



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

MARCH – 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
1st Degree Practice
7:00 PM*

13

14

15

*San Jose 5 Rainbow
10:00 AM*

16

17

18

19

*SCVMOA 6:30 PM
South Valley 187
Officers Mandatory*

20

21

22

*Bethel 129
Stated Meeting
10:00 AM*

23

24

25

*Santa Clara
DeMolay 7:00 PM*

26

*FRIENDSHIP
Possible 1st Degree
7:00 PM*

27

28

29

30

31

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

Let's congratulate Bro. Carlos Bogotá our new conferred Entered Apprentice Mason, initiated on February 20.

Our Lodge is busy for this month. We had a good turnout for our Sweetheart Brunch at Pedro's Restaurant and Cantina on February 23rd. The following Thursday we had our Annual Crab Feed. Great turnout as well. Thanks to our Junior Warden Sean O'Hara who worked hard so our members would enjoy these events.

This March might also be a busy month for another Entered Apprentice conferral. Our progressive line officers are getting prepared for advanced stations next year. I also like to thank our Prospect Manager, Don Gunaratne, whose has worked diligently hard in following up on the prospects sent to us from the Grand Lodge of California.

We will be continuing our Meet and Greet for new prospects as well as for this time for assigned coaches for our Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft brothers to get them ready for conferral of the Degree. I plan to make this time as an opportunity for Masonic Education if scheduling permits for our Candidate Coaches to work with their candidates as they study for their proficiencies (long or short form).

The Meet and Greet is scheduled every Thursday start at the same time with the Officers practice. I encourage the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft brethren as well as Master Masons who are not currently serving as officers to join and meet the prospects wishing to join our lodge.

A reminder for the Officers, the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting for the month of

March 13, at South Valley No. 187 in Morgan Hill. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra at 908-247-9288 or 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, PM, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

The highest meeting ever held in Masonic history

The Lodge is situated atop the Peruvian Andes. In this region are found prosperous mining communities, and Quechua Indians, who struggle for existence on their small farm plots or as camp laborers. Here, too, is found the meek and patient llama, the native beast of burden. And here newcomers are sometimes felled by the debilitating and nauseous effects of *soroche* or altitude sickness, caused by thin air and lack of oxygen at high altitude.

There are in Peru three Lodges under Scottish jurisdiction one each in the cities of Callao, Lima, and Cerro de Pasco. "Roof of the World" Lodge, No. 1094, A. F. & A. M., was chartered from the Grand Lodge of Scotland on November 2, 1911.

"Roof of the World" Lodge had its beginnings at the city of Cerro de Pasco. The first steps towards organization were taken on May 26, 1911, when a group of English-speaking Masons in that town met to consider the advisability of making petition for a Charter.

Prominent at this first meeting were Brother P. G. Newman, Past Master of Peace and Concord Lodge,

No. 445, of Callao, and Brother Arthur E. Bazett-Jones, who was chosen to occupy the Chair. Twenty-three signatures were at length affixed to the formal petition.

The name “Roof of the World” is both appropriate and significant. The selection was made, after discussion and consideration at the preliminary meeting of May 26. Located at Cerro de Pasco, at an elevation of 14,220 feet, the Lodge had the distinction of being the highest English-speaking Masonic body in the world.

One charter member deserves further and special mention. He is Brother Arthur E. Bazett-Jones, the first Master, who was noticeably instrumental in helping to form the Lodge. In 1910, during a post-vacation voyage to South America, he entered into discussions with a fellow passenger concerning the absence of a “Lodge on the Hill”.

They learned that the number necessary for an application could be obtained from the combined staffs of the mines, smelter, and railroad. And since it was easier to get a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland than from the few States in the United States which carry foreign Lodges, they decided to apply to Scotland.

The first Entered Apprentices were John T. Glidden and Joseph A. Irving, who were duly initiated at the regular Communication (meeting) on January 19, 1912. At this meeting, too, the first Affiliate member was accepted. He was Victor V. Morris, who came by transfer from St John’s Lodge, No. 616, Coquimbo, Chile.

The meetings in those early days were prolonged and full, for the task of organization was understandably heavy. During the first half year there were regular Communications twice a month, and on almost every occasion there were applications to be read, committees of enquiry to report, degrees to be conferred, and sundry business matters to be decided. Bylaws must be adopted, dues collected, and the halls equipped.

