



STATED MEETING

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

SAN FRANCISCO LODGE NO. 120

SOCIAL: 6PM



MEETING: 7:30PM

Attire: Business Suit / Coat & Tie

San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center
2850 19th Avenue San Francisco, CA





GREETINGS FROM THE EAST
WORSHIPFUL MASTER
Oliver Mangubat



Labor Day: Honoring Work, Honoring Brotherhood

An Article for the September Trestle Board of San Francisco Lodge No. 120

As we approach Labor Day, we are reminded of the dignity and value of work. For many, this holiday marks the unofficial end of summer, a time of rest, family gatherings, and community events. Yet its deeper meaning runs much further. Labor Day was established to honor the contributions of workers who, with their hands, minds, and hearts, have built and sustained the progress of our nation.

For us as Masons, the concept of labor carries a sacred dimension. We are taught that Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols drawn from the life of the builder. From the working tools of the operative Mason, we learn lessons for the speculative Mason. The plumb teaches us uprightness of conduct, the level reminds us of equality, and the square teaches us virtue and morality. These tools remind us that all true labor—whether with stone, with pen, or with spirit—should be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of humanity.

Labor Day invites us not only to celebrate the material fruits of industry but also to reflect on the spiritual labor to which we are called. Each of us is a living stone in that spiritual temple “not made with hands.” The work we do on ourselves—shaping rough edges into smoother character, balancing our duties to God, neighbor, family, and self—is as vital as any public achievement. It is a lifelong project of refinement and devotion.

At San Francisco Lodge No. 120, we are reminded that our fraternity thrives not because of buildings or titles but because of the labor of love invested by brethren. Every meeting, every degree conferred, every act of charity is the product of willing hearts and hands working together.

As we celebrate Labor Day, let us honor not only the workers of our nation but also the daily efforts of every brother who labors quietly yet faithfully in the quarries of Masonry. May we continue to labor together in unity, building a Lodge where friendship and brotherly love are the mortar that holds us strong.

Fraternally,

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



GREETINGS FROM THE WEST SENIOR WARDEN Salvador Tandoc

Brethren,

September is a month of transition—from summer into autumn, from leisure into labor. In the life of our nation, and in the life of our Craft, September carries deep meaning.

We begin with Labor Day, a celebration of honest work. In Masonry, labor is not merely physical, but moral and spiritual. Our working tools remind us that through diligence and effort, we can shape our lives and our world.

On September 11th, Patriot Day, we pause to remember the lives lost in the tragic events of 2001. Freemasonry teaches us to stand firm in truth, justice, and brotherly love, even in times of great trial.

September 17th marks Constitution Day, the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. Many of the Founding Fathers, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, were Freemasons. The principles of equality, liberty, and fraternity echo both in our Constitution and in our Masonic teachings.

Masonry also remembers historical milestones in September. On September 18, 1793, Brother George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol in a Masonic ceremony. And on September 26, 1820, Brother Daniel Boone, pioneer, and explorer, laid down his working tools.

Brethren, as we honor labor, remembrance, and citizenship this month, let us also remember that our Masonic journey calls us to be diligent laborers in the quarry of life—building character, strengthening community, and upholding liberty.

It is with great honor that I acknowledge the extraordinary work of our degree team in preparing for the recent First-Degree conferrals. I have not seen this Lodge work so diligently, so harmoniously, and with such heartfelt dedication for the benefit of our newly initiated Brethren. The hours of practice, the commitment to excellence, and the unity of purpose truly demonstrate the spirit of Masonry at its finest.

The degree team spent countless evenings refining their work, ensuring that the solemnity and symbolism of our ritual were properly conveyed. Their effort was not just a performance of words, but a living example of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Because of their labor, our newly initiated Brothers received a degree experience that they will carry with them for a lifetime.

Congratulations to our Junior Warden Garry Fontillas for doing a great job in the East for the 1st Degree Conferral.

Newly Initiated Brothers of Lodge SF120:

- Bro. Guillermo Gonzalez – Initiated 08/14/25
- Bro. Christopher Scott – Initiated 08/14/25
- Bro. Ian Alexander – Initiated 08/21/25
- Bro. Brandon McClune – Initiated 08/21/25
- Bro. Sid Avila – Initiated 08/28/25
-

Let us all embrace and congratulate these Brothers as they begin their journey in Masonry. May they find in this Lodge not only fellowship, but also guidance and inspiration to become the best versions of themselves.

Special Acknowledgments

• To Inspector Allan Nubla, whose vision for SF120 to excel and stand among the finest lodges is now becoming a reality. His insistence on quality degrees and his unwavering passion for ritual excellence have not only raised our standard but have also inspired me personally in my future planning for the Lodge.

• To Coach Alexis Rueda, whose patience, commitment, and teaching have elevated our Lodge to a new level of skill and dedication. His willingness to sacrifice personal time, share knowledge, and nurture our Brethren has been both inspiring and transformative. Truly, the fruits of his labor can already be seen in the harmony and precision of our work.

