



# Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

## APRIL – 2024

| SUN       | MON   | TUE  | WED   | THU   | FRI  | SAT  |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|           | <b>1</b><br><i>Stated Meetings<br/>Golden Rule 479<br/>San Jose 10<br/>Los Altos 712<br/>Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | <b>2</b><br><i>Stated Meetings<br/>Mt View DeAnza 194<br/>Palo Alto 346<br/>Dinner 6:30 PM</i>                     | <b>3</b><br><i>Stated Meeting<br/>Willow Glen<br/>Fraternity 399<br/>Dinner 6:30 PM</i> | <b>4</b><br><i>FRIENDSHIP<br/>Stated Meeting<br/>Dinner 6:30 PM<br/>Suit or coat and tie</i>          | <b>5</b>                                   | <b>6</b><br><i>Div III Lodge<br/>Outreach Meeting at<br/>San Leandro Lodge<br/>No. 113<br/><br/>San Jose 5 Rainbow<br/>10:00 AM</i>  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br><i>Santa Clara<br/>DeMolay 7 PM</i>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b><br><i>FRIENDSHIP<br/>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Practice<br/>7:00 PM</i>                         | <b>12</b><br><i>Bethel 129<br/>7:00 PM</i> | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b><br><i>FRIENDSHIP<br/>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Conferral<br/>Mr. Martin Mallari<br/>7:00 PM</i> | <b>19</b>                                  | <b>20</b><br><i>San Jose 5 Rainbow<br/>10:00 AM</i>  |
| <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b><br><i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM<br/>Liberty 299<br/>Officers Mandatory<br/><br/>Santa Clara<br/>DeMolay 7:00 PM</i> | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b><br><i>FRIENDSHIP<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Practice<br/>7:00 PM</i>                         | <b>26</b>                                  | <b>27</b><br><i>FRIENDSHIP<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Conferral<br/>Bro. Omar Martinez<br/>Lexington Lodge No.<br/>104. El Monte CA<br/><br/>Bethel 129<br/>Stated Meeting<br/>10:00 AM</i> |
| <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>  |   |   |  |  |

## From the East



Greetings Brethren!

I hope everyone enjoyed our St Patrick's Day dinner and the informational meeting about our other Masonic families, International Order of Eastern Star.

There's an MOS in-person meeting on April 6, Saturday, at San Leandro Lodge 113 from 8:00 AM to 12: 00 Noon. Spouses and partners are welcome to attend and learn more of the "benefits" of what MOS can offer. This is good informational meeting which every Masons of Friendship Lodge to avail.

As likely you have known by know, I suffered a heart attack last March 18, the angiogram/angioplasty procedure was done, the following day. Thanks to our Great Architect of the Universe, I was discharged Wednesday.

During the time I was admitted, I told my wife in case really something bad to happen to make sure call our Masonic Outreach Services. I told her to make sure if I needed any homecare, I would rather be at our Masonic Home.

Anyway, the procedure was a success and my Cardiologist advice was to rest, adhere to the medical intervention prescribed and go for the Cardio Rehab soon to be scheduled.

Brother Omar Martinez will finally receive his Master Mason Degree on Saturday, April 27.

The event is an all-day conferral for five new Spanish-speaking Master Masons, starting at 8:00 AM. It will be held at Lexington Lodge No. 104, which meets at 4017 Tyler Ave, El Monte CA.

Any brothers willing to support Bro. Omar, please contact our Wor. Bro. Secretary Dan Doornbos for more information. 408-802-7480 or [daniel.doornbos@icloud.com](mailto:daniel.doornbos@icloud.com)

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting for April is scheduled for 23rd at Palo Alto Lodge No. 346. Dinner starts by 6:30 PM, followed by School of Instruction (2nd Degree) and the association business meeting.

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

Gilbert Cruz, Master

## From the West



Senior Warden Andrew Litfin has been working through a few challenges this month and has wisely prioritized family and employment over Masonic activity. We look forward to hearing from him next month.

## 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



Certain members of the general public are becoming more interested in Freemasonry. We have welcomed several men who simply walked in the door on a Thursday evening, hoping to learn what the Craft is all about.

Several of those men return regularly to our Stated Meeting dinners to enjoy good food and make new friends.

And a few of them ask to join Friendship Lodge. That's always an exciting moment. When an application for the degrees appears, it sets off a series of activities.

