



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

OCTOBER – 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		<i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Suit or coat and tie</i>		<i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7 PM</i>		<i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd^d Degree 1st section Practice 7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				<i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree 2nd section Practice 7:00 PM</i>		<i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Los Altos 712 Officers Mandatory</i>	<i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>		<i>FRIENDSHIP No meeting</i>	<i>Grand Lodge of California Annual Communication</i>	<i>Grand Lodge of California Annual Communication</i>
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<i>Grand Lodge of California Annual Communication</i>				<i>FRIENDSHIP Possible degree conferral 7:00 PM</i>		<i>SCVMOA GM's Reception San Jose Scottish Rite 4:00 PM Tickets required</i>

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

Let's congratulate and wish Bros. Rolando Liwanag and Jonathan Clemente who was conferred as our new Entered Apprentice as they start their journey in Masonry.

Our Stated Meeting is on October 3, 2024. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM. Please don't forget to RSVP Worshipful Helmuth Litfin at 408-421-9381 or email at helmuth.litfin@gmail.com. With this month, we resume wearing business suits or sports coats and ties for Stated Meetings.

A reminder that the Thursday "Meet and Greet" is ongoing and prospect Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are invited 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 if their schedule permit. It's a potluck style 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.

The Santa Clara Valley Masonic Association scheduled the Grand Master's Reception for Most Worshipful Arthur Salazar, Jr. on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at San Jose Scottish Rite Center 2455 Masonic Dr, San Jose CA 95125. The Social starts by 4:00 PM followed by dinner at 5:00 PM. Hawaiian theme. Cost is \$25.00. See our Secretary Daniel Doornbos for tickets.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2024, hosted by Los Altos Lodge No.

712, at Los Altos Masonic Center. The topic will be Candidate Education & Proficiency, Elections, and Reception of Flag. 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 unable to attend.

If there ever comes a time when you 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)

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.

From the South



Fraternal Greetings from the South,

Freemasonry offers us many lessons, but some of the most enduring come from the simple tools of the trade—tools that have been used for centuries by craftsmen and, symbolically, by Freemasons. This month, as Junior Warden, I'd like to reflect on two of these working tools: the 24-inch gauge and the

common gavel. Their symbolism is both deep and timeless, but their practical application is what I find most compelling.

The 24-inch gauge represents time—one of the most precious resources we have. Divided into three equal parts, it teaches us the importance of balance: eight hours for labor, eight for rest, and eight for service to others. In today's fast-paced world, where work and rest often blur, the gauge reminds us of the importance of allocating our time wisely. Whether we are laboring to support our families, resting to renew our minds, or serving our fellow man, the 24-inch gauge calls us to live with purpose and mindfulness.

The common gavel, used by the operative mason to smooth the rough edges of the stone, symbolizes the refinement of our character. It encourages us to chip away at our vices and imperfections, gradually improving ourselves to be worthy of building something greater—whether that's a strong family, a successful career, or a compassionate community. Just as the rough ashlar is made into a perfect stone, we too can improve ourselves daily by using the common gavel to smooth our rough edges.

One Masonic story that embodies the teachings of the gavel is that of Hiram Abiff, the master builder of King Solomon's Temple. Hiram is revered for his unwavering dedication to the craft, his discipline, and his integrity. According to tradition, Hiram refused to reveal the secrets of the Master Mason's word, even under the threat of death, showing that his character was as finely crafted as the stones he worked with.

His story is a reminder that, just like Hiram Abiff, we must stand firm in our principles, refusing to take shortcuts or compromise our moral integrity. The gavel in our hands is not only for the improvement of our own lives, but for ensuring that we contribute to building something larger and more enduring.

These tools offer practical lessons for today's life, reminding us to focus on two key areas: balance and self-improvement. The 24-inch gauge challenges us to reflect on how we spend our time. Are we devoting enough energy to what truly matters? Have we allowed work to dominate at the expense of rest or family time? The gauge asks us to be deliberate and thoughtful in how we allocate our most precious resource.

