Trestle Board
Volume 137

290

June 2025 Issue #6

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge of F&AM



www.southpasadena290.org

TUESDAY

First Degree Class 6:30pm

4

WEDNESDAY

Stated Meeting and Dinner 6:30pm

Meeting 7:30pm

13

FRIDAY

Illumination Lecture 7pm Open to All.

Ike Baker

"Freemasonry, Alchemical Initiation & the Temple of Solomon"



SATURDAY

Kick-Off to Summer BBO

3pm

20

FRIDAY

First Degree Class 6:30pm

25

WEDNESDAY

Gentleman's Night 7pm

27

FRIDAY

First Degree Class 6:30pm

28

SATURDAY

Masonic Meditation 9am

Kick-off to ummer BR SATURDA

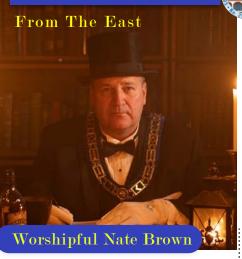


HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS THURSDAY June 24, 2025 Zoom @ 6:30pm



EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING MONDAY June 9th, 2025 Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Matthew Faulkner (06/01); James Maines (6/02); Javier Hernandez (06/05); Adrian Howard (6/06); Levi Medina (6/08); Juan Castillo, Sergio Gomez, Javier Lopez (6/09); Jose Araullo, Stanley Price (6/10); James Drummond, John Pecel, Saul Rios (6/11); Anthony Toscano (6/13); Jerry Solis (6/14); George Poynor, Oscar Sanchez (6/15); Donald Davidson (6/16); Robert Black (6/18); Sidney Head, Robert Lutton, Gary Watts (6/21); Steven Lovett, Kevin Mack (6/23); Ramiro Montes De Oca (06/24); Russell Wallace (6/26); Robert Leslie (6/27); Alex A. Valenzuela (6/29); Sebastian Schmidt (06/30).



Greetings Brethren,

It has been my observation that one of the most misunderstood and elusive symbols of Freemasonry is that of the cable-tow, one of several archaic nautical references found within our craft.

In ancient Masonic catechisms. the cable-tow is also referred to as a "cable-rope" or "tow-line." Derived from the Germanic and Old English word "kabeltau," it now refers to a hawser, or cable-rope. It seems that sailors of old considered the length of a cable-tow, cable length, or anchor cable, to be a length of about 100 fathoms, or the equivalent of about 600 feet in British measure. In fact, in French Masonic ritual, the cable-tow is called an "encablure" (cable), referring specifically to a length of 600 feet. This standardized length is believed to have been established from the practice of primitive ship deckhands, who utilized a weighted soundingline to judge the amount of water beneath their keel, with 600 feet typically equating to the limit of what they could manually retrieve by hand before reaching exhaustion. As a result, 600 feet eventually became the standardized length of nautical cables that were made and sold.

Interestingly, the penalty for treason in the British Navy was death, followed by a burial at sea, a cable's length from shore. The continental shelf of the coastal ocean that area which extends approximately 600 feet from the shoreline, and is also a place where the oceanic and tidal currents meet as they ebb and flow. This, combined with the relatively shallow waters, produces conditions in which much of the rotting garbage and waste from both the land and the sea is collected; an environment apparently deemed most suitable for the disposition of executed traitors.

It is the hope that, as Masons, we will increase the length of our own cable-tow as we continue to develop ourselves, extending ourselves past such impure coastal tides, and into the deep blue open ocean, which is full of life and sparkles with Light. And by extending our cable-tow, hopefully we can all be of greater benefit to our fellow brethren, and to our society as a whole.

Fraternally Yours in L.V.X., Bro. Nathaniel Brown

Lodge News & Notes





The 6th and last of our long run of First Degrees was bestowed to Bro. Jose Chaure, bringing out SPML Past Masters Mike Diaz, PM and Jeffrey Sims, PM to a well-attended degree evening, followed by a night of fellowship.



Hiking Trip May 1, 2025

Partaking on a weekend hiking trip with Bro. Angel Perez, Bros. Matt Faulkner and Jamison Baker still took the time to study their proficiencies in the great outdoors.



SPML's Past Masters met at Gus's BBQ for the 2nd Annual Past Masters Appreciation Dinner, where they shared vintage stories of their years as our Lodge Masters, toasting in fellowship to its future and giving encouraging advice to the current leadership of our Lodge.

