

Farewell



My Worthy Brother



GREETINGS FROM THE EAST
WORSHIPFUL MASTER
Oliver Mangubat



Brethren,

As we welcome October, I am reminded of how precious our time together as brothers truly is. This month, our Lodge mourns the passing of Worshipful Rufo Macaraeg, a beloved Past Master whose leadership, kindness, and dedication to the Craft touched many of us.

On behalf of San Francisco Lodge No. 120, I extend my deepest sympathy and prayers to the Macaraeg family. Worshipful Rufo will be remembered not only for his service as Master of our Lodge, but also for the warmth of his fellowship and the quiet way he encouraged others to grow in Masonry.

We will gather to honor his life and labor at his Masonic Funeral on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at Olivet Chapel, Cypress Lawn Memorial, Colma. Please wear a black suit (no pins) and white apron — this will be required before entering the chapel.

Let us come together, as he would have wanted, to support one another and to live out the values he exemplified — Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

“So live, that when thy summons comes to join

The innumerable caravan which moves

To that mysterious realm...

Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,

Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed

By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave

Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch

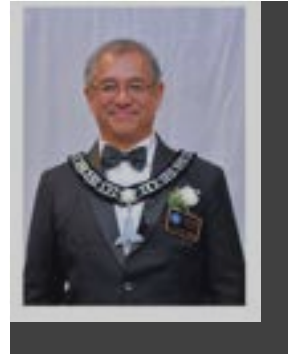
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.” — William Cullen Bryant

Fraternally,

Bro. Oliver S. Mangubat
Worshipful Master, San Francisco Lodge no. 120



GREETINGS FROM THE WEST SENIOR WARDEN Salvador Tandoc



Brethren,

A Beauty of a Man and Mason

In our fraternity, we are often reminded that the true beauty of a Mason is not measured by titles, honors, or accolades, but by the lasting impact he leaves upon the lives of others. Such is the life and example of our beloved Brother, Past Master **Rufo Macaraeg, Jr.**, who continues to inspire and guide San Francisco Lodge No. 120, San Francisco Scottish Rite, and the greater Masonic community. Brother Rufo's leadership is both steady and selfless. This beauty of a man, through his mentorship and guidance, our Lodge has raised many Master Masons, nurtured Fellowcrafts, and welcomed Entered Apprentices into the light of Masonry. He is not only a Past Master of our own Lodge but has also served with distinction in Francis Drake Lodge No. 376, Crocker Lodge No. 212 and Son of the Deserts #226, where his influence and dedication are equally admired. His reputation for wisdom and humility has earned him the respect of Brethren across many Lodges.

Yet beyond the record of accomplishments lies the true essence of his greatness. Brother Rufo embodies brotherly love, relief, and truth in the most genuine way. His smile, his embrace, and his concern extend not only to his Brethren but also to their families. He answers the call of every Brother whether it is for guidance, encouragement, or a simple word of comfort. His presence brings with it a sense of light, sincerity, and compassion that is rare and unforgettable.

Many of us joined SF120 because of Brother Rufo. From the very first meeting, we could sense his sincerity and his deep concern for others. His influence is not one of authority, but of example. He trains officers, mentors Brethren, and uplifts all around him not for recognition, but because it is simply who he is.

In Scottish Rite as well, his tireless efforts have revived and strengthened the body, inspiring many to take part in furthering their Masonic journey. His leadership and encouragement have drawn men closer to the Light, leaving a legacy that will outlast us all.

It is said that a Mason's greatest work is not what he builds in stone, but what he builds in the hearts of his Brethren. By this measure, Brother Rufo stands as a true Master among men—a man of character, compassion, and conviction.

For his devotion, his example, and his unwavering service, San Francisco Lodge No. 120 proudly nominated Past Master **Rufo Macaraeg, Jr.** as our **Master Mason of the Year for 2023.**

Brother Rufo reminds us all of the timeless truth: *the beauty of a man and a Mason is found not in what he receives, but in what he gives.*

Salvador Tandoc
Senior Warden



GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH JUNIOR WARDEN Garry Fontillas



Brethren,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this month's article, as we reflect on the sad loss of our dear brother Worshipful Rufo Macareg. His passing has left a profound void not only in our lodge but in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Worshipful Brother Rufo was more than just a Freemason, he was a pillar of strength, humility, and unwavering dedication. His love for the Craft was evident in everything he did, from his countless hours of service to his steadfast commitment to the betterment of the lodge. He gave freely of his time, talents, and wisdom, never seeking recognition but always deserving of it.

