



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

MAY – 2024

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 Suit or coat and tie</i>	3	4 <i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
5	6 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	7 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	8	9 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Practice 7:00 PM Officers only</i>	10 <i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	11
12	13	14 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7 PM</i>	15	16 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Practice 7:00 PM Officers only</i>	17	18 <i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
19	20	21	22 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Officers Mandatory</i>	23 <i>3rd Degree Practice 7:00 PM All team members please attend</i>	24	25 <i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i>
26	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>	29	30 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Conferral 7:00 PM</i>	31 <i>FRIENDSHIP Chandler-Tripp School Child ID 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM</i>	

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

It's already May, time again for Cinco de Mayo and one of my favorite weekend celebrations with family, Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12.

Let's congratulate Brother Marvin Mallari on his first step into becoming a Mason. Let us support him as he journeys into the world of Masonry.

By the time you read this article, Bro. Omar Martinez will have been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 27.

Thanks to the Spanish-speaking Master Masons of Panamericana Lodge No. 513 and Maya Lodge No. 793 for conferring the degree. And to Lexington Lodge No. 104 for hosting the event, in their building at 4017 Tyler Ave, El Monte CA.

I would also like to thank the Friendship Lodge brothers who traveled to El Monte to support Bro. Omar.

Our Stated Meeting is on May 2, 2024. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. Please don't forget to RSVP to Wor. Helmuth Litfin at 408-421-9381 or helmuth@magicbells.com.

Attire for the Stated Meeting is business suit or sports coat and tie.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting for May is scheduled for May 22, 2024 at Willow Glen Fraternity Lodge No. 399. Dinner starts by 6:30 PM, followed by School of Instruction (3rd degree, 1st section) 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.

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



Q: Worshipful Helmuth, how long have you been Friendship's officers coach?

Off-and-on since 2016, I've been sharing the Officers' Coach position with Worshipful Daniel.

Q: What made you interested in taking the officers coach role?

I like the ritual work. I have a bunch (if not all) of the ritual memorized (except for the Master's lectures which I've since forgotten), and unless I go through the line again, I won't have occasion to put it to use, so I thought I'd instruct others.

Q: What do you believe are the most important duties of the officers coach?

To ensure that each Officer knows their work for both conferring degrees and for their progress to the next position in the line.

Q: What is the work that you do to prepare for each practice?

To make sure that I know the work suitably so I know what to tell others (including updates and changes in ritual) and come up with a list of what will be worked on for a given practice (degree part 1, part 2, specific rod-work, etc.).

Q: What preparation work do you ask the officer team to do outside of the lodge?

Initially to memorize the lines for their part. We take care of most of the rod-work and sequencing in an actual practice, but certain positions require the officer to think about their verbiage relative to others in "real time" instead of only their work in a stand-alone monologue, so I want them to work on that as well when on their own.

Q: How do you coordinate with the Worshipful Master to help to drive the success of the lodge?

Making sure that we agree on which officer will be in which location for a given practice, meeting or degree conferral (especially when mixing advanced stations with regular stations), so that there aren't any surprises.

Q: What are your responsibilities in working with the Inspectors?

Primarily coordinating with our Inspector for the Proficiencies and anything special for the Officer Association Meetings (OAMs). There are other minor duties "behind the scenes", as well.

Q: What are your responsibilities in working with Grand Lodge?

I report to our Inspector, Wor. Dinesh Chhabra. He is my sole connection to Grand Lodge.

Q: What are the criteria that you use to measure the success of the officer team?

That they know their work to the Inspector's satisfaction, and that we put on a degree conferral without messing up. Same goes for the meetings.

Q: How do you measure your effectiveness in this role?

Can I get everybody where they need to be and on the same page at the same time so everything executes perfectly without problems?

Q: Your Wife, Evonne has spent much of her career as a teacher. What has she taught you about teaching and instruction?

Mostly, patience when dealing with other people.

Q: What do you think are the most important characteristics of being a successful officers coach?

A "Can Do" attitude. My favorite quote is "Failure Is Not An Option". Also, focusing on what needs to get accomplished and making it happen.

