4 — Stated Meeting Dinner Chinese Food, cost is \$10.00

Stated Meeting: Presentation of 2024 Lodge budget, committees, installation of our Junior Warden, Stewards, and Organist. Dress: Coat and tie

January 11 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a first-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in regular stations. Bro. Rebong will be in the East and give the Master's lecture. Dress: Casual

January 11 — Mt. Moriah Installation

Incoming and outgoing Masters traditionally attend the installation ceremonies of the other Lodges in the SCVMOA. Dress: Tux with term colors.

January 15 — Masonic Memorial Service

For Brother James Greer, our Lodge Secretary for over 32 years. 2:00 PM at the San Jose Masonic Center. Bro. Jim had a lot of friends, and we expect a large turnout. See the announcement on page 8.

January 18 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a first-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in regular stations. Bro. Rebong will be in the East and give the Master's lecture. Dress: Casual.

January 20 — French First Degree

The Scottish Rite Valley of Oakland and La Parfaite Union Lodge No. 17 are hosting the unique "French First Degree", using the "Scottish Rite" Entered Apprentice ritual.

The ritual will be exemplified in the French language. A live translation in English will be provided using an app on your mobile phone and your headphones.

The French First Degree is a must-see event for all Masons. The French/Scottish rituals are more elaborate than the English/York rituals we use in California. That makes the experience interesting and enjoyable.

After the degree, the Oakland Scottish Rite is hosting traditional festive board banquet.

Where? The Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive in Oakland.

When? Saturday, January 20. The Degree begins at 5:00 PM. The banquet begins at 8:00 PM.

Important: You must register for this event online by January 15. To register, click [HERE](http://tinyurl.com/lpudegree). The cost is \$35.00 per brother, plus a \$4.19 online processing fee.

If you are reading this on paper copy, point your browser to <http://tinyurl.com/lpudegree>.

Questions? Contact the Oakland Scottish Rite Center at 510-832-0819.

Suggested dress is a tuxedo or dark business suit. Bring your current dues card in case they ask to see it. You can print your dues card from iMember.

2024 Officers

Officers

Wives/Ladies

Master

Gilbert Cruz (Monette) 408-483-1964

Senior Warden

Andrew Litfin 408-832-5846

Junior Warden

Ronald Rebono 916-512-7947

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Chaplain

Helmuth Litfin, PM (Evonne) 408-421-9381

Senior Deacon

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

Junior Deacon

Mike Smith (Bonnie) 408-483-8985

Marshal

Hristo Kolev (Maria) 925-997-9779

Senior Steward

Dan Chaid (Theresa) 408-393-8905

Junior Steward

Al Dorji (Hakimeh) 408-313-4781

Tiler

Tad Espiritu, PM (Genevieve) 408-930-8303

Inspector 345th Masonic District

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

Officers Coaches

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

Helmuth Litfin, PM (Evonne) 408-421-9381

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Friendshiplodge210

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



JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION
OF LIFE HONORING

James Greer

January 15, 2024
at 2:00 pm
2500 Masonic Dr,
San Jose, CA 95125

To honor Jim's love for his
Masonic family, in lieu of
flowers please consider a
donation to:
California Masonic Homes

*As an alternative to wearing black, we encourage you to wear your
favorite sports jersey. We love that red and gold, though all teams
are welcome.*