An event interest took place on the afternoon of August 29, 1914. By dispensation from the Grand Lodge, a special meeting was held on the summit of Mount Meiggs, at an elevation of 17,575 feet (3.33 miles high!). See the photo on page 8.

It may safely be said that this was the highest meeting ever held in Masonic history.

The event received widespread attention. One newspaper account, published on October 30, 1914, gives full and graphic details. Though limitations of space prohibit a reproduction of the article in full, two or three excerpts follows:

“The day was perfect; the sky being clear and the air crisp and cold despite the tropical sunshine. All were clad in heavy boots, sweaters, and overcoats. Nearly all suffered to some degree from *soroche* or altitude sickness. Several had severe headaches, nausea, nosebleed, dizziness, and violent ringing of the ears. But all reached the summit safely by 3:00 PM, except one Brother who was so ill that he was compelled to turn back.

“Upon assembling at the summit, a small level place was cleared away and in the center an altar of stone was erected and stations for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens were likewise constructed of stone.

“Tilers were stationed, and in addition to the sword, they were also armed with field glasses with which they were enabled to scan the horizon for miles in every direction. No cowans or eavesdroppers were seen to approach and the ceremonies were uninterrupted.

“Lodge was regularly opened and closed in due and ancient form in the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason’s Degree. And at 5:00 PM the return journey was begun...”

Currently called “Roof of the World 1094 No. 31” <https://lodgelocator.com/public/entities/168?page=2> under La Gran Logia del Perú <https://glperu.org.pe/>.

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

From the South



The March Events at Friendship Lodge No. 210
Brethren,

As we step into March, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the success of our recent events. Our Sweethearts' Brunch on February 23rd was a wonderful gathering, filled with good food, laughter, and appreciation for our lovely sweethearts. It was truly heartwarming to see our lodge come together to celebrate with each other.

Likewise, our Crab Feed on February 27th was a fantastic evening of fellowship and great seafood. A big thank you to all the brethren and volunteers who made it such a memorable event. Your hard work and dedication are what make our lodge events so special.

Looking ahead, we have a great lineup of events this month:

- Our Stated Meeting is on March 6th, and dinner will feature a classic Irish meal—corned beef and cabbage. Join us for great food and fraternal fellowship.
- On March 20th, the SCVMOA will have the annual Chicken Feed, a time-honored tradition. This year, we are privileged to have the Most Worshipful Art Salazar in attendance. All officers are expected to attend and represent our lodge.
- We are also likely to have a First Degree this month, though the date is still to be determined. Stay tuned for updates as we prepare to initiate a new Brother into the Craft.

Let's continue building on our momentum and making this a memorable month at Friendship Lodge. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Fraternally,

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 Thursday, March at South Valley Lodge No. 187 in Morgan Hill.

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 is the Grand Master's annual visit. The topic is whatever he wants to talk about.

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 send somebody out to find you.

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

The Reverend's Corner



Greetings Brethren, (Protection)

When one thinks about protection, what are some of the things that might come to mind? Some might think about the police. They are there to aid in criminal situations or aid someone in need. We have our firefighters protecting our homes, properties, and saving lives. We also have our brave men and women in the Armed Forces who protect our country.

But let's take it a little closer to home by addressing ourselves. We all face life in different ways, but we all know we can pause and ask for help and know God is always there.

The words—God and I are one—reminds us we are always enfolded in the protecting love of God. When we are facing a difficult decision or fear creeps in, we pause for a moment and repeat - God and I are one. When these words are spoken out loud it makes them more powerful to us.

Now, oneness with God does not mean that we have no challenges, but it does mean we need not face these challenges alone. It does mean through the presence of God within, we are divinely guided on a path of spiritual security and safety.

So, we give thanks for the protecting love of God that enfolds and surrounds us. Even if we might feel alone, God is with and within us. So, repeat: "God and I are one". This truth can and does sustain us in good times and difficult ones.

That protecting presence of God within is stronger than doubt, larger than obstacles, more powerful than adversaries. Turn to this power again and again for peace of mind. As I always say: "Let go and let God". Remember, God is always here for us.

AFFIRMATION:

God is within me through life's challenges.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Psalm 119:114 – You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



Friendship Lodge is making good progress collecting member dues thanks to a billing program from the Grand Lodge, which we started using this year.

Where is my dues card?

