



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

FEBRUARY – 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

*FRIENDSHIP
Stated Meeting
Dinner 6:30 PM
Souper-Supper
Homemade Soup
Night*

2

3

*San Jose 5 Rainbow
10:00 AM*

4

*Stated Meetings
Golden Rule 479
San Jose 10
Los Altos 712
Dinner 6:30 PM*

5

*Stated Meetings
Mt View DeAnza 194
Palo Alto 346
Dinner 6:30 PM*

6

7

*Stated Meeting
Willow Glen
Fraternity 399
Dinner 6:30 PM*

8

*FRIENDSHIP
1st Degree Practice
7:00 PM*

9

*Bethel 129
7:00 PM*

10

11

12

13

14

15

*FRIENDSHIP
1st Degree Conferral
7:00 PM*

16

17

*San Jose 5 Rainbow
10:00 AM*

18

*FRIENDSHIP
Sweethearts'
Luncheon
12:00 Noon
Giorgio's in Milpitas
Town Center*

19

*SCVMOA 6:30 PM
San Jose 10
Officers Mandatory*

20

*Santa Clara
DeMolay 7:00 PM*

21

22

*FRIENDSHIP
2nd Degree Practice
7:00 PM*

23

24

*Bethel 129
Stated Meeting
10:00 AM*

25

26

27

28

29

*FRIENDSHIP
Crab Feed
6:30 PM*

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

The Lodge had a very productive Stated Meeting last month. I believe we had a good start despite our Junior Warden stepping down for personal reasons.

The budget for the year was presented and was approved. The balloting for Mr. Jesus “Jack” Caceres to receive the Degrees of Masonry was approved. The date was scheduled for February 15. Attire for the Degree is Tuxedo for Officers, the others business attire.

An application for affiliation by Wor. Robert Sohigian, PM was also approved. Let’s welcome him to Friendship Lodge!

Several motions including standing motions were read, some were discussed but all were passed by the brethren in attendance.

For the Officers of our Lodge please add to your schedule the subsequent Thursdays of February 08 (practice), 15 (First Degree Ceremony), 22 (practice) and 29 (Crab Feed).

For candidate coaches and candidates please join us in learning the candidate lecture for EA and FC.

Our dear Bro. Secretary Jim Greer’s Masonic Memorial Service held on January 15 at SJMC was well attended, including Brethren from other Lodges. The Greer family thanked the Lodge for the service.

February 20 is the scheduled SCVMOA at San Jose Lodge No. 10, which meets at the SJMC. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM, followed by School of Instruction and the Association business meeting. All Officers are required to attend. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra 908-247-9288, dchhabra9@gmail.com if you’re not able to attend.

Gilbert Cruz, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

A wonderful new year to you all, and with Installation season now well and fully behind us, we may relax from the hustle and bustle of showing up in our finery and instead attend to our work in the lodge.

The Carpet Lecture opens with an explanation of the differences between Operative and Speculative Masonry. Operative being the physical act of creating material structures under which our bodies may rest, safe from harm. This type of masonry, as stated later in the lecture, is as old as the “first formation of society”.

The oldest known extant structure is a Neolithic structure in Turkey called the Göbekli Tepe, dating possibly from 9500 BCE, and includes cut-rock megaliths with decorations of animals and man.

The first large-scale cut rock structure is the Pyramid of Djoser, dating to roughly 2700 BCE. The stones used in its construction are limestone, quarried from a nearby trench.

Time and technology increased, all the way to King Solomon’s Temple, most important to Freemasonry, and the subject of next month’s article.

After the destruction of the first temple at the hands of the Babylonians, the Second Temple was built in the 5th century BCE and lasted until its destruction at the hands of Rome in CE 70.

Built roughly the same time as the Second Temple are other marvels of stonework: the Parthenon in Athens, the Paestum in southern Italy, the Temple at Yeha in Ethiopia, the Persepolis in Iran, and so many others known and unknown.

Speculative Masonry involves not the physical construction of material edifices, but the mental

exertion necessary to build our psychological selves up from mud brick huts to grand temples.

Unlike physical buildings, we cannot rely wholly on the work of others in this endeavor. How many of us live in houses built entirely by our own hands? Not many! It is a journey we must each undertake unto ourselves. That said, there is a parallel to Operative Masonry that we may benefit from: we can easily look at the grand successes of the past, exemplified in the best of us who are to be remembered and imitated.

Much as a Temple may be examined to see how it was built, and endeavor to do the same, we may study great men and women of ages past, and learn of their ideals, ethics, and habits of work and sociality that caused them to be worthy of remembrance.

Every field of endeavor has its own figures looming large over us, and so I invite you, dear reader, to think of your own mental “temples” that you look to for guidance. They may be living, or we may have only memories to learn of them by. Reflect on how they have shaped you, how you have emulated their example, and even how you have seen if any improvements could be made for strength or ornamentation.

I wish you an excellent month, and pray for tranquility and time to reflect...

Faternally,

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

From the South



Brother Rebong had to withdraw as our Junior Warden due to an unexpected and serious health condition. He has requested privacy. So please do NOT call or try to visit him.

Training Camp



Bro. Rebong's departure has resulted in new challenges and complications for our Officer Corps. Not having a Junior Warden affects not just ritual work but also any activity where food is concerned. In the short term, we have a plan in place. For the rest of the year, we have things to figure out.

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 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, (Love)

February again and love is in the air. We will celebrate our sweethearts by going to Pedro's for Sweetheart Brunch.

So, again I wish to make LOVE the subject for this month.

