



# Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

## FEBRUARY – 2025

SUN                  MON                  TUE                  WED                  THU                  FRI                  SAT

**1**

*San Jose 5 Rainbow  
10:00 AM*

**2**

**3**

*Stated Meetings  
Golden Rule 479  
San Jose 10  
Los Altos 712  
Dinner 6:30 PM*

**4**

*Stated Meetings  
Mt View DeAnza 194  
Palo Alto 346  
Dinner 6:30 PM*

**5**

*Stated Meeting  
Willow Glen  
Fraternity 399  
Dinner 6:30 PM*

**6**

*FRIENDSHIP  
Stated Meeting  
Dinner 6:30 PM  
Suit or coat and tie*

**7**

*Bethel 129  
7:00 PM*

**8**

**9**

**10**

**11**

*Santa Clara  
DeMolay 7:00 PM*

**12**

*FRIENDSHIP  
Ritual Practice  
First Degree  
7:00 PM*

**13**

**14**

**15**

*San Jose 5 Rainbow  
10:00 AM*

**16**

**17**

**18**

*SCVMOA 6:30 PM  
San Jose 10  
Officers Mandatory*

**19**

*FRIENDSHIP  
First Degree  
Conferral  
7:00 PM*

**20**

**21**

**22**

*Bethel 129  
Stated Meeting  
10:00 AM*

**23**

**24**

**25**

*Santa Clara  
DeMolay 7:00 PM*

**26**

*FRIENDSHIP  
Crab Feed 6:30 PM*

**27**

**28**

*FRIENDSHIP  
Sweethearts  
Luncheon  
Pedro's Restaurant  
11:00 AM*

## From the East



Greetings Brethren!

I hope everyone is doing fine, and soon to celebrate the month of Love. Two activities that our Lodge will have is the Sweetheart Brunch which we will enjoy at Pedro's Restaurant in Santa Clara. Please check the flyers or information included for our Lodge activities for the month of February.

I'm currently in the Philippines and will be back on February 7. See you soon brethren.

January 29 is the Lunar New Year—Year of the Snake. *Gong Xi Fa Cai!* (Mandarin Chinese for Happy new year!).

Here's a reflection of Bro. Eric Salonga's (Patterson Lodge No. 488) article which made me think about when I was asked, Why do you want to be a DeMolay.

I did asked permission if I can share part of his article.

### **Do I Show Up?**

Showing up is the simplest yet most impactful way I've found to contribute to the Lodge. Whether it's attending a stated meeting, supporting a degree conferral, or simply being present for a brother who needs encouragement, I've learned that my presence matters. I remember times when I thought, "Will it make a difference if I'm there?" The answer, I've discovered, is always yes. Being present shows commitment—not just to the Lodge but to the principles of Masonry and the brothers who stand beside me.

### **Do I Share My Knowledge?**

Early in my Masonic journey, I didn't think I had much to share. I was new, still learning, and felt unqualified to offer guidance. But as I grew, I

realized that each of us has something valuable to contribute, whether it's an insight from our own experiences or simply the willingness to help a brother learn a ritual or master a lesson. Sharing knowledge isn't just about teaching—it's about connecting, inspiring, and ensuring that the wisdom of the Craft is passed on. Now, I take pride in mentoring newer brothers, not because I have all the answers, but because I've come to understand how much of Masonry is built on this exchange of knowledge.

### **Do I Wait to Be Asked?**

I'll admit, there were times when I waited for someone to ask me to get involved. I thought, "If they need me, they'll let me know". But Masonry has taught me that the Craft thrives when we take initiative. Whether it's volunteering to help with a degree, washing dishes in the kitchen, or simply asking, "What can I do to help?" I've learned that waiting to be asked often means missing out on opportunities to contribute. Now, I try to anticipate where I can be useful and act without hesitation.

