



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

MARCH – 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

*Santa Clara DeMolay
Road to Friendship
At Liberty Lodge 299
2:30 PM*

*San Jose 5 Rainbow
10:00 AM*

3

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

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

7

*FRIENDSHIP
Stated Meeting
Dinner 6:30 PM
Suit or coat and tie*

8

*Bethel 129
7:00 PM*

9

10

*Pacific Daylight
Time begins.
Set clocks ahead one
hour.*

11

12

*Santa Clara
DeMolay 7:00 PM*

13

14

*SCVMOA 6:30 PM
South Valley 187
Officers Mandatory*

15

16

*San Jose 5 Rainbow
10:00 AM*

17

St. Patrick's Day

18

19

20

21

*FRIENDSHIP
1st Degree Practice
7:00 PM*

22

23

*Bethel 129
Stated Meeting
10:00 AM*

24

25

26

*Santa Clara
DeMolay 7:00 PM*

27

28

*SJ SCOTTISH RITE
Maundy Thursday
Observance 6:30 PM*

29

30

*2024 International
Conference on
Freemasonry:
"Rites in America"
UC Berkeley campus*

31

Easter Sunday

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

I sure did miss the scheduled Stated Meeting and Soup Night. But I'm glad to be back in action for the Sweetheart Luncheon at Giorgio's in Milpitas. We did have fun, enjoyed the fellowship but was missing some of the important thing for our Sweetheart. But thanks to our Bro/Worshipful Secretary Dan Doornbos who gave us a presentation about the history of Valentine and how the selection of flowers affects the environment.

Capping up this month will be our Crab Feed schedule by last day of February. It's likely to hit more than a hundred attendees and fun fellowship. I would like to thank Worshipful Joe Alarcon who stayed on top when the crab season opened and the other Brethren who will help to get this event a successful one.

I like to congratulate Jesús "Jack" Caceres, who was initiated February 15, 2024. Thanks to the Brethren who stepped up and make his degree a memorable one.

The only thing coming back from vacation outside the United States... if you ignore warnings about drinking the water, you may come down with a case of digestive illness. As of this writing it's almost our third week, me and Monette, suffering from these illnesses. It caused me to miss some of our business meetings and Lodge practices. Hope for full recovery soon. But aside from that it was fun attending our school reunions, Lodge Installations and attending my DeMolay Chapter stated meeting. I sure learned a lot of different practices of Lodge installation, meetings, and other Youth Order functions.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting for March is scheduled for March 14, 2024, at South Valley

Lodge No. 187. Dinner starts by 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 Chabra, at 908-247-9288 or dchhabra9@gmail.com, if you're not able to attend.

And FYI, March 10 will be the "spring forward" to Daylight Saving Time. So don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.

Gilbert Cruz, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

Continuing our walk through the Staircase Lecture, we depart from a discussion of Operative and Speculative Masonry and arrive at what in the ritual is but two sentences regarding the number of days of the week that were worked by our ancient brethren. Indeed, however, this is what the staircase lecture is so good at—Providing a short summary from which to springboard into deeper discussion on a topic.

We are reminded firstly of the importance of taking a day from our labors to rest. I personally feel this lesson is particularly applicable to our modern world, where the value of resting is derided as either laziness or incompetence. In the Jewish and Christian traditions, the taking of a day of rest is indeed mandated by God, as it is written in Exodus:

"Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God: you shall not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, or your cattle, or the stranger who is within your settlements. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and sea, and all that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day;

therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.” (Exodus 20.8-11, JPS translation)

(This is either the third or fourth of the Ten Commandments, depending on your tradition.)

Baruch Levine writes in the essay, “Biblical Festivals and Fast Days” (*The Jewish Study Bible*, Oxford University Press, pp. 2026-8):

“The festivals and fast days of the Hebrew Bible are realizations of ‘sacred time’, and they were most often celebrated in ‘sacred space’, at temples and other designated worship sites. These celebrations mark the separation of the sacred from the profane and help define Israel as a people.” The separation of the profane and sacred is indeed a consistent theme throughout cultures and times. A list of examples is unnecessary, as there are simply too many examples to choose from!

