

Trestle Board

Volume 137

290

January 2025

Issue #1

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge of F&AM



A Look Back At Our Masonic Year

WWW.SOUTHPASADENA290.ORG

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

JANUARY

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

1

WEDNESDAY

Happy New Year!

LODGE DARK

7

TUESDAY

2025 Officer
Installation Practice

6:30pm Dinner
7:00pm Practice

8

WEDNESDAY

Stated Dinner and
Meeting 6:30pm

Business Attire

14

TUESDAY

2025 Officer Portraits

7pm

15

WEDNESDAY

Officer School
of Instruction at
SPML 290

6:30pm

17

FRIDAY

Installation Walk-
through and Set-up

7pm

18

SATURDAY

137th Installation of
Officers

4pm

25

SATURDAY

Monthly Meditation

9am Breakfast

10am Meditation

29

WEDNESDAY

G-NIGHT

7pm

2025 DUES

Yearly dues notices have been sent and are due January 1, 2025. You may also pay your dues online through our website:

www.SouthPasadena290.org. If you have any questions or issues on paying your dues please contact our lodge Secretary for assistance. Contact info on page 12.



HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
TUESDAY, January 28, 2025
Monthly Meeting @ 6:30pm



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
MONDAY, January 13, 2025
Quarterly Meeting @ 7pm



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESEARCH LODGE
MONDAY, January 20, 2025
Quarterly Meeting @ 7pm

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Eddy, Jesus G. Rosas (01/01); Marvin E. Westfall (01/02); Robert S. Clifford (01/04); Kim Bowman, Geno Nadirov (01/06); Charles J. Fisher (01/10); James C. Burton, Joseph H. Wiltse (01/12); Heberto M. Sanchez, Jeffrey E. Sims (01/18); Robert L. Lehow (01/19); Rex L. Galletly, Wayne A. Thomas (01/21); David VanderSmith (1/22); Gerald E. Harris, Armando Sotomayor (01/23); Harwood L. Wright (01/27); Sean Finley (01/28); Thomas J. Taylor (01/29); Patrick R. Bragg (01/30).





From The East



Wor. Geno Nadirov

My dear brethren, honored families, and cherished friends, tonight, I stand before you filled with gratitude, humility, and an overwhelming sense of pride. This past year as Master of South Pasadena Lodge No. 290 has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life. It has shaped me into a better man, a better leader, and a better Mason. And it is because of each one of you—your unwavering support, your guidance, and your belief in me—that this journey has been possible.

First, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to those who have mentored me, advised me, and walked alongside me throughout my Masonic journey. Your wisdom has been my foundation, your encouragement my fuel, and your faith in me my guiding light. I also extend my deepest gratitude to the families and friends who supported not just me, but all of us, as we worked together to strengthen the bonds of this Lodge.

Being Master of this Lodge has not just been a privilege—it has been a calling. The lessons I have learned, the

relationships I have built, and the growth I have experienced are gifts I will carry with me forever. Yet, I know this is not the culmination of my journey. It is merely the beginning. This chapter in my life has been written with your support, and I am eager to see how the future unfolds with the Masters and Masons who will follow, building on the legacy we have created together.

Masonry, at its heart, is more than rituals and traditions. It is a brotherhood—a fellowship of men united in a shared purpose. It is a profound understanding of life's deeper meaning and the responsibilities we bear to one another. In a world where so many seek this kind of connection and never find it, we are blessed to have this sanctuary. Here, we learn not only to grow as individuals but to uplift and inspire those around us.

Yet, brethren, this blessing demands our commitment. True success, in Masonry and in life, is built on dedication. If we do not wholeheartedly commit to our goals, our families, our friends, and the values we hold dear, then we rob ourselves of life's true essence. Every effort we make here—every ritual, every gathering, every outreach to our community—is a reflection of that dedication.

And what we have created together here in South Pasadena Lodge No. 290 is extraordinary. Our Lodge is not just a beacon of light for ourselves, but also for our

(Continued on Page 12.)

Lodge News & Notes

A Look Back at Last Month's Events



December 11, 2024

Bro. Angel Perez was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, with two SPML "firsts" at his ceremony: 1) Senior Warden Nate Brown serving in the East for the first section and a full-form Third Degree closing; and 2) Round Table Lodge conferring the second section of the degree in full period costumed attire.



