



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

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

AUGUST – 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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*Stated Meetings
Golden Rule 479
San Jose 10
Los Altos 712
Dinner 6:30 PM*

4

*Stated Meetings
Mt View DeAnza 194
Palo Alto 346
Dinner 6:30 PM*

5

*Stated Meeting
Willow Glen
Fraternity 399
Dinner 6:30 PM*

6

*FRIENDSHIP
Stated Meeting
Dinner 6:30 PM
Scholarships
Semi-annual Reports*

7

8

9

10

11

12

*SCVMOA 6:30 PM
Friendship Lodge
Officers Mandatory*

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

*FRIENDSHIP
Practice for 2nd
Degree*

21

22

23

24

25

26

*Masonic
Symposium
7:00 PM Online
You must pre-
register*

27

*FRIENDSHIP
Possible 1st Degree
Conferral*

28

29

30

31

From the East



Fraternal Greetings from the East!

Andrew Litfin, Master

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West!

Sean Michael O'Hara, Senior Warden

From the South



Our August stated meeting with an August Bulgarian dinner is all about peak summer produce.

Roasted peppers and chilled dishes are especially common during the hottest part of the season. With Shopska salad, Grilled **Kebapche** (Bulgarian grilled minced meat sausages), and Roasted peppers with garlic also parsley Green bean **plakiya** (baked with tomatoes and garlic).

This menu highlights ingredients that are at their best in August—especially tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, green beans, and fresh herbs—and reflects the light, vegetable-forward style of Bulgarian summer cooking.

Come ye all, brethren!

Do not miss this **August Bulgarian Dinner**—an evening of wholesome, healthy, and delicious food, warm fellowship, and joyful conversation.

Enjoy a feast of fresh summer vegetables, traditional Bulgarian specialties, grilled favorites, homemade breads, and delightful desserts. Come hungry and leave with a full heart!

Everyone is welcome—we look forward to sharing this special meal with you!

Jake Todino, Junior Warden

Training Camp



This month, Friendship Lodge is hosting the Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Thursday, August 13 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 and will cover balloting and objections. This deals applicants who have submitted their applications and fees, passed the Grand Lodge background check, and have been investigated and approved by three lodge members, confidentially appointed by the Master.

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

We hold a ritual practice every Thursday, except for Stated Meetings, degree conferrals, OAM/SOIs, and holidays.

And if you cannot attend a practice, please inform your Officer Coaches, so we don't wait around for you to arrive.

Practices 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.

We may have a candidate ready to receive his 2nd Degree on August 27. We should know for sure by the August Stated Meeting.

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

The Chaplain's Corner



The Genuine Freemason

Since time immemorial, Freemasons have been castigated, condemned, judged and lambasted with so many blasphemous brands and names which are indeed difficult to stomach. Unfortunately, those who are at the forefront of destroying our fraternity do not have the slightest idea to distinguish a Freemason from a genuine one to somebody who does not live up to the holy and authentic Freemasonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

A genuine Freemason is a person whose character is never perfect, being humans as we are, but possesses good morals whose love for charity, personal development, and a heart to uplift others never seems to evade his passion in doing so.

A true and genuine Freemason never worships the occult, nor does he attempt to engage in any controversial and despicable earthly concepts such as dark conspiracies which the critics often associate us with.

Our Freemasonry is a Brotherhood of Universality. In other words, we are the world's oldest fraternity where uniting men from various ethnic backgrounds, religious affiliations, and races or skin colors is always at the center of our principle.

We are not a religious organization nor a religion per se. Yet, we firmly believe in the existence of the Supreme Power... existence of the Almighty God!

Anyone who wishes to join the fraternity but identifies as an atheist is not eligible to become a Freemason, because every Freemason draws strength from his Divine Creator.

Respectfully,

Pastor/Chaplain Ed Advincula

The Secretary's Table



In case you were wondering about the proposal for a rooftop solar energy project, it was cancelled. While the idea made sense, the SJMCA Board of Directors made a few critical errors and omissions in the planning phase, which resulted in the cancelation.

But solar energy still makes sense. And with a clear idea of how to proceed, the SJMCA Board hopes to offer a new solar energy proposal by the end of the year.

Member dues, again...

Two-thirds of 2026 has gone by, yet 15 Friendship Brethren have not paid this year's dues.

We have options for members who face health or financial challenges. But doing nothing is not one of them.

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.

Or, 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

Please do not send your dues payment to the SJMC. And please do not give it to somebody so they can give to me. Doing so may cause delay, confusion and anxiety.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



August Birthdays

5 – Chito Atienza
7 – Alvin De la Cruz
8 – John Rouchanian
14 – Erik Reyes
15 – Dennis Anistole, PM
19 – Don Gunaratne
20 – Jonathan Cruz
20 – Albert Steele
21 – Steven Hua
23 – Noel Baybayan
24 – Freddy Colombo
29 – Melbourne Fauvor, Jr.
31 – Kevin Hall, PM
31 – Louie Mar

August Events

August 6 — Stated Meeting

Dinner is \$10.00 per person. Dress: Casual theme. No shorts, jeans, or sandals, please.

