




Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

SEPTEMBER – 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	3 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	4 <i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	5 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Business dress</i>	6	7 <i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
8	9	10 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7 PM</i>	11	12 <i>FRIENDSHIP 1st Degree Practice 7:00 PM</i>	13 <i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	14
15	16	17  <i>Constitution Day Citizenship Day</i>	18	19 <i>FRIENDSHIP 1st Degree Conferrals 7:00 PM</i>	20	21 <i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
22	23 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Golden Rule 479 Officers Mandatory</i>	24 <i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>	25 <i>FRIENDSHIP Degree Practice 7:00 PM</i>	26 <i>FRIENDSHIP Degree Conferral 7:00 PM</i>	27	28 <i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i>
29	30					

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

Let's congratulate and wish Bro. Glo Fularon who was raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on August 8th for his further journey in Masonry.

Our Stated Meeting is on September 5th. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. Please don't forget to RSVP Wor. Litfin at 408-421-9381 or email at helmuth.litfin@gmail.com. Attire for this month's Stated Meeting will be business suit or sports coat and tie.

A reminder that the Thursday "Meet and Greet" is ongoing and prospects, Entered Apprentices, and Fellowcrafts are encouraged to attend. We will be starting around 7:00 PM. Prospects attending will be learning more about our organization. The Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts should attend the fellowship to continue learning their proficiencies with their Candidate Coach. Other brethren Master Masons aside from Officers are invited to join as their schedules permit. It's a potluck style affair, so please bring some snacks, goodies, or special dishes 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.

Application for Friendship 210 Lodge Scholarships was reviewed and applicants that met the requirement were informed by August 17, 2024.

Another planned event, the Master's Trip on August 10th was held at the California Academy of Sciences, though we had few attendees we had fun exploring the place and went to a buffet restaurant in San Jose for dinner afterwards.

The Santa Clara Valley Masonic Association scheduled the Grand Master Reception for Most Worshipful Arthur Salazar, Jr. on Saturday, November 2nd at San Jose Scottish Rite Center 2455 Masonic Dr, San Jose CA 95125. Social starts at

4:00 PM followed by dinner at 5:00 PM. Cost is \$25.00. Our Secretary has the tickets.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2024, hosted by Golden Rule Lodge No. 479, at the San Jose Masonic Center. The topic will be on Grand Lodge Preview and Masonic Funerals. All officers are required to attend. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra 908-247-9288 or dchhabra9@gmail.com if you're not able to attend.

If ever there is a time when you will need any type of healthcare for your family, the Masonic Outreach Services is there to help. Please contact them at 888-466-3642. This is a benefit for all Masons (EA, FC and Master Masons).

I like to share my recent participation with the *Manlalakbay na Gurong Mason* (MGM) or the Traveling Masons that was held in San Diego, hosted by Manuel L. Quezon Lodge No. 874. It was first time that Master Mason attendees were 498. Our Grand Lodge Inspector participated as Senior Deacon. There were a few other District Inspectors present, and two of them gave the long-form lecture. The brother raised was moved to tears when the congratulatory remarks were given and he was seated among the brethren.

I also like to commend our Prospect Manager Don Gunaratne for his work. We had one that was balloted and is waiting for his First Degree conferral, and two other applicants for degree we will ballot on at our September Stated Meeting. We will be busy conferring Degrees for the next few months and likely for next year, too. I would like to request your support of our soon-to-be members of Friendship Lodge by participating or just being sideliner during the degrees.

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 soon.

Training Camp



The essential duty of a Masonic Lodge is to make Master Masons. It's a multi-step process that takes months to complete. That means degree conferrals and candidate proficiencies take priority over other activities.

We will be voting on several new applicants at the September Stated Meeting. Our plan is to initiate at least some of them on Thursday, September 19th.

We are keeping Thursday, September 26th open for degree conferral. At this moment, we do not know which candidate will be ready for his first or next degree. So, think "flexible" and be ready.

