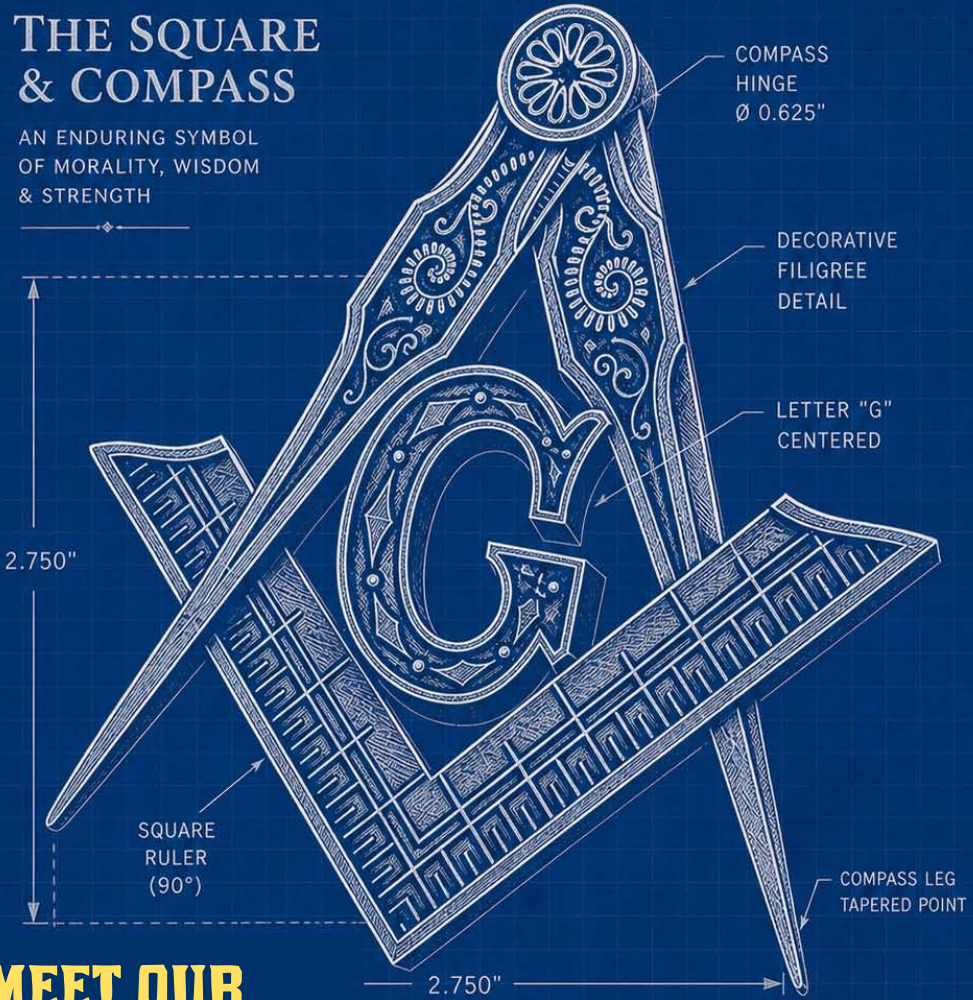


THE SQUARE & COMPASS

AN ENDURING SYMBOL OF MORALITY, WISDOM & STRENGTH



MEET OUR NEWEST FELLOW CRAFT MASONS

* SYMBOL OF FREEMASONRY



SCALE: 2:1
UNITS: INCHES

"SO MOTE IT BE."



MAY



1

FRIDAY

Fellow Craft
Class Part 1
6:30pm

6

WEDNESDAY

CINCO DE MAYO
Stated Meeting and
Dinner
6:30pm

9

SATURDAY

Golden Veteran Ceremony
Wor. Charlie Fisher, PM
5pm

11

MONDAY

OSI at Pasadena
Lodge
6:30pm

12

TUESDAY

Fellow Craft
Class Part 2
6:30pm

15 - 17

FRI.-SUN.

Leadership Retreat
6:30pm

18

MONDAY

Fellow Craft
Class Part 3
6:30pm

21

THURSDAY

Fireside Chat
Book Club
7pm

22

FRIDAY

Illumination Lecture
Ben Williams
The Knights Templar
7pm

23

SATURDAY

Masonic Meditation
10am
Past Masters Dinner
7pm

27

WEDNESDAY

Gentlemen's Night
7pm

29

FRIDAY

Fellow Craft
Class Part 4
6:30pm



MAY BIRTHDAYS

HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
TUESDAY, May 26, 2026
Meeting @ 6:30pm

EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING
MONDAY May 11th, 2026
Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm

Leopoldo Martinez (05/01); Jerry Anthony, John Seletos (05/03); Ivan Frankel, Edward Spalding, PM (05/04); Harold Gunnerson (05/07); Marco Garcia PM, Robert Kantardjian (05/12); Michael Garoutte (05/16); Warren Harger, Richard Spalding (05/17); Robert Wright (05/18); Michael Radcliff, Scott Reams (05/19); David Getzin (05/20); John Kaczynski (05/22); Bassam Sharif (05/26); Douglas Bailey (05/29); Evald Johnson (05/30); Ron Alcorn III, PM, Joaquin Ayala (05/31).

From The East



Worshipful Nate Brown

Greetings Brethren,

April was a month for Fellow Craft Degrees. Congratulations to newly passed Bros. Matthew Faulkner, Paul Bradley & Juan Bustillo, as well as to our outstanding degree team. Great job all!

Those attending our degrees will observe a Blazing Star above, surrounded by an array of illuminated stars. The Blazing Star illuminates our Volume of Sacred Law, as well as the other two Great Lights of Masonry.. Brother Albert Pike, 33° identified our Blazing Star with Sirius, due in part to it being the brightest star visible in the night sky. Its name means “brilliant,” and was thus called *Sodpet* by the Ancient Egyptians, and *Sothis* by the Greeks.

Astrologically, Sirius is considered the “spiritual sun,” and is associated with enlightened consciousness, ancestral wisdom and spiritual intelligence. Similarly, the Blazing Star is linked with Divine Providence in Freemasonry; and is usually illustrated on Masonic Tracing Boards as a 5-pointed star, often positioned next to

the Sun, a (usually) Waxing Moon, a cluster of seven smaller stars, and a shooting star. The Sun is a nearly universal symbol of deity. A Waxing Moon is said to be a sign of generation and fertility, as it relates to life and death. The seven stars clearly allude to the “Seven Sisters” star cluster (*Pleiades*), which is mentioned in the Bible, and is also distinctive in the night sky. The shooting star is most likely symbolic of Halley’s Comet, which recurs about every 76 years, and was associated with the death of kings.

In a monitorial section of the Entered Apprentice lecture, we learn that “our ancient brethren assembled on the highest hills and in the lowest vales,” and therefore, “the Covering of a Lodge is no less than the clouded canopy, or star-decked heaven, where all good Masons hope at last to arrive by aid of that theological ladder which Jacob, in his vision, saw reaching from earth to heaven.” The Blazing Star is in fact one of the “Ornaments of a Lodge,”—along with the Mosaic Pavement and the Indented Tessel.

Interestingly, these Ornaments happen to be positioned directly above and below the Altar, and refer respectively to the GAOTU above, and Man below. Next time you attend a degree, please don’t forget to look up, and “see what you will see.”

Fraternally Yours in L.U.X.,
Wor.: Bro.: Nathaniel Brown, PM
2026 Lodge Master



David VanderSmith

“Whether you were present for the degrees or not, whether you have previously completed the classes or have yet to attend, your participation matters.”

Greetings my Brothers, This season, our Lodge has conferred four Fellowcraft degrees in six weeks. With that foundation established, we now enter the next phase: Masonic education. In the coming month, we anticipate one of the largest groups of Fellowcrafts to date participating in a series of classes, continuing the work of the degree.

The pillars introduced in the Fellowcraft degree are not only objects of instruction, they are points of perspective. In this context, we might consider them in a simple way: as a reminder that our work stands in more than one place at once, inside and outside the Lodge.

Within our Lodge, we continue to build through study, reflection, and participation. This is where the lessons of the degrees are revisited, refined, and more fully understood over time. This work does not belong solely to the candidates; it belongs to all of us.

At the same time, our work extends

beyond the Lodge. Through our efforts with public schools, we are exploring new ways of engaging with the broader communities that have contributed to the growth of our Lodge, with a particular focus on the arts, especially music. As part of that effort, we are this year establishing a connection with Los Angeles High School—an area with historical ties to our Lodge.

We stand, then, between these two pillars: what we build within, and what we build outside the Lodge. As we move forward, this is where our work continues. Whether you were present for the degrees or not, whether you have previously completed the classes or have yet to attend, your participation matters. I encourage all brethren, who are able, to take part in the upcoming Fellowcraft classes and in the ongoing life of this Lodge.

Fraternally,
Bro David VanderSmith
Senior Warden

From The South



Sebastian Schmidt

“...some of the most cherished memories I hold were forged while sharing a meal with friends who soon became brethren.”

Brethren,

This April has been a busy month, with us conferring three outstanding Fellow Craft degrees. Each ceremony reminded us anew of the beauty and depth of our ancient Craft.

The Second Degree speaks directly to the heart of Freemasonry, when, during the ritual, the Worshipful Master approaches the candidate from the East, in token of the **continuance of friendship and brotherly love**. Those words are not merely ceremonial—they are a living charge. They call us to maintain the warm bonds of friendship that bind us together as Masons. This beautiful principle was expressed, not only in the lodge room, but also around our tables. The dinners prepared for our candidates, their families, and the brethren who came to support them were filled with laughter, good conversation, and genuine camaraderie. Sharing a meal after passing new Fellow Crafts turns the evening into something more than

ritual—it becomes a true celebration of brotherhood.

As Masons, we are given a wonderful opportunity every time we congregate: to practice the very lessons we teach. Whether during degree work, at our Stated Dinners, or events such as the spectacular Chili Cook Off, we have the chance to strengthen the cement of brotherly love that unites us. In a world that often feels divided, our lodge continues to show that friendship, kindness, and mutual support are not old-fashioned ideals—they are living virtues we can embody here and now.

To our three new Fellow Crafts: welcome to this next step in your Masonic journey. May the bonds we forged this month continue to grow stronger with every meeting.

Fraternally,
Bro. Sebastian A. Schmidt
Junior Warden

Lodge News & Notes



Fellow Craft Degrees
April 8, 14, 24, 2026



The last three of our most recent Entered Apprentice class were passed to the Fellow Craft degree: Bro. Matthew Faulkner on April 8, Bro. Paul Bradley on April 15 and Bro. Juan Bustillo on April 22, rounded out the class of six Brothers taking their next step on their Masonic journey, becoming the first complete class to pass onto the next degree. Congratulations to you all!





Bro. Juan Bustillo



Gentlemen's Night
April 29, 2026

The munchies hit Brothers and guests late at our recent Gentlemen's night, as Bro. Phil Donlon proudly rose to the occasion by taking off his suit jacket and untying his tie to cook a tasty second meal for our hungry gathering.



2026 Line of Officers

MASTER Nate Brown	SENIOR WARDEN David VanderSmith	JUNIOR WARDEN Sebastian Schmidt	TREASURER Sergio Gomez, PM
SECRETARY Mimo Akkari, PM niftymimo@yahoo.com	CHAPLAIN Charlie Fisher, PM	ASST. SECRETARY Dago Rodriguez, PM	SENIOR DEACON Angel Perez
JUNIOR DEACON Arthur Amadian	MARSHAL Kevin Mack	SENIOR STEWARD Derek Stillman	JUNIOR STEWARD Max Mironenko
MUSICIAN Jason Wilson, PM	TILER Adrian Howard	DISTRICT INSPECTOR Matticus Abshire, 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