The common gavel, on the other hand, is a tool of self-reflection. It calls us to take stock of our own lives and smooth out the rough edges of our character. Are we harboring habits or attitudes that hinder our progress? Do we treat others as we would want to be treated? The gavel's message is simple but profound: through constant effort, we can become better versions of ourselves, better husbands, better fathers, and better brothers.

As Freemasons, we are taught that the journey of self-improvement is never complete. The 24-inch gauge and the common gavel, though basic tools, offer powerful reminders of how to lead balanced, meaningful, and principled lives. As we go about our days, let us remember the lessons these tools teach and strive to apply them in all aspects of our lives, both within and beyond the lodge.

May we each, like Hiram Abiff, work tirelessly to build not only temples of stone, but temples of character that will stand the test of time.

Sean O'Hara, Junior Warden pro tempore

Training Camp



Everybody knows that officers' coaches are supposed to coach lodge officers. And on occasion they respond to procedural or ritual questions from one of the brothers.

At one time, ritual was learned mouth-to-ear. That means somebody speaks words to you and you memorize them. I remember the first time I took the Junior Steward's part in a third-degree conferral. The officer's coach explained what I was supposed to do. Then he told me what to say. I tried to repeat it back. Then he told me again and again, until I could repeat it back correctly and confidently. Then I was ready to do my part in the degree.

When using a cipher book became legal, we adjusted our technique. We still learn our words

mouth-to-ear. But we learn to use the cipher, so we can remember the words on our own. This change saves a lot of travel time and schedule conflicts.

The requirement is that during degree conferrals and stated meetings, it is illegal (masonically) to use the cipher book. So, you still have to memorize your part. If you get stuck while performing, the prompter will assist you. Our go-to prompter is Wor. Helmuth Litfin, who is also an appointed officers' coach. Were it not for his contributions, I would be much less effective at coaching the officers.

Pretty much all the jobs in the lodge are like that. One brother is elected or appointed to a position. He works with other brothers, be they invited, appointed, or volunteered.

That is teamwork, a skill you can develop in lodge and take it with you to your work, community, faith organization, and any other causes or projects you might take on.

Teamwork means you work with other people. And people, being human beings, will sometimes let you down. They don't return your call. They promise to be there and then don't show up. They say they are ready to work, then you discover that they have no idea what to do.

That is leadership, another skill you can develop in lodge and take with you to your work, community, faith organization, cause, or project.

There is one area of teamwork that I think the brothers of Friendship Lodge could stand to improve. We need to work on being there. Especially for degree conferrals.

When an applicant becomes a candidate, and takes his first degree, he encounters an onslaught of words and actions, things he has neither seen nor heard before. He finds comfort and encouragement when he sees the brother who signed his application sitting on the sideline or participating in the ritual. We say a brother recommends and vouches for him. And there he is, right there at the degree ceremony. And the other members of the lodge he knows. He feels welcomed.

Unfortunately, as I have observed in recent years, signers of applications often do not attend the

degree conferrals of the candidates they recommended. This situation happens throughout Masonry. I have enjoyed welcoming many a brother into the lodge or other Masonic body. But the individual who should be doing that is the brother who signed his application.

Today everybody is busy. And Masons are busier than most. You know you're a true Mason when you have to skip one Masonic activity in order to attend another. Like it or not, prioritizing is difficult. Active Masons often have multiple responsibilities in multiple organizations.

If you good at something, expect to be asked to do more. It's a complement, not a punishment. However due to the low number of members able and willing to participate, those who are left end up taking on more than they can handle. Hence even the most active members sometimes miss an important event.

Masonry is undergoing a lot of changes. We don't have the figures from Grand Lodge yet, but this year, our membership numbers may level off. That means, as many men joined Masonry as those who died or reneged on their membership.

Just as it takes a "It takes a village to raise a child"¹, *It takes a lodge to raise a Mason*. A couple of guys can't do it. A YouTube video cannot do it. There are no do-it-yourself Mason kits. And you can't simply import them from China.

Men read about Masonry and become interested. They go to the Grand Lodge website for information. Or they just walk through the door of their neighborhood Masonic center. They are coming. It is our responsibility to welcome them and guide them to making the decision to become a Mason.