Why should I attend another Degree? I've seen them all a hundred times! Maybe true. But the candidate is seeing it for the first time. Members attend degree conferrals to support their Lodge Officers and to welcome the new members.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach

The Reverend's Corner



Dear Brethren, (Renew)

When we think about renewal what comes to mind? Maybe it's renewing our driver's license, renewing insurance, or some of us might be thinking about renewing our wedding vows.

Renewal is a part of our everyday living. We renew our bodies with nourishment of food and water. Also, at the end of the day we renew ourselves with rest. These are the required things that keep us going.

But have we ever stopped and thought about the spiritual renewal of our soul? Rest and nourishment sometimes are not enough.

We realize that God, the one presence and power, is with us always. but it is up to us to keep that awareness of God strong. When we awake at the beginning of the day, let's say a prayer of blessing for the day ahead. Ask God to bless all our loved ones and fellow Masons.

Throughout the day take a few moments to feel God's presence around us. Most importantly at the end of the day before we rest our heads on our pillows, thank God for all the blessings of the day. Say a prayer of gratitude for what the day brought and knowing that God was there with us. Because in God we are renewed moment by moment, day by day.

Renew our attitude on the truth of God and trust for the best in all situations. Remember to "let go and let God".

AFFIRMATION:

I am restored by the spirit of God within me.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

2 Corinthians 4:18 – We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be

seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



The year is passing quickly. But several members' 2024 dues are going unpaid. The Lodge is about to write a huge per capita check to the Grand Lodge. And the Lodge must pay for you even if you have not paid for yourself. 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



September Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 – Sean O'Hara | 17 – Jim Kouretas |
| 1 – Gilbert Sanchez | 20 – Daniel Doornbos, PM |
| 2 – Joe Alarcon, PM | 21 – Ronald Gordon |
| 7 – Jerry Kennedy | 24 – Helmuth Litfin, PM |
| 10 – Catalino Alfelora | |

September Events

September 5 — Stated Meeting Dinner, cost is \$10.00

Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie.

September 12 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a first-degree ritual practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Bro. Sean O'Hara in the East. Bro. Andrew Litfin, Master's lecture. Dress: Casual

September 17 — Constitution Day

Constitution Day or Citizenship Day is an American federal observance (though not a holiday) that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787 and those who have become U.S. citizens. See the article below.

September 19 — First Degree Conferral

We will confer first-degree upon our new candidates elected to membership at the September Stated Meeting. We will set up the lodge room at 6:45 so we can start promptly at 7:00 PM. Bro. Sean O'Hara in the East. Bro. Andrew Litfin, Master's lecture. Dress: Officers in tuxedo. Sideliners in business suit or sports coat and tie.

September 23 — SCVMOA

San Jose Masonic Center. Golden Rule Lodge No. 479 is hosting. Dinner at 6:30 PM, school of instruction at 7:30 PM, Grand Lodge preview and masonic funerals. All officers are required to attend. Dress: Casual

September 25 — Ritual Practice

We are reserving this evening for a degree practice, if we need a practice for the degree on Thursday the 26th. Dress: Casual

September 26 — Degree Conferral

We are reserving this evening for a degree conferral. At this writing, we do not know which candidate will be ready to receive his first or next degree. So, we're staying flexible. Dress: Officers in tuxedo. Sideliners in business suit or sports coat and tie.

