



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

SEPTEMBER – 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	2 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	3 <i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	4 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Casual</i>	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice First Degree 7:00 PM</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 <i>FRIENDSHIP First Degree Conferral for Mr. Brylle Llaguno* 7:00 PM</i>	19	20
21	22 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Golden Rule 479 Officers Mandatory</i>	23	24	25 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice Third Degree 7:00 PM</i>	26	27
28	29	30				

* Pending election at the September Stated Meeting.

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

Summer is almost done, and Fall is almost here. We had a successful awarding for our student awardees. Let's congratulate Brother Robert Moore, our latest Hiram Award recipient. The reception dinner was also good, thanks to Brother Hristo and our Order of Eastern Star family who helped in the set up and clean up.

I anticipate us likely to have another First Degree this month and another Third-Degree Conferral. I was able to coordinate with the current Master of Oasis Lodge No. 854 in Los Angeles, to do the courtesy Raising for Brother Henry Peña. I'll send the email out once the date is set, and if any brother would like to support Bro. Henry raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

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):

- Care Management
- Financial Assistance
- Referral Services
- Masonic Homes Application

Our next Stated Meeting will be on September 5, and we will again wear casual attire. For the October 2 Stated Meeting, we will be back to a business suit or sports coat and tie. If you plan to attend the Stated Meeting dinner, please RSVP to our Junior Warden Sean O'Hara.

The Santa Clara Valley Officers Association Meeting will be on September 22, hosted by Golden Rule No. 479 at the San Jose Masonic Center. Dinner starts by 6:30 followed by the School of

Instruction. The topics will be Grand Lodge Preview and Masonic Funerals. All Officers should attend. Please inform me and our District Inspector Dinesh Chhabra at 908-247-9288 or dchhabra9@gmail.com if you're not able to attend.

Gilbert Cruz, PM, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West!

Andrew Litfin, Senior Warden

From the South



Fraternal Greetings from the South!

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 Monday, September 22 at Golden Rule Lodge No. 479, 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 preview of Grand Lodge legislation and the Masonic Funeral Service.

To perform the Master's part in the Masonic Funeral Service, you must pass a knowledge and ritual proficiency with the Inspector. Workshops for aspiring Funeral Masters are offered occasionally.

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,

(Brave)

In the next few months, we will be coming to the end of another year. We have seen changes and I'm sure we will see many more. Maybe for the good or not but still changes. It is how we will handle these that brought me to my subject for this month:

BRAVE.

What does brave mean to each of us? We might look at it as going along with courage. As we take a look around us, we see many brave people. Take for instance the firefighters fighting all the fires here in California. They are putting their lives on the line to save others. They are not reluctant to go headlong into the battle. Look at our service men/women all over the country and abroad. They felt the need to serve. Is this not bravery?

So, as we look at brave outside ourselves, let's look at brave as an individual. We all want greater things in our lives but might feel we cannot move forward. What holds us back? We judge ourselves harshly at times but shouldn't. Just take that first step forward, don't hesitate. Because when we feel reluctant, all we need to do is call upon that inner strength of the God within. That will push us past our fears and move us forward. Fear can stop us from moving forward. So much of life lies on the other side of fear. We are meant to live a fulfilling, satisfying life.

When we step out of our comfort zone, we can try new things. We have the Divine within that gives us the courage needed. We can affirm "I am Brave". So, embrace our bravery and call upon God for guidance.

AFFIRMATION:

Through the power of God within, I am brave.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and self-discipline.

God bless,

Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



September is here and there are still seven members who have not paid their 2025 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. Note that iMember uses your credit card and charges a processing fee.

Your dues payment of \$116.50 is split between the Friendship Lodge and the Grand Lodge of California. The lodge keeps \$50.00. The remaining \$66.50 pays your portion of the per capita tax, which is where the Grand Lodge gets most of its operating income.

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 saves the lodge from having to pay \$66.50 for per capita tax.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



September Birthdays

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

September Events

September 4 — Stated Meeting

Dinner, \$10.00 person. Dress: Casual

September 11 — Ritual Practice

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

September 18 — First Degree

First degree for Mr. Brylle Llaguno. 7:00 PM. Pending successful ballot at the September Stated Meeting. Officers in regular stations. JW Sean O'Hara in the East. Dress: Tux

September 22 — Officers Association

SCVMOA meeting at Golden Rule Lodge No. 479. Dinner at 6:30 PM. School of instruction at 7:30 PM covering the Grand Lodge Preview and Masonic Funerals. All lodge officers are required to attend. Dress: Casual.

September 25 — Ritual Practice

Third degree. 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations. SW Andrew Litfin in the East. Dress: Casual

We anticipate that Bro. Louie Mar will give his 2nd degree proficiency at the next Stated Meeting and be ready for his 3rd degree in October.

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/>

Hiram Award for Brother Robert Moore

Friendship Lodge No. 210 was pleased to present a long-overdue the Hiram Award to Brother Robert Moore on August 16, 2025.



*That's Bro. Moore standing tall in the center, flanked by his grandchildren.
Next right are his wife and daughter.*

Grand Lodge 2025 Legislation

Grand Master's Decisions

Questions frequently arise in our Grand Lodge on the application of various provisions in our *California Masonic Code (CMC)*. Between Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, it is the Grand Master's responsibility to answer these questions by deciding how the law applies to the circumstances at hand. A Grand Master's decision on the application of the law to a specific factual circumstance does not bind his successor.

Grand Master's decisions require only a majority affirmative vote (50% + 1) for adoption.