Redlands Lodge Visit

December 9, 2024

SPML 290 Brothers traveled to be part of Bro. Jeffrey Dangermond's Third Degree Ceremony at Redlands Lodge. Bro. Jeffrey has been a constant fixture at our G-Nights and Illumination Lectures bringing his home baked delightful desserts. It



was only fair we "treat" him with our presence on one of the most memorable nights of his life. Congratulations!

Rim of the World Lodge Visit

December 14, 2024

With a special dispensation, Bro. Anthony Smith, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, along with two others, with the assistance of our brothers at Rim of the World Lodge located near Big Bear Lake. Congratulations Brother Smith!



Black Belt Brother

December 8, 2024

Congratulations to our very own Junior Deacon, Bro. Sebastian Schmidt, for achieving his black belt in Daito-ryu Aikijujutsu.



After years of hard training, he was recognized for his efforts after testing under the headmaster of his branch in Japan.



Holiday Party

December 21, 2024

Our final social of the year, the Lodge Family Holiday Party, was filled with over 60 family and friends. Spearheaded by both Bro. Ed Spalding, PM—who cooked a tasty meal inspired by a children's menu—and Bro. George Vieth, PM, who wrangled a special guest for the evening, The Grinch himself! Making his first visit at SPML 290 (as far as we know), and spooking the festive cheer and bringing toys to all the boys and girls present that evening. Thank you, Brother Angel Perez, for playing The Grinch so well. The live music for the night was a beautiful touch and a nice warm way to end the year at our lodge.

A LOOK BACK AT 2024



2024 Line of Officers: Back Row (L-R): Senior Deacon: Nathan Bexton; Treasurer: Robert Arnold, PM; Senior Warden: Nate Brown; Worshipful Master: Geno Nadirov; Junior Warden: David VanderSmith; Secretary: Mimo Akkari, PM; Asst. Secretary: Jerry Harris, PM. Front Row (L-R): Organist: Michael Merced; Junior Steward: Max Mironenko; Senior Steward: Johan Garcia; Tiler: Sean Finley.

In 2024, we witnessed an array of remarkable events at SPML 290, from Boeing airplanes losing parts mid-air to ships colliding with bridges. The Kansas City Chiefs triumphed in the Super Bowl, bolstered by the support of pop singer Taylor Swift. On the political front, an attempted assassination of our former President and the near election of our first female President marked a tumultuous year. Conflicts intensified in the Middle East, while the Summer Olympics in Paris, France, provided memorable sporting moments. Natural disasters, including deadly hurricanes, added to the unpredictability of 2024. A historic presidential election delivered

a comeback not seen since 1892.

This year tested our patience, but also prompted deep reflection. Every victory seemed shadowed by loss, and hope was often tempered by despair. Nonetheless, the feeling of relief within the lodge was always palpable. Surrounded by our brethren, we found our spirits renewed. SPML 290 continued to thrive, thanks to the dedication and leadership of its hardworking members, solidifying its status as one of the most important lodges in the State. Here are some more highlights from an unforgettable year:



2024 Installation of Officers



2024 Installation of Officers



Family Chili Cook Off



Family Thanksgiving Dinner

2024 OFFICER INSTALLATION

Our 136th Installation of Officers was especially notable, marked by a trifecta of celebrations for our newly installed Lodge Master, Worshipful Geno Nadirov. It was his night to become Master, coinciding with his birthday and Orthodox Armenian Christmas. Wor. Nadirov became our first Russian-Armenian Master, celebrating with a festive installation featuring a live DJ, ample food & drinks, and a hookah lounge for the afterparty. The new Masonic year, and his theme "Commit" set the tone for the newly installed 2024 officers and our lodge Brothers.

FAMILY SOCIALS

Family socials were among the best attended and most beloved events at our lodge this past year. Events like Sweet Hearts Night, the Family Chili Cook-off, the Family Thanksgiving Dinner, Spooktoberfest, and our Holiday Party, proved that family-friendly gatherings are increasingly popular. Meanwhile, monthly G-nights and BBQ socials continued to thrive throughout the year.

EDUCATION

Our lodge's commitment to Masonic Education remained steadfast, exemplified by our 11th Annual



Eddie G Nghts



Public Schools Awards



Eddie Montenegro



Eddie Gudino



Cook outs



Derek Stillman's First Degree

2024 DEGREE CONFERRALS (6 total):
 EA (2): Arthur Amadian, Derek Stillman.
 FC (2): Jamison Baker, Angel Perez.
 MM (2): Anthony Smith, Angel Perez.