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

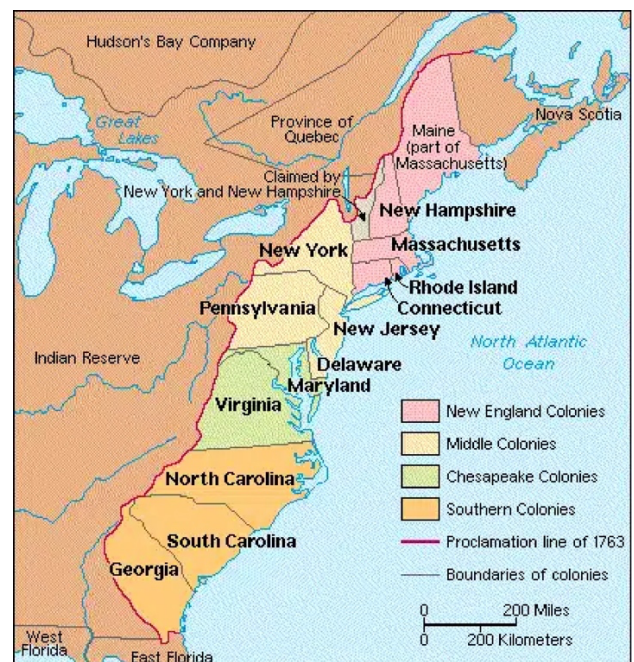
Website: <https://friendship210.org/>

The Constitution That Almost Wasn't

Warren E. Burger, Chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and Chief Justice of the United States, 1969-1986

As we prepare for the opening of the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1987, it is time to look back. Now, 200 years later, it is all too easy to take the Constitution for granted. Indeed, most of us do so. We assume that, given our war for Independence, the Constitution was somehow inevitable. In reality, however, the creation and ratification of the Constitution were the culmination of a chain of events that began years before the delegates met in Philadelphia. It was, indeed, a product of untiring efforts by patriotic and farsighted individuals – some of the leaders were Masons – laboring against seemingly insurmountable odds posed by regional and ideological conflicts. George Washington, a Mason and foremost among our Founding Fathers, called the Constitution a “miracle”.

We cannot appreciate what an extraordinary accomplishment the Constitution represented without some understanding of the historical setting in which it arose, and particularly of the weaknesses of the Confederation which preceded it. As we know, the 13 Colonies considered themselves separate, independent, sovereign states after the American revolution.



During the war, they had entered into what they called a “firm league” or alliance under the Articles of Confederation. In many respects, the Articles read like a multilateral treaty among independent nations, reflecting the jealousies among the 13 States over their sovereignty. Article II, for example, stated:

The said states hereby severally enter a firm league of friendship with each other...

Nothing more than a “firm league of friendship” to carry on a war against a great world power!

The terrible privations, the needless deaths from starvation and freezing that Washington’s troops suffered at Valley Forge, only a few miles from where the Constitutional Convention later met, attest to the weakness of the government under the Confederation. Given the lack of a strong central authority to levy and collect taxes and raise armies. It is a wonder the Revolution was successful, and therefore that there was any occasion to convene the Constitutional Convention. Fortunately, George Washington’s indomitable strength of character made up for some of the flaws of the Confederation.

The weakness of the Confederation not only dictated Washington’s military strategy of trying to keep his ragged armies of amateur soldiers on the move, but also helped shape his political philosophy and that of some of his officers. They came to see that for some purposes a strong central government was imperative. John Marshall, another Mason, was a young lieutenant with Washington at Valley Forge during that terrible winter. His views on the need for a strong national authority later led him to fight for ratification of the Constitution in his native Virginia, then found their way into opinions of the Supreme Court when he became Chief Justice. Alexander Hamilton, also one of Washington’s officers, saw that if the payment of taxes by the people and by the states was voluntary, there never would be a nation in the true sense. He said that what was needed was not the kind of structure that appealed to “the narrow colonial sphere in which we have become accustomed to move” but rather an “enlarged kind suited to the government of an independent nation”.

Thus, Washington, Marshall, and Hamilton, along with Madison. James Wilson, and many others, knew that the loose government under the Articles of Confederation was what might be called today a

“paper tiger”. To continue that structure would not only inhibit development of the new Nation and encourage the parochial rivalries and conflicts that had almost led to disaster during the Revolution: it would also tempt the great powers to exploit the states’ lack of unity.

But convincing the states of the need for a stronger central government was no easy task in 1787 and 1788. In the 18th century and indeed well into the 19th, many people thought of themselves as Virginians or New Yorkers first and Americans second. The men of Massachusetts Bay, for example, regarded themselves as allies – allies of other states. And it is recorded that during the Revolution, when New Jersey troops reporting for duty at Valley Forge were asked to swear allegiance to the United States, the soldiers declined, saying, “New Jersey is our country”.

