

# *The San Francisco Lodge No. 120 Officers*



*celebrate  
the season  
2025*



## GREETINGS FROM THE EAST WORSHIPFUL MASTER Oliver Mangubat



My Brothers,

### **"Ablaze to Serve: A Closing Reflection from the East"**

By Worshipful Master Oliver S. Mangubat

As we enter the month of December—a season of light, hope, and thanksgiving—I humbly offer my final message as your Worshipful Master of San Francisco Lodge No. 120. This year has been a blessing beyond measure, and my heart remains ablaze with gratitude for the privilege of serving this ancient and honorable Lodge.

When I first took the Oriental Chair last January, I carried one prayer: that we, as brothers, would rekindle the flame of service—service to the Lodge, to one another, and to our community. Through God's grace and through your unwavering support, we lived that theme: "Ablaze to Serve."

### **A Year of Light and Labor**

Looking back, I stand in awe of what we accomplished together:

We strengthened our ritual work, elevating the dignity and meaning of every degree.

We restored warmth to our fellowship—welcoming new brothers, reconnecting with old ones, and supporting each other in times of need.

We expanded our charitable efforts, touching lives within and beyond the Lodge room.

We represented San Francisco Lodge 120 with pride and unity at district and statewide Masonic events.

None of these were the achievement of one man, but the collective labor of brothers who stepped forward with willing hearts.

### **Gratitude from the East**

To my officers, thank you for your dedication and patience. You carried the working tools faithfully and guarded the landmarks with honor.

To our Past Masters, thank you for your guidance, wisdom, and brotherly counsel.

To our new Brothers, thank you for reminding us of the joy and purpose of Masonry. May you continue to grow in the Craft with zeal and humility.

And to the entire Lodge—thank you for trusting me, supporting me, and standing with me through every challenge and victory.

### **Passing the Light**

As I prepare to pass the gavel and return to the sidelines, I do so with joy and confidence. The Lodge is strong, hopeful, and ready for its next journey under new leadership. May the incoming Master lead with clarity, courage, and compassion.

Though my term ends, my service does not. I will continue to labor with you in the quarries—still ablaze to serve, only now with a different working tool in hand.

### **A Final Blessing**

May the Great Architect of the Universe keep our Lodge united in brotherly love, guided by truth, and strengthened by charity. May our light continue to shine in the City of San Francisco and beyond.

Thank you, my Brothers.

For the honor.

For the trust.

For the unforgettable journey.

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



## GREETINGS FROM THE WEST SENIOR WARDEN Salvador Tandoc



Brethren,

As we approach the close of another Masonic year, December invites us to pause, reflect, and prepare. It is a season that naturally turns our thoughts inward toward gratitude for what we have built together, toward the lessons we have learned, and toward the light that guides us forward. In our symbolic Lodge, I offer a few reflections for our collective Masonic education as we transition from the work of 2025 to the promise of a new year of 2026. The Value of the Middle Chamber

The Senior Warden's station at the West alludes to the Middle Chamber of King Solomon's Temple—a place of advancement, wages, and understanding. It represents the stage of a Mason's journey where knowledge is shaped into wisdom through practice. Throughout this year, each of us has climbed our own winding staircase, step by step.

- Some steps were intellectual: studying ritual, symbols, and history.
- Others were internal: exercising patience, charity, tolerance, and discipline.
- Still others were fraternal: supporting a Brother in need, mentoring newer Masons, or simply showing up when it mattered.

As we prepare to close the year, I encourage every Brother to pause at his personal Middle Chamber and answer the following questions for a baseline assessment of oneself. How have you grown? Where do you seek further Light? What wages have you earned, and what wages will you pursue in 2026?

The Season of Reflection and Renewal The month of December, in many traditions, is a time of illumination. Lights are kindled against darkness, symbolizing hope, unity, and rebirth. In the Lodge, our own Working Tools remind us that true Light is not something we merely see—it is something we apply.

- The Plumb invites us to upright conduct as we interact with family, friends, and strangers during this busy season.
- The Level reminds us of our equality as Brothers and our responsibility to treat all with kindness and dignity.
- The Square encourages us to meet challenges calmly and act with fairness.

This is a time when the world needs more Masons not in number, but in example. Let us carry our Light into the community quietly, steadily, and sincerely. Masonic Education: Continuing the Climb Masonic education does not end with degrees. If anything, that is when it truly begins. In 2025, we discussed symbolism, ritual, lodge operations, and personal development. For the coming year, I challenge each Brother to deepen his engagement:

- Attend one additional meeting, degree, or education session each month.
- Select a Masonic book to read and reflect upon.
- Offer to mentor or be mentored by another Brother.
- Bring a question to Lodge and share it. Masonry thrives on thoughtful inquiry.

