

Trestle Board

Volume 138

# 290

October 2026

Issue #10

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge of F&AM

SOUTH PASADENA MASONIC LODGE PRESENTS

# SPOOKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 31, 2026

5:30PM-9:30PM

SOUTH PASADENA'S MOST TERRIFYING HAUNTED MAZE

PLUS DJS, CARNIVAL GAMES, FORTUNE TELLERS,  
AND A SPOOKY PHOTOBOOTH

[www.southpasadena290.org](http://www.southpasadena290.org)



# OCTOBER



7

## WEDNESDAY

Stated Dinner and Meeting (coat & tie)

6:30pm

9 - 11

## FRI.-SUN.

Annual Communication Weekend

1pm

15

## THURSDAY

Fireside Chat Book Club

7pm

16

## FRIDAY

Illumination Lecture  
Bro. John M. Greer  
*An Intro to Geomancy*

7pm

17

## SATURDAY

Sages & Scholars Conference

Hosted by THCF

9am - 7pm

26

## SATURDAY

Officer School of Instruction at Pasadena Lodge

6:30pm

28

## WEDNESDAY

Gentlemen's Night & Spooktoberfest Set-up

7pm

31

## SATURDAY

SPOOKTOBERFEST!

3pm



## Happy Birthday!

Angel Perez (10/02); Cody Snyder, Jason Wilson, PM (10/07); Youseff Assad (10/10); Craig Gillette (10/12); Moustapha "Mimo" Akkari, PM (10/14); Milton Morris (10/23); William Barry, Aaron Fries (10/27).



HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS  
Tuesday, October 27th, 2026  
IN PERSON @ 6:30pm



EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING  
Monday, October 12th, 2026  
Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESEARCH LODGE  
Monday, October 19, 2026  
Quarterly Meeting @ 7pm; Dinner After





## From The East



### WORSHIPFUL NATE BROWN

Greetings Brethren,

In a monitorial portion of the Entered Apprentice Degree lecture, we learn that there is no Light in the North because King Solomon's Temple, of which every Lodge is a representation, was situated so far north of the Ecliptic that neither the Sun nor Moon, at meridian height, could dart its rays into the north part of the building, and therefore among Masons, the north has always been termed a place of darkness.

The ancients believed that the Earth was fixed, and that the celestial bodies rotated around it. When they looked up in the sky, they referred to the apparent path of the Sun as the "Ecliptic." The word Ecliptic is derived from a Greek word meaning, "to be eclipsed," and was selected due to ancient astronomers noting the northernmost and southernmost extremes of the Ecliptic paths in relation to the locations of eclipses (Lunar Nodes). The ascending node in the north is called *Caput Draconis* (Dragon's Head ☊) and the descending node in the south is

*"The ancients believed that the Earth was fixed, and that the celestial bodies rotated around it."*

called *Cauda Draconis* (Dragon's Tail ☋).

Mount Moriah, the elongated ridgeline where King Solomon's Temple was built, has a latitude of 31.77°N, which is 8.33° north of the northernmost limit of the Ecliptic band, and 3.07° north of the northernmost limit of the Lunar band. Also being at the highest point in Israel, the Sun and Moon mostly illuminates it from the South, and are never seen directly overhead, as correctly elucidated in our lectures. The entire north wall of King Solomon's Temple would in fact have been shaded or dark all year long, so windows placed on the north wall would serve no purpose.

The oldest races and civilizations of mankind were located north of the Ecliptic. To them, the Sun always appeared to move from east to west, by way of the south, much like in our Lodges. Light was deemed as Good and Wise, and Darkness was deemed as Evil and Ignorant. Taking all this into consideration, it is easy to understand why our Craft would have followed this ancient tradition, with aspirants traveling from west to east in search of further Light.

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



David VanderSmith

Greetings, my brothers,  
Fall brings with it the season of death. Ghosts, ghouls, and goblins fill our imaginations. Fields have been cleared, plants have withered, and the wildlife of summer has all but disappeared. The air cools and the nights grow longer. The world around us takes on the appearance of dying.