First, we read the application at the next Stated Meeting, so the members know that we have a new applicant. It gives them a chance to ask questions about him. And they have an opportunity to object to receiving the application. Objections are rare but they have happened.

If there was no objection, the Secretary enters the applicant's information into iMember. That action triggers the Grand Lodge's Membership Department to begin a background investigation. Since that requirement was added a few years ago, nobody applying to Friendship Lodge has failed to pass.

But the investigation does occasionally reveal a negative record of some kind. If there was an incident of "moral turpitude", the applicant is automatically disqualified. The applicant has an opportunity appeal the decision and show that he is indeed worthy to become a Mason.

If there was something like an arrest or misdemeanor in this record, the lodge is informed and allowed to decide whether to proceed. For example, if an applicant, in his youth, participated in an anti-war protest at which he was arrested but

never tried or convicted of a crime, the lodge might decide that he was merely standing up for what he believed, and choose to accept him.

At some point, the Master assigns an investigating committee of three Master Masons to visit the applicant in his home, meet his wife and family if he has them, observe how he lives, and learn more about him. The investigators seek to answer one question: "Would this gentleman make a good member of Friendship Lodge.

The investigators do not know who each other is, nor do the officers or the lodge know who they are. This way, each investigator is free from outside pressure when he makes his recommendation.

Since I joined Friendship Lodge, I do not recall any investigating committee recommend against an applicant joining our lodge.

The next step is to vote on the application in the next Stated Meeting. The vote is taken via anonymous ballot. Once again, each Brother can vote without feeling pressure from anybody else. If the ballot is unanimous in the affirmative, the applicant has been elected. We change his classification to candidate.

What happens if a member votes against? We do the ballot over again to correct a possible mistake. If somebody votes against a second time, the applicant is rejected. And he must wait a year before he can reapply to receive the degrees in a Masonic lodge.

Now the Master checks the calendar and schedules a tentative date for the candidate's First Degree. It is tentative until the candidate informs the lodge that he is available and will be present on that date.

Next, the Master asks the Officers Coaches whether the officers are prepared to confer the First Degree. It's the Coaches' job to make sure that they are. And if any officer is unavailable on the degree date, the Master is responsible to arrange for a substitute. It's also the Coaches' job to make sure there is somebody available as a substitute officer.

Getting your First Degree is a big event. Among other things, it is an initiation into Freemasonry. That means a regular guy went in and an Entered Apprentice Mason came out. Although it may not be immediately apparent, but receiving his First Degree marked an important milestone in that man's life. It started him on the path of self-

## The Reverend's Corner

improvement to become a better man, husband, employee, business owner, citizen, church member, and whatever else he be or do.

After receiving his degree, the new Entered Apprentice has material to learn. First, he must memorize a portion of the ritual through which he has passed. This requirement forces him to contemplate and remember what took place and what he agreed to do.

To help him, the Senior Warden appoints a coach to befriend and guide the new Mason. Friendship Lodge gives the top-line signer of the application form the first choice of being that candidate's coach. In most cases the top-line signer is willing and available, so he accepts the job.

The role of a Candidate Coach is not limited to teaching the candidate to memorize portions of the ritual from his degree. Most candidates are introduced to what is for them unfamiliar concepts and terminology. The coach helps the candidate understand what happened and what it signifies and helps him apply those lessons to his own life.

There is more. The new Mason is required to study and take an exam. We used to have printed booklets for that. But now we do it all online. You can review those lessons and take the exams at the Candidate Learning Center on the Grand Lodge website. All you do is log in to iMember, click My Portal and then click Education.

For many years, we required newly initiated, passed, and raised Masons to write an essay about a certain part of their degrees. Doing that is no longer required, since the online learning has proven to be a better experience.

Of course, if the new Mason wanted to write an essay, we would certainly give him the opportunity to read it as part of his ritual proficiency, which is done during an open lodge meeting.

You may ask, "Why would the Officers Coach be concerned with coaching candidates? The answer is everything we do is about the candidates. That's what it takes to turn a man into a Mason. He must learn things and demonstrate his understanding. He supplies the desire, we supply the direction.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach



Dear Brethren, (Let Go and Let God)

In our family we have tried to instill in our children that one does not always have to be in control of everything. There are times when we need to just let go and let God.

Holding on to things that are familiar but no longer serve a purpose for us may stall any events or actions. When we release all unpleasant habits, patterns, and behavior we can advance forward.

