



# Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

## JANUARY – 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	1	2	3	4
			<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>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>		<i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice 7:00 to 9:00 PM Casual Dress</i>	<i>Bethel 129 7:00 PM</i>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		<i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>		<i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice 7:00 to 9:00 PM Casual Dress</i>		<i>San Jose 5 Rainbow 10:00 AM</i>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<i>Inaguration Day Martin Luther King Day</i>			<i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Liberty 299 Officers Mandatory</i>		<i>Bethel 129 Stated Meeting 10:00 AM</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		<i>Santa Clara DeMolay 7:00 PM</i>		<i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice 7:00 to 9:00 PM Casual Dress</i>		

## From the East



Greetings Brethren!

Happy New Year and I hope everyone had a wonderful time to enjoy the most wonderful time of the year.

I like to thank our officers who served last year Brother Mike Smith who served as Junior Deacon, Brother Hristo Kolev, Marshal; and Brother Tad Espiritu PM, Tiler.

I also like to congratulate once more the current elected and assigned Officers for this current year. Looking at our Lodge pipeline, we will have another busy year. Special thanks to our Prospect Manager Don Gunaratne who worked hard in calling prospects sent by the Grand Lodge.

For this year we will have a more defined and organized Meet and Greet. It will be during Thursday after our scheduled Stated Meeting. 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 pot-luck style, if possible, please bring some snacks, goodies, or special dishes you want to share.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting for the month of January is still TBD and will inform the Officers for the date and which Lodge will be hosting. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra 1(908) 247-9288, [dchhabra9@gmail.com](mailto:dchhabra9@gmail.com) if you're not able to attend.

If ever there will be 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 every Masons (EA, FC and Master Masons)

Gilbert Cruz, Master

## From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

A happy end to the holiday season to you all, and fraternal greetings for the new year. I hope everyone has had a restful time with family to celebrate according to your tradition, and I welcome you to the new year.

Last year, I had intended to write a series of articles going over the Staircase Lecture in detail, elaborating upon some aspects that require a little bit of research. Unfortunately, that effort was utterly hamstrung by life events, and I failed to meet that intention. This year, since Wor. Cruz and I are reprising our roles as WM and SW respectively, I wanted to give it another try. So, for now, I once again invite you to break out your ritual books and reread the staircase lecture to familiarize yourself with it. Rather than start from where I left off last year, next month we will start again from the top.

I wish you all a wonderful month, and I look forward to discussing the lecture with you.

Fraternally,

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

## From the South



Brethren,

As the year draws to a close, we often find ourselves reflecting on the lessons of the past and the values that guide us into the future.

Freemasonry, with its rich traditions and profound ethical teachings, offers us a timeless compass for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

At the heart of our fraternity lies an unwavering commitment to moral integrity. The teachings of the Craft remind us that true leadership and fulfillment stem not from the accumulation of wealth or status but from the cultivation of virtues such as honesty, charity, and justice. These principles are not mere relics of the past but are as relevant today as ever.

In our personal and professional lives, we are constantly faced with decisions that test our moral mettle. Should we stand firm in our convictions even when it is inconvenient? Do we extend a helping hand to those in need, even if it requires personal sacrifice? As Masons, the Square and Compass guide us to ensure our actions are fair and our motives pure.

Our ritual work serves as a constant reminder that we are builders—not just of structures but of character. Each working tool is a metaphor for self-improvement, urging us to measure our actions by the standards of our Craft. The Plumb reminds us to walk uprightly in our several stations, while the Trowel calls us to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection.

As we move into the new year, let us rededicate ourselves to these noble ideals. Let the Lodge not only be a sanctuary for fellowship but also a forge for forging better men, equipped to bring light to a world that often struggles in darkness.

May we continue to inspire each other to live by the principles of our Craft and to extend these values into our communities. Together, as builders of a more ethical and compassionate society, we uphold the tenets of Freemasonry and ensure that our legacy endures.

Fraternally,

Sean O'Hara, Junior Warden

## Training Camp



Another year has begun, which means another cycle of learning and training for the Lodge Officers.

The Lodge has been blessed with several new officers in the line. They are enthusiastic and ready to learn. That's what we plan to do during the month of January.

Our topics will include the jewel march, rod and baton work, and lodge room rules, study materials and techniques reception of Grand Lodge officers, reception of the flag, and calling up to a higher degree.

As soon as we have an applicant or candidate ready for this first or next degree, we will practice the degree and confer it the following week, if everything works out.

Our ritual practices are on Thursdays, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Dress is casual.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coach

## The Reverend's Corner



Greetings Brethren (New Beginnings)

Each day, week, month, and new year brings about a new beginning. How we handle that is ultimately up to us.

So, let's start this new year with hope, promise, and a feeling that anything is possible. New beginnings are promising. It gives us time to put the past behind us. With gratitude for the past year, we are ready to take its lessons into this one. Because of our growth and understanding, we are wiser, hopefully more patient, open and loving.

We can take this new beginning, new year, to become more aware of the wisdom of God and our being a divine being. From this place of spiritual maturity, we learn to love ourselves and treat others as a kindred spirit. We can and will share words of kindness and perform acts of service (ARK – Acts of Random Kindness). Because by doing good deeds, speaking words of care, and loving, we can do our part to make this new year a better place for all. Victor Hugo said, "to love is to act". Again, I say this is God's love in action.

Here is a wonderful poem to help us start the new year off right.