This ambiguity of allegiances did not vanish with the ratification of the Constitution. It is illustrated by an episode that occurred 74 years after the Constitutional Convention in another critical period of our history. In 1861, after the fall of Fort Sumter and with war seemingly imminent, President Lincoln offered to Robert E. Lee the command of the Union Army. Lee, then a career colonel in the United States Army, hated slavery, loved the Union, and was distressed at the idea of its dissolution. But he was so much a product of the age of his father. “Lighthorse” Harry Lee, one of George Washington’s generals, that he rejected Lincoln’s offer. He resigned from the Army and abandoned his beautiful home overlooking the Potomac and the city of Washington, fully aware his property would be confiscated by the government in the event of war.

[During the Civil War, Lee’s estate was seized by the Union Army and later designated as Arlington National Cemetery.]

Lee then went to Richmond – 120 miles south – to offer his services for the defense of Virginia – not for the support of secession, not for the defense of slavery, not for the dissolution of the Union, but simply for the defense of his native state. This episode has helped me understand the enormous difficulty of persuading the Americans of the 13 Original States to think of creating a federal union with a constitution binding them together as a true nation.

Quite aside from their loyalty to their own states, the American people in 1787 had a great fear of central governments stemming from the fact that they had fought a revolution to escape from the distant, strong, insensitive central government in London. This fear was reflected in the action of the Continental Congress when it met in New York early in 1787 to consider convening the “Constitutional” Convention.

Washington, Hamilton, Madison, and others had worked tirelessly to persuade their countrymen of the need for a true constitutional convention. Madison and Hamilton persuaded the 1786 Annapolis convention to invite the states to send delegates to such a convention in Philadelphia in the spring of 1787 and had finally succeeded in getting the Continental Congress to consider the issue, but it refused to fully endorse the idea. Its resolution was explicit: The meeting was to be called “for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation”. There was no hint of drafting a new Constitution.

Congress’ limited mandate, however, was the least of the problems Washington and other advocates of a strong central government would encounter at Philadelphia. The first obstacle was convincing the 55 delegates, representing 12 states – Rhode Island sent no one – that the states needed to surrender some authority and sovereignty to a new, unknown, and as yet undefined national government.

Governor Edmund Randolph of Virginia, a dedicated Mason, seized the initiative at the beginning of the convention by proposing the so-called Virginia Plan for a strong national government. Under Randolph’s plan, the government would consist of a legislative, executive, and judicial branch. The national legislature would be given broad powers both to pass laws and to invalidate state laws found to be in conflict with the national constitution.

Many of the delegates initially found the proposal too radical. Before long, however, most had agreed to the broad outlines of the plan. Once agreement was reached on that point, it was clear the convention would do much more than merely “revise” the Articles of Confederation.

The next major obstacle was finding a method of electing the national legislature that would be acceptable to both the small and the large states.

The large states – Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts – wanted representation based solely on population. The smaller states, understandably fearful that such an arrangement would limit their voices in the new government, wanted each state to have equal representation. The Convention almost disbanded several times over this issue. Feelings were tense, utterances occasionally harsh. Finally, a Committee on Compromise was selected with 81-year-old Benjamin Franklin – another Mason – at the head. This committee proposed what we know as The Great Compromise: proportional representation in one house of Congress, equal representation in the other. Franklin’s wisdom had averted disaster.

On the last day of the Convention, before any of the delegates had signed the Constitution, Franklin made his final conciliatory speech:

Mr. President, I confess that there are several parts of this Constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them: For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information or fuller consideration to change opinions, even on important subjects, which I once thought right but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that the older I grow, the more apt I am to doubt my own judgment, and to pay more respect to the judgment of others...