Throughout the years, he contributed immensely to the beauty and upkeep of our lodge. Whether through hands-on projects or simply ensuring the lodge remained a welcoming place for all, his efforts never went unnoticed. He carried out his work not for praise, but because he genuinely believed in preserving the dignity and sanctity of our sacred space.

Beyond the walls of the lodge, Worshipful Brother Rufo was deeply involved in charitable work, always striving to live out the Masonic principle of relief. His compassion and generosity touched many lives, and he remained committed to helping others in ways both big and small. His quiet acts of kindness and charity will forever be part of his enduring legacy.

For many of us, Worshipful Brother Rufo was a mentor, a guide, and an example of what it means to live as a true Mason. He led not just by instruction but by example, showing us through his actions the meaning of brotherly love, relief, and truth. In times of uncertainty, we could count on him for sound advice, calm wisdom, and a kind word.

Let us carry with us the lessons he taught us, not only through his words, but through the way he lived his life. May we honor him by continuing to build the lodge he loved so dearly, to serve with humility, and to be the kind of men who lift others up as he always did.

Rest well, Worshipful Brother Rufo. Your legacy lives on in each of us, and your memory will forever be etched in the heart of our lodge. Till we meet again

Fraternally,
Garry Fontillas
Junior Warden



San Francisco Lodge 120

October 2025

FROM THE SECRETARY SECRETARY Donato T. Lara



Brethren,

At the time of this writing, we received the sad news that our beloved brother, WB Rufo Macaraeg, laid down his working tools and is now with the Great Architect of the Universe in the Celestial Lodge.

I, along with many of you, was privileged to have known him as a brother, friend, mentor, and leader. I was blessed to have been initiated and raised to the sublime degree by Kuyang Rufo back in 2017. His impact on San Francisco Lodge 120 has been his hallmark. Not just SF120, but with Crocker, Francis Drake, Sons of the Desert, and San Francisco Scottish Rite. When many of the lodges in our area were struggling with membership, Brother Rufo, along with all of us, contributed to the continued growth of SF120's membership. His love of the craft, his fellow brethren, and the community will always be an example for us to follow. His legacy will continue as we travel in our Masonic journey. My deepest condolences to Ateng Vem, his daughter, Ruby, his son, Mark, and the rest of his family and relatives. Rest in peace, my worthy brother!

The Enduring Legacy of Freemasonry in Modern Society

Freemasonry, one of the world's oldest and most recognizable fraternal organizations, continues to shape modern society in both visible and subtle ways. Founded in the early 18th century from medieval stonemason guilds, this secretive brotherhood has evolved from its craft origins into a global network that has profoundly influenced politics, philanthropy, and social progress for over three centuries.

Historical Foundations and Growth

Emerging from the operative mason lodges of Scotland and England, speculative Freemasonry was formally organized in 1717 with the establishment of the Grand Lodge of London. The organization's emphasis on moral improvement, brotherhood, and the pursuit of knowledge attracted intellectuals, merchants, and political leaders throughout the Enlightenment period. By the 19th century, Masonic lodges had spread across continents, establishing themselves as pillars of community leadership in towns and cities worldwide.

Political and Social Influence

Freemasonry's impact on democratic movements cannot be overstated. Many founding fathers of the United States, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and numerous signers of the Declaration of Independence, were active Masons. The organization's principles of equality, religious tolerance, and individual liberty became foundational elements of modern democratic societies. Similarly, Masonic ideals influenced revolutionary movements in France, Latin America, and other regions seeking political reform.

Modern Charitable Works

Today's Masonic lodges maintain their historical commitment to philanthropy through extensive charitable networks. Masonic organizations operate hospitals, provide scholarships, support disaster relief efforts, and fund medical research. The Shriners Hospitals for Children, perhaps the most visible Masonic charity, has provided specialized pediatric care regardless of families' ability to pay for nearly a century. These charitable works represent billions of dollars in annual community investment.

