
PALM SPRINGS 693

VOL. 9



MASONIC GAZETTE



SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM THE EAST!!!

Greetings Brethren,

On Saturday, we held a memorial service for Brother Donald Cook. It was a beautiful service, and his family was grateful for all the Brethren who were able to attend and participate. The family was also deeply appreciative of the assistance provided in helping cover the funeral expenses.

Thank you to all the Brethren who were able to help and provide assistance when one of our members was in need. I am very proud to see our Lodge come together to support one another whenever one of our Brethren needs help. This is one of the great characteristics of Freemasonry that unites us and helps keep us close as Brothers.

I would also like to congratulate Brother Roy Dionisio on being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. It was an exciting evening, and we had several Brethren travel from quite a distance to participate and show their support. It was wonderful to see so many Brothers come together to support Roy on this important step in his Masonic journey.



During the month of September, we will be preparing to initiate Mark Levinson into our fraternity. Mark has been coming to our Lodge for several months and has participated in our stated meeting dinners, OSI dinners, and degree practice dinners. He is excited to join our fraternity, and it would mean a great deal to him if we could have as many members as possible attend his degree to welcome him and show him our support.

As we begin the month of September, our Lodge will no longer be dark. In fact, we will be quite busy. After we confer Mark's degree, our officers will be working hard to prepare to raise Brother Flavio to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. This will require several practices to ensure that we are fully prepared for his degree and will be our primary focus moving forward.

I would encourage all Fellow Crafts to focus on returning their proficiencies soon if they would like to receive their third degree before the end of the year. We would love to see our Fellow Crafts continue progressing through the degrees and take the next step in their Masonic journey.

Our Lodge also continues to provide charity and service within our community. During the upcoming months, we will be partnering with several other nonprofit organizations to make a greater impact in our community by working together. More details will be provided in the coming months. For the time being, the Lions organization has placed a collection box in our Lodge for members who have an extra pair of eyeglasses that they no longer need. If you have a pair you would like to donate, please bring them to the Lodge and place them in the box on the table in the dining hall. The Lions Club uses these glasses to help provide members of our community with prescription eyeglasses at no cost.

Finally, to finish out the month, the Redlands Lodge has invited us to participate in their annual Oktoberfest. This event will take place on September 26th at 4:00 PM. The cost of attendance is \$60, which includes food and several different locally brewed libations. This is a fun social event that is open to all Masons and their families. It is also a fundraising event, with all proceeds going toward supporting the Redlands DeMolay and Job's Daughters youth groups. I hope to see many of you there!

Fraternally,

Kory Buechter
Worshipful Master
Palm Springs Lodge No. 693

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SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM THE WEST!!!

Brethren,

As summer begins to wind down and we return to our regular rhythm at Palm Springs Lodge, September gives us an opportunity to refocus on the work still ahead of us. The year may be moving quickly, but there is still plenty of time to strengthen our Lodge, support one another, and enjoy the fellowship that brings us together.

September promises to be a busy and meaningful month. We will begin with our Stated Meeting on September 1, followed by a retirement celebration for Worshipful Vic Ropac and Worshipful Bill Keel on September 5. On September 12, we will have the opportunity to support Brother Manny Butiu as he receives the Hiram Award at Widows Sons Lodge No. 869. Each of these occasions gives us a chance to recognize Brothers whose dedication and service have made a lasting impact on the Craft.



We will also welcome Mr. Mark Levinson as he begins his Masonic journey with his First Degree conferral on September 15. I encourage our Brethren to attend and help make the evening one he will always remember. Later in the month, on September 21, Palm Springs Lodge will host the OSI, with Oasis of Mara serving as host. These events are wonderful opportunities to learn, reconnect, and demonstrate the hospitality of Palm Springs Lodge.

A Lodge is not built by its officers alone. It is built by every Brother who attends a meeting, assists with a degree, supports another Lodge, or simply takes the time to welcome a visitor or a newer Mason. These small acts may not always receive recognition, but they create the fellowship and sense of belonging that keep a Lodge strong.

As Senior Warden, I continue to appreciate the opportunity to learn from the East, support our officers, and prepare for the responsibilities that may lie ahead. Each meeting, degree, and conversation reminds me that leadership in Masonry is not about holding a title—it is about serving the Lodge and earning the trust of the Brethren.