There are many ways to look at love. We received a Christmas card and the words seem to fit in this month's theme of love.

"Every time a hand reaches out to help another that is LOVE."

"Every time someone puts conflict aside and strives for understanding, that is LOVE."

"Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other, that is God's love in action."

We know there are cards expressing our love for our sweethearts, there are pretty flower arrangements, and of course those chocolates. But cards get put away, flowers die, and candy gets eaten until gone. So, what is left? LOVE. All these are given because of love.

These tokens are given with affection sharing a message from our hearts. We share our love freely and generously. But we really don't need a special occasion, do we?

Throughout the year we don't stop showing those that are close how much we love them.

The love we have for all, we know it's origin, it is the heart of God. As a divine being this love is a part of us and ours to share. It's our spiritual inheritance.

When we see the world through eyes of love, we speak kinder and gently. We act humanely and empathetically. We will not hesitate to help. We

will enjoy being in service. That is what we as Masons do.

Compassion, kindness, and generosity are only some of the ways to bring and show love to everyone.

Remember all done in love is God's love in action.

AFFIRMATION:

I celebrate and share God's love.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

1 Corinthians 16:14 - Let all that you do be done in love.

God bless,
Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



February is here and member dues are trickling in. But a significant number of Friendship brethren have not yet made their dues payments. 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



February Birthdays

- 4 – Carlos Tellez
- 6 – Jerry Estruth
- 6 – Robert Moore
- 6 – Jeffery Papp
- 7 – Joseph Martinez, PM
- 8 – Douglas Martin
- 9 – John Kennedy
- 16 – William Messerly
- 16 – James North
- 17 – Robert Asunción
- 18 – Eddie Carmona, PM
- 23 – Frank Harms
- 24 – Robert Sohigian, PM

February Events

February 1 — Stated Meeting Dinner: Souper-Supper Homemade Soup Night. You bring your favorite recipe, and the Lodge will bring bread, spoons, bowls, trays, and power strips.

Stated Meeting: Annual Reports. Dress: Coat and tie

February 8 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a first-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officer stations to be determined.
Dress: Casual

February 15 — First Degree Conferral

For Mr. Jesús “Jack” Caceres-Vega. Lodge opens at 7:00 PM. Officer stations to be determined. Officers wear tuxedos. Other members business suit or sports coat and tie.

February 18 — Sweethearts’ Luncheon

As a change-of-pace, we are going to try Giorgio’s in Milpitas. We meet at noon at Giorgio’s Italian Food & Pizzeria in the Milpitas Town Center, 643 East Calaveras Blvd. in Milpitas.

The reservation deadline is February 11, 2024.
Reserve with the Secretary, Daniel Doornbos, PM at 408-802-7480 or daniel.doornbos@icloud.com

February 20 — Officers Association

SCVMOA meeting at San Jose Lodge No. 10. Dinner at 6:30 PM. School of instruction at 7:30 PM covering the 1st Degree. All lodge officers are required to attend. Dress: Casual.

February 22 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a second-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officer stations to be determined.
Dress: Casual.

February 29 — Annual Crab Feed

Adults, \$35.00; children 5 to 12, \$10.00; under 5, free. per person. Family and friends are welcome.
Dress: Casual.

The reservation deadline is February 22, 2024.
Reserve with the Secretary, Daniel Doornbos, PM at 408-802-7480 or daniel.doornbos@icloud.com

2024 Officers

Officers

Wives/Ladies

Master

Gilbert Cruz (Monette) 408-483-1964

Senior Warden

Andrew Litfin 408-832-5846

Junior Warden

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

Organist

Chito Atienza (Shirlita) 408-561-5850

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/Friendship210

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

Bro. Jim Greer's Masonic Memorial Service

We had a very nice Masonic Memorial Service for our departed Secretary, Bro. Jim Greer, at the San Jose Masonic Center on the afternoon of January 15. The red lodge room was nearly filled with guests.

During the Masonic service, both of Jim's sons gave informative and heart-touching eulogies. In addition, Bro. Sean O'Hara read a poem that he composed for the occasion. Here it is:

At the empty desk a Mason stood, he kept our times of brotherhood. He walked upright before God and man, and worked his tools with care in hand.

In the lodge of life, where secrets bide, Jim bore his light with humble pride; He sowed love, a Mason true, with deeds of kindness, ever true.

In the middle chamber, under Solomon's reign, with pillars of strength that hold no disdain; He received his dues of corn, wine, and oil, a reward for virtue, for trust, for toil.

Now he rests where heavens sing, yet in our hearts he's echoing; In celestial lodges, we find our stand, united forever, the Architect's grand plan.

Bro. Sean O'Hara

**Friendship Lodge No. 210 presents the
2024 Annual**



San Jose Masonic Center

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Menu: Mixed salad, spaghetti with red sauce, garlic bread, cracked Dungeness crab, and beverages.

Adults, \$35.00; Children 5 to 12, \$10.00; under 5, free.

We are limited to 100 diners. Reservation deadline: February 22, 2024.

**Reserve with Daniel Doornbos, Secretary
408-804-7480 or daniel.doornbos@icloud.com**

Coming up in March:



Your road to **FRIENDSHIP** begins here

Find Your Place in DeMolay at Santa Clara Chapter's Showcase!

Date: March 2nd, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: 1675 Scott Blvd
Santa Clara, CA 95050

For over one hundred years,
DeMolay International has given
young men the tools to become
leaders on their path.

Where will your road take you?
Learn more at BeADeMolay.org

**THE
ROAD
BEGINS
HERE**