

Trestle Board

Volume 138

290

March 2026

Issue #3

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge of F&AM



2026 Lodge Master

Worshipful Nate S. Brown

WWW.SOUTHPASADENA290.ORG

MARCH

4

WEDNESDAY

Stated Dinner and Meeting 6:30pm

St. Patrick's Day Theme

11

WEDNESDAY

OSI at WISDOM

LODGE 6:30pm

18

WEDNESDAY

Fellow Craft Degree

Bro. Jose Chaure 6:30pm

19

THURSDAY

Fireside Chat Book Club Meeting

7pm

20

FRIDAY

Illumination Lecture

Robert Marshall 7pm

25

WEDNESDAY

Gentleman's Night

7pm



28

SATURDAY

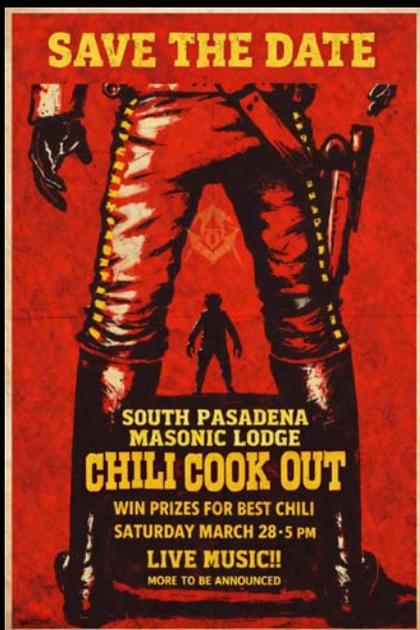
Masonic Meditation

9am



Family Chili Cook Off

5pm



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jose Feliciano (03/06); D'Adrian Bryant, Burdett Ives (03/15); Dennis Griggs (03/18); Arthur Stevens (03/19); Stephen Boyd (03/21); John Hill, Duane Moody (03/22); David Saldana (03/28); Adam Crawford, Edward Nigolian (03/29); William Carney (03/30).



HALL ASSOCIATION ZOOM MEETINGS
THURSDAY March 24, 2026
Meeting @ 6:30pm



EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING
MONDAY March 9, 2026
Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm



From The East



Worshipful Nate Brown

Greetings Brothers:

In addition to our usual monthly events, February brought us a very nice Sweet Heart's Dinner, a Superbowl Viewing Potluck Party, and the first meeting of our new Fireside Book Club Chat. This month I hope you'll join us for our ever-popular Annual Family Chili Cook-Off.

Our temple room and rituals are intended to be vehicles of change, a means of making good men better. The three "pillar officers" are centered up within one of three *dais* stations, which are located in three of the four cardinal directions. Our ritual clearly analogizes the four directions with the "path of the sun across the sky"—when viewed from the earth, it traces a clockwise pattern around the lodge room as well as through the classic universal elements – east (air), south (fire), west (water) & north (earth).

The three degrees of ancient mysteries were, with few exceptions, given in chambers which represented

the three great centers of the human and universal bodies—the generative system, heart and brain. If possible, the temple itself would be constructed in the form of a human body. Masonic initiation focuses on the left side of the body (Moon), passing on the right side (Sun), and raising on both sides (Master of the Lodge). This emphasis can be viewed as representing a progression through the "three pillars" of the human body, revealing the conjoining of our square and compasses to produce a harmonized balance of these opposing forces internally. By balancing the Moon and Sun energies (zh: *Tai Chi*), the candidate can in turn become the Master of their own internal Lodge.

In other words, the design of the temple room, combined with the elements within our rituals, compliment the inner workings of our own bodies, or, inner alchemy. During initiation, the first rays of Masonic light are shone upon the candidate, which if cultivated properly, can begin to purify the soul, and elicit the beginning of a symbolic transmutation of one's former profane "base metals" into that of sublime spiritual gold. *Regnum Caelorum non est Cibus and Potus.*

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

From The West

“I treat my body hard to make it obey me. And having declared myself a participant, I will not be disqualified for reasons of my own negligence.”
— Cowboy

David VanderSmith

G
Greetings Brothers,

The above quote originated in the military, but was later circulated through the world of endurance events—where success was measured not by speed, but by working with a team through hours of challenges.

That “Cowboy” quote speaks to the discipline required to meet what we choose to undertake. Once one declares himself a participant, preparation and execution become matters not just of integrity, but of ensuring the team gets through its challenges together.

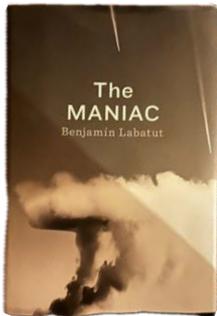
A similar sentiment appears in the Volume of Sacred Law (VSL). In 1 Corinthians 9:27, Paul writes of disciplining himself so that, having committed to the work before him, he would not be disqualified. Across different settings, the principle remains: participation carries responsibility for being fully engaged in something greater than ourselves.

