

# MARCH

## 2026



# Trestle Board



## GREETINGS FROM THE EAST WORSHIPFUL MASTER Salvador Tandoc



Brethren of San Francisco Lodge No. 120,

As we enter March and approach the Spring Equinox, we are reminded of balance, the equilibrium between light and darkness. In Masonry, balance is not seasonal; it is moral. We are taught to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds. This discipline is what transforms good men into better ones.

Brother George Washington reminded us: "Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation." In this Lodge, we do more than associate, we obligate ourselves to mutual growth and accountability.

Masonic Education – The Working Tools

- ⌚ The Plumb teaches uprightness.
- ⌚ The Level reminds us we meet as equals.
- ⌚ The Square demands moral rectitude.

As Albert Mackey wrote: "The true Mason is not he who merely wears the badge of the Craft, but he who practices its virtues."

This month, let us recommit to:

- ⌚ Ritual excellence
- ⌚ Mentorship of newer Brethren
- ⌚ Harmony within our Lodge
- ⌚ Active participation and fellowship

Brother Benjamin Franklin wisely stated: "Well done is better than well said." May our actions reflect the teachings we profess.

We have many activities in the coming months. Please join me and the officers for the Master's Trip to Hawaii in April and perhaps, do a joint degree.

Thank you Officers, for a great job thus far. Our Degree Team is coming along very well. Let's continue the great stride and great work.

Special acknowledgement to those who, without hesitation, continue to support, assist, and promote good harmony and beauty in our Lodge. I truly appreciate you all.

Fraternally yours,

Worshipful Master  
San Francisco Lodge No. 120



## GREETINGS FROM THE WEST SENIOR WARDEN GARRY FONTILLAS



Brethren,

With the arrival of March, we find ourselves moving steadily from the darkness of winter toward the light of spring. In many ways, this reflects our Masonic journey; a continual progression from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, and from labor to refreshment.

In Freemasonry, we are taught that growth does not occur by chance. It requires intention, effort, and consistency. Each degree we have received was not merely a ceremony, but a meaningful step in our personal development. The working tools placed in our hands are not symbolic alone; they are practical instructions—teaching us to build our character, square our actions, and circumscribe our desires.

March is also a time for renewed progress within the Lodge. I encourage all Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts preparing for proficiency to remain steadfast in your studies. Your dedication demonstrates respect for your degree and a sincere desire to advance in Light. Remember, proficiency is not simply about memorization; it is about understanding and internalizing the profound lessons entrusted to you.

To our Master Masons, let us continue to guide and mentor our younger Brothers. A Lodge grows stronger when experienced hands support willing hearts. Reach out. Attend practices. Be present. Your encouragement and example leave a lasting impact.

Let us also remember that harmony is the strength and support of all institutions; especially our own. Differences of opinion may arise, yet we must always strive to meet upon the level and part upon the square. Our unity as Brethren is far more important than any disagreement.

As your Senior Warden, I remain committed to assisting the Worshipful Master in leading our Lodge with purpose and integrity. I ask each of you to recommit yourselves this month to attendance, participation, and fellowship. The strength of our Lodge depends not upon one officer alone, but upon the collective efforts of us all.

May we continue to labor diligently in the quarries of self-improvement and return from each meeting refreshed in spirit and strengthened in Brotherhood.

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Garry Fontillas  
Senior Warden



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



Brethren,

As we move into March and the days grow longer, it is the perfect time to renew our commitment to one another.

A time of new beginning and renewal. In the Lodge, this means looking forward to our upcoming degrees and activities.

As your Junior Warden, my goal is to ensure that our hours of refreshment are filled with the same brotherly love that we experience during our labor.

I encourage you to join us for our stated meeting this month. Come for the business, but stay for the fellowship. Let us catch up, share a meal, and strengthen the bonds that make our fraternity great. I look forward to seeing everyone and sharing a toast to the spring season.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Clarkie Balquedra  
Junior Warden



San Francisco Lodge 120

March 2026

FROM THE TREASURER  
**TREASURER**  
Dennis R. Duey



Brethren,

**March on the Trestle Board: Renewal, Labor, and Masonic Growth**

March marks a season of transition. As winter begins to fade and signs of spring emerge, we are reminded that growth follows preparation. In Freemasonry, this is a fitting time to reflect on our labor—both within the Lodge and in our personal lives—and to recommit ourselves to the work laid out upon our trestle board.

The Craft teaches us that every Mason is a work in progress. Just as nature renews itself in March, we too are called to renew our dedication to self-improvement, discipline, and service. The tools of our profession remind us that progress does not come by chance, but through intentional effort, patience, and consistency.

