



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

APRIL – 2026

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 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	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 Ritual Practice</i>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice</i>	17	18
19	20	21 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Palo Alto 346 Officers Mandatory</i>	22	23 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice</i>		

From the East



Fraternal Greetings from the East!

Andrew Litfin, Master

From the South



Fraternal Greetings from the South!

Jake Todino, Junior Warden

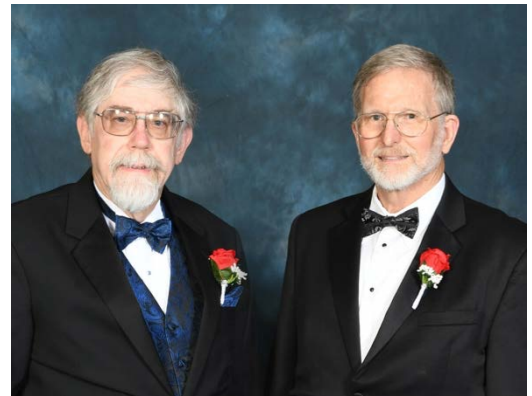
From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West!

Sean Michael O'Hara, Senior Warden

Training Camp



Congratulations to Bro. Brylle Llaguno who received his Fellowcraft Degree on Thursday, March 26. Bro. Dan Chaid gave the Middle Chamber (carpet) lecture for the first time and did really well. And by far better than the first time I gave it in 1985. He obviously put a lot of effort into learning the part.

The other officers, most of whom have had a lot of practice in their assigned roles, did an excellent job overall. There were a few shortcomings with the event, mostly due to last-minute planning and follow-up.

What really bothered me was a disappointing attendance. Three officers were absent. One of them did not find somebody to take his place. Everybody who showed up had a position to fill. If somebody

didn't have to be there, they weren't. That's a positive way of saying there were zero sideliners.

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Tuesday, April 21 at Palo Alto Lodge No. 346, which meets at 461 Florence St. in Palo Alto.

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 Second 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, (Helpful)

For the past nine years I have submitted an article called Chaplain/Reverend's Corner in hopes that I have given you, my Brothers, food for heart and soul.

With a heavy, but grateful heart, this will be my last article. It has been my joy and honor to be able to do this each month. But there comes a time when all things come to a close.

I chose for my last article the subject, Helpful, in hopes that as with many others, it gives you comfort, spiritual guidance, inspiration, and I could go on and on.

There are times in our lives when we might feel lonely and long for a meaningful connection. So, if we stop and remember that one of the best ways is to invite others into our lives and be of service. Being

helpful in a time of need gives us all kinds of new connections and new friendships.

The world at this time needs helping hands and caring hearts. Compassion is a spiritual gift. We can be grateful for the opportunity to share it and discover our oneness through acts of kindness and service. I once shared with you in another article the word ARK – meaning Act of Random Kindness. We need more of this.

We know there are many ways we can help. Like when we volunteer in our community. We do our share. We are open to divine inspiration about how to help. We honor our community by radiating divine love, offering our time, and service.

I leave you with this lovely poem:

LIVING ANEW

Every day we start anew.
Divinely guided what to do.
Making the world a better place.

Remembering our mission is why we're here.
Living God's greatness, releasing our fear.
We wake with loving thoughts in mind.
And dare to live boldly, generous and kind.

One by one, creating heaven on earth.
Encouraging others, revealing our worth.
Divinely appointed, and all good.
In flow, living as we should.

AFFIRMATION:

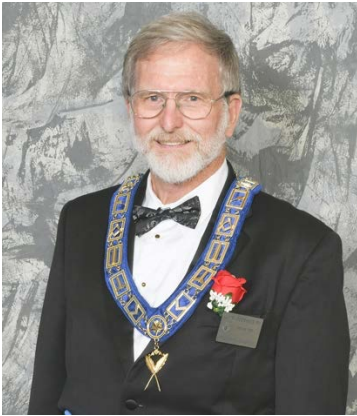
With a heart of compassion, I endeavor to be helpful.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Romans 12:10 – Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

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



April Birthdays

3 – Eduardo Advincula	20 – Andrew Litfin, WM
11 – Kirk Miller	20 – Randy Shelton, PM
11 – José Pulido, PM	27 – Donald Day
12 – Jason Barnett, PM	30 – Ronald Yang
19 – Omar Martinez	

April Events

April 2 — Stated Meeting

Dinner costs \$10.00 per person.

Dress: Coat and tie

San Jose Scottish Rite is holding its annual Maundy Thursday service on April 2, starting at 6:30 PM.

