



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

FEBRUARY – 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	3 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	4 <i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	5 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Suit or coat and tie</i>	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 <i>FRIENDSHIP Second Degree Practice 7:00 PM Officers in regular stations</i>	13	14
15	16	17 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM San Jose No. 10 Officers Mandatory</i>	18	19 <i>FRIENDSHIP Second Degree for Bro. Brylle Llaguno 7:00 PM Officers in regular stations</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <i>FRIENDSHIP Crab Feed 6:30 PM Seats are limited. Reserve now!</i>	27	28

From the East



Brethren,

At our January Stated Meeting, our Treasurer, Wor. Kendall Mills presented the 2026 Lodge budget. CMC §809 requires each Lodge to present its annual budget at its January Stated Meeting.

After some discussion, the Brothers present unanimously approved it. Most of us don't think about it, but a lot of time and effort goes into planning and preparing the budget each year.

CMC §809 also details required, discretionary, social and fraternal, and prohibited expenditures. My thanks to Wor. Mills and the Lodge Finance Committee for all their time and effort in keeping us up-to-code.

Mandatory Lodge Committees

Another requirement is to announce the Lodge's committees. CMC §806 requires every Lodge to have four:

1. Executive Committee. The elected officers (Master, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary) compose this committee. The Master of the Lodge is the Chairman. The committee meets monthly, prior to each Stated Meeting. Its duties include counseling with the Master concerning the operation and affairs of the Lodge and to plan and create agenda for the Stated Meetings.

The committeemen are Andrew Litfin, WM, chairman; Sean O'Hara, SW; Jake Todino, JW; Kendall Mills, PM, Treasurer; and Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary.

2. Charity Committee. The Master and Wardens shall be a Charity committee and shall the power to draw upon the funds of the Lodge for any sum, not exceeding the amount determined by a standing resolution, for the relief of a distressed worthy Mason and his wife or orphan of a Master Mason.

The committeemen are Andrew Litfin, WM, chairman; Sean O'Hara, SW; and Jake Todino, JW.

3. Audit Committee. Its duty is to examine all accounts presented against the Lodge and the books and records of the Treasurer and Secretary. Neither the Treasurer nor Secretary may serve on the Audit Committee, as their work is the subject of the audits.

The committeemen are Joe Alarcon, PM, chairman; Jim Grove, PM; and Tony Gonzales.

4. Membership Retention Committee. Its duty is to personally, or otherwise, interview each Mason who is behind in his dues, ascertain the cause, and work closely with the Master and Officers in a continuing effort to retain of all worthy brothers unable to pay.

The committeemen are Daniel Doornbos, PM, chairman; Don Gunarante, and Eduardo Advincola.

Additional Lodge Committees

A Lodge may have additional committees as needed. Friendship Lodge has several such committees to help carry out its functions and activities during the year.

5. Budget and Finance Committee. This committee assists the Master-elect to create his budget for the following year. Presents the annual budget for Lodge approval, reviews the bills, financial requests, and motions prior to Stated Meetings.

The committeemen are Kendall Mills, PM, chairman; Joe Alarcon, PM; Jim Grove, PM; and Daniel Doornbos, PM.

6. Candidate Coaching Committee: The Senior Warden is the Lodge's Head Candidates Coach. He oversees the work of the other Candidate Coaches and gives a candidate progress report at each Stated Meeting.

The committeemen are Sean O'Hara, SW, chairman; and all active Candidate Coaches in the Lodge.

7. Scholarship Committee: This committee administers the Lodge's Scholarship program. It examines, verifies, and awards Lodge scholarships to eligible students.

The committeemen are Kendall Mills, PM, chairman; Bob Moore, Dan Chaid, and Gilbert Cruz, PM.

8. Funeral Committee. Its duty is to conduct the Masonic Funeral Service. The Funeral Master must be certified by the District Inspector therefore the committee ensures that the Lodge has a certified member available to serve. It also maintains a set of funeral aprons and other required paraphernalia.

The committeemen are Daniel Doornbos, PM, chairman; Gilbert Cruz, PM; Helmuth Litfin, PM; and Eduardo Advincula, Chaplain.

9. Archive Committee: This committee identifies essential Lodge documents, processes them as required, and archives them in the Lodge's (online) Vault.

The committeemen are Billy Mills, PM, chairman; and Kendall Mills, PM.

10. Masonic Outreach Services Committee. Its duty is to check on the health and welfare of ALL our Lodge members, identify those in need, and assist them to access Masonic Outreach Services (MOS), and helping them apply for admission to the Masonic Home. This committee also plans and holds Lodge activities at the Masonic Home and attends MOS training meetings.

The committeemen are Jim North, chairman; Gilbert Cruz, PM; Daniel Doornbos, PM; and Eduardo Advincula, Chaplain.

11. Hiram Award Committee. This committee may, but is not required to, recommend a Lodge member to receive the Hiram Award. Should a nominee be selected, the committee plans and stages the Hiram Award presentation program. All committeemen must be Hiram Award recipients.