Looking Ahead – Second Degree Conferrals

We now turn our attention to the preparation for the upcoming Second Degree conferrals. The following Brothers are encouraged to reach out to me as soon as possible so that we may begin planning their special day:

Romeo Agbulos • John Caberto • Danillo Celeste Dennis Cruz • Ray DeLuna • Edmund Enriquez* Pablo Leabres • Jon Masulit • Geordie Evangelista Chadi Nicolas* • Fadi Rabadi • Edgar Silva Arvin Velacruz • Thomas Sal Tandoc* • Jose Zamora

(*Indicates proficiency pending confirmation)

Those who have already given their proficiency will be scheduled for advancement without delay. For those who are ready to give their proficiency, I urge you to coordinate with our Senior Deacon, our Coach, and myself so that we may schedule you for a presentation at the next stated meeting. Brethren, the conferral of degrees is among the most important labors of a Lodge. It is where we pass on the light of Masonry, ensuring that our timeless teachings are preserved and perpetuated. Let us continue to labor together, in harmony and excellence, for the benefit of our candidates, our Lodge, and the Craft.



GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH JUNIOR WARDEN Garry Fontillas



"Setting the Standard for the Craft"

Brethren,

I hope this message finds you and your families well and refreshed after the summer months. September marks not just a change in seasons, but also a significant milestone for our Lodge. We had the distinct honor of initiating several new Brothers into our ancient and honorable fraternity. Please join me in welcoming our newly initiated Entered Apprentices:

Bro. Guillermo Alacazar

Bro. Christopher Scott

Bro. Ian Alexander

Bro. Brandon McLune

Bro. Emmanuel Sid Avila

Their journey has just begun, and with that, we each and every one of us have a sacred responsibility.

These new brothers will learn much from our teachings, our rituals, and our lectures, but their deepest lessons will come from observing us: how we speak, how we act, and how we carry ourselves as Masons. Whether we are conscious of it or not, we are the examples they will follow. Therefore, let us recommit ourselves to setting the highest standard.

Let us be role models in all aspects of Masonic decorum:

Due Guard and Sign

These fundamental modes of recognition are not mere formalities. They are rich with symbolism and tradition. Let us ensure we are performing them correctly, clearly, respectfully, and with understanding. Take a moment to review your own posture and hand placement. A crisp and meaningful sign not only honors the ritual, it teaches the new brothers that precision matters.

Wearing the Apron

Our white apron is the badge of a Mason, "more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle." It should always be worn with dignity and care. Make sure yours is clean, properly tied, and appropriate to your degree. Help our newly initiated understand the significance of this sacred emblem by showing them, through your example, what it means to wear it with pride.

Masonic Etiquette

In Lodge, our behavior speaks volumes. Punctuality, silence when appropriate, standing when addressing the Worshipful Master, and refraining from idle conversation during ritual—all of these actions reflect our respect for the Craft. Let's be intentional about our conduct. When we act with reverence and discipline, our new brothers will naturally follow suit.

Brethren, the Lodge is not just a place we attend; it is a living classroom where our actions are the lesson plan. Let us teach not just with words, but with the way we walk, talk, and work.

As Junior Warden, it is my duty to observe the Craft when at refreshment, but more broadly, I see it as my duty to encourage harmony and uphold the dignity of our traditions. I ask each of you to join me in welcoming and mentoring our new brothers, not just in word, but in deed.

Let me also take a moment to recognize the Degree Team, who truly exemplified Masonic excellence. The degree was delivered with precision, passion, and purpose. It takes dedication, practice, and heart to bring our ritual to life, and the Brothers who participated did so with honor. Thank you all for your continued commitment to the Craft and for welcoming our new Brethren in such a memorable way.

Lastly I offer this encouragement to our new Brethren: stay connected, ask questions, seek mentorship, and never underestimate the power of simply showing up. Your presence matters more than you may realize, not just to your journey, but to the Lodge as a whole.

Together, let us be the living embodiment of the principles we profess.

Fraternally,
Garry Fontillas
Junior Warden



FROM THE SECRETARY
SECRETARY
Donato T. Lara



Brethren,

Summer is over and Fall has arrived. Kids are back in school, and our Annual Communications will be held in October.

Congratulations to our newly initiated members:

Guillermo Gonzalez, Christopher Scott, Ian Alexander, Brandon McClune, Sid Avila. Welcome to Freemasonry—we're here to support your growth.

Upcoming events:

- Scottish Rite Honours Ceremonies (San Francisco Valley), September 13
- WB Mario Esteban's building fundraising birthday party, September 27

We are updating our CLC donor plaques for July 2025 – June 2026: Bronze (\$1,000), Silver (\$2,500), Gold (\$25,000).

Freemasonry in California: September Highlights

A Tradition of Brotherhood and Milestones

Freemasonry has been part of California since the Gold Rush era, with its first lodge established in San Francisco in 1850. Over time, the fraternity grew rapidly, contributing to the state's civic and charitable landscape.