In Pic (L-R): Worshipfuls Walter Neiber, PM; Robert Arnold, PM; Wor. Nathan Brown, Master; Geno Nadirov, PM; Charles Fisher, PM; Dago Rodriguez, PM; Mike Diaz, PM; Sergio Gomez, PM.



Six newly made Entered Apprentices partook in the first of their four EA Classes.The EA students were given talks on lodge etiquette; Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; memory work, and a Lodge walkabout. They also received a study binder, and Masonic books and Fraternal Review magazines to study. The class also witnessed Bro. Kevin Mack delivering his full form EA Proficiency in an exceptional manner.

In Pic (L-R): EAs, Arthur Amadian, Juan Bustillo, Jose Chaure, Kevin Mack, Matt Faulkner and Derek Stillman.



The third installment of the biggest Masonic educational event on the West Coast arrives weekend of July 25-27, 2025—SPML's Masonic Con!

In 2019, SPML 290 hosted the first West Coast Masonic Con, breaking new ground by being the first such event in the State of California—if not the entire West Coast. The immense success of that event promised a return in 2021; but, due to the Pandemic closures, it was postponed to 2022. With firm motivation to make the event's return even better, chair Dago Rodriguez, PM, and committee members vowed to make this Masonic Con a big "welcome back" for all Masons and Non-Masons, post-pandemic style and that's exactly what it became. Bringing a dozen scholars from all over the Country, the event was an achievement beyond belief.

This year's SPML Masonic Con promises to be a transformative and immersive Masonic experience for all who attend. With a theme—Myth, Legends, and Subculture—inspired by the esoteric and magical elements found within our Craft, this Masonic Con will have talks and panels that will discuss the subculture connections to our Craft, Masonic Legends, such as St. Germain and the Knights Templars, and other mythic discussions, from a Harry Potter

connection to The Hero's Journey, that parallel to our Craft. Without doubt, this elite group of respected and popular Masonic scholars will be the most ever assembled under one roof, over a single weekend.

This event is a labor of love for South Pasadena Lodge! It represents our lodge's respect and commitment to Masonic education of all kinds. Our goal is for all who attend to depart more inspired by Masonry, the impact of which can have—within themselves and the world around them—a deepening understanding of and zeal for Masonic philosophy.

The big weekend will kick off on Friday evening, July 25, with a seven-course "pop culture" Festive Board, emceed by our own Bro. Erik Strom, PM. Then, a massive 12-hour day on Saturday, July 26, with all speakers giving their presentations, a sandwich lunch buffet, film screenings in the evening, and an all you can eat taco bar for dinner. The festivities will conclude on Sunday, July 27, with four informative Masonic panel discussions.

Tickets are available now for both daily and full-weekend passes. Please read further to meet all our special guests and topics they will address during SPML's Masonic Con weekend!





Angel Millar

From the Grand Lodge of New York PANEL: The Magical Order of Fraternis Saturni



From the Grand Lodge of Arizona TALK: Astrology and Freemasonry



Joe Martinez

From the Grand Lodge of Virginia TALK: Life, Death and Rebirth

Darin Lahners

From the Grand Lodge of Illinois TALK: Harry Potter and Freemasonry



Dru Wood

From the Grand Lodge of California
TALK: The Grail, the Cube, and the Lost Word

Daniel Rivera

From the Grand Lodge of California TALK: The Masonic Legend of St. Germain



David Fiero

From the Grand Lodge of Arizona TALK: The Mythic Imagination and the Esoteric Self



From the Grand Lodge of California TALK: Opening Remarks





The Egyptian Rites

Moderator: Joe Martinez, Grand Lodge of Virginia



Tim Hogan 🧳 Grand Lodge of Colorado



Jaime Paul Lamb

Grand Lodge of Colorado Grand Lodge of California



The History of Prince Hall

Hosted by Culver City Foshay Masonic Lodge Moderator: Joe Martinez, Grand Lodge of Virginia



Jason Berry Grand Lodge of California



Justin Bradley MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California

The Hero's Journey and Freemasonry Moderator: lan Laurelin, Grand Lodge of California



Lucas Minton Grand Lodge of Arkansas



Dru Wood Grand Lodge of California

Next Issue:

More Panels, The Screenings and Meet our Moderators .