In Masonry, our obligations are spoken during degrees, but the true declaration of participation comes in the work that follows. When an Entered Apprentice returns his proficiency, he is not simply demonstrating his memory, but embodying his intention and commitment. Being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft does not leave Apprenticeship behind, but deepens his understanding of participation in this work. *(Continue on page 11)*

Lodge News & Notes

SPML's Fireside Chat Book Club

February 19, 2026



SPML's newly formed Fireside Chat Book Club had their first meeting, over coffee and sweets, in our Lodge study to discuss the opening pages of their first chosen book: *The*

Maniac by Benjamin Labatut. The group, led by brother Kevin Mack, brought out a dozen brothers and friends to discuss this unique

book and the various connections all present made to it. Future Book Club meetings will continue, on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm. All are welcome to partake.



Superbowl Potluck

February 8, 2026

Over a dozen brothers and friends gathered in the pool room to watch Seattle Seahawks beat the New England Patriots (29-13); a slow game, as many pointed out, only balanced out by the highly talked about halftime show.



Quarterly Officer Meeting

February 18, 2026

Our officers gathered at *The Griffin*, a few blocks from the Lodge, to discuss the upcoming quarter's socials, degree conferrals, and lodge goals.



138TH INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

BY DAGO RODRIGUEZ, PM
IMAGES BY LETICIA BURGOS

2026 Line of Officers

(L - R): Musician Jason Wilson, PM; Junior Steward Max Mironenko; Marshall Kevin Mack; Asst. Secretary Dago Rodriguez, PM; Junior Deacon Art Amadian; Senior Warden David VanderSmith; Worshipful Nate Brown; Junior Warden Sebastian Schmidt; Senior Deacon Angel Perez; Secretary Mimo Akkari, PM; Chaplain Charlie Fisher, PM; Tiler Adrian Howard; Senior Steward Derek Stillman.



On Saturday, January 31, 2026, South Pasadena Masonic Lodge held its 138th Installation of Officers. Once again, SPML 290 pulled out all the stops to celebrate the incoming year and our semi-new line of lodge officers. The event included an hour-long reception, SPML 290 toasts in the library, a beautiful ceremony, and a fine dinner with live music.

Brothers, friends and family enjoyed a multitude of beverages and a delicious meat and cheese charcutier table, while roaming the lodge rooms and catching up with old acquaintances. Prior to the ceremony, brethren

from our lodge gathered in the Library, for our traditional pre-ceremony toasts, led by Master Nathan Brown, who gave thanks to the SPML brothers and their encouraging words of support to the line of officers and brothers.

The installation ceremony was well attended by 78 brothers and guests. The Installation Team included: Master of Ceremonies, Wor.: Ron Presser, PM; Installing Officer, Wor.: Erik Strom, PM; and Installing Chaplain, Bro. Jeffrey Rewald. The thirteen officers being installed were led into the lodge by an expert Scottish bag piper, who played his bag pipe throughout the

SPML's Installation RECEPTION



installation ceremony, after each officer was installed.

Our re-installed Worshipful Master, Nate Brown, was installed as our 138th SPML Master. He is also the second brother to be installed in two consecutive terms as Master, following Wor.: Sergio Gomez, who served during the pandemic closure years.



SPML's Installation TOAST



SPML's Installation CEREMONY



During the ceremony, Wor.: Nate Brown, who resides locally, introduced his wife Tae.

Following the ceremony, several brothers retired to the dining room to celebrate the new 2026 officers with congratulations, and a tasty steak dinner. Guests enjoyed their dinner under the dim lighting of our dining room, beautifully serenaded by live music.

Now that the 2026 Installation of Officers is in the history books, our newly installed Lodge Master's focus



SPML's Installation DINNER



turns to delivering on his theme, “*Ain Soph Aur*” or *The Fountainhead of Endless Light*. His plans include continuing our several educational programs: degree classes, the 13th year of The Illumination Lecture Series, many new degree ceremonies and degree classes, and SPML’s first trip ever to Edinburgh, Scotland and Dublin, Ireland early this summer. The promise for our lodge in 2026 looks bright; and there is no doubt that Wor.: Nate Brown—armed with a focused and ambitious line of officers—will be building on the strength of the previous years to make 2026 a year to remember.



SPML's Installation AFTER PARTY



(From page 4)

Our current class of Brothers has embodied this spirit well. They have stepped up to serve in all aspects of fraternal efforts and declared themselves participants in the life of this Lodge.

Freemasonry is not a race toward a finish line. It is labor sustained not for hours, but for lifetimes. Negligence here is rarely dramatic; more often it appears as quiet fading. What is lost is not a trophy, but the opportunity to build something lasting together.

This month we will begin a series of four Fellowcraft Degree conferrals, followed by second degree classes open to all members (FC and MM). These are opportunities to reaffirm that we remain participants. And having declared ourselves as such, may we continue the effort to see our Brothers through their journeys and carry this Lodge forward for lifetimes to come.

Fraternally,
Bro. David VanderSmith
2026 Senior Warden

Sweethearts Dinner
 February 14, 2026
 Bro. Phil Donlon
 cooked up a tasty
 Italian-style dinner,
 while still keeping it
 romantic for the 30
 guests at this year's
 Sweethearts Dinner –
 leaving everyone's
 heart and stomach's
 full of love and joy.



2026 Line of Officers

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