Contemporary Challenges and Adaptations

Modern Freemasonry faces the challenge of remaining relevant in an increasingly secular and digital world. Membership has declined in many Western countries as traditional civic organizations compete with diverse social and professional networks. However, lodges have begun adapting by embracing technology for meetings and outreach, welcoming younger members, and emphasizing their continued role in community service and personal development.

Cultural and Symbolic Legacy

Masonic symbols and concepts permeate popular culture, architecture, and national symbols. The all-seeing eye on the US dollar bill, square and compass emblems on public buildings, and references in literature and film demonstrate the deep cultural integration of Freemasonry. While conspiracy theories often exaggerate Masonic influence, the organization's actual legacy lies in its promotion of Enlightenment values and civic engagement.

The legacy of Freemasonry in modern society reflects both its historical significance and ongoing adaptation. As traditional institutions evolve to meet contemporary needs, Masonic principles of brotherhood, charity, and moral development continue to find expression through community service, leadership development, and philanthropic endeavors. Whether viewed as an anachronistic remnant or a continuing force for social good, Freemasonry's influence on modern democratic society remains an integral part of our civic landscape.

Fraternally,

Brother Donnie Lara
Secretary



MASONIC EDUCATION

Larry Laidlaw, P.M., H.A.



Greeting Brothers of San Francisco Lodge,

This article provides comprehensive historic information regarding the first established lodge in California. The questions regarding its status as Lodge number No.2 are given some explanation but it also causes me to wonder where California Lodge No.1 , (13) received its Charter. More to come in future articles.

California Rich Masonic History

First Masons in California

The first Masons of California were part of a fraternity that played a significant role in shaping the state's history. They were involved in building civic infrastructure, facing challenges during the Civil War, and contributing to the state's development. The Grand Lodge of California was officially opened in Sacramento in 1850, and it has since become a central institution in the state's Masonic tradition.

Western Star Lodge No. 2 is the oldest chartered Masonic lodge in California, dating back to 1848. It was established by Peter Lassen and Saschel Woods, who brought the charter from the Missouri Grand Lodge. Initially located in Benton City, it relocated to Shasta in 1851 and has a rich history intertwined with the development of California and the town of Shasta.

Key historical details

- **Early Origins:** The Lodge's formation was largely driven by the efforts of Peter Lassen and Saschel Woods, according to Masons of California. Peter Lassen, a Danish-born frontiersman and charter member, arrived in California from Missouri in 1840.
- **Saschel Woods' role** in bringing the Western Star Lodge #2 charter to California was pivotal. Saschel Woods' commitment to Freemasonry and his willingness to transport the charter across the country were crucial in establishing the first Masonic Lodge in California. This act laid the foundation for the spread of Freemasonry within the territory, even before it achieved statehood.
- **Custody of the Charter:** Woods took possession of the charter, granted by the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1848, which formally authorized the establishment of Western Star Lodge #98 in California.
- **Journey West:** Woods brought the charter with him on Peter Lassen's wagon train, traveling west to California. Lassen was eager to establish a Masonic lodge on his land grant near present-day Vina.
- **Forming the Lodge:** Upon arriving in California, Woods, designated as Master on the charter, formally established Western Star Lodge #98 and conducted its first meeting on October 30, 1849, in Benton City, according to Masons of California. This meeting occurred before the formation of any other lodge in California, establishing Western Star's pioneering status.
- **Influence in Naming:** The name "Benton City" itself was chosen through Woods' influence, as he admired Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri.
- **Meeting Places:** Initially chartered to open a lodge at Benton City, Upper California, its early history saw the Lodge meeting on the upper floor of Dr. Benjamin Shurtleff's home following the Great Fire of 1853, which destroyed much of the city of Shasta and the Lodge's possessions, except for its Missouri charter.
- **Current Building:** The Lodge trustees purchased the upper floor of the current building (originally a mercantile business built in 1854 by Norton and Tucker) on December 4, 1854. In 1857, the Lodge acquired ownership of the entire building, which was dedicated on December 27, 1854, and has been in continuous use by the Lodge ever since.
- **Significant Dates:**
 - o 1848: Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Missouri.
 - o 1853: Lost its possessions in the Great Fire of Shasta.
 - o 1854: Purchased the upper floor of its current building and dedicated it.
 - o 1857: Acquired full ownership of the building.
 - o 2023: Celebrated its 175th anniversary.