Q: How do you endeavor to build and maintain a fun learning environment for the team?

Encouragement!

Q: What would you say to members who might be interested in joining the officer line?

To paraphrase one of the great past Presidents of the Greatest Generation: "Ask not what your Lodge can do for you. Ask what you can do for your Lodge." We need guys who can step up and make a

difference and commit to making this the greatest Lodge possible. He supplies the desire, we supply the direction.

Helmut Litfin, PM, Officers Coach

The Reverend's Corner



Greetings Brethren, (Memorial)

In the past I have used May to address Mother's Day. It will be a Sunday where we will gather and share a meal with Mothers, Grandmothers, and wives. We will recognize the full grace, love, and understanding of what God's love is all about.

But I want to dedicate this month's subject to Memorial Day. Like myself many of us have served our country and can proudly call ourselves veterans. We may not have been in a war or conflict, but we served. Some of our fellow Brethren, no longer with us but had served, are the ones we recognize this month.

Memorial Day honors those who gave their lives in service to their country. Many were called and came home but many did not.

So, we honor the legacy, courage, and lives of those who have given it all in service. We express in prayer our gratitude and appreciation for their selfless dedication.

Some of us may have loved ones who did not come home. But we can remember how they enriched our lives and how they blessed our lives. Although they have passed from earthly life, these men and women who gave their lives in service humbles us and fills us with thoughts of honor and gratitude. Let us take time during this month in prayer to bless and remember.

Maybe the most important way we can express our appreciation for their sacrifice is to make a commitment to help create a world where all people

can live in peace. Let us hold a vision of a world at peace with the understanding that we are all part of the human family, and we are one with God. Let's forgive easily and seek harmony by extending loving-kindness and compassion to all.

Let the memory of those we honor this month strengthen us and give us hope for the future.

I hope your Memorial Day is meaningful.

AFFIRMATION:

I honor the sacrifice of those who served.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

John 15:13 – No one has greater love than this. to lay down one's life for one's friends.

God bless,

Reverend Gene



May Birthdays

5 – Mark Erni	22 – Marlito Romero
12 – Ken Ruyle, PM	25 – Larry Müller, PM
17 – Rajit Dang	26 – Keenan Mills, PM
19 – Ian Kennedy	28 – Kyle Burch

May Events

May 2 — Cinco de Mayo Dinner, cost is \$10.00

Stated Meeting: Business, candidate proficiency, degree planning. Dress: Coat and tie

May 9 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a third-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations.

Dress: Casual

May 16 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a third-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations.

Dress: Casual

May 22 — SCVMOA

San Jose Masonic Center. Willow Glen Fraternity Lodge No. 399 is hosting. Dinner at 6:30 PM, school of instruction at 7:30 PM, 3rd degree 1st section. All officers are required to attend. Dress: Casual

May 23 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a third-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations.

Second section team members to attend. Dress: Casual

May 30 — Third-degree Conferral

We hope to have a candidate ready for his Master Mason degree. Open Lodge at 7:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations.

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

May 31 — Child ID Services

We will join the students and faculty of Chandler Tripp School for their spring carnival.

Chandler Tripp School provides comprehensive child development education, health and social services that enrich the lives of children with developmental disabilities.

Please ask your lady to come with you. Many families respond more favorably when their first contact is with a woman.

The school is located 780 Thornton Way, in San Jose. Around the block from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

Dress: Summer outdoor casual. Please wear your Lodge name badge.

Mark your Calendar!

We have four important activities coming up in the months of June and July:

- **Job's Daughters Bethel No. 129 Installation of Officers**

Saturday, June 7, 7:00 PM at the San Jose Masonic Center.

- **Master Mason Degree with Mission Peak Lodge No. 884**

Wednesday, June 12. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Degree at 7:00 PM. At Masonic Home in Union City. Special guest: GM Sean Matroka.

For the dinner, please reserve with WM Jonathan McCune at

jonathanmccune@gmail.com.

Dress is business suit and Friendship name badge.