The committeemen are Helmuth Litfin, PM, chairman; Billy Mills, PM; Kendall Mills, PM; and Tony Gonzales.

12. Masonic Youth Groups Committee: This committee keeps the Lodge members informed about Masonic Youth activities and encourages them to attend. This committee may be called upon to assist the Junior Warden in connection with such services that the Youth Orders may provide to the Lodge.

The committeemen are Gilbert Cruz, PM, chairman; Al Dorji, and Chito Atienza.

13. Food Committee: Its duty is to plan for, provide, and/or arrange food for Stated Dinners, degree refreshments, crab feeds, family picnics, and other events as needed.

The committeemen are Jake Todino, JW, chairman; Hristo Kolev, and Jack Caceres.

Child-ID Committee

Are we missing something? You're not doubt thinking of the Child-ID Committee. That committee provided Child-ID services when requested and served the community for multiple decades. Unfortunately, the available Child-ID equipment has not kept up with current technology and no longer offers value to families with children.

So, there you are! When you pause to think about it, our Lodge does a lot more than hold meetings and confer degrees. Our Lodge committeemen perform essential functions to keep the Lodge going and to provide the members and their families with helpful assistance.

Fraternally,

Andrew Litfin, Master



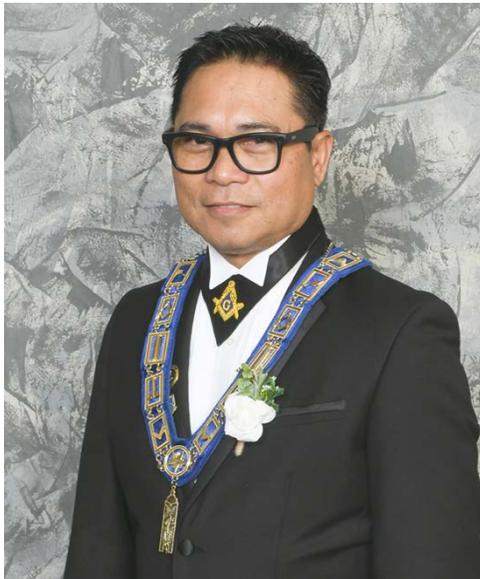
From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West!

Sean Michael O'Hara, Senior Warden

From the South



Brethren,

February marks our second stated meeting and, though it's the shortest month, it has a way of inviting us to slow down and savor the moment. With cool days and long evenings.

Brethren, we invite you to join us for dinner—a time to gather, unwind, and enjoy comforting flavors that warm both body and spirit. It's a simple, cheerful pause in the season, offering a chance to reflect, reconnect, and look ahead to brighter days.

February 26th is marked on our calendar for our traditional Crab Feed. Come enjoy great company and delicious crab, along with other menu offerings to be served.

Maximum seating, 100 people. \$40.00 per person, children under 12, \$20.00. Please call me to make your reservations.

Jake Todino, Junior Warden

831-207-1264 or jaketods@gmail.com.

Training Camp



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

The Lodge has been blessed with enthusiastic officers, some of whom speak English as a second language. They cheerfully accept the challenge of building English skills along with their ritual skills.

Bro. Brylle Llaguno reports that he is ready to give his Entered Apprentice proficiency at the February Stated Meeting. We have scheduled his Fellowcraft Degree for Thursday, February 19, at 7:00 PM, with the Officers in regular stations. If an Officer cannot perform his part, we will quality a replacement.

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Tuesday, February 17 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 Lodge Officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please our Inspector Worshipful Dinesh Chhabra. And let WM Andrew Litfin know, so we don't send somebody out to find you.

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

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

The Reverend's Corner



Greetings Brethren, (Love)

I chose LOVE for several reasons. Of course, one would be that February is Valentine's Day. And we know that we celebrate our sweethearts on this day. Also, it is that there is not enough love in this world today. Yes, it is easy to say "I love you" but is that just out of habit or do we really mean it?

Romance is one beautiful expression of love. You can see it in the eyes of a newlywed couple or in seeing an elderly couple out for an evening stroll. We know that our youth are reaching out for love in their lives. Let's choose to celebrate love wherever and however it appears.

When a photographer frames an artful shot, we too can focus on capturing love as it truly is; always present, endlessly varied, and often revealed in contrast, like the photographer sees, contrast between light and shadow.

God gives us love unconditionally. Do we also give unconditionally? God's light illuminates in the shadows so we can see clearly. Love's power prevails, creating contour, contrast, and depth. With clarity we can show our love not only to our loved ones and one another, but to our community and our country. Let love go with us as we venture out of our homes each and every day. Let's be a light in a lonely desert that enlightens many with love.

AFFIRMATION:

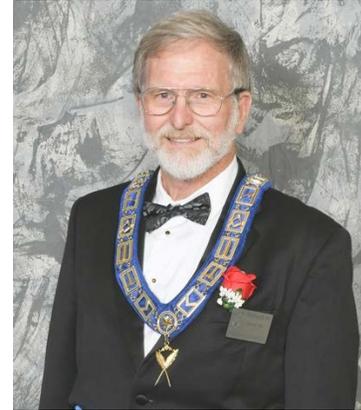
I celebrate love in its many forms.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Colossians 3:14 – Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in harmony.

