



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

JULY – 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>Independence Day USA No Lodge Meeting</i>	5	6 <i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
7	8	9 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7 PM</i>	10	11 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Dressy casual</i>	12 <i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	13
14	15	16	17	18 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Practice 7:00 PM</i>	19	20 <i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM Sciots Cornerstone Awards 5:30 PM</i>
21	22	23 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>	24	25 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Conferral for Glo Fularon 7:00 PM Officers in Tux</i>	26	27 <i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i>
28	29	30	31			

Important Notice: Applications for Friendship Lodge Scholarships are due by July 31.
Submit your application to WM Gilbert Cruz at 408-483-1964 or gilbertzc@aol.com.
Or contact the Secretary, Daniel Doornbos at 408-802-7480 or daniel.doornbos@icloud.com.

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

I hope everyone had fun who celebrated and spend time with family during Father's Day.

The Lodge will not meet on Independence Day, July 4. Stated Meeting is on July 11, 2024. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP to our Secretary Worshipful Helmuth Litfin at 408-421-9381 or email him at helmuth.litfin@gmail.com.

Attire for the Stated Meeting is dressy casual.

The Meet and Greet gatherings at 6:00 PM on Thursday nights are ongoing and prospects and other brothers have started to attend. Prospects had been attending and learning more about our organization. The Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts should attend for the fellowship to continue learning their proficiencies. Other brethren Master Masons aside from Officers are invited to join. It's a potluck style, anyone can bring some snacks, goodies, or any of your specialties you want to share.

The Officers will start their practice by 7:00 PM. If you're not able to attend the practice, please inform me and our Officers Coaches.

For the Brethren who have sons, daughters and relatives graduating, CONGRATULATIONS. This also means that applications for Friendship 210 Lodge Scholarships are due in July. Please contact me or our Bro. Secretary for the application form and requirements.

On other planned event, for the Master's Trip, I'm scheduling it for August 10, 2024, at the California Academy of Sciences, opening time is 9:30 AM. It's a one-day Master's Trip and we will have dinner fellowship afterwards. Please send our Bro Secretary if you plan to join me for this event.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association does not meet in the month of July.

The next OAM is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2024. Friendship Lodge will be hosting. The topic will be on objections and balloting. All Officers are required to attend. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra 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



We passed the first half of 2024 and faced a lot of challenges. So far, we have worked our way through. But there is no time to rest. We still have degrees to confer and officer qualifications for next year.

After some serious retrospection and pragmatic discussion, the lodge Executive Committee and the Officers Coaches have arrived at a partial and tentative line-up for our 2025 officer line.

Why are we talking 2025 officers when we're only half-way through 2024? Because the brothers need time to learn their work. You can't just appoint somebody and expect him to figure it out by himself.

We're gradually losing officers... Fewer members are willing to serve. It's not that they are lazy or indifferent. They just have other priorities and preferences. I understand that.

We still need brothers who can spare some time and energy to keep our lodge going. The old saying, "Let somebody else do it" no longer works after you run out of "somebody elses". That's where we are now.



We enjoyed a nice Saturday afternoon gathering at Brother Daniel Reyes' home on June 22. They had planned an event for the Lodge Brothers, where they would discuss astronomy and Masonic symbolism in connection with the summer solstice. But we had a large turnout of neighbors, so they changed the theme to family and education for disadvantaged youth.

Bro. Reyes is involved in several programs to help disadvantaged young people succeed in school, both here in San Jose and in Colombia. You should ask him about it.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach

The Reverend's Corner



Greetings Brethren, (Free/Freedom)

At this time of the year, we will be celebrating July 4th, Independence Day, and freedom. This is a national holiday. Our flags will unfurl to blow in the wind. We will gather with family and friends to celebrate free/freedom. There will be BBQs, picnics, parades, and a wondrous display of fireworks.

But we are going to look at free/freedom on an individual level. We are free to choose this great country to live in and call home. We need to celebrate our freedom to think, feel, and be anything we choose.

Whatever our circumstances we know we can create an experience of freedom. We can feel limited in our health, career, or even relationships that leave us feeling powerless or stuck, but when we turn to divine wisdom within us all doubts are only temporary.

We are blessed by freedom of choice. We will not let others or things to control us. We are one with God and the Holy spirit is expressed through us. We choose our path. We know we must choose wisely. Each choice has consequences and can be opportunities.

Are we worried that mistakes we have made in the past will limit our freedom? No, this has led us to where we are now. Every good thought and heartfelt prayer are leading us in life. Because we are children of God, we are free with freedom of Spirit.

When fear of events in the world or even in our families, we can leave it, because we are in God's loving hands, and He is our safe harbor. God enfolds us and loves at all times and in every way. There is no situation that is beyond God's ability to change and make better. God is here with us, loving us, comforting us, and guiding us to what is best for us now and tomorrow.