March also symbolizes action. It is not enough to contemplate the Light—we must walk in it. This is a time to put our principles into practice by strengthening fraternal bonds, supporting our Brothers, mentoring newer members, and extending relief to those in need. The lessons learned in the Lodge find their true meaning when applied in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

As we continue our Masonic journey, let March encourage us to examine the quality of our work. Are our actions aligned with our obligations? Are we building with care, integrity, and purpose? By answering these questions honestly, we ensure that our spiritual edifice rests upon a solid foundation.

May this month inspire us to labor faithfully, live honorably, and advance together in Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

So mote it be.

Fraternally,

Bro. Dennis "Denz" Duey  
Treasurer



San Francisco Lodge 120

March 2026

## FROM THE SECRETARY SECRETARY Donato T. Lara



Brethren,

March and the Masons

A look at some surprisingly interesting dates that connect the third month of the year to one of history's most enduring brotherhoods.

It all starts with the sun

Every year around March 20th or 21st, day and night are exactly the same length. The vernal equinox — that brief moment of perfect balance before the days start getting longer — might just sound like an astronomy fact. But for Freemasons, it's loaded with meaning.

The whole idea of moving from darkness into light sits right at the core of Masonic initiation. Candidates are literally blindfolded when they first enter the lodge. So it's no surprise that spring — when nature itself tips from dark to light — holds a special resonance for members of the craft.

The story at the heart of it all

If you want to understand Freemasonry, you need to know about Hiram Abiff. He's the legendary architect of Solomon's Temple, and his story — betrayal, death, and the search for what was lost — forms the dramatic centerpiece of the Master Mason degree.

There's no fixed calendar date attached to the legend, but its themes of death and renewal fit the spirit of spring so naturally that March has long been seen as a fitting time to reflect on it. Every lodge that raises a Master Mason is essentially retelling this ancient story — and that happens somewhere in the world every single week.

The groundwork for 1717

Most people who know anything about Masonic history know the year 1717 — that's when the Premier Grand Lodge of England was formally founded in London. What's less talked about is the months leading up to it.

In the early months of 1717, the four original lodges were meeting, talking, and laying the groundwork for what would become the most influential institutional moment in the craft's modern history. March of that year was part of that quiet but consequential buildup.

Ben Franklin, Mason

Benjamin Franklin is one of those figures who seemed to be everywhere in 18th-century intellectual life — and Freemasonry was no exception. While he was born in January, it was in March 1731 that he first turns up in the records of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia.

He'd go on to become Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734, and his Masonic connections were very much part of the broader Enlightenment network he moved in. Reason, brotherhood, civic virtue — it all fit together neatly for Franklin.

March in the lodge today

Fast forward to the present and March is still a busy month for lodges around the world. It typically falls in the middle of the lodge year, making it a natural time for degree work, festive dinners, and reflection on what the lodge is trying to achieve. The symbolic weight of the season hasn't gone away — if anything, modern Masons tend to lean into it more consciously.

For a fraternity built on symbolism and allegory, the month of balance and renewal will always feel like home.

So, brethren, as you can see we have a lot of history that we can be proud of. Speaking of proud, our Sweetheart Ball and Widows Dinner turned out great. We had our ups and downs in preparing for the event, but all in all it was team effort with much thanks going out to many people who made it happen. You know who you are. Thank you!

Another reminder about your annual dues. Please pay online or send me a check as soon as possible. Again, if you're having any financial challenges, we're here to help.

Fraternally,

Brother Donnie Lara  
Secretary



San Francisco Lodge 120

March 2026

FROM THE  
**SR. DEACON**  
Ricky Hermoso



Brethren,

Serving as your Senior Deacon this Masonic year at San Francisco Lodge No. 120 is both an honor and a solemn charge. Ours is not merely a functional office; it is a symbolic one. The Senior Deacon is entrusted to guide, to guard, and to ensure that every step taken within the Lodge is deliberate, dignified, and in due form.

In our ritual work, the Senior Deacon conducts candidates, bears messages between the East and the West, and attends to the Worshipful Master. These are not random assignments. They teach precision, obedience, and attentiveness. The Deacon does not move casually—he moves with purpose. He does not speak idly—he speaks when called. He does not act independently—he acts in harmony with the will of the Lodge.

There is a lesson here for all of us.

Freemasonry is a system of order. Every officer has a station. Every station has a duty. Every duty has a moral dimension. When the Senior Deacon guides a candidate, he represents more than himself; he represents the fraternity's commitment to properly instruct, protect, and elevate a Brother on his journey from darkness to light.