After dinner and before the meeting, we will award scholarships to the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren of our Friendship Lodge Brothers.

Being the August meeting, the Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustees will give their semiannual reports.

August 13 — Officers Association

Friendship Lodge No. 210 is hosting. Dinner at 6:30 PM, school of instruction at 7:30 PM covering balloting and objections. All officers are expected to attend, especially those officers who will participate in the demonstration. Dress: Casual

August 20 — Ritual Practice

Second degree. 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Officers in advanced stations. Dress: Casual

August 26 — Masonic Symposium

George Washington: Explore the Mason Behind the President.

There is no cost. But you must register.

Click [here](#) to register. Or log in to iMember.

Online 7:00 to 8:30 PM

August 27 — First Degree Conferral

Pending results of ballot on our latest applicant. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Officers in advanced stations. SD Dan Chaid will be in the East.

Dress: Tux for officers, coat and tie for sideliners.

Mark your calendar!

Past Masters' 3rd Degree conferral upon Bro. Byrle Llaguno on Thursday, September 24.

We may not have enough Past Masters to fill all the stations, so all Master Masons are welcome to join our ritual team.

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/>

2026 Cornerstone Award



WM Andrew Litfin (l) and Bro. Don Gunaratne (r)

This year's Cornerstone awardee from Friendship Lodge No. 210 is Bro. Don Gunaratne

Bro. Dasitha Kalupathirana "Don" Gunaratne was born on August 19, 1982 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He moved to the United States to advance his career as a software engineer.

Bro. Don was Raised in Friendship Lodge No. 210 on November 17, 2022. He has been an active member ever since.

Prevented from accepting appointment to the officer line due to employment and family matters, Bro. Don still became involved with degree work, proving proved himself capable of learning and performing small parts with minimal notice.

Bro. Don regularly serves as lighting technician during degree conferrals. He has become skilled in knowing when and how quickly to lower or raise the room lights for optimal effect.

Bro. Don was appointed as Friendship Lodge's Prospect Manager on February 1, 2024. He immediately went to work on our list of a dozen prospects. Bro. Don is very good at making initial contact and following up. He helps our prospects develop a clear understanding of what Masonry is about and persuades them to attend our monthly stated meeting dinners so they can meet us and we can meet them.

Bro. Don is quite outgoing, helping first-time visitors and prospects to feel acknowledged and welcome. And he is enthusiastic for just about any idea, challenge, or proposal that may come before the lodge.

Whatever project or assignment you give him, Bro. Don does it with energy and ingenuity. If you don't give him something to do, he often acts on his own initiative, usually with excellent results.

For this reason, Bro. Don Gunaratne is truly a cornerstone of Friendship Lodge.

Left behind on the awards table...

Sometimes an awardee is unable to attend a Sciots Cornerstone event. Not a problem, active Masons are busy guys.



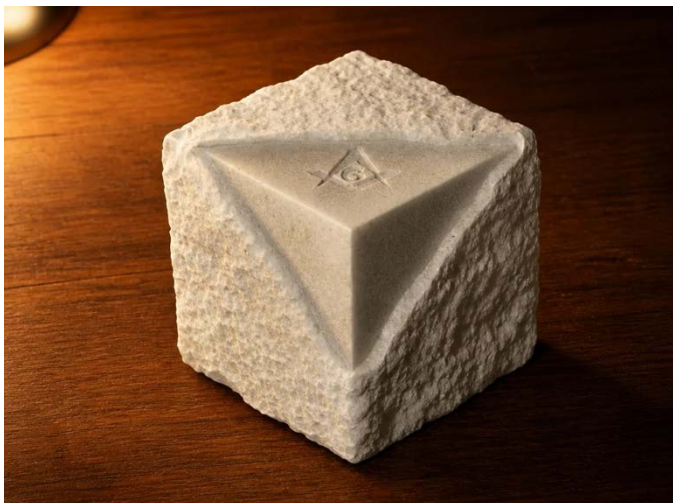
But a close look at one of the leftover Cornerstones reveals a familiar name, *Jason Barnett*. Jason is a Past Master of Friendship Lodge No. 210 and Pacific Grove Lodge No. 331. Congratulations, Wor. Jason!

Sciotry is a Masonic Organization established in 1905 and dedicated to uniting all Master Masons in a closer bond of Friendship, Fellowship, and Cooperation.

Our Motto is "To help each other in the accomplishment of honest endeavors" and to spread the doctrine of "Boost One Another".

The Sciots Foundation supports children with autism.

Rough and Perfect Ashlars



*Within each rough ashlar is a perfect ashlar,
waiting for the craftsman to reveal it.*

“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.” This quote is almost always attributed to Michelangelo, and it feels particularly suited to Freemasonry’s lesson of the rough and perfect ashlars. The trouble is that he almost certainly never said it.

What Michelangelo did write is simpler, and perhaps more useful. Responding in the mid-16th century to the Florentine scholar Benedetto Varchi’s famous question comparing sculpture and painting, he described sculpture as the art of reaching its end “by taking away what is superfluous.” In one of his sonnets, he suggests that the figure already exists within the block of marble; the sculptor’s hand merely uncovers what the mind already perceived.

