

**It Shall Begins...**





GREETINGS FROM THE EAST  
**WORSHIPFUL MASTER**  
Salvador Tandoc



Brethren of San Francisco Lodge No. 120,

As we enter this season of celebration and reflection, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a joyful holiday season and a peaceful, prosperous New Year. This time of year reminds us of the enduring values of peace, harmony, tranquility, gratitude, and goodwill, virtues that are central to our Masonic journey.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the New Year, or simply the spirit of the season, may your homes be filled with light, fellowship, and renewed hope. Let us remember those in need and continue to practice Relief through acts of kindness, charity, and compassion hallmarks of a true Mason. As we turn the page to a new year, we are reminded that each of us is continually laying plans upon the trestle board of our lives. The New Year offers an opportunity to reflect upon our labors, refine our designs, and recommit ourselves to self-improvement, service, and brotherly love.

To our newly installed officers, I offer these words of wisdom:

Lead with humility, serve with sincerity, and govern with fairness. Remember that rank is not a reward, but a responsibility. Seek counsel when needed, listen attentively to the Brethren, and always place the harmony of the Lodge above personal ambition. Your example—more than your words—will shape the spirit and success of our Lodge.

May each officer labor diligently in his station, guided by wisdom in decision-making, strength in commitment, and beauty in conduct. When we work together with mutual respect and unity of purpose, our Lodge will continue to flourish.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication and support of the Brethren, and I look forward to the year ahead as we labor together to strengthen San Francisco Lodge No. 120 and uphold the timeless principles of our Craft. In my many years of travelling to the East, I will be forming committees to address those concerns and any concerns you may have throughout this year. This first business of order is to have a zoom meeting with all members of SF120 to discuss all and every issue before our Stated Meeting. I look forward to all your concerns, comments, and suggestions.

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season and a New Year filled with peace, harmony, and fulfillment.

Fraternaly yours,  
Worshipful Master

San Francisco Lodge No. 120





## GREETINGS FROM THE WEST SENIOR WARDEN GARRY FONTILLAS



Brethren,

January offers us a natural moment for reflection, renewal, and recommitment. In the West, the Senior Warden's duty is to assist in governing the lodge and to prepare both himself and the Brethren for continued progress in Masonry. With that responsibility in mind, I would like to focus this month's message on the importance of Masonic education; a cornerstone of our Craft that gives meaning to our rituals and purpose to our labor.

Freemasonry is often described as a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Yet those symbols and allegories only come alive when we take the time to study them. Without education, our meetings risk becoming routine; with education, they become transformative. Masonic education deepens our understanding of the degrees, strengthens our bonds as Brethren, and equips us to apply Masonic principles in our daily lives.

Education in Masonry does not belong solely to officers or instructors. It is the responsibility of every Brother, regardless of rank or tenure. Whether you were raised last year or decades ago, there is always more to learn. The working tools continue to reveal new lessons, the charges offer renewed guidance, and the history of our Craft reminds us that we are part of something far greater than ourselves.

This year, I encourage each Brother to make a personal resolution to engage more fully in Masonic education. This can be as simple as reviewing a degree lecture, reading a short paper, participating in a lodge discussion, or mentoring a newer Brother. Even brief moments of education during stated meetings can spark meaningful conversations and renew interest in our work.

January is also a time to set intentions. Let us intend to be students of the Craft, not merely members of it. Let us ask questions, seek light, and share what we learn with one another. By doing so, we honor those who came before us and fulfill our obligation to those who will follow.

I wish each of you a healthy, prosperous, and fulfilling New Year. May 2026 be a year of growth; intellectually, morally, and fraternally. I look forward to laboring with you in the quarry as we continue our journey toward more light.

Fraternally yours,  
Bro. Garry Fontillas  
Senior Warden



GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH  
**JUNIOR WARDEN**  
Clarkie Balquedra



Brethren,

As a Junior Warden, I find both pleasure and fulfilling in overseeing the lodge's refreshments and fellowship. Ensuring members have good quality food and drink, fostering camaraderie, and preventing intemperance, turning social time into meaningful bonding, ensuring moderation (temperance), guiding members to build brotherhood, learning ritual work, and preparing to lead, essentially creating a welcoming environment for socializing and reinforcing Masonic bonds during breaks or festive gatherings. Their role involves managing meals (often before meetings) and after ceremonies, promoting harmony, and upholding discipline, symbolizing the plumb rule for upright conduct, making it a rewarding path to the leadership roles like Worshipful Master. For the 1st stated meeting of this year, I planned to prepare special dinner for our Worshipful Master Sal Tandoc to Welcome him to the East.

I wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year and looking forward for our journey together.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Clarkie Balquedra  
Junior Warden



San Francisco Lodge 120

January 2026

FROM THE SECRETARY  
**SECRETARY**  
Donato T. Lara



Brethren,

Happy New Year

As with each new year, we have new beginnings. I want to congratulate our newly installed officers especially our Worshipful Master, Salvador Sal Tandoc. I look forward to the adventures ahead.

New Beginnings: A Mason's perspective

There's something special about a fresh start. Whether it's the turn of a new year, the start of a new project, or that moment when you first cross the threshold of a Lodge as a newly-made Mason, new beginnings carry with them a sense of possibility and hope.

In our Craft, we're constantly reminded that we're perpetual students, always working to improve ourselves and the world around us. Every meeting is an opportunity to learn something new, every degree ceremony marks the beginning of a deeper understanding, and every time we clasp hands in brotherhood, we renew our commitment to the principles we hold dear.

The beautiful thing about Masonry is that it teaches us that new beginnings aren't just about dramatic fresh starts. Sometimes they're found in the quiet moments—when we decide to reach out to a Brother we haven't seen in a while, when we volunteer to help with a charitable project, or when we simply choose to approach an old problem with a new perspective.

Our ritual itself is built around the concept of transformation and renewal. We move from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, and from rough stones to polished ones. But here's the real secret: that work is never truly finished. Each day offers us the chance to refine ourselves a little more, to be a little better than we were yesterday.

So as we gather in our Lodges and work together, let's embrace the new beginnings that surround us. Welcome the new candidates with warmth, approach our old responsibilities with fresh enthusiasm, and remember that every sunset promises a new dawn. After all, we're not just building better men—we're constantly rebuilding ourselves, one thoughtful choice at a time.

I want to thank the brethren and the sisters for your continued support and growth of the lodge. Let us all work together to make San Francisco Lodge 120 better by staying the course with brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Reminder, if you haven't paid your dues yet, do so as soon as possible. If you're having financial difficulties, please contact one of our three pillars and let's see how we can help you.

Sincerely and 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  
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#### 2025-2026 Silver Club

#### 2025-2026 Gold Club

Curusis Family  
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#### 2024-2025 Bronze Club

Albert & Lynn Cua  
Tom & Angie Chavez  
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Phillip & Sally McAllister  
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Frank & Jeanie Loui  
Jerry & Cristy Verzosa  
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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





# 2026 LODGE OFFICERS

**Salvador C. Tandoc**  
Master

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Junior Warden

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**Donato Lara (Flor)**  
Secretary

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Junior Deacon

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**Alexis Rueda, P.M., H.A.** Officer's Coach

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**Allan Nubla, P.M., H.A.**  
Inspector 141st Masonic District

(650) 922-4684  
[Allan9128@comcast.net](mailto: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

### Charity:

Salvador Tandoc  
Garry Fontillas  
Clarkie Balquedra

### Refreshment and Entertainment Committee:

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

### 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

### Candidate's Coach:

Garry Fontillas – Chairman  
Clark Balquedra – Head Coach  
All masons assigned by Head Coach

### Sunshine:

Clarkie Balquedra -.Chairman  
Ricky Hermoso  
Donnie Lara

### Retention:

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

### Executive:

WM, Salvador Tandoc  
SW, Garry Fontillas  
JW, Clarkie Balquedra  
Treas., Dennis Duey  
Secty., Donnie Lara

### Prospect Committee:=-

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

### Communication:

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

### Masonic Education:=-

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Stated Meeting – January 8th
- Proficiency Day - TBD
- Degree Conferral - 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.



JANUARY  
STATED MEETING





San Francisco Lodge No. 120

Your Cordially Invited to our

# 169th Installation of Officers

January 3, 2026, 04:00 PM

at the

San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center



**Garry Fontillas**  
Senior Warden Elect



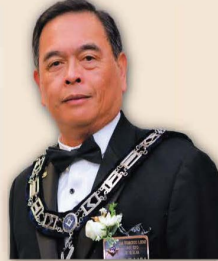
**Salvador "SALT" Tandoc**  
Worshipful Master Elect



**Clarito Balquedra Jr.**  
Junior Warden Elect



**Dennis Duey**  
Treasurer Elect



**Donato Lara**  
Secretary Elect



**Ricky Hermoso**  
Senior Deacon



**Jonathan Galvez**  
Junior Deacon



**Carlo Gonzaga**  
Senior Steward



**James Meade**  
Marshall



**Joseph Espinueva**  
Junior Steward



**WB Alexis Rueda PM, HA**  
Officers Coach



**WB Mario Esteban PM**  
Tiler











**Arnel Malano 1/2**

**Geordie Evangelista 1/5**

**John Caberto 1/11**

**Wadleigh Riformo 1/11**

**Salvador Tandoc 1/11**

**Virgilio Dacasin 1/16**

**Arvin Menchavez 1/20**





San Francisco Lodge 120

January 2026

**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)**

2850 19th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94132