Let us return from the summer season with renewed energy and a commitment to making Palm Springs Lodge a place where every Brother feels welcomed, valued, and proud to call it his Masonic home. I look forward to sharing this full and memorable month with all of you.

Fraternally,
Justin Robbins
Senior Warden
Palm Springs Lodge No. 693

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FROM THE SOUTH!!!

Brethren,

As we enter September, we find ourselves at the close of summer and the conclusion of our dark months. We are gathered once again in fellowship and celebrate the accomplishments of our brethren.

Last month, we celebrated an important milestone in the Masonic journey of Brother Roy, who has successfully passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft. We congratulate him on this achievement and encourage him to continue his journey with the same enthusiasm and commitment.

We also look forward to several significant degree ceremonies in the months ahead. Brother Mark is preparing to receive his Entered Apprentice Degree, taking his first steps into the fraternity. Brother Flavio is preparing to be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, and Brother Roy continues his advancement toward his own Third Degree. These occasions remind us that our Lodge continues to grow and prosper through the dedication of both our candidates and the brethren who support them.



As we celebrate growth within our Lodge, we also pause to mourn the loss of our beloved Brother Don. His passing has left a void in our hearts and within our Lodge family. While we grieve his departure from this earthly Lodge, we take comfort in the belief that he has been called to the Celestial Lodge Above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

Our Lodge was honored to perform a Masonic Funeral Service for Brother Don, paying tribute to his life, his character, and his commitment to the Craft. We are also deeply humbled by the generosity demonstrated by our brethren who contributed to the charitable effort to help raise funds for his cremation expenses.

This act of compassion serves as a powerful reminder that Masonry extends beyond the walls of our Lodge room. It lives through our actions, our support of one another, and our willingness to aid a brother and his family in times of need.

As we move into the rest of the year, let's continue showing up for one another, supporting our Lodge, and helping our newer brothers along their Masonic journey. We have degrees to celebrate, new brothers to welcome, and opportunities to grow together. We have much to look forward to in the coming months. I encourage you to keep the fire burning for the craft.

Best,
Brother Jonard

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STATED MEETING DINNER

Brethren,

Our next Stated Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, at 7:30 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

The evening's menu will include Caesar salad, gnocchi with your choice of tomato, pesto, or Alfredo sauce, garlic bread, and Sicilian cannoli for dessert.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



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BIRTHDAYS!!!

Member's

David Smith - September 12

PM Delmar Ramirez - September 14

Roy Dionisio - September 23

PM Theodore Parker - September 30

Spouse's

Linda Skelton - September 3

Phattama Buechter - September 8

Holly Brookes-Bayer - September 11

Gurtie Petievich - September 26

Maria Morales - September 30

Masonic Birthdays

None

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SEPTEMBER 2026

CALENDAR

September 1st - PSL Stated Meeting

September 5th - Retirement Celebration for

Worshipful Vic Ropac and Worshipful Bill Keel

September 8th - 1st Degree Practice @ PSL

September 12th - Bro Manny Butiu's Hiram Award Ceremony
at Widows Sons Lodge No. 869

September 15th - Mr. Mark Levinson's 1st Degree Conferral

September 21st - OSI @ PSL 693 - Oasis of Mara Hosting

September 26th - Redlands Lodge Oktoberfest.

September 29th - 3rd Degree Practice @ PSL

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SEPTEMBER 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

HONORARY DINNER

Celebrating the Retirement of
Vic Ropac, P.M.
and
Bill Keel, P.M.
from their Masonic Inspector Positions

Date: Saturday, September 5th, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM
Location:
Redlands Masonic Lodge #300
131 Cajon St.
Redlands, CA 92373

You are cordially invited to join us in
honoring their dedicated service!

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UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

WIDOWS SONS

LODGE NO. 869

HIRAM AWARD - CEREMONY -

WIDOWS SONS LODGE NO. 869
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO HONOR

Bro. Emmanuel "Manny" Butiu

AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE HIRAM AWARD



Please joins us in recognizing his outstanding dedication, service,
and commitment to the Craft and our Masonic family.