A few years ago, the Grand Lodge implemented a change of procedure in which individual members can download and print a copy of their dues cards. No longer do you need to depend on the Lodge Secretary or Membership Services.

However, if you don't have Internet access or a computer or printer, I can print your dues card and mail it to you.

How much is it again?

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. Note that iMember uses your credit card and charges a processing fee.

When paying dues is a hardship

If you have difficulty paying your dues, please contact WM Gilbert Cruz and confidentially request a dues remission.

Anniversary Pins

Several members have been asking around about anniversary pins.

When a member completes 50 years of service, he is entitled to receive the Golden Veteran Award, from the Grand Lodge of California. It is given through the District Inspector. The award includes a very nice lapel pin:



If you have reached 50 years as a Master Mason but you have not received your Golden Veteran Award, let me know and I contact our Inspector to get the process started.

Many brothers join the Fraternity later in life and do not expect to make it to 50 years. For them, there are unofficial anniversary pins, such as this 25-year pin:



If you have reached 25 years as a Master Mason and would like to receive a 25-year pin, let me know and I will order one for you.

What about other years of service?

Anniversary pins are available in five-year increments, from 5 years to 65+ years. There are two sources known to offer these pins, ready to ship for less than \$10.00 each:

Lapel Pins and More
2206 N. Country Club Rd.
Tucson AZ 85716
520-325-1122
www.pinworld.com

Masonic Supply Shop
Unit A, 1102 – 18th St SE
High River, Alberta T1V 2A6
Canada
855-666-2766

www.masonicsupplyshop.com

Anybody can order anniversary pins. Nobody will ask for any Masonic credentials.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



March Birthdays

- 8 – Jeffery Michael Hiatt
- 10 – Ralph Ernest Zerweck
- 14 – Costas Constantinos
- 17 – Paul Joseph Bunje
- 17 – John Robert White
- 23 – Daniel C. Reyes
- 29 – Richard Dean Morris
- 30 – Glorino F. Fularon
- 31 – Roger Brian Beck

March Events

March 6 — Stated Meeting

Traditional Irish Dinner, \$10.00 person. Dress: Coat and tie. Green clothing or accessories are welcome.

March 13 — Ritual Practice

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

March 20 — Officers Association

SCVMOA meeting at South Valley Lodge No. 187 in Morgan Hill. The annual chicken-feed dinner starts at 6:30 PM. In place of a school of instruction at 7:30 PM, we will enjoy a visit with MW Art Salazar, Grand Master of Masons in California. All lodge officers are required to attend. Dress: Casual.

March 27 — Possible First Degree

We have a candidate almost ready. If everything works out, we will proceed with his Initiation. 7:00 PM. Officers in regular stations. JW Sean O'Hara in the East. Dress: Tux

2025 Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Wives/Ladies</u>	
Master		
Gilbert Cruz	(Monette)	408-483-1964
Senior Warden		
Andrew Litfin	(Lauren)	408-832-5846
Junior Warden		
Sean O'Hara	(Savannah)	559-862-9372
Treasurer		
Kendall Mills, PM	(Janet)	408-281-4084
Secretary		
Daniel Doornbos, PM	(Gillian)	408-802-7480
Chaplain		
Daniel Reyes	(Rosa)	408-401-3596
Senior Deacon		
Helmuth Litfin, PM	(Evonne)	408-421-9381
Junior Deacon		
Dan Chaid	(Theresa)	408-393-8905
Marshal		
Ed Advincula		510-921-7136
Senior Steward		
Al Dorji	(Hakimeh)	408-313-4781
Junior Steward		
Jack Caceres	(Sorena)	669-388-1816
Tiler		
Omar Martinez		669-296-7720
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/>



First Degree for Brother Carlos Bogotá, February 20, 2025.

Front Row: Kendall Mills, PM; Ramón Manlapaz, WM Gilbert Cruz, PM; Carlos Bogotá, EA; Sean O'Hara, Andrew Litfin, Helmuth Litfin, PM; Daniel Reyes, and Jack Caceres.

Back Row: Jonathan Clemente, FC; Hugo Gonzalez, Omar Martinez, Dan Chaid, Don Gunaratne, Mike Smith, and Daniel Doornbos, PM.



This 1914 photograph shows members from Roof of the World Lodge No. 1094 at the summit of Mt. Meiggs in Peru. See the story on page 2.