April 28th, 2023 by Jon Lewis

There's a no.2 in its title, but the Western Star Lodge in Shasta is No. 1, as in the first, among Masonic lodges in the Golden State.

The original charter for Western Star Lodge No. 98, Free and Accepted Masons, was granted on May 10, 1848, two years before California became the 31st state in the union, and its first meeting was held Oct. 30, 1848. Those dates are significant for a couple of reasons: First, the state's second lodge, San Francisco's California Lodge No. 13, held its first meeting two weeks later, on Nov. 15, 1848; more importantly, this summer, the Western Star Lodge will celebrate its 175th anniversary.

Larry Laidlaw, PM, H.A.



DONOR RECOGNITION PLAQUE

THE SAN FRANCISCO SCOTTISH RITE

CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER



Childhood Language Center Donor Recognition Plaques

2025-2026 Bronze Club

Jerry & Cristy Verzosa
Albert & Lynn Cua
Tony & Mary Man
Tom & Angie Chavez
Mario Arbis
Durward & Caroline Ayre

2025-2026 Silver Club

2025-2026 Gold Club

Curusis Family
Charitable Foundation

2024-2025 Bronze Club

Albert & Lynn Cua
Tom & Angie Chavez
Rufo & Vem Macaraeg
Tony & Leila Cimarra
Phillip & Sally McAllister
Mario Arbis
Ferdinand Quiambao
Oliver & Michelle Mangubat
Mike & Janet Salazar
Frank & Jeanie Loui
Jerry & Cristy Verzosa
Robert Grande
Mission Lodge 169
Bay Cities Lodge 337

2024-2025 Silver Club

Joseph Welch Jr. Foundation
San Francisco Lodge 120

2024-2025 Gold Club

Curusis Family
Charitable Foundation





2025 LODGE OFFICERS

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Inspector 141st Masonic District

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Allan9128@comcast.net

TRUSTEES

Thomas Chavez, P.M.	Member	1st	2025
Becker Cheng, P.M.	Member	1st	2026
Fady Zoubi, P.M.	Member	2nd	2027
Ed Del Rosario, P.M., H.A.	Member	2nd	2028
Albert Cua, P.M.	Chairman	2nd	2029



COMMITTEES

Audit:

Tom Chavez, P.M., H.A.
Rufo Macaraeg, Jr., P.M, H.A.
Dennis Silva, P.M
Edwin Del Rosario, P.M., H.A
Mario Esteban, P.M.
Ernest Batara
Virgil Dacasin
Allan Baquilar

Budget & Finance:

Albert Cua, P.M. – Chairman
Edwin Del Rosario, P.M.
Tom Chavez, P.M., H.A.
Edmond Lim, P.M., H.A.
Salvador Tandoc

Executive:

WM, Oliver Mangubat
SW, Salvador Tandoc
JW, Garry Fontillas
Treas., Bob Gonzalez
Secty., Donnie Lara
Asst. Sec., Dennis Duey

Charity:

Oliver Mangubat
Salvador Tandoc
Garry Fontillas

Candidate's Coach:

Salvador Tandoc – Chairman
Clark Balquedra – Head Coach
All masons assigned by Head Coach

Prospect Committee:

Ernest Batara
Bob Gonzalez
Dennis Silva
James Meads
Ricky Hermoso
Carlo Gonzaga

Refreshment and Entertainment Committee:

Garry Fontillas - Chairman
James Meade
Eddie Fernandez
Joseph Espinueva
Jay R Mansilungan
Thomas Tandoc
Ralph Fernandez
Jonathan Galvez

Sunshine:

Jerry Verzosa, P.M.,H.A.Chairman
Ed Lim
Ricky Hermoso
Donnie Lara

Retention:

Albert Cua, P.M. – Chairman
Oliver Mangubat
Rufo Macaraeg, Jr., P.M, H.A
Ernest Batara
Donnie Lara

Communication:

Donnie Lara- Chairman
Dennis Duey
Jonathan Galvez
Arvin Menchavez
Austin Cua
Raymund De Luna

Masonic Education:

Larry Laidlaw, P.M.,H.A.