### **Do I Have to Be Reminded?**

This was a humbling lesson for me. Early on, I learned that I should not have to be reminded—whether it was paying dues, attending a practice, or completing a task I had committed to. But I've come to realize that being a Mason means taking responsibility, not just for my own actions but for the good of the Lodge. When I fulfill my obligations without needing reminders, I'm not just meeting expectations—I'm honoring the trust my brothers have placed in me.

### **What Participation Has Taught Me**

Participation in Masonry has taught me more than I ever expected. It's shown me the value of being present, of sharing what I've learned, and of taking initiative. It's taught me that the Lodge isn't just a place we meet—it's a living, breathing community that thrives on the contributions of its members. And most importantly, it's shown me that through participation, I can not only grow as a man but also help my brothers grow and ensure that the light of Masonry continues to shine brightly.

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Meet and Greet 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 February is on the 18th San Jose Lodge No. 10 will be hosting. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra 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,

### L.A. Fires and How You Can Help

The fires in and around Los Angeles have devastated entire communities and impacted hundreds of thousands of people, including many members of our fraternal family.

We know of at least 1,100 households of California Masons or widows in the affected areas; meanwhile, nine Masonic halls are located near the fire zones.

As Masons, it is our duty to stand together and support our members, their families, and the broader community during this challenging time.

## Ways to Help

- **Reach Out:** Personally connect with members and widows you believe may be affected. Share Masonic Assistance contact information and offer personal support where possible
- **Provide Supplies:** If you're in the Santa Clara County area, donate supplies like clothing, water, food, blankets, hygiene and first aid kits to the San Jose Masonic Center.
- **Donate:** Contribute to the Distressed Worthy Brother Fund to provide financial assistance for affected families.

Together, we embody the values of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Let us continue to support one another and strengthen our communities in this time of need.

## Donating to the Distressed Worthy Brother Fund

1. Point your browser to: [masonicfoundation.org/ways-to-give/give-now/](http://masonicfoundation.org/ways-to-give/give-now/)
2. Under DIRECT MY GIFT TO choose **Masonic Homes of CA - Distressed Worthy Brother Relief fund.**
3. Choose a dollar AMOUNT and a FREQUENCY of payment.
4. Click **Give Now.**

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

## From the South



### The Timeless Lesson of the Trowel

In Freemasonry, each tool holds symbolic meaning, teaching us lessons that transcend time and connect us to our ancient brethren. Among these tools, the trowel stands out as a reminder of one of our most vital Masonic virtues: brotherly love.

The trowel is used by operative masons to spread cement or mortar, binding stones together to create a strong and

unified structure. Symbolically, it reminds us to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, uniting us in harmony and strengthening the bonds of our fraternity. As Masons, this lesson is more than a moral ideal—it is a call to action.

The trowel teaches us to overcome differences, smooth over discord, and build bridges instead of walls. It encourages us to view one another with charity and understanding, recognizing that our collective strength lies in unity. Whether in our lodges, our communities, or our personal relationships, the trowel asks us to be active participants in fostering peace, understanding, and cooperation.

As Junior Warden, I have been reflecting on how we can best embody the lesson of the trowel. How do we actively spread brotherly love and affection in our lodge and beyond? It begins with simple actions: welcoming a new brother with warmth, lending an ear to someone who needs it, or offering a helping hand to a brother in need. These small but intentional gestures, like the strokes of a trowel, strengthen the foundation of our brotherhood.

In a world that often feels divided, the lesson of the trowel reminds us that as Freemasons, we have the tools—and the responsibility—to make a difference. By practicing brotherly love, we not only honor our obligations as Masons but also inspire others to do the same.

As we move forward together, let us always keep the trowel close to our hearts. Let us continue to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection, building a stronger, more harmonious fraternity and world.

Fraternally yours,

Sean Michael O'Hara, Junior Warden

## Training Camp



We practice every Thursday, except for Stated Meetings, degree conferrals, OAM/SOIs, and holidays. And if you cannot attend, please inform

me and WM Gilbert Cruz, so we don't wait around for you to arrive.

