



Friendship Lodge No. 210

Trestleboard

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

MAY – 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 <i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	5 <i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	6 <i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	7 <i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Suit or coat and tie</i>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice</i>	15	16
17	18	19	20 <i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Officers Mandatory</i>	21 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <i>FRIENDSHIP Ritual Practice</i>	29 <i>Foothill School Carnival. 10:00 AM 2570 Riverrun Dr. San Jose</i>	30
31						

From the East



Fraternal Greetings from the East!

Our Inspector, Wor. Dinesh Chhabra, will make his annual official visit to our lodge at the May stated meeting. Please attend the dinner and meeting, to help make him feel welcomed and appreciated.

Andrew Litfin, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West!

Sean Michael O'Hara, Senior Warden

From the South



Brethren,

May is often characterized as a month of *promise*, *rebirth*, and the *gateway to summer*, making it ideal for menus featuring fresh, bright, and floral themes.

Our May stated meeting dinner comes with chicken fajita, chili verde, pinto beans, Spanish rice, and jiros (Filipino style) ice cream for our dessert.

Come, all brethren, and enjoy the fellowship at our gathering, dinner, and stated meeting.

For reservations, please contact Past Master Helmuth Litfin at (408) 421-9381.

At your service,

Jake Todino, Junior Warden

Training Camp



We are making progress toward training our Lodge Officers in their ritual duties for next year.

Bro. Sean O'Hara has made substantial progress in the Master's part of the Third Degree.

Bro. Dan Chaid, who performed his first Middle Chamber lecture in April, has now undertaken the Master's part of the First Degree.

Bro. Al Dorji is studying the Senior Deacon's work for opening and closing all three degrees and receiving a visiting Grand Lodge Officer.

We have been focused on individual officers learning their parts. After this month's OAM/SOI, we will resume working as a team. That means all the officers must attend, not just the Wardens and Deacons.

Masonic Leadership Retreat

Several Friendship Lodge officers attended this year's Leadership Retreat in San Ramón, including our two officer coaches.

Stated Meeting Demonstration

One of the highlights of this year's retreat was the presentation of a stated meeting. Stated meeting? The most boring, tedious meeting in all Masonic history?

That was the point of the demonstration. To exemplify a stated meeting that moves quickly and allows time for Masonic education.

The first thing we noticed was a printed meeting agenda, a copy for each member, with a lot of information printed on it.

Moment of Silence

The meeting began with the familiar first-degree opening ritual. Then the Master announced the topic of the evening's Masonic education, and called for a moment of silence, so the brothers could think about it. In this way, the education topic became the theme of that stated meeting.

Regrets

Next, the Secretary reported on the "Regrets" of the absent brothers. All members living near the Lodge were supposed to RSVP, not just for dinner but also the stated meeting. The Secretary announced them by name and the reason for their absence, such as hospitalization, family emergency, or travel. Brothers living outside the area were automatically excused. Lastly the Secretary reported, "All other brothers are accounted for".

At first, the Regrets sounded like a Sunshine Report given by a police detective. The mandatory RSVP seemed rather demanding of the local lodge members, too. For a lodge like ours with 122 members, there could be 30 to 40 names mentioned.

Still, the Regrets demonstrated that every member counts. And if you lived within, say, an hour's drive from lodge, they expected to see you at the stated meeting every month.

Visiting Brethren

Following the Regrets, the Senior Deacon introduced the visiting brethren (members of other lodges attending the meeting). By making introductions at the beginning, they hoped to make the visitors feel welcome. And that they would feel comfortable enough to actively participate in the discussions.

Consent Agenda

The biggest timesaver presented was the "Consent Agenda". It included sending the minutes of the last stated meeting to the members for review and correction. Friendship Lodge already does that, and it shortens our stated meetings by a good ten minutes.

The Consent Agenda also included the Treasurer's monthly report, bills, communications, some committee reports, and upcoming events. Those details were summarized in the printed stated meeting agenda.

Prospect and Candidate Reports

Two committees made verbal reports:

The Junior Warden announced the progress of prospects, non-Masons who have shown interest in possibly joining the lodge.

The Senior Warden announced the progress of the candidates, including the dates of their proficiencies and upcoming degree conferrals.

New Business

Under New Business, there was a brief report on fraternal programs, such as Raising a Reader and Masons4Mitts. Then came the Masonic education for that evening.

Masonic programs are appropriate topics to mention at a stated meeting. But Friendship uses New Business for directed discussion, planning, and voting on motions. The demonstration lodge had no such items on its agenda.

Masonic Education

Masonic education was the primary focus of the stated meeting. It was not just a brother giving a five-minute talk on a cardinal virtue or a working tool. Printed on the demonstration lodge's agenda were two topics, each one a passage from a degree. It was followed by one or more discussion questions about each topic.