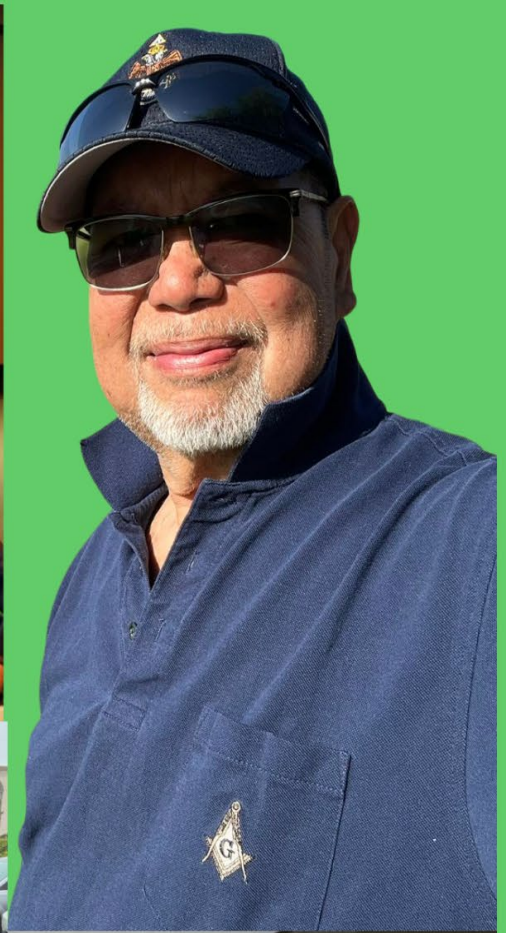
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Stated Meeting – October 2nd
- SF120 & SFSR Annual Picnic - TBA
- Degree Conferral (Fellow Craft) - TBD
- 176th AnCom 24-26 Oct – Grand Masters Banquet

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP DUES!!!

For those who haven't paid their dues, please send in your payment in as soon as possible. If you are having difficulties or personal issues, please contact the Secretary, Donnie Lara, at sf120.secretary@outlook.com. There are payment options available.





San Francisco Lodge No. 120



October
STATED

Columbus Day

MEETING

10.02.25

Social: 6PM / Meeting: 7:30PM

Attire: Team Sports Jersey "No Short Pants"



**SAN FRANCISCO
LODGE NO. 120**

**DOUBLE
1st
DEGREE
CONFERRAL**

September **11** 2025
5:00 PM
San Francisco Scottish Rite
Masonic Center

ATTIRE: Officers Tuxedo / Members: Black Suit

You are cordially invited!!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

SPECIAL CAKE



\$35



01. CHRIS ADRIAN 10/2
RENNIE OWYANG 10/2
JASON HARTMAN 10/3
FADI RABADI 10/3
DONALD JACKSON 10/5

02. RICKY HERMOSO 10/10
DAE KIM 10/10
JOHN BELINI 10/11
JOEY ELACION 10/13
ANTONIO TRIUFANTE 10/15
LAWRENCE CRAFT 10/18



\$20

\$40



03. KENNETH RAMOS 10/20
HARRY LEE 10/21
ALBERT CUA 10/22
MARTIN EVLAN 10/23
JONATHAN GALVEZ 10/26
BECKER CHENG 10/30
STEPHEN RUDEE 10/31



MAKING TRUE FRIENDS, IMPROVING OURSELVES, HAVING AN IMPACT

OUR MISSION AND OUR LODGE

Welcome to San Francisco Lodge 120. One of the most diverse, friendly, and celebrated lodges in the Bay Area. Here we welcome all looking for friendship and brotherly love and to those who are interested in our vast history and tenants that have survived for time immemorial. We meet every Thursday at 7:30pm at 2850 19th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. Our Stated Meeting Dinner is held every first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

Join Us

San Francisco Lodge membership is open to men 18 and older who meet the qualifications and standards of character and intention, and who believe in a Supreme Being. Men of all ethnic and religious backgrounds are welcome.

One of Freemasonry's customs is not to solicit members – men must seek membership on their own initiative. Anyone is welcome to request information about the fraternity.

If you are interested in applying for membership to our lodge, now is a good time to start. Please contact us to schedule a visit during an event, or request more information.

Lodge Secretary: Donnie Lara

Phone: (209) 640-4941

Email: sfl120.secretary@outlook.com