For much of human history, this was more than a change in scenery. People banded together to prepare for the leaner months to come. Food stores had to be stocked and shelters fortified. Communities gathered to share in the fruits of the harvest, celebrate their good fortune, honor the dead, and strengthen their bonds. Perhaps some echo of that remains in our autumn traditions today. As the natural world withdraws, we come together in costumes of fright and fantasy to face the specter of the Reaper.

Our lodge has an opportunity to do exactly that, this Halloween with Spooktoberfest, on October 31st. It promises to be a major event and a chance to open our doors to a community that comes alive for the

*“Our ability to flourish has always depended upon cooperation, coordination, and building together.”*

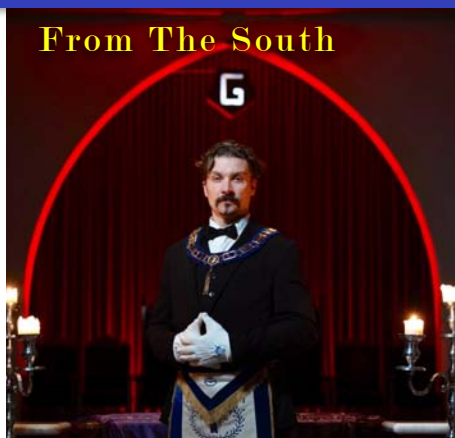
holiday. An event of this size will need all the help we can get, and I encourage every brother to participate where he can, whether with setup, cleanup afterward, or especially with the event itself.

Within the lodge, we too are entering a season of preparation. The Grand Communication approaches, officer qualifications are underway, and before long we will begin another Masonic year. As we reflect on this liminal season, we might remember what once compelled communities to draw closer together. Modern life, particularly here in Southern California, can leave us feeling insulated from the harsher whims of the seasons. But with the massive fires of recent years and predictions of a “Super El Niño” this winter, we are reminded that despite modern amenities, we remain subject to a larger natural order.

Our ability to flourish has always depended upon cooperation, coordination, and building together. The lodge should be a place where these ideals are explored and strengthened, where fellowship becomes participation, and where our obligations to one another extend beyond our doors and into the communities around us.

Fraternally,  
Bro.: David VanderSmith  
2026 Senior Warden

## From The South



Sebastian Schmidt

### Brothers:

Worshipful Nathan Brown recently treated the Lodge to a delightful (and wondrous) brunch at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. For those who have never been, it is a private club housed in a 1909 hillside mansion — dark wood, stained glass, hidden rooms, a first-rate kitchen, and a bar that knows its business even in daylight. It is elegant without being stiff, famous without being loud. The Brothers who attended were unanimous: the hospitality was first-class, the food excellent, and the company better still. I was not able to remain for the magic itself. Those who did described close-up work and stage pieces that left them shaking their heads in the best possible way.

The morning naturally raised a question that Masonry almost never asks out loud. But with Halloween fast approaching and the year entering its most spirit-bound season, I feel a poignant question deserves to be raised.

Outside the Craft, King Solomon



*“Outside the Craft, King Solomon is remembered not only as the wise builder of the Temple but as a magician...”*

is remembered not only as the wise builder of the Temple but as a magician — the sage who, according to the Testament of Solomon and a long trail of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic legend, received a ring from the archangel Michael and bound demons to raise the House of the Lord. In those stories, King Solomon is a wizard-king. In our ritual he is never that figure. He is Wisdom in the East, the sponsor of the work, the model of the Worshipful Master. The ring, the spirits, the conjuring — all of it is omitted.

Why? The simplest answer is also the most likely. Speculative Masonry took King Solomon from the Bible, not from the pseudepigrapha. First Kings and Second Chronicles give us a king who asked God for an understanding heart, organized a vast building project, and later stumbled. They do not give us a demonologist. Early Craft Masonry grew in a Christian culture that treated the Bible as the Volume of the Sacred Law; and had little use for a Grand Master who consorted with spirits. A demon-binding magician makes a poor public emblem for an institution that presents itself as a system of morality veiled in allegory. *(Continue on page 7)*

# Lodge News & Notes

## Hiram Award Announcement

*September 2, 2026*

At the conclusion of our September Stated Meeting, Wor.: Nate Brown had the honor of announcing the recipient of the 2026 Hiram Award. Wor.: Sergio Gomez, PM, was named this year's honoree—the first Brother from our Lodge to receive this distinguished recognition in seven years. Congratulations, Worshipful Sergio, on this well-deserved honor! The Hiram Award Ceremony will be held on Friday, November 6, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We invite our Brothers, families, and friends to join us as we celebrate Wor.: Sergio and his many years of dedication and service to our Lodge and to the Craft.