This separation is also realized in Masonry, as in the separation of the lodge from the outside by means of an anteroom and a chamber of reflection. The physical layout of these rooms serves similarly, as multiple right angles serve to break lines of sight, so that no one can see the lodge in its entirety and have a clear view outside, and vice versa.

Baruch Levine continues: “Hebrew shabbat derives from the verb sh-b-t, ‘to cease, desist’, and its particular nominal form connotes regularity rather than a single act, that is: ‘a regular cessation’. The Sabbath is to be regarded as an original Israelite-Jewish contribution to world culture. It reflects ancient notions concerning the number seven, an important number in Semitic cultures, and seven-day units of repeated time. Unprecedented, however, is the rule that all members of society are entitled to respite from daily labors, which is the essential message of the Sabbath.”

The Sabbath is referenced multiple times throughout the entire Bible, always with a sense of reverence and importance, and indeed, joy.

In all honesty I did not expect when I sat down to write that such a seemingly simple passage would yield a wealth of information, but this is why I enjoy this lecture so very much. Next month we continue with King Solomon’s Temple.

Fraternally,

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

From the South



Needed: Junior Warden. Involves a three-year service commitment to the lodge. If you are available, capable, and willing, then we are happy to provide training. Please contact Wor. Gilbert Cruz for more information.

Training Camp



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 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) on Thursday, March 14 at South Valley Lodge No. 187, 380 W Dunne Ave in Morgan Hill.

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

In place of the usual SOI, this month is the Grand Master's visit. Most Worshipful always has a message for the lodge officers. But this is also a great time to ask questions of the guy at the top of our fraternity.

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

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach

The Reverend's Corner



Dear Brethren, (Faith)

The word faith has been on my mind a lot lately. So, I am making this my topic for this month.

In looking up the meaning of the word faith, the dictionary defines it as: complete or confidence in someone or something. Biblically it is considered a belief and trust in God based on evidence but without proof.

Faith is the divine gift that we use to perceive the truth in any situation or circumstance. But sometimes our thoughts, words, and actions tell us we are allowing our faith to be swayed by appearances. We return our awareness to God, the divine presence within us, we reaffirm our faith in the spiritual truth in all circumstances.

We keep our faith at the forefront of our awareness, taking a few moments each day in the morning to pause, breathe deeply, and place our awareness on the presence of God. We then can feel energetic and ready to face each day of the month. But during the day, we should pause a moment or two and affirm: God and I are one. We have faith that God, our source, is with us in everything we think, say, or do. Also, as we have paused during the day, we should

also pause in the evenings to give thanks to God for being there with and for us.

We sometimes notice that we might think "I can't" instead of having faith and say, "I can". Then is when we can take steps to make something happen. Some of us may start a new project, others will practice patience and understanding, or we might even ask for help. We don't have to know everything, only to have faith we will find our way to do all that is ours to do.

When we believe in the best and highest, we feel divine energy flowing within us. Our faith can move mountains.

So, this month let's focus on our faith in God. We see it as a vital part of our lives, setting the tone for the month, centering us in the assurance we are not alone. We can bolster our faith with prayer and meditation, knowing this will deepen our awareness of God and boost our mood and carry us through the month.

Our faith is the key to a better life. We have faith in God and faith in ourselves, a divine being infinitely blessed.

AFFIRMATION:

Faith is my anchor in a sea of doubt and my faith is strong as I rest in awareness of God.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

James 1:6 – But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

Psalms 26:3 – For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



We have 23 members who have not yet paid their 2024 dues. And 7 who have not paid their 2023 or 2024 dues. You can check your dues status in iMember. Or send me a text or email and I will let you know.