We start at 7:00 PM and go to 9:00 PM. Please respect everybody's time by arriving on time. And come prepared to work by knowing which degree we are learning and what your part is.

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Tuesday, February 18 at San Jose Lodge No. 10, which meets at the San Jose Masonic Center.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Friendship Lodge covers the cost of our officers' meals.

The SOI begins at 7:30 PM. This month we will study the First Degree.

All Officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please our Inspector Worshipful Dinesh Chhabra. And let WM Gilbert Cruz know, so we don't wait send somebody out to find you.

Helmuth Litfin, PM and Daniel Doornbos, PM, Officers Coaches

## The Reverend's Corner



Greetings Brethren, (Loving)

This being my 100th article, how appropriate it be about love. I have enjoyed sharing all these years with you and sharing my love for God. My focus has been to help build a spiritual path for all and will continue on this path as we move forward.

As we celebrate the month of February, several things come to mind. We celebrate our sweethearts with a Sweetheart Luncheon. Not only do we celebrate our own sweethearts, but also our deceased Brethren's sweethearts.

When we celebrate love, we give thanks for our loved ones and for the relationships that fill our hearts with joy. We are moved to express love and

appreciation with a card, a phone call, or spending precious time with our loved ones.

We are surrounded by and enfolded in divine love. We are centered in this awareness, we love unconditionally. We are calm and peaceful. Love guides our thoughts, words, and actions. We are caring and kind, thoughtful and understanding.

With our divine love we can expand our expression of love to encircle all people everywhere. At times there seems to be not enough love in our world today. But viewing others through the eyes of love, we can feel a kinship with all beings. When we open our hearts and accept love, then we know how blessed we are. Our hearts and lives are full. Truly God's love abounds.

Remember we were created out of love, so love first, then everything will follow. God's love in action.

**AFFIRMATION:**

I am an expression of love.

**FROM SACRED WRITINGS:**

John 15:9 - Abide in my love.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

## The Secretary's Table



February is here and member dues are trickling in. But a significant number of Friendship brethren have not yet made their dues payments. For 2024, 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. Note that iMember uses your credit card and charges a processing fee.

We have 20 who have not paid their 2025 dues.

Among them are seven members who have also not paid 2024 dues.

If you have difficulty paying your dues, please contact WM Gilbert Cruz and confidentially request a dues remission. That option keeps you in good standing and reduces the per capita amount we are required to pay to the Grand Lodge.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



## February Birthdays

- 4 – Carlos Tellez
- 6 – Jerry Estruth
- 6 – Robert Moore
- 6 – Jeffery Papp
- 7 – Joseph Martinez, PM
- 8 – Douglas Martin
- 9 – John Kennedy
- 16 – William Messerly
- 16 – James North
- 17 – Robert Ansunción
- 18 – Edward Carmona, PM
- 23 – Frank Harms
- 24 – Robert Sohigian

## February Events

### February 6 — Stated Meeting

Dinner, \$10.00 person

Annual reports of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustees. Dress: Coat and tie

### February 13 — Ritual Practice

First degree. 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in regular stations. JW Sean O’Hara in the East. Dress: Casual

### February 18 — Officers Association

SCVMOA meeting at San Jose Lodge No. 10. Dinner at 6:30 PM. School of instruction at 7:30 PM covering the First Degree. All lodge officers are required to attend. Dress: Casual.

### February 20 — First Degree

First degree for Mr. Freddy Colombo. 7:00 PM. Pending successful ballot at the February Stated Meeting. Officers in regular stations. JW Sean O’Hara in the East. Dress: Tux

### February 23 — Sweethearts’ Luncheon

This year we are returning to Pedro’s Restaurant and Cantina, 3935 Freedom Circle, in Santa Clara. Members are \$50.00 each. Sweethearts and their companions are our guests. Dress: Coat and tie, or dressy casual.

