



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

OCTOBER – 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	2 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Suit or coat and tie</i>	3	4
5	6 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	7 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	8	9 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Practice 7:00 to 9:00 PM Casual Dress</i>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 <i>FRIENDSHIP 3rd Degree Practice 7:00 to 9:00 PM Casual Dress</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Los Altos 712 Officers Mandatory</i>	21	22	23 <i>No meeting due to it being Grand Lodge week.</i>	24 <i>Grand Lodge Annual Communication</i>	25 <i>Grand Lodge Annual Communication</i>
26 <i>Grand Lodge Annual Communication</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>FRIENDSHIP Third Degree Conferral 7:00 to 9:00 PM Officers in tux</i>	31	1 <i>Grand Master's Reception at San Jose Scottish Rite 4:00 PM</i>

From the East



Greetings Brethren!

Fall has arrived. We had a successful awarding for our student awardees. Let's welcome our new Brother Brylle Llaguno, who received his First Degree on September 18. Bro. Ed Advincula will be his coach.

We are looking forward to a Third-Degree conferral for Bro. Louie Mar this month. Bro. Louie has studied diligently and is ready to give his Fellowcraft proficiency.

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 October 2, 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 Monday, October 20, hosted by Los Altos Lodge No. 479 at the Los Altos Masonic Center. Dinner starts by 6:30 followed by the School of Instruction. The topics will be Candidate Education/Proficiency, Elections, Reception of the Flag. 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, 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, October 20 at Los Alto Lodge No. 712, which meets at 146 Main St, Unit 103, Los Altos.

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 Candidate Education and Proficiency, Elections of Officers, and Reception of the Flag.

The election of officers and reception of the US Flag take place at the November Stated Meeting.

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



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



October marks the end of the annual dues cycle. Notifications for your 2026 dues are sent in November, followed by several reminders.

Dues for 2026 will be \$120.50, a four dollar increase from last year. Of that amount, \$72.50 is the per capita we pay to the Grand Lodge. The per capita amount rises a little just about every year. The base dues amount that Friendship Lodge keeps remains the same.

The easiest way to pay your dues is online when you receive your notice via email.

You can pay dues online at any time through your iMember account. Note that iMember uses your credit card and charges a processing fee.

And you can pay by check. 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

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary

2025 Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Wives/Ladies</u>	
Master		
Gilbert Cruz	(Monette)	408-483-1964
Senior Warden		
Andrew Litfin		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/	



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 2 — Stated Meeting Dinner

Cost is \$10.00. Dress: Coat and tie.

October 9 — Ritual Practice

Third Degree, opening, obligation, lecture, and closing. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

October 16 — Ritual Practice

Third Degree, second section. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

All officers and degree team members are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

October 20 — OAM / SOI

Our first Officer Association Meeting and School of Instruction for the year is at Los Altos Lodge, No. 712, 146 Main St #103, Los Altos.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The school follows at 7:30. The topic is Candidate Education/Proficiency, Elections, Reception of the Flag.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

October 26 thru 26 — Grand Lodge

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication is held at the California Masonic Memorial Temple, 1111 California Street, San Francisco. All Master Masons may attend. You can register online or at the door.

The Grand Lodge opens Friday afternoon, followed by the business session that runs through Saturday

afternoon. It includes reports of the various Grand Lodge committees and voting upon current legislation. Saturday night is the Grand Banquet. Sunday morning is the installation of the Grand Officers. The opening, banquet, and installation are open to the public. Dress: Coat and tie.

January 30 — Third Degree

For Bro. Louie Mar. 7:00 to 9:30 PM.

All officers and degree team members are expected to attend. Dress: Tux for officers, Coat and tie for team members and sideliners.

November 1 — 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: Collared shirt or coat and tie.

Grand Lodge Legislation

Last month, we listed the Legislation coming before Grand Lodge this year. In case you missed it, we are repeating it this month.

There are four members of Friendship Lodge that will attend the Annual Communication to vote on these items: WM Gilbert Cruz, SW Andrew Litfin, JW Sean O'Hara, and representing the Past Masters, Wor. Helmuth Litfin.

Wor. Helmuth compiled the legislation and sent it to the other Past Masters requesting their feedback. We also covered these topics at the September Stated Meeting.

If you have questions about any of these items, or want us to vote a certain way, please contact one of the four individuals listed above and let them know.

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.

Autumn was once called "Harvest".

By Nicole Garner Meeker



As beloved as the crisp fall weather seems to be, English speakers haven't always paid attention to it... at least not linguistically. Historically, the more extreme seasons have always been named — specifically winter, which was so important that it was used to mark the passage of time by the Anglo-Saxons, who counted their years in winters. But when English speakers of the past referred to summer's end, they often used the term "harvest," from the Old English (and ultimately Germanic) *haerfest*. The first recorded usage of "harvest" to mean a season appears in the 10th century, but the word didn't stick around in common usage (it was considered outdated by the 1700s). It could be that it was just too confusing a term, considering it was used for both the time of year and the task of plucking crops from trees and fields.

Eventually, the English language began recognizing the transitional seasons. Spring was first known as "lent" or "lenten" in the 12th and 13th centuries, then "spryngyng (springing) time," among other terms,

around the 14th century. “Autumn” emerged around the 1300s, taken from the Latin *autumnus* and French *autompne*, and slowly pushing out “harvest.”