For 2023, dues were 108.50; 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



DE MOLAY
SANTA CLARA

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



March Birthdays

8 – Jeff Hiatt	19 – Oscar James
10 – Ralph Zerweck	23 – Daniel Reyes
14 – Constantinos Costas	29 – Richard Morris
17 – Paul Bunje	30 – Glo Fularon
17 – John White	31 – Roger Beck

March Events

March 7 — Stated Meeting

St. Patrick's Day Dinner, cost is \$10.00

Stated Meeting: Reading of applications and voting on applicants. Dress: Coat and tie

March 14 — Officers Association Meeting

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) on Thursday, March 14 at South Valley Lodge No. 187, 380 W Dunne Ave in Morgan Hill. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM.

In place of the usual School of Instruction (SOI), this month is the Grand Master's visit. Dress: Slacks, collared shirt, casual dress shoes.

March 21 — 1st Degree Practice

We will hold a first-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations. Bro. Sean O'Hara will be in the East. Dress: Casual.

March 28 — Maundy Thursday

The San Jose Scottish Rite is holding its annual Maundy Thursday observance. The theme is remembrance and renewal. It is open to all Masons and their spouses.

Light dinner at 6:30 PM, program at 7:30 PM. To place your reservation, call 408-978-7483 or email ghall@sanjosescottishrite.org. Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie.

Our Officer Coaches are SJSR members, so they plan to attend Maundy Thursday instead of holding a degree practice. This event will be a good educational experience for new Masons.

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

Prospect Manager

Don Gunaratne 518-335-1146

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/>



First Degree for Bro. Jesús “Jack” Caceres, February 15, 2024

Front row, L to R: Sean O’Hara, Senior Deacon; Daniel Reyes, Treasurer and Charge; Hristo Kolev, Marshal; Bro. Jack Caceres, EA; Andrew Litfin, Master; Brandon Dueñas (Golden Rule 479), Junior Warden; Chito Atienza, Organist; Hugo Gonzalez, EA (Ciencia y Virtud 20, El Salvador), visitor.

Back row, L to R: Omar Martinez, FC; Al Dorji, Junior Steward; Henry Peña, FC; Helmuth Litfin, PM, Senior Warden; Dan Chaid, Senior Steward; Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary, Chaplain, and Lecture; Mike Smith, Junior Deacon; Don Gunaratne, Tiler and Electrician.



The 12th International Conference on Freemasonry is returning to the campus of the University of California in Berkeley on March 30, 2024, with a focus on “Rites in America.”

This exciting and informative yearly event brings scholars and academics from a wide range of disciplines together to present new research on topics of interest to Masons. This year’s theme, “Rites in America,” examines the almost countless forms and iterations of Masonry that have sprung up on this side of the Pacific, often in the particular context of immigrant communities or other, larger social movements.

Says event organizer Susan Sommers, a professor of history at St. Vincent College, “Freemasonry is one of the oldest and most successful fraternal, initiatory societies in the Western world. Despite its reputation for secrecy, it is well known and well documented.” As different Masonic and quasi-Masonic groups formed in the Americas, they often built on Masonry’s ritual framework while adding their own features. “Why reinvent wheels when you can simply change the hubcaps?” she says. “Over the centuries, especially since around 1750, Freemasons have added, edited, and invented orders, rites, and rituals with something close to wild abandon, all the while claiming that the landmarks are immutable, and have been since Adam.”

Admission: \$30.00; optional lunch: \$20.00

[Click HERE to register.](#)

Presenters include:

Jonathan Awtrey

Visiting Assistant Professor, Fairfield University

Presentation: “Moses Michael Hays and Freemasonry in British North America”

Jesse David Chariton

Ph.D Candidate, Department of History, Iowa State University

Presentation: “German Americans and Masonic Baptism in the Antebellum United States”

Robert A. Gross

Professor of Early American History Emeritus, University of Connecticut

Presentation: “Canceled and Back! How a Lodge Overcame Anti-Masonry and Regained a Place in Public Life”

If you are reading the printed version of the Trestleboard, point your browser to freemason.org/berkeley/ to register.