### FOR THE NEW YEAR

Now the dance begins again;  
we circle 'round a star.  
Just imagine what we look like from afar.  
Moving on into the future,  
moving on beyond the night.  
Let's stay close to one another;  
come, let's start the New Year right.  
Let's all shine the light of love.  
Let's all show how much we care.

Let's get very good at being very kind.  
Let us all enjoy the gift of peace of mind.

### AFFIRMATION:

With a grateful heart, I eagerly welcome the new year.

### FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Psalm 51:10 – Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

God bless and Happy New Year!

Reverend Gene

## The Secretary's Table



January is here. That's when we pay our annual dues. For 2025, the dues are \$116.50. 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

## January Birthdays

6 – Reynaldo Mamenta	27 – James Grove, PM
8 – Bill Mattson	27 – Joshua Cloud
9 – Julian Mireles	30 – Stephen Grisenti
10 – Henry Peña	31 – Marvin Mallari
11 – Jack Fry	
17 – Anastasios Papapsomas, PM	

## January Events

**January 2** — Stated Meeting Dinner Chinese Food, cost is \$10.00

Stated Meeting: Presentation of 2025 Lodge budget and committees. Dress: Coat and tie

### January 9 — Ritual Practice

We will study the jewel march, rod and baton work, and lodge room rules, study materials and techniques. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

### January 16 — Ritual Practice

We will study reception of Grand Lodge officers, reception of the flag, and calling up to a higher degree. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

### January 23 — OAM / SOI

Our first Officer Association Meeting and School of Instruction for the year is at Liberty Lodge, No. 299, 1675 Scott Blvd, Santa Clara.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The school follows at 7:30. The topic is Jewel March, Calling Up, Reception of GL Officers, Short Form Closing, Stewards & Deacons Rod Work.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

### January 30 — Ritual Practice

Topic to be determined. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

## 2025 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>		
Sean O'Hara	(Savannah)	559-862-9372
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Kendall Mills, PM	(Janet)	408-281-4084
<b>Secretary</b>		
Daniel Doornbos, PM	(Gillian)	408-802-7480
<b>Chaplain</b>		
Daniel Reyes	(Rosa)	408-401-3596
<b>Senior Deacon</b>		
Helmuth Litfin, PM	(Evonne)	408-421-9381
<b>Junior Deacon</b>		
Dan Chaid	(Theresa)	408-393-8905
<b>Marshal</b>		
Ed Advincula		510-921-7136
<b>Senior Steward</b>		
Al Dorji	(Hakimeh)	408-313-4781
<b>Junior Steward</b>		
Jack Caceres	(Sorena)	669-388-1816
<b>Tiler</b>		
Omar Martinez		669-296-7720
<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/>





*Third degree conferral for Bro. Hugo Gonzalez. November 21, 2024*



*Third degree conferral for Bro. Jack Caceres. December 12, 2024*



MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES

## Bringing Brotherly Love into Relief

When an out-of-town Mason fell on hard times, his blue lodge and a service he hardly knew about were there to help.

*By Antone Pierucci*

Although it's been more than 40 years since Danny Bonner recited his Master Mason ritual, he can still recall with clarity the lessons it imparted on him. "The notion of brotherly love really stuck with me," Bonner says. All these many years later, Bonner finally saw what that looks like in practice.

Bonner has been active in Masonry and its attendant orders over the course of his long career in the transportation industry. But because he's had to move frequently for work, he's not always been able to attend lodge meetings. However he always retained membership in his blue lodge, Alhambra Lodge No. 322 in Northeast Los Angeles. Bonner moved back to California in 2007, but ultimately settled in Hemet, 90 miles away.

In 2012, Bonner suffered a major back injury that put him out of work. Before long, money became tight, and everyday bills began to pile up. That's when he received an unexpected call from the secretary of Alhambra Lodge. Although Bonner hadn't attended meetings in years, he'd heard about Bonner's situation and asked if he could put him in touch with Masonic Outreach Services. "I never knew we had anything like MOS," Bonner says. "But now, it's become one of the greatest things for me."

Once in touch, case managers with MOS coordinated assistance for Bonner, and members of Alhambra Lodge were able to help him pay monthly bills like his utilities and car insurance. "It was small stuff," Bonner recalls, "but it made a huge difference."

That alone was enough to sell Bonner on the value of the service—but it wasn't the last time he'd need help. Earlier this year, Bonner was again in a predicament: His sister in Florida fell seriously ill, and reached out to him for assistance. "If I was going to see my sister before she died, I needed to get there quickly," he says. Bonner called his case manager, Brandi Whitley, to see what could be done.



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**MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES**

“At first, I wasn’t sure if his lodge would be able to help him,” she recalls. But one call to the master of Alhambra Lodge, Hugo Lara, put her at ease. “Before I even had a chance to tell him much, Hugo interrupted me and said, ‘You don’t need to sell us on the idea—it’s our duty to help our brother.’” Before long, Whitley was able to arrange an airline ticket and Bonner was off to Florida.

“I got to spend one full week with my sister,” Bonner says. In addition to the travel cost, members of the lodge helped pay for groceries while he was back east. “I can’t tell you what it meant to me,” Bonner says. “It was a blessing from God and the fraternity. I don’t know how I will ever be able to give back to the fraternity as much as it has given me these past few years.”

To attend a Lodge Outreach Program training or learn how your lodge can partner with MOS, call (888) 466-3642.