April 9 — Ritual Practice

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

Dress: Casual

April 16 — Ritual Practice

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

Dress: Casual

April 21 — OAM / SOI

Our first Officer Association Meeting and School of Instruction for the year is at Palo Alto Lodge, No. 346, 461 Florence St. in Palo Alto.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The school follows at 7:30. The topic the 2nd Degree.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

April 23 — Ritual Practice

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

Dress: Casual

April 30 — Ritual Practice

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

Dress: Casual

Save the Date

Friday, May 29, Foothill School (formerly Chandler Tripp school) is holding its Spring Carnival.

From 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. 2570 Riverrun Dr. in San Jose.

We used to provide Child ID services at this event. Now we help at the refreshment table. And we still give our traditional donation.

2026 Officers

Officers

Wives/Ladies

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

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/>

Protect Yourself from Email Scams and Fraudulent Messages

We have recently become aware of phishing and scam emails being sent to some members and lodges.

A recent example involved someone impersonating the Grand Master and directing a member—via email—to purchase gift cards and send photos of them. Fortunately, he recognized the scam and reported it.

Please stay alert to any communication that seems unusual, especially those requesting personal information or money transfers.

Scammers often mimic someone you know, but the details are never quite right. If something feels off, trust that instinct—it may be the first sign that something is wrong.

Below are key warning signs to watch for. The central question is: **Are you being asked to take an action?**

- Is someone asking you to do something without calling or speaking to you directly?
- Is money involved in the request?
- Are gift cards mentioned?
- Are you being asked to do something that wasn't previously approved or discussed at a Stated Meeting?
- Is the request out of the ordinary for you?
- Is someone asking for information they shouldn't need, should already know, or that doesn't make sense?

If you answer “yes” to one or more of these, the message is likely a scam. Here is the recommended approach:

- **Do not take any action before validating the request** by contacting the person directly using contact information you already trust—not the information provided in the suspicious message.
- **Do not respond to or forward** the suspicious email, text, or call.
- Only forward the message if the recipient understands it may be a scam.

- Once confirmed as a scam, notify other members so they can be on alert. Scammers often target multiple people.

You may report email and text scams to the Anti-Phishing Working Group. For more information on reporting, refer to the [FTC Consumer Information website](#).



Play Ball!

And Make History While You're at It! Masons4Mitts Season Kicks Off This Week! A \$3 Million Moment Is Within Reach

In July 1973, a reporter asked Mets manager Yogi Berra if his team's season was finished. They were sitting in last place. Berra looked at him and said, "It ain't over 'til it's over!"

California Masons have so far achieved \$2.67 million in lifetime contributions to Masons4Mitts, and have a September deadline that could push that number past \$3 million for the first time in the program's history. Last year was our strongest single-year showing yet, with \$298,979 raised.

We are close enough to that \$3 million milestone that you can almost smell the pine tar!

What's A Little Friendly Competition Between Brothers?

Each year, each region's teams compete against each other to send their lodge to raise the most money and send their captain to the on-field check presentation at "Masons Night at the Ballpark" in September. Visit freemason.org/Masons4Mitts to donate on behalf of your team, check out the leaderboards to see who's winning, and cheer on your team.

This year's regional targets break down as follows:

- Northern California / Giants Community Fund: \$135,000
- Greater Los Angeles / LA Dodgers Foundation: \$85,000
- Orange County / Angels Foundation: \$55,000
- San Diego / Padres Foundation: \$50,000

Northern California alone set a regional record last year with \$133,231 for the Giants' Junior Giants program—so that \$135,000 target is genuinely attainable. Every region has something to prove, and a little friendly competition between lodges doesn't hurt anyone.

The Summer Slide Doesn't Wait

Most people aren't thinking about summer in April, but the kids this program serves can't afford that luxury. Researchers call it the "summer slide"—the gap that opens up over summer break between children who have access to enrichment and those who don't. Nine in ten teachers spend at least three weeks re-teaching lessons at the start of every school year. The achievement gap between high- and low-income students has grown by 30% to 40% over the past generation.

The MLB partner programs Masons4Mitts helps fund sit directly in the middle of that problem: structured, joyful, intentional weeks where kids build study habits and develop the kind of teamwork that doesn't show up on a report card but matters anyway. And it isn't just baseball that these kids learn. The Los Angeles Dodgers' community foundation's slogan, for instance, is "Bigger than Baseball"—a reference to the wide range of educational, health care, and youth development programs it operates or sponsors.

What's Actually on That Glove

Every participant gets a quality leather mitt with a square and compass burned into the leather. No child shows up empty-handed while the kid next to them has equipment. No family has to decide whether they can swing the cost of gear. The glove is an equalizer, and the mark on it says who put it there.