God bless,
Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



Dues for 2026 are \$120.50. The due date for dues was January 1, 2026. If you haven't paid yet, there is still time.

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

If you prefer to 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

Please do *not* mail or take your dues check to the San Jose Masonic Center. And please do *not* hand your dues check to somebody else, expecting him or her to give the check to me. Checks get lost that way. I need your check in hand so I can process your payment and generate a new dues card.

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 – Eddie Carmona, PM
- 23 – Frank Harms
- 24 – Brylle Llaguno
- 24 – Robert Sohigian, PM

The Keystone Initiative

This plan is our guide for moving forward with strength, intention, and purpose. Based on feedback from members, officers, prospects, and the general public about what are the fraternity's challenges and what we can do to make it better. The result is more than a call to action; it's a roadmap to the future.



2026 Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Wives/Ladies</u>	
Master		
Andrew Litfin	(Lauren)	408-832-5846
Senior Warden		
Sean O'Hara	(Savannah)	559-862-9372
Junior Warden		
Jake Todino	(Lyn)	831-207-1264
Treasurer		
Kendall Mills, PM	(Janet)	408-281-4084
Secretary		
Daniel Doornbos, PM	(Gillian)	408-802-7480
Chaplain		
Ed Advincula		510-921-7136
Senior Deacon		
Dan Chaid	(Theresa)	408-393-8905
Junior Deacon		
Al Dorji	(Hakimeh)	408-313-4781
Marshal		
Gilbert Cruz, PM	(Monette)	408-483-1964
Senior Steward		
Jack Caceres	(Sorena)	669-388-1816
Junior Steward		
Omar Martinez		669-296-7720
Tiler		
Louie Mar	(Ireen)	408-838-3873
Musician		
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/>

February Events

February 5 — Stated Meeting

Dinner is \$10.00 per person.

Stated Meeting: Presentation of Treasurer's, Secretary's, and Trustees Annual. Dress: Coat and tie

February 12 — Ritual Practice

Second degree team will rehearse the obligation and lectures of the Fellowcraft degree.

7:00 to 9:00 PM. All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

February 17 — OAM / SOI

Officer Association Meeting and School of Instruction at San Jose Lodge, No. 10, at the San Jose Masonic Center.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The school follows at 7:30. The topic is the First Degree.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

February 19 — Second Degree

Bro. Brylle Llaguno. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Officers wear tuxedos. Sideliners wear business suit or sports coat and tie.

February 26 — Crab Feed

6:30 PM. \$40.00 for adults, \$20.00 for children under 12. Limited to 100 persons. Make your reservations now with JW Jake Todino at 831-207-1264 or jaketods@gmail.com.

Who was Saint Valentine?



His original Latin name, Valentinus, derives from the Latin word “valens” meaning “strong” or “healthy”. Valentine is the English version of the name.

By some accounts, Valentine was a priest and physician. Others identify him as the bishop of Terni, Italy. He lived the late 3rd century, before Christianity was legally recognized in the Roman Empire. In those days, Christians were seen as a threat to the peace and prosperity of the Empire and were often targets of persecution.

Valentine was a dedicated clergyman, evangelizing, ministering to church members, and performing healings. In his free time, he was an enthusiastic beekeeper. During the reign of emperor Claudius II Gothicus (268–270 CE), Valentine was arrested, condemned to death, beaten, and beheaded.

The word “martyr” comes from the Greek word meaning “witness”. When somebody suffers persecution and execution for a cause they believe in (like their religion), in defiance of an external party (like the emperor), that person’s death is the ultimate witness of their faith.

In the early Christian church, martyrdom qualified you for sainthood. The church assigns each saint a feast day, on which he or she is remembered and hopefully emulated by the people. Since St. Valentine was martyred on a February 14th, that became his feast day.

According to legend, St. Valentine signed a letter “from your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. Another legend states that he defied the emperor’s orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from being conscripted to serve in war.

A popular idea, developed in the 14th century, says that St. Valentine is merely a Christianized version of the ancient god Cupid, and his feast day is an updated version of Lupercalia, a fertility festival celebrated in February by ancient Romans. There is no historical evidence to support that.

St. Valentine is the patron saint of lovers, people with epilepsy, and beekeepers. Observing Valentine’s Day as a lovers’ festival dates at least from the 14th century. The tradition of giving cards on Valentine’s Day began in the 18th century.



Friendship Lodge No. 210 presents the 2026 Annual Crab Feed



San Jose Masonic Center

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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

Adults, \$40.00; Children under 12, \$20.00; under 5, free.

We are limited to 100 diners. Reservation deadline: February 18, 2026.

**Reserve with Jake Todino, Junior Warden
831-207-1264 or jaketods@gmail.com**