As Senior Deacon, I am reminded that leadership is not always about presiding—it is often about preparing. It is about ensuring that the path is clear, that the ritual is exact, and that the experience of every Brother is meaningful. The strength of our Lodge is built not only in the East but through faithful service in every chair.

Let us guard the West Gate carefully. Let us conduct ourselves uprightly. Let us assist the Worshipful Master faithfully. And above all, let us remember that our greatest work is not confined to the tiled recesses of the Lodge, but demonstrated in our daily lives—where we square our actions, level our relationships, and keep our passions within due bounds.

Brethren, may we continue to labor with diligence, meet upon the level, act upon the square, and part upon the plumb.

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Ricky Hermoso  
Sr. Deacon



## 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 it’s 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  
Oliver & Michelle Mangubat  
Mike & Janet Salazar  
Tony & Leila Cimarra  
Frank & Jeanie Loui

### 2025-2026 Silver Club

Joseph Welch Jr. Foundation  
San Francisco Lodge 120

### 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

### 2024-2025 Gold Club

Curusis Family  
Charitable Foundation





# 2026 LODGE OFFICERS

<b>Salvador C. Tandoc</b> Master	(415) 368-8682 <a href="mailto:tandoc@hotmail.com">tandoc@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Garry Fontillas (Michelle)</b> Senior Warden	(415) 412-6466 <a href="mailto:garryfontillas@yahoo.com">garryfontillas@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Clarkie Balquedra (Cathy)</b> Junior Warden	(650) 452-2382 <a href="mailto:cabjr2@yahoo.com">cabjr2@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Dennis Duey (Sahlee)</b> Treasurer	(707) 752-0477 <a href="mailto:sfcduey11@gmail.com">sfcduey11@gmail.com</a>
<b>Donato Lara (Flor)</b> Secretary	(209) 640-4941 <a href="mailto:dtlara@gmail.com">dtlara@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:sfl120.secretary@outlook.com">sfl120.secretary@outlook.com</a>
<b>Thomas Chavez, PM, HA (Angie)</b> Chaplain	(650) 766-2319 <a href="mailto:thomas.c.chavez@gmail.com">thomas.c.chavez@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ricky Hermoso (Jo)</b> Senior Deacon	(415) 244-9268 <a href="mailto:Joricky1011@hotmail.com">Joricky1011@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Jonathan Galvez (Emely)</b> Junior Deacon	(415) 699-5814 <a href="mailto:galvezintaglio@gmail.com">galvezintaglio@gmail.com</a>
<b>James Meade</b> Marshal	(415) 235-7374 <a href="mailto:jamesmeade@ymail.com">jamesmeade@ymail.com</a>
<b>Carlo Gonzaga (Liza)</b> Senior Steward	((%)&+) \$) - <a href="mailto:eddzki27@yahoo.com">eddzki27@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Joseph Espinueva</b> Junior Steward	(650) 892-7184 <a href="mailto:joesnueva@yahoo.com">joesnueva@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Mario Esteban, PM (Leslie)</b> Tiler	(*)\$&-*!,**+ <a href="mailto:@gmail.com">@gmail.com</a>
<b>Alexis Rueda, P.M., H.A.</b> Officer's Coach	(650) 892-1051 <a href="mailto:Ar_fdl376@yahoo.com">Ar_fdl376@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Allan Nubla, P.M., H.A.</b> Inspector 141st Masonic District	(650) 922-4684 <a href="mailto:Allan9128@comcast.net">Allan9128@comcast.net</a>

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

### Charity:

Salvador Tandoc  
Garry Fontillas  
Clarkie Balquedra

### Candidate's Coach:

Garry Fontillas – 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:

Clarkie Balquedra -.Chairman  
Ricky Hermoso  
Donnie Lara

### Communication:

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

### Retention:

Albert Cua, P.M. – Chairman  
Oliver Mangubat, P.M,  
Ernest Batara  
Donnie Lara

### Masonic Education:=

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Stated Meeting – March 5th
- Degree Conferral - TBD
- Degree Practice - Mar 12,  
19, 26
- Master's Trip - Hawaii Apr  
16-19, 2026

### 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*

*March  
Stated  
Meeting*

*Saint  
Patrick's  
Day*

*March 5th, 2026*

*6PM - Refreshment  
7:30PM - Meeting*

*Attire:*

*Business Suit w/ some green*



# March Birthdays

Arnold Romero - 3/1

Garry Fontillas - 3/5

Chadi Nicolas - 3/13

Andrew Stock - 3/15

Bong Aralar - 3/17

Jo Espinueva - 3/19

James Meade - 3/19





**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)**