Doug Ismail, President of the California Masonic Foundation, puts it this way: "Masons4Mitts has always been about more than a baseball glove. It's a way to unite us as Masons, bring joy to the children who get to attend a fun summer learning experience. Reaching our goals in 2026 will show our communities that we care."

What Works

The most effective thing a lodge can do is make it a moment and make it personal. Get members in a room, talk about the kids and pass a hat. It sounds almost embarrassingly simple, but it works because the cause is real, the impact direct, and every little bit helps us get to our goal. It's also the kind of fundraising that folks respond to best: one of their friends, a peer (called a team captain in the Masons4Mitts program), telling them how much they personally care about the work. One person like that making a pitch in front of a room has an effect that a hundred emails can't match.

Masons Nights with our MLB partners are also worth the calendar space—not just as a fun evening out, but as one of the best low-pressure environments we have to introduce the fraternity to someone new. Prospects, families, friends—a ballpark is a genuinely good place to start a conversation.

Show Up This Season

Three million dollars by September is a milestone worth owning, but only if every lodge treats this season like it matters. Yogi Berra was right in 1973. His team had no business winning that division, and they won it anyway—in the final weeks, with everyone already counting them out.

We've got a lot more going for us than the 1973 Mets and we have until September to do it.

The gloves are waiting. Play ball!

[Click here to give a mitt.](#)

Easter and the Mason

R.W. Bro. F. G. Fox, Senior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Alberta; April 1971

To hundreds of millions of Christian peoples all over the world Easter observances are the most profoundly spiritual rites of their faith. Masons of the Christian faith, as individuals and members of congregations, share in the solemnities of Good Friday and the exultation inspired by the momentous events of that third day nearly two thousand years ago.

Christian masons, however; have an especial obligation when religious observances are concerned. It is to remember that the Masonic Order is not an exclusively Christian order, and that we have many thousands of brethren devoted to other faiths. Masons, then, would do well to think of the qualities of the man, Jesus, in a secular as well as a religious sense, and to consider some of the special qualities displayed by him that can be revered and sought after by every man of every faith, and especially by every man who seeks to become better than he is.

First of all, he had love for all men and faith that man could be rescued from his own weaknesses and follies. He cared not about nationality, race, wealth, or power. He cared not for color or beauty of form, or any of the superficial differences that so often loom large in men's eyes. He saw all men, the high, the low, the rich, the poor, the weak and the powerful as brothers and children of God, all worthy of love, forgiveness, and redemption.

The handmaidens of such love are compassion and understanding, patience and wisdom, faith, and charity. These virtues have been sought and cultivated by masons for generations and must continue to stand before us as bright objectives ever to be sought though never wholly attained.

Jesus was a disciplined man. His personal tastes were simple, even austere, and in such ordinary matters as food, drink, and clothing he never had more than enough to meet immediate need. He had no possessions, no wealth. What he did have was a mission, an objective, and he pursued it with unremitting devotion. Personal discomfort and danger could not deflect him from his course. Even

the certain knowledge that his life would be the price of his assaults on the evils of the time did not shake his resolution. His disciplined approach to his mission and its challenges was not inspired or supported by any powerful institution or establishment; it derived entirely from his own faith and strength of character, his own inflexible fidelity to his trust.

He was a just man and did not condone wrong doing in either the wealthy and mighty or the poor and weak. He knew that injustice could not be concealed either by silks or rags. He knew that justice comes not from a body of law but from the minds of men, and that it could be achieved only through the enlightening of men's minds and the warming of their hearts.

He was a man of resignation. He knew what his end on earth would be. But his was not the resignation that arises from despair, it was the calm acceptance of a destiny that he could not, and would not, change. He knew that the religious authorities of the day would stop at nothing to silence him. He knew too that although they could still his voice, they could not recall a single word that he had spoken or eradicate a single one of the thoughts that he had planted among the people. He knew that his teachings would spread over the earth and long survive the power that would take his life.

These are qualities—love, self-discipline, a just mind, and acceptance of that which cannot be changed—that every good man reveres. They are sought by conscientious adherents of every faith, but they are not sectarian and not even necessarily religious qualities; they have to do with the man.

Masons of every faith share a belief in one God and a belief that beyond this life there is another life. We do not know what kind of life it is, but we know that it awaits all men, and that the way to it lies in constant striving to develop and expand these qualities in ourselves. At Easter time, when our minds turn to the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, let us think of him not only as the distinguishing central being of a particular faith, but also as a man who is a majestic and unique figure in human history.