The West reminds us that the sun is always setting somewhere—but also rising elsewhere. Every ending is the beginning of the next degree of self-improvement.

A Closing Word of Gratitude To our officers, thank you for your labor. A special acknowledgment to outgoing WS Oliver Mangubat for his dedication, patience, and perseverance and to our newly initiated, passed, and raised Brothers, thank you for your enthusiasm and trust. To our Past Masters and long-time members, thank you for your steady example and wisdom. And to the Craft as a whole—thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you this year. As we move toward Installation and prepare the trestle board for 2026, may we finish our work this year with dignity, unity, and brotherly love. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons, and to those love ones that are now with the Celestial Lodge above.

Salvador Tandoc  
Senior Warden





## GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH JUNIOR WARDEN Garry Fontillas



Brethren,

We now enter the final month of 2025 and prepare our hearts for the holiday season, I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on my journey as Junior Warden this past year. Serving in this role has been both a privilege and a profound learning experience, one that has deepened my understanding of leadership, fellowship, and the quiet but powerful ways in which Masons support one another.

Throughout the year, I learned that the Junior Warden's duties extend far beyond overseeing refreshment and harmony. It is about being attentive to the needs of the Lodge, stepping forward when solutions are required, and stepping back when others need space to shine. It has taught me patience, humility, and the importance of a steady, balanced presence in the South.

I am especially grateful to the brethren who offered their time, counsel, and willing hands whenever I found myself in need. Whether helping set up meals, providing guidance on ritual work, or simply offering words of encouragement, your support made the challenges lighter and the responsibilities more meaningful. The bond we share as brothers is truly what strengthens our Lodge.

This month also brings one of the highlights of the year, our Joint Christmas Party with the Scottish Rite. I look forward to celebrating the season together in unity and joy. Events like these remind us that Masonry extends far beyond our individual lodges; it connects us to a wider family of like-minded men who value brotherhood, charity, and fellowship.

As Christmas and the holiday season approach, may each of you find time for rest, reflection, and gratitude. May your homes be filled with peace, warmth, and the company of loved ones.

Finally, let us acknowledge and congratulate the upcoming 2026 Officers of San Francisco Lodge No. 120. May the Great Architect of the Universe guide you in wisdom and strength as you prepare to take your stations and places. The Lodge is in good hands, and I am confident that the coming year will be full of progress and harmony under your leadership.

Thank you, Brethren, for allowing me to serve, learn, and grow alongside you. I look forward to continuing our labor together in the quarries of Masonry.

Fraternally,  
Garry Fontillas  
Junior Warden



San Francisco Lodge 120

December 2025

## FROM THE SECRETARY SECRETARY Donato T. Lara



Brethren,

### Freemasonry and the Spirit of the Season

For Freemasons, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays hold special meaning that resonates deeply with the fraternity's core principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. While Freemasonry is not a religious organization, these seasonal celebrations align naturally with Masonic values of charity, fellowship, and reflection.

### A Time for Charity and Relief

The holiday season represents a particularly active period for Masonic charitable work. Lodges across the country organize food drives, toy collections, and community outreach programs that embody the Masonic commitment to helping those in need. Many lodges host Thanksgiving dinners for members and their families, as well as community members who might otherwise spend the holiday alone.

This tradition of gathering reflects the Masonic emphasis on brotherhood extending beyond lodge walls into the wider community.

The concept of "relief"—one of Freemasonry's three principal tenets—takes on heightened importance during these months. Masons are reminded that their obligation to assist others, particularly widows, orphans, and those facing hardship, is a year-round commitment that becomes especially poignant when families gather to celebrate abundance and togetherness.

### Reflecting on Gratitude and Light

Thanksgiving's focus on gratitude aligns with Masonic teachings about recognizing one's blessings and responsibilities. The holiday provides an opportunity for Masons to reflect on their personal growth through the fraternity and the bonds they've formed with their brothers.

The Christmas season, with its symbolism of light emerging from darkness, particularly resonates with Masonic philosophy. The image of light has profound significance in Freemasonry, representing knowledge, enlightenment, and moral truth. As communities illuminate their homes and streets during December, Masons see a reflection of their own journey from darkness to light—a central metaphor in Masonic ritual and teaching.

### Brotherhood Across Faiths

One of Freemasonry's strengths during the holiday season is its ability to bring together men of different religious backgrounds in common purpose. Whether a Mason celebrates Christmas as a Christian holy day, observes Hanukkah, or simply appreciates the secular spirit of the season, the lodge remains a place where diverse traditions are respected and universal values of goodwill and generosity are emphasized.

This interfaith harmony serves as a model for the broader community, demonstrating that people of different beliefs can work together for the common good—a message particularly relevant during a season often associated with peace on earth and goodwill toward all.