Freedom blesses our days, our relationships, our health and our lives. We can align ourselves with Spirit and find the true power within that frees us to be the true "I AM".

AFFIRMATION:

I am grateful for the freedom to do and be.

With God I experience freedom.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

John 8:32 – And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

God bless,
Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



One of my assignments is to handle reservations. You see my name, number, and email address regularly in the *Trestleboard*.

Everybody knows that Masons are the worst when it comes to making reservations. The organization asks, reminds, and pleads for members to make reservations but still most do not. Or they call after the deadline, or on the day of the event.

In Masonry, we avoid turning anybody away because they don't have a reservation. And we hate to run out of food. So, we buy too much food and spend more money than we take in.

Thank goodness we're not in the restaurant business! And for leftover food boxes.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July Birthdays

4 – Ruben Nazareno	14 – David Dow
10 – Brian Dao	23 – Frank Sepulveda
11 – Kenneth Brady	25 – Mike Smith
14 – Jim Arnold, PM	31 – Al Dorji
14 – Bong Custodio	

July Events

July 4 — Independence Day. No Lodge Meeting.

July 11 — Stated Meeting dinner, Venezuelan style. The cost is \$10.00

Dress: Dressy casual with collared shirts, slacks, dress shoes. No shorts or sandals, please.

July 18 — Ritual Practice

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

Dress: Casual

July 25 — Sciots Cornerstone Awards

The Sciots annual cornerstone award ceremony. Social at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30; ceremonies at 7:30. One nominee from each lodge in the area is eligible. Please support our nominee. Who is it? Come and find out.

Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie. Dinner is \$25.00 per person. Please reserve with Wayne Heimsoth at wheimsoth@aol.com.

July 25 — Third Degree Conferral

For Bro. Glo Fularon. Officers in advanced stations. Second section cast members to attend.

Dress: Tux for Officers, business suit or sports coat and tie for sideliners.

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

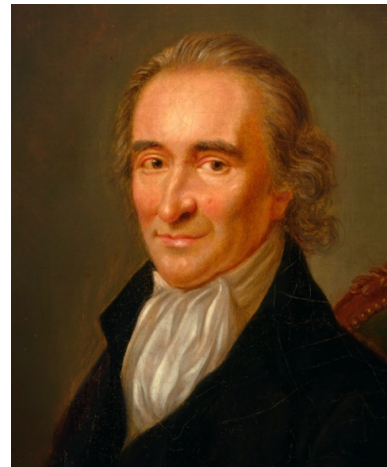
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendshipLodge210

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

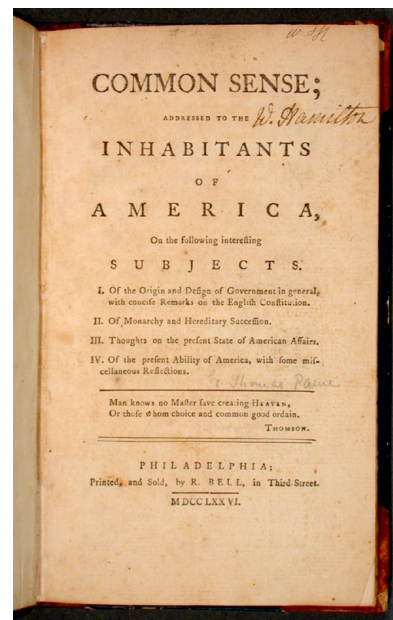
From Colonies to a Country

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet *Common Sense*, published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.



Thomas Paine.



Title page of Common Sense.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.



Map of the original 13 colonies. Maine belonged to Massachusetts and Vermont was part of New York.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution and appointed a five-man committee consisting of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Robert R. Livingston of New York; to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade... Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the *Declaration of Independence*, which had been written largely by Thomas Jefferson.

Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on, the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

Six Years of Struggle

Unfortunately, Americans were getting good and bad news at the same time. British troops were making landfall in New York as the Liberty Bell rang in Philadelphia. At that point, American and British forces already had been engaged in armed conflict for fifteen months. On July 9, 1776, General George Washington, while concentrating troops in New York City, ordered the *Declaration of Independence* read aloud to his men. He hoped that they would find new meaning in the war for independence.

In 1777, the British occupied the capital city of Philadelphia while Washington and his men struggled through a brutal winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Nearly 2,000 of Washington's 12,000 men died during that winter encampment. The Continental Army was hardened by the experience and gained even greater resolve in the campaign to defeat the British. For the next four years, Americans would fight battle after battle against the mightiest military on earth.

Thanks to the military leadership of Washington, and the combined efforts of the French Navy and Washington's good friend and ally General Marquis de Lafayette, the British surrendered after the Siege of Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The fight for independence was over.