The reservation deadline is February 16, 2025. Reserve with the Secretary, Daniel Doornbos, PM at 408-802-7480 or [daniel.doornbos@icloud.com](mailto:daniel.doornbos@icloud.com)

### February 27 — Annual Crab Feed

Adults, \$40.00; non-crab eaters, \$20.00; children 5 to 12, \$15.00; under 5, free. Family and friends are welcome. Dress: Casual.

The reservation deadline is February 20, 2024. Reserve with the Secretary, Daniel Doornbos, PM at 408-802-7480 or [daniel.doornbos@icloud.com](mailto:daniel.doornbos@icloud.com)

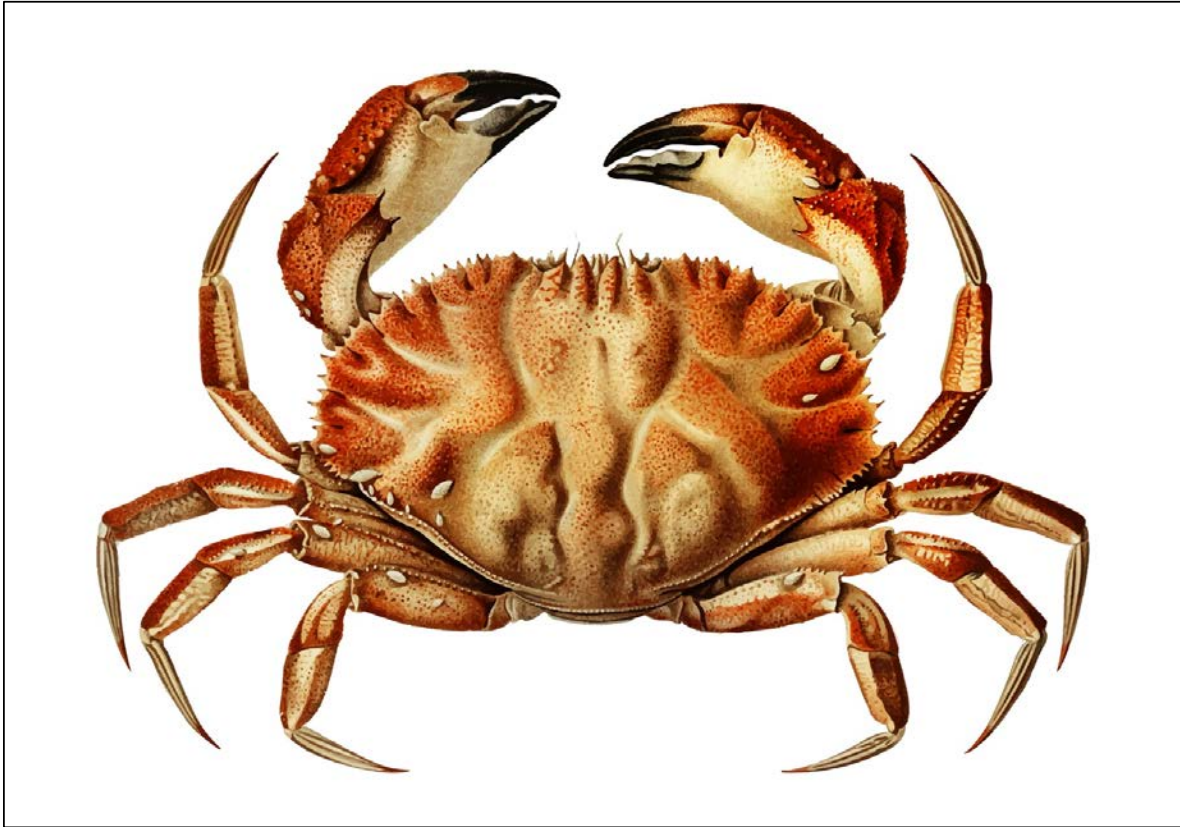
## 2025 Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Wives/Ladies</u>	
<b>Master</b>		
Gilbert Cruz	(Monette)	408-483-1964
<b>Senior Warden</b>		
Andrew Litfin	(Lauren)	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](https://www.facebook.com/Friendshiplodge210)