It is an unfamiliar way to think about improvement. We tend to picture becoming better as adding something: a new skill, another accomplishment, one more responsibility. The sculptor—and operative Mason—works the other way. The form is already present. The labor lies in the removal of everything that does not belong. So, it is with the rough ashlar. Freemasonry does not ask us to build a better man on top of the one we are. It asks us to chip away at pride, impatience, selfishness, and every rough edge that obscures the better man already within.

That work is slow, and it seldom looks like progress while you are inside it. The Mason at his block and the sculptor at his marble both work half-hidden in

the debris of their own effort—the chips and dust that gather over the stone and conceal the very form emerging beneath them. Anyone who has dressed stone—or simply tried to change—knows the feeling.

Yet the craftsman keeps working because he trusts the finished form before anyone else can see it. Improvement begins not with the chisel, but with the vision.

The purpose was never perfection. It is to never set down the chisel.

Further Reading:

Here are a few compelling reads that explore the same ideas from different perspectives. Each offers another lens on the lifelong work of refinement, discipline, and becoming.

Continuous Improvement by James Clear
Click [here](#) to access the article online.

Meditations by Marcus Aurelius
Buy a copy on Amazon or your favorite bookstore.

Masonic Assistance: Preparing Before a Crisis

Brethren, as we return from summer schedules, I want to remind you that Masonic Assistance is most effective when contacted early—long before a situation becomes overwhelming. Whether a member is facing housing instability, rising medical bills, caregiver strain, or the challenges of aging alone, help is available.

Outreach case managers provide guidance, connect members with services, and help craft long-term plans for stability and safety.

If you believe a brother or widow is quietly struggling, please reach out to the Master, Secretary, or Chaplain so we may connect them with Masonic Assistance before a crisis develops.

Or call 888-466-3642.

Or email to masonicassistance@mhcuc.org

What Makes the month of August so August?

The Short answer:

Back in the year 8 BCE, Roman emperor Gaius Octavius, also known as Octavian, adopted the title Augustus, meaning “the venerable, majestic, or noble one”. The title alludes to his many great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt. The Roman Senate renamed the eighth month to honor Augustus.

When we refer to the month, we pronounce it “AW-gust”.

When we use it as an adjective, we pronounce it “aw-GUST”.

When we refer to a person, we pronounce it “aw-GUS-tus”.

The long answer:

The original Roman calendar, known as the Calendar of Romulus, dates to 753 BCE when Rome was founded. The year had 10 months. March was the first month of the year.

The names of the months either honored a deity or that month’s place in the sequence.

English	Latin	Meaning
March	Mensis Martius	Month of Mars
April	Mensis Aprilis	Month of Aphrodite
May	Mensis Maius	Month of Maia
June	Mensis Iunius	Month of Juno
July	Mensis Quintilis	Fifth Month
August	Mensis Sextilis	Sixth Month
September	Mensis September	Seventh Month
October	Mensis October	Eighth Month
November	Mensis November	Ninth Month
December	Mensis December	Tenth Month

The calendar year had 304 days. The calendar week had eight days. The “weekend day” was called “nundina”.

Around the year 700 BCE, Roman King Numa Pompilius inserted the new months of January and February, and March became the third month of the year. Then the calendar year had 355 days.

To more closely match the calendar to the solar year, they devised a complex system of a leap year every other year, reducing the number of days in the

month of February, and then inserting an “intercalary” or “leap” month of 27 or 28 days called Mercedonius, meaning “work month”. Years when the leap month of Mercedonius appeared, the calendar had 377 or 378 days.

English	Latin	Meaning
January	Mensis Ianuarius	Month of Janus
February	Mensis Februarius	Month of Februa
	Intercalaris Mensis	Intercalary Month or Month of Mercedonius

When there new months were added, the pre-existing months kept their original names. This is how September became the 9th, October the 10th, November the 11th, and December the 12th month of the year.

Enter the Julian Calendar

After a string of Roman military victories in the Gallic Wars (ended in 51 BCE), Julius Caesar invaded Britain and built a bridge across the Rhine.

In early January 49 BCE, Caesar openly defied the Senate by crossing the Rubicon river and marching towards Rome at the head of an army.

In 46 BCE, Julius Caesar applied his considerable influence to order a reformation of the calendar. His team of scholars got rid of the leap month, Mercedonius. Then they assigned each month the number of days as we know them. And they observed a leap day, on February 29, once every four years.

In 45 BCE, Julius Caesar proclaimed himself “dictator for life”. Fearful of his unchecked power, a group of senators assassinated him on the Ides of March (March 15th) 44 BCE.

Later that year, the Senate chose to honor his decades of service, by renaming the month of Quintilis, the month of Julius Caesar’s birth, as the month of July.

Caesar's great-nephew and adoptive heir Octavian, eventually rose to sole power thirteen years later and became the first emperor of the new Roman Empire. He adopted the title Augustus, meaning “the venerable majestic, or noble one”. The title alludes to his many great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt. To honor him, the Roman Senate renamed the month of Sextilis as the month of August.