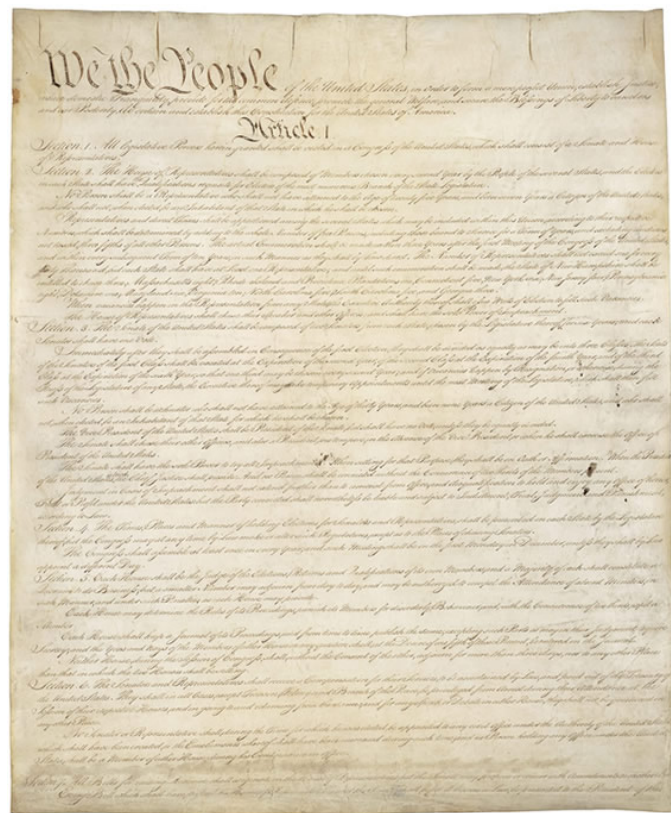
I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the Convention who may still have objections to it, would with me, on this occasion, doubt a little of his own infallibility – and to make manifest our unanimity, put his name to this instrument.

Franklin’s speech no doubt persuaded many of the hesitating delegates. All but 3 of the 39 delegates remaining in Philadelphia then signed the Constitution.

After all the drama of the Philadelphia Convention, the Constitution still had to run the gauntlet of the states’ ratification processes. The Constitution encountered such stiff opposition that the vote was uncomfortably close in several important states: 187 to 168 in Massachusetts, 57 to 47 in New Hampshire, 30 to 27 in New York. Two states, North Carolina and Rhode Island actually rejected the Constitution, but later ratified it after all the other states had done so.

The Virginia ratification convention, which extended over a three-week period, was perhaps the most dramatic and certainly one of the most important. Popular and articulate heroes like Patrick Henry strongly opposed the Constitution. But Patrick Henry's oratory was countered by the calm, analytical logic of James Madison and John Marshall, then a 33-year-old Virginia lawyer. They were backed by George Washington, James Monroe – another Mason – and other leading Virginians. Yet when the vote was called on the final day, it was 89 to ratify and 79 opposed. Just think of it – a margin of only 10 votes when Washington, Madison, Marshall, and Monroe were for it! Without Virginia's ratification, there may not have been a Constitution – at least at that time.

[The Constitution became the official framework of the government of the United States of America on June 21, 1788, when New Hampshire became the ninth of 13 states to ratify it.]



United States Constitution (page 1 of 4).

Today, as the opening of the Bicentennial – on September 17, 1987, approaches, we face a challenge not wholly unlike that faced by the Founders: instilling in the hearts and minds of all Americans a deeper appreciation for and a keener understanding of our Constitution and the principles

on which it is based. Our success depends on the willingness of patriotic Americans to press Bicentennial programs in their own communities. We must come to see that in 1787 “we the people” began something entirely new in the history of governments.

(Reprinted from *The New Age*, January 1987)

Source: <https://wimasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Freemasonry-and-the-Constitution.pdf>

Glo Fularon, Master Mason



Bro. Glorino “Glo” Fularon received is third degree on August 8, 2024.

Front row, l to r: Brandon Dueñas, Golden Rule 479; Chito Atienza, Glo Fularon, WM Gilbert Cruz, Daniel Doornbos, PM; and Dinesh Chhabra, PM, Mission Peak 884.

Middle row, l to r: Joe Martinez, PM and Daniel Reyes.

Back row, l to r: Sean O’Hara, Helmuth Litfin, PM; Art Pasquinelli, PM, Golden Rule 479; Mike Lammer, Los Altos 712; Andrew Litfin, Mike Smith, Tad Espiritu, PM; and Jeff Hiatt.