## Magic Castle Visit

*September 5, 2026*

Twenty SPML Brothers and their partners enjoyed a memorable visit to the famed Magic Castle in the heart of Hollywood. The group shared a delicious brunch, explored the historic property, and enjoyed

several impressive magic performances throughout the day.

One of the highlights was learning about Brother Harry Houdini and visiting the Castle's séance room, where his legacy and the mystery surrounding his life remain part of the experience. Good food, a little magic, and great company made for a wonderful day of fellowship and brotherhood.

## Masons4Mitts Dodger Game

September 8, 2026

Twenty-eight Brothers and friends gathered at Dodger Stadium for an unforgettable Masons' Night at the Ballpark—and watched the Los Angeles Dodgers dominate the Cincinnati Reds with an impressive 14-1 victory!

The evening brought together Masonic Brothers, families, and friends from across the region in support of Masons4Mitts. Joining Grand Master Garrett Chan and California Prince Hall Grand Master Robert Eagle Spirit Sr., Masons celebrated an incredible \$86,436 raised throughout the Los Angeles region in support of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation and local youth baseball players.



(Continued from page 5)

As to the conjuring itself: it cannot be historically supported. The Testament of Solomon is a late Greek text, compiled centuries after the tenth century B.C., mixing Jewish folklore with Christian and Hellenistic magic. No contemporary inscription, tablet, or archive records King Solomon as having commanded spirits. The same caution applies to the man. Outside Scripture, we have no inscription that names King Solomon in his own lifetime. The strongest extra-biblical hint of his house is the ninth-century *Tel Dan Stele*, which mentions the “House of David.” While Archaeology can show a growing Judah in that era; it cannot yet prove the grand united monarchy of the biblical portrait.

In summary, precious little about King Solomon can be ascertained with scientific certainty. As Masons, we are therefore left to follow our hearts and our belief in oral tradition, and thus to discover the myth, the man, and the magic for ourselves. The Magic Castle reminds us that wonder still has a place. And is it not the inner work at the very heart of Masonry that ultimately leads to the discovery of Light—or the Light of discovery?

Fraternally,

Bro.: Sebastian Schmidt, 2026 Junior Warden



## South Pasadena Masonic Lodge #290

# Donation Drive

In Support of the LAMSB  
Midnight Mission Donation Drive  
*Serving our community together!*



**Donation Drop-Off Deadline: November 15, 2026**

**"Thank you, Brothers for helping provide hope, dignity, and essential care to our neighbors in need."**

— Bro. David Ybarra, Wor. Jason Wilson



### Items We Are Especially In Need Of

- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash and bar soap
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Razors and shaving cream
- Feminine hygiene products
- Travel-size hygiene products
- Combs and brushes
- Hand sanitizer
- New socks and underwear
- Laundry detergent
- Individually packaged personal-care items
- Bottled water
- New towels and washcloths



*Hygiene items are one of the most consistent and important needs.*



### Other Items We Can Accept

- New or gently used blankets
- New or gently used linens and bedding
- New or lightly used bed frames
- New or gently used clothing, including children's clothing
- New toys and dolls
- Non-perishable, unexpired food items
- Paper plates, cups, napkins, and disposable utensils
- Other new, unused essential supplies



*Small donations make a big difference in our community!*



### Items We Are Unable to Accept

- Expired food, hygiene products, or other consumables
- Used toiletries or opened personal-care products
- Used stuffed animals
- Used underwear or socks
- Used toys or dolls
- Damaged, heavily worn, or unsafe items



**No financial donations**

*Every donation makes a difference.*

Thank you for supporting this important drive!



## 2026 Line of Officers

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