Illumination Lecture Series featuring eight guest speakers, including three Grand Lodge officers. In spring, First Degree classes welcomed five new Entered Apprentices.

Of particular note was Bro. Nathan Bexton's presentation on the Hieroglyphical Emblems, evolving from a 15-minute talk into a published issue in the *Fraternal Review* and now a highly regarded lecture. This underscores the effectiveness of our educational efforts for brothers seeking further enlightenment in Masonry.

TWO BELOVED EDDIES

The loss of any brother is deeply felt; and this year we mourned the passing

of Bro. Eddie Gudino on February 16, 2024, and Bro. Eddie Montenegro on June 3, 2024. Both were outstanding and active members at our lodge, each leaving a lasting impression that will never be forgotten. Both were celebrated with a remembrance luncheon with heartfelt eulogies given by Brothers who knew them best. Blessed be these beloved brothers until we meet again.

TRAVELS

Many brothers traveled to support degree work in neighboring lodges, returning inspired to enhance our own degree work. At last count, 22

SPML 290 WASHINGTON DC TRIP REPRESENTATION (L-R):

Allen Bergstrom
Dago Rodriguez, PM
Wor. Geno Nadirov
Max Mironenko (and son)
George Amerian
Charlie Fisher, PM
Christian Montenegro



Trip To Washington D.C.



Trip To Washington D.C.



Past Masters Appreciation Dinner

lodge visits, in support of our Brethren conferring degrees or having special events. A significant highlight was a trip in April when half a dozen brothers spent a week in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Wor. Geno Nadirov aimed to experience Washington, D.C. through a Masonic lens, making that vision a reality in April. Seven SPML brothers explored The Capitol, the George Washington Masonic Memorial, and The Mount Vernon Grounds, and attended a double Fellow Craft Degree at the historic Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22, where Wor. Bro. George

Washington was raised and presided as Master. The enriching week left brothers eager for future visits.

PAST MASTERS APPRECIATION DINNER

A new SPML 290 tradition emerged with the Past Masters Appreciation Dinner, which had been discussed for years but only realized in 2024. The event was a resounding success, featuring 15 Past Masters, who engaged in open dialogues with current officers on improving and growing our lodge. This initiative was a testament to the camaraderie and support within our lodge community.

THE YEAR IN ILLUMINATION LECTURES

February: Ara Maloyan, JGW: *Astronomy or Is it Astrology?*
March: Russ Charvonia, PGM: *Civility and Freemasonry*
April: Jeriel Smith: *Altruism Within and Throughout Freemasonry*
May: Ben Wallace: *Energy and Sacred Space*
June: Lucas Minton, JGW (Arkansas): *The Hero's Journey and Masonry*
October: Greg Cherry: *Death and Freemasonry*
November: Nathan Bexton: *The Hieroglyphical Emblems*
December: R. Stephen Doan, PGM: *The Masons Word*



Lucas Minton Lecture



Greg Cherry Lecture



Nathan Bexton Lecture

ENDING LEGACY

Bro. Paul Bazerkanian, PM retired as our 717 District Inspector in 2014, ending an eight year era of stewardship and leadership in our Masonic District. We wish him the best in his future endeavors!



2024 Installation

TOP FIVE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Bro. Eddie Gudino's Passing: 2/16/24 (239 likes)
2024 Installation of Officers: 2/4/24 (126 likes)
R. Stephan Doan Lecture: 12/6/2024 (106 likes)
Lodge Trip to Washington DC: 4/26/24 (103 likes)
Past Masters Appreciation Dinner: 7/23/24 (101 likes)
*As of 12/29/2024 via Instagram



CONCLUSION

Despite national and global challenges, SPML 290 remains a sanctuary for its members. As we reflect on 2024, it appears to have been a year of transition and internal reflection, laying the groundwork for a brighter future beyond the lodge. The collective efforts of our leadership and members have created joyful and memorable lodge experiences, fostering a legacy for the new generation of Masons. With new officers set to be installed on January 18, 2025, the future of SPML 290 looks bright with promise!