An appointed member read the passage, then directed the members present to divide themselves into groups of four and take ten minutes to answer the discussion question. He then called on a few of the groups to share their thoughts and conclusions.

The room where they held the presentation lodge was filled with sideliners, made up of officers of their respective lodges attending the Leadership Retreat. As you would expect, most of them jumped right into energetic discussions.

Actual lodges usually don't have a room full of sideliners, maybe just four to eight. But with the lodge officers participating in the discussion groups, this arrangement could still work.

We thought that the greatest challenge in an actual lodge would be transforming the sideliners from passive listeners into active participants.

Good of the Order and Moment of Reflection

Rounding out the meeting was the traditional Good of the Order, where any member can make a brief announcement or comment. Then the Master called for a moment of reflection on the education topics covered that evening.

Finally, the lodge was closed in due form.

Our Conclusions

The presentation had a lot of new ideas, and it communicated them quite effectively. The performance was excellent for a first-time effort with minimal rehearsal.

The activities and business demonstrated in the meeting were given as examples and suggestions, not as a collection of new requirements. That's good because some of the new material would bring a radical change to the way we traditionally do things in our lodge.

And, of course, like typical Past Masters on the sideline, our two coaches closely monitored what each officer did and said, noting all the errors they observed.

Officers Association Meeting

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Wednesday, May 20 at Willow Glen Fraternity Lodge No. 399, 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 Section of the Third Degree.

All lodge officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please inform our Inspector, Wor. Dinesh Chhabra. And let WM Andrew Litfin know, so we don't send somebody out to look for 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



As mentioned in last month's article, Rev. Gene has retired from writing the column. We thank him for the value he added to our Trestleboard over the years, even after he retired as our official Lodge Chaplain. We also recognize the unseen but generous support from Gene's wife, Rev. Pam.

If any Lodge member feels inspired to take up where Gene left off, his contribution, whether regular or occasional, would be welcomed.

The Secretary's Table



Your Lodge Treasurer and Secretary attended the Leadership Retreat in San Ramón. We learned about the new accounting features of the Grand View software, which also bring us iMember.

To our surprise and delight, there is now a *user manual* for the accounting portion of the system. Previously, there was only a list of "frequently asked questions" requiring the person using the software to search, often without result, to find the answer to his question. Usually, we ended up calling Grand Lodge's Member Services or Financial Services for help.

There is also a new procedure for handling members who are behind in their dues, and therefore subject to suspension. Since most of you

don't fall into that category, we don't need to mention the details here.

When it comes to suspension for non-payment of dues (SNPD), a frequent cause is a member who moved to a new residence but did not inform the lodge. As a result, all our correspondence goes to the wrong address, and we lose contact. When the Post Office returns an item stamped "unknown" we understand that the address on file is out-of-date, but we still don't know what the new address is.

Now, we are pleased to have Grand Lodge aiding us in reestablishing contact with our stealthy relocated members. Grand Lodge uses an address service to locate members who have moved. And a partly automated system to make multiple telephone and email contacts with those members.

Here comes the "please pay your dues" pitch...

There are currently 14 Friendship Lodge members who have not yet paid their 2026 dues. And there are two members who have not paid for 2025 nor 2026.

If paying dues is a challenge for you right now, we have a better alternative than taking a suspension. We invite you to have a confidential chat with the Master or one of the Wardens.

Roughly two-thirds of the amount you pay in annual dues to Friendship Lodge is in turn paid the Grand Lodge of California. The Lodge must pay even though some members have not paid their dues.

Lodge funds paid to the Grand Lodge are funds that we cannot award as scholarships, support Foothill (formerly Chandler Tripp) school, the MS Walk, and local sports teams.

How to pay your dues

Dues for 2026 are \$120.50. 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

How NOT to pay your dues

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



May Birthdays

5 – Mark Erni	22 – Marlito Romero
12 – Kenneth Ruyle, PM	25 – Larry Müller, PM
17 – Rajit Dang	26 – Keenan Mills, PM
19 – Ian Kennedy	28 – Kyle Burch

May Events

May 7 — Stated Meeting

Dinner costs \$10.00 per person.

Inspector's Official Visit

Dress: Officers, tuxedo; others, coat and tie.

May 14 — Ritual Practice

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

We continue to work on individual officer parts.

Dress: Casual

May 20 — OAM / SOI

Our May Officer Association Meeting and School of Instruction for the year is at Willow Glen Fraternity Lodge, No. 399, at the San Jose Masonic Center.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The school follows at 7:30. The topic the 1st Section of the 3rd Degree.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

May 21 — Ritual Practice

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

We will begin work on the 1st Section of the 3rd

Degree. Dress: Casual

May 28 — Ritual Practice

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

Continue work on the 1st Section of the 3rd Degree.