- **Summer Solstice Celebration**

Saturday, June 22, 2:00 PM at the home of Daniel Reyes. See the flier on page 8.

- **Friendship Lodge Annual Picnic**

Saturday, June 19, 11:00 AM, at the Circle Group Area in Vasona Park in Los Gatos.

- **July Stated Meeting**

As Thursday, July 4 is a national holiday, we will hold our Stated Meeting on the following Thursday, July 11.

- **Scots Cornerstone Awards**

Saturday, July 20, 5:30 PM at the San Jose Scottish Rite Center. Dinner is \$25.00 per person. Place your reservation with David Kampschafer at 408-568-0978 or kampy0000@hotmail.com.

2024 Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Wives/Ladies</u>	
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/>

The Secretary's Table



Please think of me. Think of me when you change your mailing address, phone number, or email address. Think of me when you change your marital status. And ask somebody to think of me when you die. Because believe it or not, I won't know unless somebody tells me.

We have all heard the stories about the widow who faithfully continued to pay her deceased husband's lodge dues. And we know how it feels to make a phone call to a brother, only to hear an emotional voice tell you that he died two years ago.

When you join a Masonic Lodge, you become a member of an organization. This organization is not as important as your family, employment, or education. But you still belong. Receiving your degrees are examples of events, hopefully very significant ones in your life. But Masonry also has a social aspect and that lasts for the rest of your life. As a Mason, you will always have a friend, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. But it only works if we stay in contact. To that, the Secretary needs your up-to-date contact information.

So please think of me. I really appreciate it. Thank you!



First Degree for Bro. Marvin Mallari, April 18, 2024

Front row, L to R: John Sugutan, Rosemead 457; Andrew Litfin, Master’s Lecture; Helmuth Litfin, PM, Senior Warden; Gilbert Cruz, WM, Junior Warden; Bro. Martin Mallari, EA; Daniel Chaid, Junior Deacon; Sean O’Hara, Master; Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary and Marshal.

Back row, L to R: Don Gunaratne, electrician; Kendall Mills, PM, Treasurer; Mike Smith, Senior Deacon; Jeff Hiatt, Senior Steward; Omar Martinez, FC; Hugo Gonzalez, EA (Ciencia y Virtud 20, El Salvador); Jim North, Tiler; Erik Reyes, Chaplain; Chito Atienza, Organist; Daniel Reyes, Junior Steward and Charge; Jack Caceres, EA; Matt Boyette, Golden Rule 479.

The real history of Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo isn’t the same as Mexico’s Independence Day, which is September 16. The Cinco de Mayo holiday celebrates the Mexican victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla, which took place on May 5, 1862.

A year prior, Mexican President Benito Juárez was forced to suspend payment of all foreign debts. In response, France invaded Mexico and attempted to install a client state. Mexican soldiers were outnumbered two-to-one by the better-equipped

French army, but in the town of Puebla, the Mexican force prevailed. The victory boosted the Mexican army’s morale and national pride.



*Benito Juárez,
Presidente de
Mexico 1861–72*

The French went on to capture Mexico City and install Maximilian of Habsburg, Archduke of Austria, as Emperor of Mexico. In 1866, with political and military assistance from the U.S., the Mexican army expelled the French and captured and executed Maximilian.

Juarez reassumed the presidency and declared that May 5, would be a national holiday.

Cinco de Mayo is a big celebration by people of Mexican heritage living in the U.S. However, in most of Mexico, the day passes with little or no celebration.

So, if you want to join in the Cinco de Mayo festivities, you might as well plan on staying in town.

Summer Solstice Celebration

At the home of
Daniel Reyes
3040 Beckley Dr.
San Jose, California

Saturday
June 22, 2024
at 2:00 PM

The program includes:

- **Luncheon**
- **Academic Presentation**
- **Audience Discussion**
- **Social Time**

There is no cost but you must place your reservation by June 18!

Make your reservation with
Daniel Doornbos, Secretary
Friendship Lodge No. 210
at 408-802-7480 or
daniel.doornbos@icloud.com