November Elections

SPML's Illumination Lecture Series

Illumination Lecture December 2, 2024 Review by Jeriel Smith



The Illumination Lecture Committee with Bro. R. Stephen Doan, PGM

The extraordinary eleventh year of our Illumination Lectures came to its unique closure on December 2, as eighteen Master Masons assembled to hear Most Worshipful R. Stephen Doan, Past Grand Master of California (1992-93) address the topic *The Masons' Word*. Only a few of the past lectures in our series have been restricted to Masons only, and this was the first ever to be restricted to Master Masons only.

Why, one might ask, was this necessary? For much of what he spoke about it was not really necessary. It is well known that most of what we know about the substance and history of Masonic ritual—that Brother Doan skillfully elucidated—comes from a series of what are called “exposures” that were written by men who, for a variety of reasons, chose to ignore their oaths of secrecy by writing and publishing detailed descriptions of the rituals as practiced at the time in their lodges. These texts still exist, and have been, and continue to be, studied and written about by Masonic scholars. A prime example was published in 2013 by Most Worshipful Robert G. Davis, with a nearly identical title to Doan’s, *The Mason’s Words*, that covers the same ground in much greater detail than was possible in a single lecture. This night, however, Brother Doan ventured beyond the scope of Brother Davis’s book by exploring the history and meaning of the single element of the Master Mason degree ritual that is so secret that it is not spoken aloud during that ritual ceremony; and, that the oath thereof instructs the one who receives it that he is never to speak it in any manner other than that in which he will later receive it on that solemn occasion. That same admonishment compelled Brother Doan, in his lecture, to refer to it by abbreviated initials rather than uttering it aloud. And, for the same reason, I cannot write about it in this review, nor will I repeat the initials by which he abbreviated it in his insightful lecture.

(From Page 3.)

greater Masonic family. We each carry a torch that illuminates the path for others to follow. Through our traditions, our educational pursuits, and our unwavering support for one another, we have built something that will stand the test of time.

As we look to the future, I have no doubt this Lodge will continue to grow, evolve, and thrive. We will create new memories, uphold our cherished traditions, and remain steadfast in our mission to better ourselves and the world around us. We are here to celebrate our victories, to support each other in our losses, and to honor the time we have together on this Earth.

Brethren, as I conclude this year as your Master, I am filled with hope, pride, and an unshakable belief in the power of what we have built here

together. South Pasadena Lodge No. 290 is more than a Lodge—it is a living, breathing testament to the ideals of Masonry and the enduring bonds of brotherhood.

From the depths of my heart, thank you for allowing me the honor to lead you. It humbles me to serve, and it inspires me to continue this journey alongside all of you. Together, we have done great things, and together, we will accomplish even more.

This is not the end—it is only the beginning. Let us continue to shine as a beacon of hope, love, and wisdom, holding the torch high for generations to come. Thank you, my brothers. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us all.

Fraternally and ever yours,
Wor. Geno Nadirov, Master
South Pasadena Lodge No. 290

2024 Line of Officers

MASTER Geno Nadirov	SENIOR WARDEN Nate Brown	JUNIOR WARDEN David VanderSmith	SECRETARY Mimo Akkari, PM niftymimo@yahoo.com
TREASURER Bob Arnold, PM	SENIOR DEACON Nathan Bexton	JUNIOR DEACON Sebastian Schmidt	CHAPLAIN Charlie Fisher, PM
SENIOR STEWARD Max Mironenko	JUNIOR STEWARD Johan Garcia	MARSHAL Adrian Howard	ORGANIST Miko Merced
TILER Sean Finley	ASST. SECRETARY Jerry Harris, PM	DISTRICT INSPECTOR Dennis Hadley, PM	OFFICER'S COACH Ed Spalding, PM

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge No. 290 Meets On the First Wednesday of Every Month At 6:30pm.

Please make a reservation at (626) 799-2695 if you wish to visit our Lodge.

1126 S. Fair Oaks Ave. South Pasadena CA 91030



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
SOUTH PASADENA MASONIC LODGE
290
ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Saturday, January 18, 2025



4PM RECEPTION

5PM CEREMONY

7PM DINNER

SOUTH PASADENA MASONIC TEMPLE

1126 S. FAIR OAKS AVE.

SOUTH PASADENA CA 91030

RSVP REQUIRED BY JANUARY 12th FOR DINNER;

NIFTYMIMO@YAHOO.COM