### Continuing a Tradition of Service

As the year draws to a close, many Masonic lodges use the holiday season as a time to reflect on their accomplishments and plan for the year ahead. The tradition of year-end charitable giving, community service, and fellowship gatherings strengthens the bonds between members and renews their commitment to Masonic principles.

For Freemasons, Thanksgiving and Christmas are not just holidays to observe, but opportunities to live out the values they pledge to uphold—making these weeks among the most meaningful of the Masonic calendar.

See you all at the Stated Meeting and the Holiday Party on December 17th. Happy Holidays my worthy brethren!

Fraternally,

Brother Donnie Lara  
Secretary



## MASONIC EDUCATION

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



Dear Brethren of San Francisco Lodge 120,

I came across this article which has become a common subject for discussion lately and worthy of sharing with my brothers.

What does it mean to be a US Citizen?

You may hear the phrase in the US that "It's a free country" and to an extent this is true. As a US citizen, you have many rights clearly defined in the BILL OF RIGHTS, which has been amended to promote greater inclusiveness of what defines a citizen. If you look at the early versions of the Bill of Rights, you will see many exclusions to citizenship defined by the early United States and its founding fathers. Those not counted as citizens in early days included Native Americans, Most African Americans, and Most women.

Today a US citizen is defined as a person born in this country or a person who has gone through the full immigration process to become a citizen. In many cases, becoming a citizen in the United States means you forswear allegiance to other countries, though in certain cases, people can process dual citizenship. But first and foremost, the highest allegiance you have as a US citizen is to your country.

So what are the rights of a US citizen? As defined by the Bill of Rights, anyone classed as a citizen has the right to practice any religion of their choosing, to freely assemble, and to speak or write their opinion, even if that opinion criticizes the government. Citizens also are allowed, under most circumstances, to possess weapons, and to be treated equally by businesses, education systems, and government institutions.

Other protections include your right to be free from search and seizure of your property without warrant, your right to privacy, and the right to trial before you're a jury of your peers in you are accused of crimes. Citizenship always means that if you are accused of a crime, the burden of proof is on the accuser, and you are always presumed innocent of a crime until a jury or judge decides otherwise.

As a US citizen, you also have certain responsibilities. You must remain lawful, obey laws of both the country and the state in which you live. You cannot commit acts of treason against your government. Male Citizens at the age of 18 must register with the Selective Service, and if a draft is in place, male citizens drafted must not refuse to serve their country.

Another responsibility is your willingness to respond to summons to juries when called. Since all citizens, are accorded the right to trial by jury, regular citizens must staff juries. Normally a US citizen can't refuse to serve jury duty. You do have to show up, though you may be granted an exception of being part of a jury under certain circumstances.

There is some dispute on whether voting is a right or a responsibility. As a citizen you don't have to vote, but many believe that full citizenship is realized as a result of participatory electorate, or where all citizens exercise their right to vote. Nevertheless, voting is not a requirement of citizenship, but rather a right.

For many, citizenship in the US is very special, and other bemoans the fact that people don't realize how lucky they are. It's easy to take for granted the rights that were hard won by early founders of this country, especially if you were born a citizen of the US. It's interesting to note when people immigrate to the US, how many of them are very anxious to exercise the rights that many of us do take for granted. Immigrants often can't wait to vote and eagerly anticipate their ability to take full part in the democratic process.

Source; Tricia Christensen (5/17/24)

Respectfully, Larry Laidlaw, PM, HA, Committee of history and knowledge





# 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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## 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 – December 4th
- 1st Annual Toy Drive - Toys Pick-up
- Proficiency Day - December 11th
- Degree Conferral - TBD
- Christmas Party - TBD

### **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 [sfl120.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:sfl120.secretary@outlook.com). There are payment options available.

**SAN FRANCISCO LODGE NO. 120**

You're invited

# *Stated Meeting*

*Dec. 4, 2025*

*6:00 pm - Social*

*7:30 pm - Meeting*

The San Francisco Scottish Rite  
Masonic Center  
2850 19th Avenue SF (1st Flr)

Pls Join Us! Save your seat now!!

San Francisco Lodge No. 120



# 1st Charity Toy Drive

**November 6th, 2025**

**Donate a Toy,  
brighten a Child's  
Day!!**

**WM Oliver Mangubat  
Master**

**The San Francisco Scottish Rite  
2850 19th Ave. SF, CA.**





The San Francisco Lodge No. 120  
&

Valley of San Francisco Scottish  
Rite



# Joint Christmas Party

17 December 2025

(Details to be announced during  
stated meeting)







# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

ALLAN SIGUA 12/3

ALEXIS RUEDA 12/5

EMMANUEL AVILA 12/11

ALLAN BAQUILAR 12/15



GEORGE POON 12/22

JESUS VISPERAS 12/22

ROBERT LAM 12/23





**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](mailto:sfl120.secretary@outlook.com)**