When we let go of negative attitudes, dysfunctional relationships, or unhealthy ways of living, we then can move toward peace, safety, harmony, freedom, and fulfillment. We can let go of anxiety and fear and open ourselves up to happiness. This is "Let Go and Let God" in action.

We know it can be hard to practice patients, especially when we are eager for a solution to a problem. But again, with peace of mind we let go and let God.

If we relax and release our wants in prayer, we trust in the highest and best outcome. We remember while our minds may be limited, our divine mind is limitless. We discover most things work out well when we release control over them. We do what is ours to do and leave the rest to the Divine good. We find trying to do everything by ourselves is exhausting.

The Divine in us is our strength and support. We trust in God to guide us on the right path and direct our steps. We let go trusting the best outcome is on the way.

Letting go and letting God is an act of faith and spiritual strength. It is how we demonstrate our belief; we are precious and important in the mind of God. We let go and expect the best.

Remember prayer is talking to God and meditation is listening to God. Always—LET GO AND LET GOD.

**AFFIRMATION:**

I relax into the care of God within.

**FROM SACRED WRITING:**

Psalms 31:5 - Into your hands I commit my spirit.

God bless,

Reverend Gene



## April Birthdays

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 11 – Kirk Miller       | 20 – Andrew Litfin     |
| 11 – José Pulido, PM   | 20 – Randy Shelton, PM |
| 12 – Jason Barnett, PM | 27 – Donald Day        |
| 19 – Omar Martinez     | 30 – Ronald Yang       |

## April Events

**April 4** — Stated Meeting Dinner, cost is \$10.00

Stated Meeting: Business, planning and decision regarding this year's activities. Dress: Coat and tie

### April 11 — Ritual 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 and practice the Master's lecture. Dress: Casual

### April 18 — First Degree

Mr. Marvin Mallari has reactivated his application to receive the degrees of Freemasonry in Friendship Lodge. Pending a favorable investigation and vote at the April 4 Stated Meeting, we will confer his First Degree. Bro. Sean O'Hara is in the East.

Dress: Officers in tuxedos. Others, business suit or coat and tie.

### April 25 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a second-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations. Bro. Mike Smith will work on the Middle Chamber lecture. Dress: Casual

### April 27 — Third Degree

Third degree conferral for Bro. Omar Martinez, held at Lexington Lodge No. 104, which meets at 4017 Tyler Ave, El Monte CA.

Thanks to Maya Lodge No. 793 and Panamericana Lodge No. 513, Brother Omar Martinez will finally receive his Master Mason Degree on Saturday, April 27.

The event is an all-day conferral for five new Spanish-speaking Master Masons, starting at 8:00 AM. Dress: Business suit.

We are currently making plans for carpools, flights, and overnight accommodations. If you are available and would like to join us, contact our Secretary Daniel Doornbos at 408-802-7480 or [daniel.doornbos@icloud.com](mailto:daniel.doornbos@icloud.com)

## 2024 Officers

| <u>Officers</u>                         | <u>Wives/Ladies</u> |               |
|---|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>Master</b>                           |                     |               |
| Gilbert Cruz                            | (Monette)           | 408-483-1964  |
| <b>Senior Warden</b>                    |                     |               |
| Andrew Litfin                           |                     | 408-832-5846  |
| <b>Junior Warden</b>                    |                     |               |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                        |                     |               |
| Kendall Mills, PM                       | (Janet)             | 408-281-4084  |
| <b>Secretary</b>                        |                     |               |
| Daniel Doornbos, PM                     | (Gillian)           | 408-802-7480  |
| <b>Chaplain</b>                         |                     |               |
| Helmuth Litfin, PM                      | (Evonne)            | 408-421-9381  |
| <b>Senior Deacon</b>                    |                     |               |
| Sean O'Hara                             | (Savannah)          | 559-862-9372  |
| <b>Junior Deacon</b>                    |                     |               |
| Mike Smith                              | (Bonnie)            | 408-483-8985  |
| <b>Marshal</b>                          |                     |               |
| Hristo Kolev                            | (Maria)             | 925-997-9779  |
| <b>Senior Steward</b>                   |                     |               |
| Dan Chaid                               | (Theresa)           | 408-393-8905  |
| <b>Junior Steward</b>                   |                     |               |
| Al Dorji                                | (Hakimeh)           | 408-313-4781  |
| <b>Tiler</b>                            |                     |               |
| Tad Espiritu, PM                        | (Genevieve)         | 408-930-8303  |
| <b>Organist</b>                         |                     |               |
| Chito Atienza                           | (Shirlita)          | 408-561-5850  |
| <b>Prospect Manager</b>                 |                     |               |
| Don Gunaratne                           |                     | 518-335-1146  |
| <b>Inspector 345th Masonic District</b> |                     |               |
| Dinesh Chhabra, PM                      | (Meenu)             | 908- 247-9288 |
| <b>Officers Coaches</b>                 |                     |               |
| Daniel Doornbos, PM                     | (Gillian)           | 408-802-7480  |
| Helmuth Litfin, PM                      | (Evonne)            | 408-421-9381  |