SATURDAY, SEP. 12 @ 10:00 AM
27895 DIAZ RD, TEMECULA, CA 92590
DARK SUIT
RSVP: WM Erwin Bayquen
619-962-9141 / ebayquen28@yahoo.com

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SEPTEMBER 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

Oktoberfest Fundraiser

Saturday, September 26, 2026

4:00 to 10:00 pm

131 Cajon Street, Redlands, California 92373

An Event Featuring
Home Brewed Beer, Crazy Craig's Sausages
and Live Oktoberfest Music - Feat. Carrera

Ticket Price - \$ 60.00

For Presale Tickets and Information Contact:

Wally Horn - Ph. 909.633.2202

This is a Private Event
All proceeds to be donated in support of the
Redlands Masonic Lodge Scholarship Fund



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MASONIC HISTORY

Today in Masonic History Richard Arlen is born in 1899.

Richard Arlen was an American actor.

Arlen was born Sylvanus Richard Van Mattimore on September 1st, 1899 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended the University of Pennsylvania. During World War I he served with the Canadian armed forces as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps.

When Arlen returned from World War I his first job was with the St. Paul's Athletic Club. Shortly after he headed to the Texas and Oklahoma oilfields where he worked as a tool boy. He also worked as a messenger and sports editor for a newspaper.

Eventually Arlen headed to Los Angeles hoping to get into the movies. No producer was interested in him so he took a job as a delivery boy for a film laboratory. One day on a delivery he had an accident on his motorcycle in front of the Paramount Pictures lot. A sympathetic director gave him a part as an extra in a silent movie. His first important role was in the film *Vengeance of the Deep* in 1923. The film has since been lost.



In 1927 Arlen received his best known role as David Armstrong in the silent movie *Wings*. The film was set in World War I and involves a love triangle between two friends from the same town who are in love with the same woman. Both enlist in World War I and end up training together.

During World War II, Arlen left Hollywood for a brief time to work as an Army Air Forces flight instructor.

In the 1950's and through the 1960's Arlen became active in television roles. Mostly these were guest appearances. The majority of the shows were westerns or dramas. This included shows like *Wanted: Dead or Alive* and the show *Perry Mason* a courtroom drama.

Arlen overall appeared in almost 140 films, both silent and talkies.

Arlen passed away on March 28th, 1976 from emphysema.

Arlen was a member of Utopia Lodge No. 537 in California.

This article provided by Brother Eric C. Steele.

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OSI SCHEDULE



2026 O.S.I. Schedule

District 830

Thomas Johnson, Inspector

5455 Lupine Ave Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

(760)362-2492

All Officer School of Instruction will start at 7 p.m.

Social hour at 6 p.m.

January 22- Coachella Lodge. 1st Degree open and obligation

February 23- Oasis of Mara Lodge. Jewel March, Signs, Rod work, Balloting

March 25- Oasis of Light Lodge. Second Degree 1st section

April 21- Palm Springs Lodge Exemplification of 2nd Degree first section

May 18- Oasis of Mara Lodge. 3rd Degree, first section

June 25- Coachella Lodge. Exemplification of the 3rd Degree

July 21- Palm Springs Lodge. Second Degree Second section

August- Dark

September 21- Oasis of Mara Lodge Exemplification of the 1st Degree

October 20- Palm Springs Lodge. Election and Installation of Officers

November 18- Oasis of Light Lodge.6 Installation of Officers

December- Dark

All meetings will be held at the Palm Springs Lodge on the meeting night of the Host lodge

The Host lodge is responsible for refreshments.

All absences must be approved by the District Inspector at least 48 hours prior to OSI

For exemplifications, all lodges are responsible for filling the chairs.

I will be visiting the Blythe Needles lodge once a quarter on a Saturday. Visitation is encouraged but not required.

District 830 2026 Masters

Oasis Of Mara

Donald Ryals (760) 641-3857

Palm Springs

Kory Buechter (909) 327-6199

Oasis of Light

Josh Levesque (714) 815-0069

Coachella

Gary Okamoto (760) 567-8175

Blythe-Needles

Jeff Gatchell (760) 574-7427