You could do it all if you had the time. We all get the exact same amount of time. And for most of us, there is never enough. We must prioritize. Hopefully after family and employment, we can find a little time for the gentleman who just walked through our door. And help he find what he is seeking.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach

¹ African proverb.

The Reverend's Corner



Dear Brethren, (Harmony)

At this time in our country there seems to be a lot of chaos. There is a lack of harmony.

In psychology harmony refers to a positive state of inner peace, calmness, and balance, as well as a feeling of being in tune with the world.

We also use the word to describe a relationship in which people seem happy and the interactions are easy and relatively conflict free. Even in disagreement we can live together in peace and harmony.

Spiritual harmony refers to a state of mutual understanding, unity, cooperation, and peace among individuals with different religious beliefs. It is not blended or merging teachings, but rather has harmony between faiths.

When we reach emotional harmony, we can experience inner peace and unrest, chaotic, negative, or difficult traits can and will go away.

A lack of harmony is a call for love, the great healing force in the Universe and the very nature of God. If we want to restore harmony within ourselves, our relationships, or the world around us, we remember that as a child of God, our very nature is love. Discord will have no place in the sacred space we create in our hearts. We center ourselves in divine love, we recognize truth, and trust that our good is assured.

The world within us and the world around us responds to love. We can be in balance, have peace of mind, and overall wellbeing in our lives. We grow spiritually and understand God is within and all around us. As I have said before God is the one presence and power active in the Universe as in our lives. God is not a power outside ourselves to whom we appeal, but is the power within us that we use to direct our lives. Understanding brings about

calmness and balance. This Is the beginning of harmony. All we have to do is apply it to our everyday practices of life.

AFFIRMATION:

Love restores harmony to every corner of my life.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Colossians 3:14 – Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



At a recent Secretary's and Treasurer's retreat, I learned that the Member Services Department of the Grand Lodge of California has a dues-invoicing service. They provide it without charge. But each lodge must specifically ask for it. On Friendship Lodge's behalf, I asked.

The first dues notice will go out in the second week of November and continue with physical and electronic dues notices until March.

When you receive your dues notice, please pay it right away. So often, people think "I'll deal with this later" and then forget about it.

If your financial situation is such that you cannot afford your dues, place a confidential call to the Master of the lodge and request a dues remission.

The proposed Grand Lodge per capita for 2025 is \$68.50. If adopted at the Annual Communication (as it surely will), our projected dues for 2025 will be **\$116.50**.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



October Birthdays

1 – Bruce Weller, PM	21 – Michael Baughn
4 – Kyle Schmidt, PM	26 – Robert Wilson, PM
13 – Jack Caceres	28 – Kirk Wells, PM
13 – Scott Peterson	30 – Steven Carpenter
14 – Ronald Reed, PM	31 – Jonathan Blank

October Events

October 3 — Stated Meeting Dinner, cost is \$10.00. Halloween theme. We were unable to arrange for an Oktoberfest this year. Sorry.

Stated Meeting Dress: Coat and tie. Please, no costumes!

October 11 — Ritual Practice

We will hold a third-degree, *first* section practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in regular stations. Dress: Casual

October 17 — Mt. Moriah Installation

We will hold a third-degree, *second* section practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in regular stations. Dress: Casual

October 21 — SCVMOA

Los Altos Masonic Center. 146 Main Street, Los Altos, CA. Los Altos Lodge No. 712 is hosting. Dinner at 6:30 PM, school of instruction at 7:30 PM, candidate education & proficiency, elections, and reception of flag. All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

October 24 — No Meeting

This being the week of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Friendship Lodge is not meeting on this date.

October 25-27 — Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Opens Friday at 1:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 AM. To register, go to <https://freemason.org/anncomm24/>

Grand Lodge of California, 1111 California Street (at the corner of Taylor Street) in San Francisco.

All Master Masons in good standing may attend. Dress: Business suit or sports coat and tie.