Dress: Casual

May 29 — Foothill School Spring Carnival

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. 2570 Riverrun Drive in San Jose. We help at the refreshment table. And we still give our traditional donation.

Save the Date

Saturday, June 13 is our Annual Family Picnic, at Vasona Park in Los Gatos. The picnic is consistently the best attended event of the year.

There is no charge to attend the picnic.

We do ask that you make a reservation and tell us how many people are in your party, so we can purchase the appropriate amount of food.

Please place your reservation with Junior Warden Jake Todino, at jake.todino71@gmail.com or 831-207-1264.

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
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/>

A Promise made by God to David

In the Fellowcraft degree, we hear of “a promise made by God to David, in strength I will establish this mine house and kingdom forever”. Where can you find that promise in the Holy Bible? In the book of First Chronicles, chapter 17.

For this article, we selected verses from the King James Bible, which we use in our ritual, and the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, which is easier for most people to understand.

The King James text is in serif font.
The Contemporary text is in sans-serif font.
Study notes are in italic font.

1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord remaineth under curtains.

Soon after David moved into his new palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Look around! I live in a palace made of cedar, but the sacred chest is kept in a tent.”

*Note 1. In this case, the word **house** refers to King David’s palace.*

Note 2. Cedar wood, known for its durability, pleasant aroma, and resistance to decay, was highly prized in the ancient Near East and often used in the construction of palaces and temples. Even stone structures rely on wood for support and interior furnishing.

Note 3. The Tabernacle, Israel’s portable temple during its 40 years of wandering before entering the Promised Land, was the most elaborate tent ever constructed; hence, David’s reference to “curtains”.

After they were settled in their new land, the Israelites continued to keep the Ark of the Covenant (sacred chest) in the Tabernacle, which they set up near the ancient city of Shiloh, about 19 miles north of Jerusalem.

2 Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.

Nathan replied, “The Lord is with you—do what you want.”

3 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

That night, the Lord told Nathan...

4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

...to go to David and tell him: David, you are my servant, so listen carefully: You are not the one to build a temple for me.

*Note 4. In this case, the word **house** refers to the temple King David wanted to build.*

9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

I have given my people Israel a land of their own where they can live in peace. They will no longer have to tremble with fear—evil nations will not bother them, as they did...

11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

I will choose one of your sons to be king when you reach the end of your life and are buried beside your ancestors. I will make him a strong ruler...

12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

...and no one will be able to take his kingdom away from him. He will be the one to build a temple for me.

*Note 5: "He" refers to one of David's descendants, whose name was not given. The word **house** refers to the future temple in Jerusalem.*

14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

I will make sure that your son and his descendants will rule my people and my kingdom forever.

*Note 6: In this case, the word **house** means a divinely appointed dynasty that will rule the nation of Israel forever.*

15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

Nathan told David exactly what the Lord had said.

16 And David the king came and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

[King] David went into the tent he had set up for the sacred chest. He sat there and prayed: Lord God, my

family and I don't deserve what you have already done for us...

Note 7. David visited the Tabernacle so he could pray beside the Ark of the Covenant (sacred chest). Prior to the completion of the Temple, it was regarded as the spot closest to God on the earth.

In his prayer, David recounted the undeserved honors God bestowed on him, the promises God made and fulfilled, choosing the people of Israel, their rescue from slavery in Egypt, the gift of a choice land of their own, and becoming Israel's one and only deity.

23 Therefore now, Lord, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

Lord God, please do what you promised me and my descendants.

24 Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The Lord of hosts is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel: and let the house of David thy servant be established before thee.

Then you will be famous forever, and everyone will say, "The Lord All-Powerful rules Israel and is their God." My kingdom will be strong...

Note 8. The phrase "Lord of hosts" refers to God in His role as commanding general of the celestial forces. Nobody knows exactly what those forces are.

27 Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed for ever.

Now please bless my descendants forever and let them always be your chosen kings. You have already blessed my family, and I know you will bless us forever.

Thus ends First Chronicles, chapter 17.

Sadly, we know from history that the royal Davidic dynasty only lasted until the second siege of Jerusalem (589 to 586 BCE) by the Babylonians.

The Temple of King Solomon was destroyed during that siege. It was rebuilt after the Babylonian Exile and expanded by King Herod, only to be destroyed again by the Roman tenth legion in 70 CE.

Despite those disastrous events, the Israelite people have survived. The modern nation of Israel is a democracy. And its holy sites often experience major conflicts. Yet we may live to see a new temple built in Jerusalem.