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Friendshiplodge210](http://www.facebook.com/Friendshiplodge210)

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

## The Secretary's Table



Everybody is getting tired of the Secretary harping about dues. Especially those who pay promptly each year. So this month, I will talk about something else: iMember.

### Setting up Your iMember Account

To open your iMember account, you need your **Member ID** number. Your Member ID number appears on your dues card or dues invoice. Or contact your lodge secretary or the Grand Lodge member services team at [memberservices@freemason.org](mailto:memberservices@freemason.org).

To create your iMember account:

1. Log in to [freemason.org](http://freemason.org).
2. In the upper right corner, click **Member Sign In**.
3. Beneath the Sign In box, click **Sign Up**.
4. In the Membership Registration box, type your:
  - Lodge number  
If you belong to more than one lodge, type just one lodge number.
  - Member ID
  - Last Name

Then click **Check Membership Status**.

5. In the Register box, type your:
  - Email address
  - Password (two times)  
Your password must be at least 8 characters.

Then click **Sign Up**.

6. In the Sign In box, type your email address and password, then click **Sign In**.

You are now logged in to your iMember account.

This is your iMember Portal. Look at all the things you have access to!

**MASONS OF CALIFORNIA**

Menu My Portal Lodge

Feed Events My Profile Virtual Card Education Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge Recognition Member Search Seminars Find Meetings Lodge Locator Resources

Candidate Coach Leadership Retreats - REGISTER NOW!

**Lodge: Friendship No. 210**  
Status: Active

**\$0.00**  
No Balance Due

...  
Actions

**Feed** — Read posts with the latest news and announcements regarding the California lodges.

**Events** — Calendar for your lodge and any groups you belong to.

**My Profile** — View your Masonic record, change your personal information, iMember password, designate an online payment method, and activate automatic dues payments.

**Virtual Card** — Download and print your current dues card.

**Education** — Candidates and Lodge Management Program students access study materials and exams.

**Grand Lodge** — Request an event on the Grand Lodge calendar, Grand Lodge contact information, view the Grand Master's itinerary, subscribe to the Grand Master's calendar, view and download lists of Grand Lodge officers, Boards, Committees, Inspectors, living Past Grand Masters and Elected Officers.

**Grand Lodge Recognition** — View or download the list of Grand Lodges around the world that are recognized by the Grand Lodge of California, and obtain their contact information.

**Member Search** — You type his name, iMember returns his contact information and Masonic record.

**Seminars** — Recorded seminars on Masonic organizational topics.

**Find Meetings** — View a list of Lodge stated meetings near you or near a location that you designate. Includes distance, meeting place, and contact information.

**Lodge Locator** — Search for California lodges by name, county or district number. Includes a map with contact information and directions.

**Resources** — Instructions, manuals, handbooks, procedures, instructions, regulations, documents, and forms of every kind. Note: Printed manuals are available from Los Angeles Fraternal Supply Company. A link is included.

**Candidate Coach** — If you are a Candidate Coach, this panel lists the candidates assigned to you and their personal, masonic, and contact information.

**Leadership Retreats** — For Masters, Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, and any brother interested in learning more about lodge planning, management, and development.

**Friendship Lodge No. 210** — View your payment history, lodge information, a roster of active lodge members, view and post items on the lodge's feed.

GOLDEN RULE LODGE NO.479

UNITED IN MASONRY

— *Agape Dinner* —

MONDAY 15 APRIL  
6:30PM 2024

2500 MASONIC DRIVE SAN JOSE, CA 95125

PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS

DIRECT LINK  
[BIT.LY/3VZBTJK](https://bit.ly/3vzbtkj)

RSVP BY THURSDAY, APRIL 11 , 2024