October 31 — Halloween

We hope to use this night for a degree conferral, depending on the progress of our candidates. Watch your email for further developments.

November 2 — Grand Master's Reception

San Jose Scottish Rite Center. Social at 4:00 PM, dinner at 5:00 PM, reception to follow.

To get your tickets, contact Secretary, Daniel Doornbos at 408-802-7480 or daniel.doornbos@icloud.com.

Dress: Hawaiian collared shirt or coat and tie.

Please mark your calendar!

December 21 — Installation of Officers

San Jose Masonic Center. 4:00 PM. More information to follow.

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/>

Grand Lodge Annual Communication

The following members of Grand Lodge are recommended for election to the offices noted at the 175th Annual Communication to be held October 25-27, 2024:

Grand Treasurer

Very Worshipful Charles P. Cross, a Past Master of Metropolitan No. 352 in Yorba Linda.

VW Cross has been Grand Treasurer for 3 years.

Grand Secretary

Very Worshipful Allan L. Casalou, a Past Master of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge No. 480 in Lafayette.

VW Casalou has served in numerous positions in the Grand Lodge and as Grand Secretary since 2008.

Grand Lecturer

Worshipful Matthew S. Vander Horck, a Past Master of Long Beach Lodge No. 327.

Wor. Vander Horck served four years as an Inspector and three years as Assistant Grand Lecturer.

He served as Master of his lodge in 2006, 2009, and 2016. His son is a member of his lodge.

Grand Master's Recommendations

Grand Master Sean Metroka has 12 recommendations for changes he would like to see for California Masonry.

Each of these recommendations requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption. Or a majority affirmative vote to be reconsidered next year.

1. Simplifies and modernizes service and notice requirements under Part 14 of the CMC (regarding masonic trials).
2. Eliminates certification requirements for certain documents under Part 14 of the CMC (regarding masonic trials).
3. Suspends a member who fail to plead to charges of un-masonic conduct.

4. Updates required applicant contributions and amounts to Masonic Homes, Memorial Temple, George Washington Masonic National Memorial; to be established as part of the 2025–2026 Grand Lodge budget and adjusted as needed thereafter.
5. Lengthens restoration repayment period provided to members suspended for non-payment of dues, from 2 years to 3. And grace period for members on active military combat duty, from 2 years to 3.
6. Modifies the lodge vote required to restore a member who was suspended for non-payment of dues from 2/3 to majority vote.
7. Allows for a plain-language text ritual, as opposed to the cipher ritual.
8. Clarifies procedures to approve alternate rituals.
9. Requires submission of Grand Lodge officer nominations and biographical sketches at least 60 days prior to the Annual Communication.
10. Permits the Grand Master to appoint an Assistant Grand Lecturer who is a Past Master or any constituent lodge. AGL no longer required to belong to a lodge in his particular division.
11. Permits a Secretary of one lodge to serve as Master, Warden, or Secretary of another lodge.
12. Shortens the process required by the CMC for lodge consolidations.

Carry-over Legislation from 2023

This legislation received enough votes last year to qualify for reconsideration this year. Each of these recommendations requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.

23-01 Permits a lodge to email meeting minutes to members. In which case the minutes would *not* be read at the next Stated Meeting. Members may any report errors or omissions before and during the next Stated Meeting. Requires a standing resolution of the lodge.

23-03 Allows Special Meetings to be held on the same day as Stated Meetings. Allows a lodge to hold a degree conferral, masonic funeral, candidate examination, or installation of officers on the same day as the lodge's Stated Meeting.

23-05 Permits a lodge to appoint a specific Past Master to cast the Past Masters' collective vote at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

New Legislation for 2024

There is only one new resolution this year. It requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption. Or a majority affirmative vote to be reconsidered next year.

24-01 Makes the candidate's third-degree proficiency a prerequisite for *nomination* as Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Master.

Currently, a nominee's third-degree proficiency is a prerequisite for *installation* as Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Master.

More Information Please!

If you would like more information on the nominees, recommendations, and legislation, contact Daniel Doornbos, PM or Helmuth Litfin, PM. Or go online and download it using iMember.