“Fall” cropped up around the 1500s as part of “fall of the leaf,” mirroring the popular phrase “spring of the leaf” used for the vernal equinox, and it’s likely that these phrases were simply shortened to give the seasons their modern names. Autumn and fall have been used interchangeably ever since, with their popularity waxing and waning over time, though English speakers today primarily use one or the other based on their homeland. Autumn reigns supreme in the U.K., while most Americans typically use fall. The vocabulary variation harkens back to the Revolutionary period, when disgruntled colonists attempted to split both governmentally and culturally from the British, in part by modifying their speech. Less than 100 years after the U.S. declared independence, fall was considered an entirely American word, used in a young country that would go on to establish its own season-defining traditions, such as trick-or-treating and Thanksgiving dinners.

Source: <https://interestingfacts.com/>.

The Highest Form of Masonic Charity

By Russell E. Charvonia, PGM



California Freemasonry and volunteerism have gone hand-in-hand since the very beginning. From providing aid during the 1850 cholera epidemic to serving in the Masonic Ambulance Corps to reading

for students in elementary schools today, Masons always rise to the occasion.

Why are we so willing to offer a helping hand? While I would like to wax poetic, I think it boils down to a simple, yet profound notion: It is the right thing to do. When we see a need, we rush in to address it. When we sense that a cornerstone has rough edges, we band together to smooth it into a useful stone.

In my travels, I have noticed something special among brethren when we volunteer together. There is a deeper bond and a lighter spirit that comes from working beside each other, out in the community. While common Masonic teachings create a unique connection between us, knowing our brothers outside the lodge provides the opportunity to learn even more about each other and to deepen our relationships. The privilege of giving to others strengthens our spirits and gives us a sense of our own gratitude for life and its blessings. The truth about helping others is this: When we do so, we feel good about ourselves.

Masons accept the responsibility to repair our world; to leave it in a better condition than before we were born. By applying our strengths and resources where they are needed, we improve the lives of others – and by extension, our communities. This volunteerism doesn’t need to be heroic or entail a great investment of time. Donating blood once a month can help save lives. Tutoring a struggling student for an hour a week may help to secure his solid future.

Volunteerism may well be the highest form of Masonic charity. Kneeling at the altar, we pledge to meet the highest expectation of caring for one another. We accomplish this as brothers when we encourage each other to work together to make the world a better place for our children, and when we are there to assist a brother in need.

It is my hope that California Masons will look deeply within their lodges, communities, and society as a whole, providing Masonic charity where there is a need. Volunteerism builds the world around us as a reflection of who we are—the greatest fraternity on earth.

Source: *California Freemason* magazine, June/July 2015 issue.

How did Halloween Originate?

Halloween is thought to have influences from Christian beliefs and practices and folk customs and beliefs from the Celtic-speaking countries, some of which are believed to have pagan roots.

The English word *Halloween* comes from *All Hallows' Eve*, being the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) on November 1st and All Souls' Day on 2 November 2nd.

Since the time of the early Church, major feasts in Christianity (such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost) had vigils that began the night before, as did the feast of All Hallows. These three days are a time when Western Christians honor all saints and pray for recently departed souls who have yet to reach Heaven.

The pagan origins of Halloween customs are typically linked to the Gaelic festival Samhain (pronounced sah-win). Samhain is one of the “quarter days” in the medieval Gaelic calendar and has been celebrated on October 31st and November 1st in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. A kindred festival has been held by the Brittonic Celts, called “first day of winter”. For the Celts, the day ended and began at sunset, so the festival begins the evening before November 1st.

Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or the “darker half” of the year. It was seen as a liminal (in-between) time, when the boundary between this world and the Otherworld thinned. This meant the Aos Sí (pronounced ees SHEE), the spirits or fairies, could more easily come into this world and were particularly active. They were both respected and feared, with individuals often invoking the protection of God when approaching their dwellings. At Samhain, the Aos Sí were appeased to ensure the people and livestock survived the winter. Offerings of food and drink, or portions of the crops, were left outside for them.

The souls of the dead were also said to revisit their homes seeking hospitality. Places were set at the dinner table and by the fire to welcome them. The belief that the souls of the dead return home on one night of the year and must be appeased seems to have ancient origins and is found in many cultures.

Throughout Ireland and Britain, especially in the Celtic-speaking regions, the household festivities included divination rituals and games intended to foretell one's future, especially regarding death and marriage. Apples and nuts were often used, and customs included apple bobbing, nut roasting, scrying or mirror-gazing, pouring molten lead or egg whites into water, dream interpretation, and others.

Special bonfires were lit and special rituals performed. In some places, torches lit from the bonfire were carried sunwise around homes and fields to protect them. It is suggested the fires were a kind of imitative or sympathetic magic they mimicked the Sun and held back the decay and darkness of winter, as well as warding off evil spirits and prevent the souls of the dead from falling to earth.

Incidentally, the word “bonfire” comes from the Middle English term *bone fire*, where bones were used as fuel. Bones require temperatures of greater than 1,000°F to combust, which is why bonfires were built so large.

In England, from the medieval period, up until the 1930s, people practiced the Christian custom of *souling* on Halloween, which involved groups of *soulers*, both Protestant and Catholic, going from parish to parish, begging the rich for soul cakes, in exchange for praying for the souls of the givers and their friends.

In Scotland and Ireland, *guising*—children disguised in costume going from door to door for food or coins—is a secular Halloween custom.

To frighten evil spirits, the guisers traditionally carried jack-o'-lanterns, commonly made from a pumpkin, or formerly made from a root vegetable such as a beet, rutabaga, or turnip.

A popular variant of trick-or-treating, known as *trunk-or-treating* (or Halloween tailgating), occurs when children are offered treats from the trunks of cars parked in a church or a school parking lot. The trunk of each automobile is decorated with a certain theme, such as children's literature, movies, scripture, and job roles. This practice offers control of who the children visit and what they are given.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween>