

Trestle Board

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Issue #4

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge of F&AM



**SOUTH PASADENA
MASONIC LODGE
CHILI COOK OFF**

www.southpasadena290.org



A P R I L



1

WEDNESDAY

Stated Dinner and Meeting

Inspector's Visit

6:30pm

5

SUNDAY

HAPPY EASTER

Lodge Closed

8

WEDNESDAY

Fellow Craft Degree

Bro. Matthew Faulkner

6:30pm

15

WEDNESDAY

Fellow Craft Degree

Bro. Paul Bradley

6:30pm

16

THURSDAY

Fireside Chat

Book Club

7pm

17

FRIDAY

Illumination Lecture

MW Stephen Doan

7pm

18

SATURDAY

Public Schools

Awards Dinner

5pm

22

WEDNESDAY

Fellow Craft Degree

Bro. Juan Bustillo

6:30pm

25

SATURDAY

Fellowship Coffee

9am

Masonic Meditation

10am

27

MONDAY

Officers School of Instruction

Alhambra Lodge

6:30pm

29

WEDNESDAY

Gentleman's Night

7pm



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Paul Bradley (04/03), Vincent Creighton (04/04), Arthur Martirosyan (04/05), Michael Arnold, Nicholas Herr (04/08), Derek Stillman (04/13), Jeriel Smith (04/14), C. Douglas Russell (04/16), Emery Selley (04/22), Paul Pomer, George Vieth (04/26), Bennie Seybold (04/29).



HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2026

Meeting @ 6:30pm



EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 13, 2026

Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESEARCH LODGE STATED MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026 @ 6:30pm



Worshipful Nate Brown

Greetings Brethren,

I spoke recently to my father on the occasion of his 84th birthday. He was born on Friday the 13th, the same date as myself (except I was born on a different day of the week). Prior to joining our fraternity, I regretted having our birthdays fall on what most consider to be an “unlucky day.” However, after discovering several synchronic occurrences with that number throughout my life, I’ve since come to appreciate the number.

Many of us know that the bad luck associated with Friday the 13th originated with the near extermination of the historic Order of Knights Templar by King Phillip IV on Friday October 13th, 1307. I found, however, other occurrences involving the number 13 to be far less grim.

The number 13 is repeated throughout Judaism, in which it is considered to be a number of good

fortune. There are Thirteen Attributes of God listed in the Old Testament (Exodus 34:6-7); and according to *Qabalah*, 13 represents the ability of the Jewish people to overcome the influence of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. The moon orbits the earth 13 times a year, and there is actually a 13th Zodiac constellation, called *Ophiuchus*, the “Serpent Bearer.” In the Bible, 13 is listed as the number of years it took for King Solomon to build his own Palace. In Sacred Geometry, 13 is one of the core numbers in the Fibonacci Sequence which depicts an approximation of the Golden Spiral. 13 is the number of the “Fruit of Life,” and is also the number of overlapping spheres in the “Flower of Life,”—the pattern of creation in the universe, the geometry of consciousness, and the basis of geometry, music, divine proportions, and of all the elements.

Professionally, I was hired on the 13th day of the month, and worked the longest at Division 13 in South Central, which was affectionately referred to as “The Lucky 13” Division. Therefore, the number 13 has in fact become “The Lucky 13” for me as well. Personally, I found these associations with the number 13 to be quite intriguing – what day were you born?

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



“To be present at a degree is not to be a passive observer, but a consciously active participant.”

David VanderSmith

Greetings, my Brothers,

Now that the clocks have sprung forward, and we have passed through the vernal equinox, the promise of increasing light lies before us. Spring is a season of preparation—a time when we sow the fields and begin the work that will lead to a future harvest. So too does the Lodge enter into its season of labor.

We have already begun this work in earnest with the passing of Brother Jose Chaure to the degree of Fellowcraft. The evening was highlighted by an excellent staircase lecture, delivered for the first time by our Senior Deacon, Brother Angel Perez, setting a strong and promising tone for the year ahead.

There is something fitting in the alignment of this season with the Fellowcraft degree. It is a degree of progress and continued development. Just as seeds planted in spring require care and attention, so too does the cultivation of new Brothers strengthen and sustain the future of our Lodge.

As we look ahead, we have three more Fellowcraft degrees scheduled in the coming month. I encourage all Brothers to attend and take part in this

important work. Degrees are not simply occasions to showcase the work of the officers—they are the foundation upon which a Brother’s journey in the Craft is built. For those in attendance, they offer more than an act of support; they offer a chance to reconnect with the work and renew our own engagement.

To be present at a degree is not to be a passive observer, but a consciously active participant. The discipline to remain attentive and focused throughout the work is itself a form of Masonic labor. It can at times feel subtle and undervalued, yet it is an essential part of the experience of our Lodge and the Fraternity as a whole. By showing up with focused intention, we not only support the candidate, we also renew our own connection to the Craft and take part in the shared work that strengthens our Lodge.

Fraternally,
Bro. David VanderSmith
Senior Warden

From The South



Sebastian Schmidt

Fraternal greetings, Brethren of SPML290,

Allow me to begin by extending my heartfelt and humble thanks for the honor of your election of me as Junior Warden for this Masonic year. It is a profound privilege to have been entrusted with the care of our Lodge during refreshment.

My own Masonic journey, like that of so many of you, began in the warmth of refreshment as a prospect—a potential candidate for the Craft. The first time I set foot in the Lodge was during a stated dinner, and thereafter at subsequent dinners and other public occasions. Beyond the camaraderie, some of the most cherished memories I hold were forged while sharing a meal with friends who soon became brethren. I have long believed that the quality of a meal stands in direct relation to the quality of the experience one may enjoy in its midst. The cement of brotherly love is most

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

beautifully expressed through the thoughtful care we extend in providing for one another; genuine hospitality creates the fertile ground in which lasting bonds take root. In that light, I am acutely aware of the large shoes I must endeavor to fill, for no one has exemplified the office of Junior Warden with greater distinction than our Worshipful Master, Brother Nathan, who so ably discharged those very duties while already occupying the East last year.

We have a full month of April ahead, highlighted by three upcoming Second Degrees. These occasions will afford me ample opportunity to continue serving you, my brethren. I earnestly invite each of you to attend to the best of your ability, and I welcome—without hesitation—any feedback, suggestions, or concerns you may wish to share. Only through your counsel can I hope to provide the finest possible experiences while we gather at refreshment.

Fraternally,
Bro. Sebastian Schmidt
Junior Warden

SOUTH PASADENA MASONIC LODGE



PUBLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 • AT 5PM



Lodge News & Notes



Fellow Craft Degree
March 18, 2026

SMPL Brothers and guests gathered to pass Brother Jose Chaure to the Fellow Craft degree. Afterwards, Bro. Chaure commented that the “degree was moving and informative.” This will be the first of four Fellow Craft degrees our Officers will confer on worthy brothers of our lodge.



The Spirit of Hiram
March 13, 2026

SPML Brothers attended the yearly Scottish Rite play, *The Spirit of Hiram*. Bro. Charlie Fisher, PM has made over 20 appearances in the play.



FAMILY CHILI COOK OFF



Family Chili Cook-Off

March 28, 2026

Our Annual Family Chili Cook-Off underwent a complete makeover this year! A huge thanks for the hard work and efforts of brothers Phil Donlon, Jason Wilson PM, and Adrian Howard in particular. Aside from (9) chili entries (judged by the South Pasadena Fire Department), and amazing food from our Chef, the 100 guests in attendance were also honored by live music from the bands "Sunday Best" and "Jackrabbit," the latter featuring popular actor and musician, Dermot Mulroney. By the end of the event, over \$1,000 was raised for the Eaton Fire Victims, which was matched by our Lodge, AND ALSO matched by Jackrabbit!





ILLUMINATION LECTURE SERIES

REVIEWED BY JERIEL SMTH



THE ILLUMINATION LECTURE COMMITTEE WELCOMES WOR. BRO. NARBEH BAGDASARIAN, PM

Our 2026 Illumination Lecture series commenced with 48 Brothers and guests braving Friday the 13th, to entirely fill the South seats in our lodge room to hear a talk on a most unusual topic: *The “Forget-Me-Not” Symbol in Freemasonry*. Our Lodge Master, Wor. Nathaniel Brown, PM, after introducing our Lecture Committee members, welcomed our distinguished guest speaker, Wor. Brother Narbeh Bagdasarian, PM, who was raised at Glendale Lodge No. 544 in 1992 and after serving three terms as its Master, and received its Hiram Award in 2000. After affiliating with Round Table No. 876 and with Ararat 848, he later affiliated with La France No. 885, where he also served three terms as its Master and received their Hiram Award in 2025. He has also served

as Grand Lodge Bible Bearer and as Grand Orator, as well as District 737 Inspector. He presently served as Assistant Grand Lecturer, Division VII.

Wor. Narbeh began by observing that this evening would be his ninth time speaking about this familiar Masonic symbol, which has over time been represented by four variations of the pin, which is a stylized representation of a tiny blue flower whose history dates back to a German legend of a knight, who, as he drowned after saving his true love, threw the flowers to her, saying “Forget-me-not.” Ever since, the flower itself has symbolized true love, enduring memory, faithfulness, and devotion. Outside of Freemasonry, it is commonly

associated with remembrance of departed loved ones and loyalty between couples; and in recent times these flowers are also used to raise awareness for Alzheimer's and represents protection.

But this history of the humble yet noble flower was not the primary focus of Brother Narbeh's message. On this occasion, his lecture was about the lesser-known history of how it came to earn a place in the symbolism of Freemasonry. The surprising result was related like a college lecture on the history of Freemasonry in Germany during World War II, the infamous Jewish Holocaust, and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. Starting with the propaganda that the German defeat in World War I was due to a "stab in the back" by High Masons and Jews. The old Prussian Grand Lodge and Humanitarian Grand Lodge—"liberals"—had 600 lodges and 82,000 Masons. This notion was central to Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, asserting that Jews and Masons controlled the press and caused the defeat. He spoke of Gen. Erich Ludendorff's 1927 plot to "Annihilate Freemasonry by revealing their secrets"; of Hitler's appointment as Chancellor in 1933, and the Enabling Act that barred Masons from government work; Himmler & Heydrich taking over the Gestapo in 1934, etc.

“Ever since, the flower itself has symbolized true love, enduring memory, faithfulness, and devotion. Outside of Freemasonry, it is commonly associated with remembrance of departed loved ones and loyalty between couples...”

The heart of this story focused on a secret French Lodge formed in Esterwegen Concentration Camp by prisoners in 1943, with 9 members, who, on February 20, 1944, initiated their first new brother. When discovered by the Nazis, 7 Masons were killed. The Lodge was officially recognized by the Grand Lodge of Belgium. Several books were written about this after Europe was liberated in 1944-45. In 1947, the Forget-Me-Not was established as a symbol of remembrance within Freemasonry of this historic Masonic Lodge. In Germany it became associated with charity, as it represents remembrance—resolve, resilience, and resistance. German lodges gave these pins to Master Masons after their Third Degrees.



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