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

**Friendship Lodge No. 210 presents the  
2025 Annual Crab Feed**



**San Jose Masonic Center  
Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM**

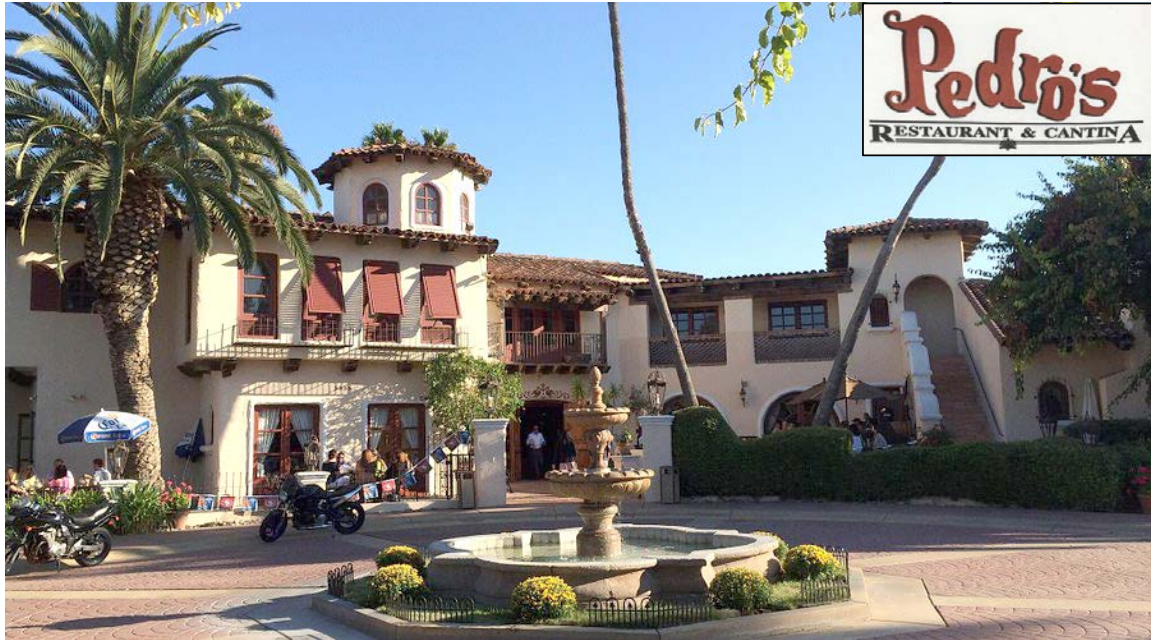
**Menu: Mixed salad, spaghetti with red sauce, garlic bread,  
cracked Dungeness crab, and beverages.**

**Adults, \$40.00; Non-crab diners, \$20.00;  
Children 5 to 12, \$15.00; under 5, free.**

**We are limited to 100 diners. Reservation deadline: February 20, 2025.**

**Reserve with Daniel Doornbos, Secretary  
408-802-7480 or [daniel.doornbos@icloud.com](mailto:daniel.doornbos@icloud.com)**

# Friendship Lodge No. 210 Sweethearts' Luncheon



Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 11:00 AM

Pedro's Restaurant and Cantina

3935 Freedom Circle, Santa Clara

Lodge Sweethearts and their escorts are our guests.

All others, \$50.00

Reservation deadline: February 16, 2025

Reserve with Daniel Doornbos, Secretary 408-802-7480 or  
[daniel.doornbos@icloud.com](mailto:daniel.doornbos@icloud.com)