THE ILLUMINATION LECTURE COMMITTEE WELCOMES BRO. CHRIS RULI

On April 11, 26 SPML Brothers and guests attended our Illumination Lecture, featuring distinguished Masonic scholar, historian and archivist B. Chris Ruli, the author of three Masonic history books: Archivum Masonicom: Papers on Masonic History; The White House & The Freemasons, and his latest, Brother Lafayette, upon which his lecture "Brother Lafayette In America" was based. He serves as an executive director of both the Philalethes Society and the Scottish Rite Research Society, for which he is editor of its yearly transactions, Heredom, as well as its quarterly journal, The Plumbline. In 2021, he received the Washington DC Grand Lodge's Meritorious Service Award. In response to his introduction from our Brother Angel Perez, he noted that this was his second visit to California and his first time in Los Angeles—and also that both his book and visit to our lodge, coincide with the 200th Anniversary of Lafayette's tour of America.

Rather than summarizing his book, which explores the details of Lafayette's tour of the USA in 1824-25—during which he visited of all 24 states, frequently hosted by state and local Masonic bodies—Brother Ruli chose on this occasion to review the Marquise's role in two Revolutions as a young man. The first was as a protégé of George Washington in America's war of independence from George Ill's England; and the next, after returning to his native France, following the overthrow of King Louis XVI that began in 1789.

Brother Ruli first took note of the 1824 USA tour while researching his White House & The Freemasons book. At the time of that American tour, Lafayette's popularity here was comparable to a modern-day rock star (Paul McCartney),

based on memories of his role in gaining our independence. Having been born into French nobility, he came to America as a teenager who admired the American cause, with an invitation from Benjamin Franklin, who was envoy to France at the time, seeking their assistance in our war of independence. He met George Washington while touring an army encampment, and volunteered to join the fight. Unlike other foreign volunteers, who came to "teach" warfare, young Lafayette wanted to learn. With approval from Congress, he first became Washington's clerk; and by age 19, he had become a general, but without troops to command. Near the war's end, he commanded troops that played an essential role in the decisive Battle of Yorktown, by blocking the British army's retreat by land while the French Fleet blockaded their escape by sea. Brother Ruli noted that it is widely believed and probable that Lafayette became a Freemason at some time during his war service, but that no documented evidence of this has survived.

After the war in America, he returned home to France. The revolutionary in France was more similar to America's Civil War; but between the rich and the poor. As a French noble who supported the people's cause, Lafayette tried to find middle ground (add a legislature, but keep the king) eventually offending both sides. As the military head in Paris, the rebels turned against him (and his family). When war was declared on Austria, he was captured

declared on Austria, he was captured and held in prison there for 5 years. After Bonapart freed him, he deserted the Emperor and fled. By 1823, he was old and out of favor. When invited to visit America, he couldn't afford to accept, until the United States offered to cover the costs. He thus become the Guest of America, during which time he was accepted among Masons and welcomed into the Scottish and York Rites. To that, Brother Ruli added what he called his five "take-aways" the ideas that he learned from studying Lafayette's history and writing about his tour in 1824-25. Space here dictates that I can only name them: I. Lafayette's Legacy has diminished over time. 2. The Myth of his Masonic Connections. 3. What we do know about him as a Mason is mostly based on the 1824-25 USA Tour. 4. Freemasonry reinforced Lafayette's own political values. 5. Freemasonry is not a Secret Society. At the dinner following the lecture, Brother Ruli sold and signed copies of both of his books.







2025 Line of Officers

ILINIOR WARDEN

Max Mironenko

DISTRICT INSPECTOR

Allen Bergstrom

OFFICER'S COACH

SENIOR WARDEN

Jeffrey Rewald

TILER

MASTER

Angel Perez

ORGANIST

Nate Brown	David VanderSmith	Nathan Bexton	Sergio Gomez, PM
SECRETARY Mimo Akkari, PM	CHAPLAIN	ASST. SECRETARY	SENIOR DEACON
	Charlie Fisher,PM	Dago Rodriguez, PM	Sebastian Schmidt

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Charlie Fisher,PM
Dago Rodriguez, PM
Sebastian Schmidt

JUNIOR DEACON

MARSHAL

SENIOR STEWARD

JUNIOR STEWARD

Adrian Howard Dennis Hadley,PM 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