When a Grand Master's decision has been adopted, it appears in the Appendix of the next release of the CMC, as an interpretation of a specific section of the CMC.

Grand Master's Recommendations

If a Grand Master wants to mandate that his successor always follow what was for him a discretionary act, then he must recommend, and Grand Lodge must adopt, an amendment to our Constitution and Ordinances (CMC) to mandate that result.

A Grand Master's recommendation must receive a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption. If it receives a majority vote, it will be carried over to next year.

The following year, carryover recommendations require a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.

Member Resolutions

Resolutions from members must be submitted in writing and presented to the Grand Secretary at least 180 days prior to the starting date of the next Annual Communication.

There must be at least three proponents, all members of the Grand Lodge of California, and each a member of a different constituent Lodge.

Lodge members who can be proponents consist of the currently serving Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and the Past Masters of a constituent Lodge.

Carryover Grand Master's Recommendations

GM Metroka's Recommendation No. 4: Updates the required applicant contributions and sets the contribution amounts.

GM Metroka's Recommendation No. 6: Modifies lodge vote required to restore a Mason suspended for non-payment of dues.

GM Metroka's Recommendation No. 8: Clarifies procedures to approve alternative rituals.

GM Metroka's Recommendation No. 11: Permits the Secretary of one Lodge to serve as Master, Warden, or Secretary of another Lodge.

Each requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.

Carryover Member Resolutions

24-01: Before any member of a Lodge may be nominated to a principal Lodge office, he must give his Master Mason candidate proficiency.

It requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.

Current Grand Master's Decisions

Decision No. 1: Clarifies which parts of the ritual are esoteric or secret.

Decision No. 2: Installation of lodge officers whose office is not included in the ritual.

Each requires a majority affirmative vote (50% + 1) for adoption.

Current Grand Master's Recommendations

GM Salazar's Recommendation No. 1: Updates Grand Lodge Committee membership, duties, and tenure.

GM Salazar's Recommendation No. 2: Eliminates Code provision relating to Officer Associations. That is, Officer Associations would no longer be mandatory. Existing Associations may continue if the members so desire.

GM Salazar's Recommendation No. 3: Centralized notification for suspension due to non-payment of dues. This information is available but requires a manual search.

GM Salazar's Recommendation No. 4: Updates the duties of a lodge Secretary. Secretary duties in the CMC need to be updated to reflect modern data management practices.

GM Salazar's Recommendation No. 5: Permits (Masonic) charges to be withdrawn in the pre-trial phase.

Each requires a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

New Member Resolutions

25-01: This resolution was ruled out-of-order.

25-02: Would exempt Cicero Research Lodge, UD, whose members are all past Grand Orators from the Grand Lodge of California, and which meets in multiple locations, from requirement that Research Lodge meet at least four times per year.

25-03: This resolution was withdrawn.

25-04: Changes to the titles of Grand Organist, Assistant Grand Organist, and Organist to the titles of Grand Musician, Assistant Grand Musician, and Musician, respectively.

Each of these resolutions require a 5/6 affirmative vote for adoption.

2025 Masons4Mitts Leaderboard

Team	No. of Lodges	Region	Mitts	Value
South Bay Bombers	23*	Northern California	1,512	\$30,240.
East Bay Aces	26	Northern California	1,409	\$28,180.
South Bay Spartans	27	Los Angeles	945	\$18,900.
Arroyo Seco Hilltoppers	20	Los Angeles	684	\$12,960.
South County Bears	10	Orange County	646	\$12,920
Media Central Titans	22	Los Angeles	566	\$11,320.
North Bay Bees	21	Northern California	517	\$10,340.
Northside Sharks	12	San Diego	359	\$7,180.
Mid-City Marauders	11	San Diego	346	\$6,920.
SF Sluggers	19	Northern California	339	\$6,780.
Northwest Beach Bums	22	Los Angeles	337	\$6,740.
Eastside Olympians	7	San Diego	333	\$6,660.
North County Bees	14	Orange County	330	\$6,600.
Delta Dogs	17	Northern California	304	\$6,080.
Pacific Coast Waves	8	San Diego	282	\$5,640.
North State Hotshots	25	Northern California	221	\$4,420.
Sacramento Cyclones	23	Northern California	217	\$4,340.
Gateway Pioneers	16	Los Angeles	205	\$4,100.
Totals	323		9,552	\$190,320.

*Friendship Lodge is part of the South Bay Bombers.

Now in its 17th year, Masons4Mitts has raised more than \$2 million for our four Major League Baseball (MLB) partner foundations, equipping underserved young people all around the state with custom-made leather baseball mitts and ensuring they have access to enriching, high-quality youth baseball and softball leagues.

As always, the California Masonic Foundation is proud to partner with the charitable foundations: Los Angeles Angels – Orange County Region, Los Angeles Dodgers – Los Angeles Region, San Diego Padres – San Diego Region, and San Francisco Giants – Northern California Region.

Note: In past years, the Los Angeles Angels were known as the California Angels and the Anaheim Angels. Their ballpark is in Anaheim, Orange County.

By donating to Masons4Mitts, you ensure that underserved young people are provided with a custom-made leather baseball mitt and able to play the game and learn important life lessons.

With a focus on expanding the range of skills and services it brings to young people to include health, nutrition, wellness, and social justice, Masons4Mitts is growing to incorporate so much more than the game.

At the end of the campaign in the fall, Grand Master Salazar will present a check to each of our four MLB partners.

You can donate here:

<https://masonicfoundation.org/masons4mitts/>