Core Values and Community Impact

California Masons uphold brotherly love, relief, and truth. They support charitable programs, including homes for seniors, scholarships, and disaster relief, reflecting their commitment to service.

September Milestones

September marks several important events for California Freemasons:

- Constitution Day: Lodges honor the signing of the U.S. Constitution and Masonry's historic influence on American values.
- Annual Communication: The Grand Lodge of California gathers to elect leaders, recognize achievements, and plan for the future.
- Recognition of Service: Lodges present awards to members for outstanding dedication and community work.
- Back-to-Lodge Events: Members reunite after summer for renewed fellowship and tradition.

Today, California Freemasonry remains active in more than 300 lodges, focused on personal growth and public service. September's milestones are a time for reflection, renewal, and celebration of the fraternity's enduring legacy.

Donnie Lara

Secretary



San Francisco Lodge 120

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

San Francisco lodge 120 September 2025

THE SAN FRANCISCO SCOTTISH RITE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER



Childhood Language Center Donor Recognition Plaques

2025-2026 Bronze Club

Albert & Lynn Cua
Tony & Mary Man
Tom & Angie Chavez
Mario Arbis

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

Oliver Sarmiento Mangubat (Michelle)

Master

(775) 385-0166

oliverbongsarmientomangubat71@yahoo.com

Salvador C. Tandoc (Candace)

Senior Warden

(415) 368-8682

tandoc@hotmail.com

Garry Fontillas (Michelle)

Junior Warden

(415) 412-6466

garryfontillas@yahoo.com

Robert Gonzales

Treasurer

(415) 6995290

bobgonz650@gmail.com

Donato Lara (Flor)

Secretary

(209) 640-4941

dtlara@gmail.com

sfl120.secretary@outlook.com

Dennis Duey (Sahlee)

Assistant Secretary

(707) 752-0477

sfcduey11@gmail.com

Jerry Verzosa, P.M., H.A. (Cristy)

Chaplain

(916) 805-0509

jv69okey@aol.com

Clarito A. Balquedra, Jr. (Catherine)

Senior Deacon

(650) 452-2382

cabjr2@yahoo.com

Ricky Hermoso (Jo)

Junior Deacon

(415) 244-9268

Joricky1011@hotmail.com

Jonathan Galvez (Emely)

Marshal

(415) 699-5814

galvezintaglio@gmail.com

James Meade

Senior Steward

(415) 235-7374

jamesmeade@ymail.com

Eddie Fernandez

Junior Steward

(650) 483-9564

eddzki27@yahoo.com

Ernest Batara (Aldelyn)

Tiler

(650) 483-7484

eadb1925@gmail.com

Joseph Espinueva

Organist

(650) 892-7184

joesnueva@yahoo.com

Alexis Rueda, P.M., H.A.

Officer's Coach

(650) 892-1051

Ar_fdl376@yahoo.com

Allan Nubla, P.M., H.A.

Inspector 141st Masonic District

(650) 922-4684

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

**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., 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 - September 4th
- SF120 & SFSR Annual Picnic - TBA
- Degree Conferral 1st & 2nd - TBD
- Master's Mystery Trip

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.

THIS MONTH'S FLAVORS

AUGUST

STATED

**SAN
FRANCISCO
LODGE NO.120**

YOU'VE BEEN WARNED!



MEETING

**7 AUGUST
2025**

Refreshment: 6:00PM

Meeting: 7:30PM

**ATTIRE : Bright Colored Shirt and
Slack/Dress Pants**

AUGUST PICTURES





SAN
FRANCISCO

LODGE NO. 120 DOUBLE
1ST DEGREE
CONFERRAL



BRANDON J. MCLUNE



IAN G. ALEXANDER

August 21, 2022
Social: 5PM |
Conferral: 15:15

San Francisco Scottish Rite
2850 19th Ave. SF CA.





SAN FRANCISCO LODGE NO. 120

DOUBLE 1ST DEGREE

CONFERRAL



Manuel Sid S.
Avila

Deleven Hill

28 August 2025

Social: 5pm

CONFERRAL: 6pm

SAN FRANCISCO SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER
150 19TH AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bro Leslie Busick 9/1
Bro William Ruggiero 9/1
Bro Bruce Stein 9/4
Bro Jonathan Levinson 9/5
Bro Andrew Kluger 9/6
Bro Jarett Stone 9/7
Bro Orhan Baran 9/8
Bro Daniel Chen 9/12
WBro Edmund Lim 9/12
Bro Denis Cruz 9/14
Bro Trohj So 9/14
Bro Bernard Basil 9/15
WBro Dennis Silva 9/16
Bro Emmitt Joy 9/17
Bro John Blackford 9/19
Bro Rene Saroukhanoff 9/19
WBro Edwin Del Rosario 9/20
WBro Jovencio Rendon 9/20
Bro Romel Saravia 9/20
Bro Clifford Dorman 9/21
WBro Mario Esteban 9/21
Bro Edwin Kim 9/23
Bro Pablo Leabres 9/23
WBro Ferdinand Quiambao 9/25
Bro Alvin Velacruz 9/25





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