The *Treaty of Paris*, signed between the United States and Great Britain on September 3, 1783, made it official. The United States had become a sovereign and independent nation after six years of valor and sacrifice.

The Declaration

The opening paragraphs of the *Declaration of Independence*, with the original spelling and capitalization; are as follows:

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent

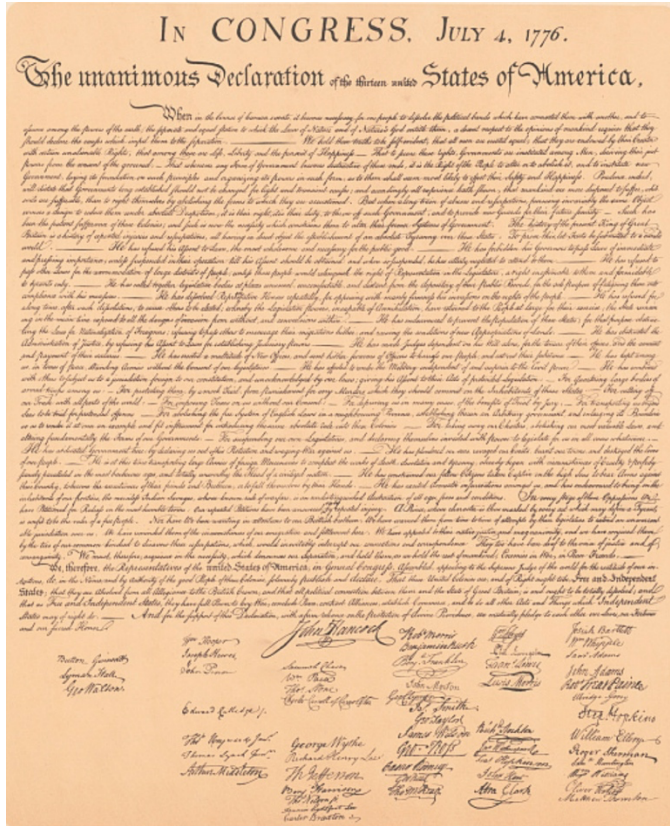
respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,

“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...”

This preamble is the most important portion of the Declaration because it forms the basis of how citizens of the United States view themselves and how they seek to govern themselves.



The Declaration of Independence.

Grievances against the Crown

The Declaration included a long list of grievances that interested readers can study on their own. They are summarized thus:

- 1) American colonists did not have the same rights as citizens who lived in Great Britain.
- 2) The colonies were not allowed to send representatives to Parliament.
- 3) They could not vote on the issues and taxes directly affecting them.

Another major irritation was the ongoing presence of the British Army in the colonies. Worse, the colonists were forced to let British soldiers sleep and eat in their homes.

King George III

From the Colonists’ point of view, the ultimate perpetrator in all this was the English sovereign, King George the Third.



King George III

He became heir to the throne on the death of his father in 1751, succeeding his grandfather, George II, in 1760. He was the third Hanoverian monarch and the first one to be born in England and to use English as his first language.

George III is widely remembered for two things: losing the American colonies and going mad. But that is not the whole story.

George bore little direct responsibility for the loss of the colonies. He opposed their bid for independence to the end. But it was Parliament that passed the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townshend duties of 1767 on tea, paper, and other products, which led to war in 1775-76.

These taxation policies were largely to pay for the financial burdens of garrisoning and administering the vast expansion of territory brought under the British Crown in America, the costs of a series of wars with France and Spain in North America, and the loans given to the East India Company (then responsible for administering India).

By the 1770s, and at a time when there was no income tax, the British national debt required an annual revenue of £4 million to service (pay the interest on) it.

The American war, its political aftermath and family anxieties placed great strain on George in the 1780s. After serious bouts of illness in 1788-89 and again in 1801, George became permanently deranged in 1810.

His eldest son, the later George IV, acted as Prince Regent from 1811 to 1820. Unfortunately, for most

people, the Regency was a period of extreme poverty and mass unemployment.

Some medical historians have said that George III's mental instability was caused by porphyria, a rare genetic disorder that affects the body's ability to make hemoglobin. More recently, researchers have suggested that George suffered from bipolar disorder.

By 1810, George was almost totally blind due to cataracts. Then he suffered a final catastrophic mental breakdown that left him permanently insane. For the last ten years of his reign, he wandered the corridors of Windsor Castle, a ghostly figure dressed in soiled clothes with a long flowing beard. When his beloved wife Charlotte died in 1818, George had no idea who she was.

Whatever was at the root cause of George's insanity, he was in his lifetime a very popular king, at least at home in England.



La Celebración del Solsticio de Verano, held on June 21 at the San Jose Masonic Center. The event was sponsored by Friendship Lodge No. 210, the California Hispanic & Latin American Research Lodge, Club Amistad, and Escuela La Cantera.