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# PALM SPRINGS 693

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VOL. 10



MASONIC GAZETTE



OCTOBER 2026

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## FROM THE EAST!!!

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Greetings Brethren,

I would like to congratulate our newly initiated Brother, Mark Levinson, on being conferred as an Entered Apprentice in our Lodge. Thank you to all the Brethren who were able to participate in his degree and help make the evening a success.

I would also like to congratulate Brother Hector Minon on being nominated to receive the most prestigious award a Mason can receive, the Hiram Award. Thank you, Brother Hector, for all the hard work you do for our Lodge and for being a prime example of a Mason who consistently goes above and beyond his assigned duties.

Fall is in the air, and with the changing of the seasons, we can also see changes taking place within our Lodge. With the weather finally beginning to cool off, we will once again be wearing suits and yellow ties for our Stated Meetings and degrees. Please wear a suit to all Masonic events for the remainder of the year.

Our Lodge will also be utilizing Brother Flavio's Third Degree and Brother Hector's Hiram Award as opportunities for fellowship and celebration.

Following each event, we will have a meal, along with some libations. This will be a great opportunity for us to congratulate these two Brethren while enjoying some fun, fellowship, and good company. More details regarding both events will be provided as we get closer to the dates.

The final change you will notice taking place is with our Lodge website. I am currently in the process of creating our own website, which will give us greater control over the information we post and how we present our Lodge to the community. This will help showcase our Lodge as an active part of the community while also providing our members with an easy way to stay informed about upcoming meetings, degrees, events, and activities. We are hoping to launch the new website by late October.

As always, we are open to suggestions on how we can make our Lodge stronger and more involved within the community. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of our Pillar Officers with your ideas, suggestions, or ways you believe we can continue to improve our Lodge.

Fraternally,

Kory Buechter Master



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## FROM THE WEST!!!

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Greetings Brethren,

As we move into October, it is hard to believe how quickly this Masonic year has passed. The coming months will be busy ones for Palm Springs Lodge, and I am looking forward to the opportunities we will have for degree work, fellowship, and recognizing some of our Brothers for their accomplishments.

First, I would like to welcome our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Mark Levinson. Initiation is only the beginning of a much larger journey in Masonry, and I encourage each of our Brothers to take the opportunity to get to know Brother Mark, answer his questions, and help him along the way. Some of the greatest lessons in Masonry are not learned during a degree or from a book, but through the friendships and conversations we have with one another.

We also have some special evenings ahead of us. Brother Flavio will soon be receiving his Third Degree, marking an important milestone in his Masonic journey.

We will also have the privilege of honoring Brother Hector Minon with the Hiram Award. Anyone who has spent time around our Lodge knows how much Hector gives of himself, often without being asked and without seeking recognition. I can think of few better reasons for the Brethren to come together and celebrate.

As we enter the final months of the year, I would also encourage everyone to think about what they would like to see from our Lodge moving forward. A Lodge is strongest when its members participate, not only by attending meetings and degrees, but by bringing forward ideas, volunteering, mentoring newer Brothers, and simply spending time together.

One of the things I have appreciated most this year is seeing Brethren step forward when something needs to be done. Masonry gives each of us an opportunity to contribute in different ways. Not everyone needs to hold an office, deliver ritual, or chair a committee. Sometimes supporting your Lodge is as simple as showing up, lending a hand, or sitting down with a Brother you haven't seen in a while.

We still have plenty of work ahead of us before this Masonic year comes to a close, and I hope to see many of you in Lodge during the months ahead. Let us finish the year the same way we began it: working together, supporting one another, and enjoying the fellowship that makes Palm Springs Lodge No. 693 such a special place to call home.

Fraternally,

Justin Robbins  
Senior Warden



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## FROM THE SOUTH!!!

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Brethren,

As we welcome the month of October, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Brother Mark Levinson on his initiation into the Craft. We are honored to have him begin his Masonic journey with us, and we look forward to watching him grow in light, knowledge, and fellowship.

I would also like to congratulate Brother Hector Minon on being selected as the recipient of the prestigious Hiram Award. This distinguished recognition is a testament to his dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to our Lodge and the principles of Freemasonry.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming October events:

- October 6 – Stated Meeting at 7:00 PM
- October 17 – Brother Flavio's Third Degree at 3:00 PM
- October 20 – District OSI Meeting at 7:00 PM
- October 24 – Brother Hector Minon's Hiram Award Presentation at 10:00 AM



Several of our officers will also be attending the Annual Communication from October 9 through October 11. We look forward to welcoming the incoming Grand Master of California, Worshipful Brother Ara Maloyan, along with his Grand Lodge officers. We are excited to bring back the resolutions, information, and inspiration gained from this important event to share with the Lodge upon our return.

October is looking to be a very busy month for the lodge. We implore everyone to be involved in our events. Your presence in all our activities is important to celebrate our achievements and endeavors together. Together, we are not only preserving the traditions of Freemasonry, but also creating a future that our newest Brothers will be proud to inherit.

Best,

Bro. Jonard  
Junior Warden

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## STATED MEETING DINNER

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Brethren,

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

The evening's menu will Celebrate Oktoberfest with German Bratwurst served with German potato salad, red cabbage, soft pretzel bites, and homemade German Apple Strudel.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



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## BIRTHDAYS!!!

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### Member's

PM Kirk Weiss - October 9  
Michael Shively - October 14  
Nicholas Seneca - October 16  
Kory Buechter - October 17  
Guillermo Morales - October 18  
PM Julio Rubio - October 23  
Erwin Fromm - October 24  
Jeffrey Huard - October 26  
Adonis Perez - October 27  
Ronald Winkle - October 28  
PM Danilo Manaloto - October 30

### Spouse's

Lori Arch - October 18  
Michelle Diedrich - October 19  
Rhetta Gonzales - October 27  
Laurie Shively - October 30

### Masonic Birthday's

William Roose - October 11  
Sergio Baez - October 18  
Jeffrey Huard - October 19  
Lloyd Johnston - October 21  
Edward Leao - October 25  
Guillermo Morales - October 26  
PM Richard Shalhoub - October 28

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## CALENDAR

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**October 6<sup>th</sup>** - PSL Stated Meeting

**October 17<sup>th</sup>** - Brother Flavio Machado's 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Conferral

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** - WSL No. 869 Past Masters Night

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** - OSI @ PSL 693, PSL Hosting - Election and Installation of Officers.

**October 24<sup>th</sup>** - Brother Hector Minon's Hiram Award Ceremony.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** - Feast of Tishri -Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite

**October 28<sup>th</sup>** - Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Stated Meeting,

Most Worshipful Arthur Salazar's Official Visit.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!



### Palm Springs Lodge 693

Free and Accepted Masons of the  
State of California  
*cordially invites you*



### BRO. FLAVIO MACHADO

3rd Degree Conferral



Multi Lodge Degree Team

PSL 693 and WSL 869

represented by the Brazen Pillarz Chapter  
of Widows Sons MRA

WHEN: October 17, 2026 ; 3PM  
WHERE: 450 S. Avenida Caballeros  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Attire: Dark Suit and Tie  
\*\*fellowship and dinner celebration  
after the ceremony



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## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!



**WIDOWS SONS  
LODGE NO. 869**

cordially invites you to attend

**PAST MASTERS'  
NIGHT**

in conjunction with the  
**THIRD DEGREE CONFERRAL**

for

**Bro. Johnny  
Cortez**

**FRIDAY, OCT. 16, 2026  
6:00 PM**

**27895 DIAZ RD, TEMECULA, CA  
92590**



**HAWAIIAN  
DARK PANTS**



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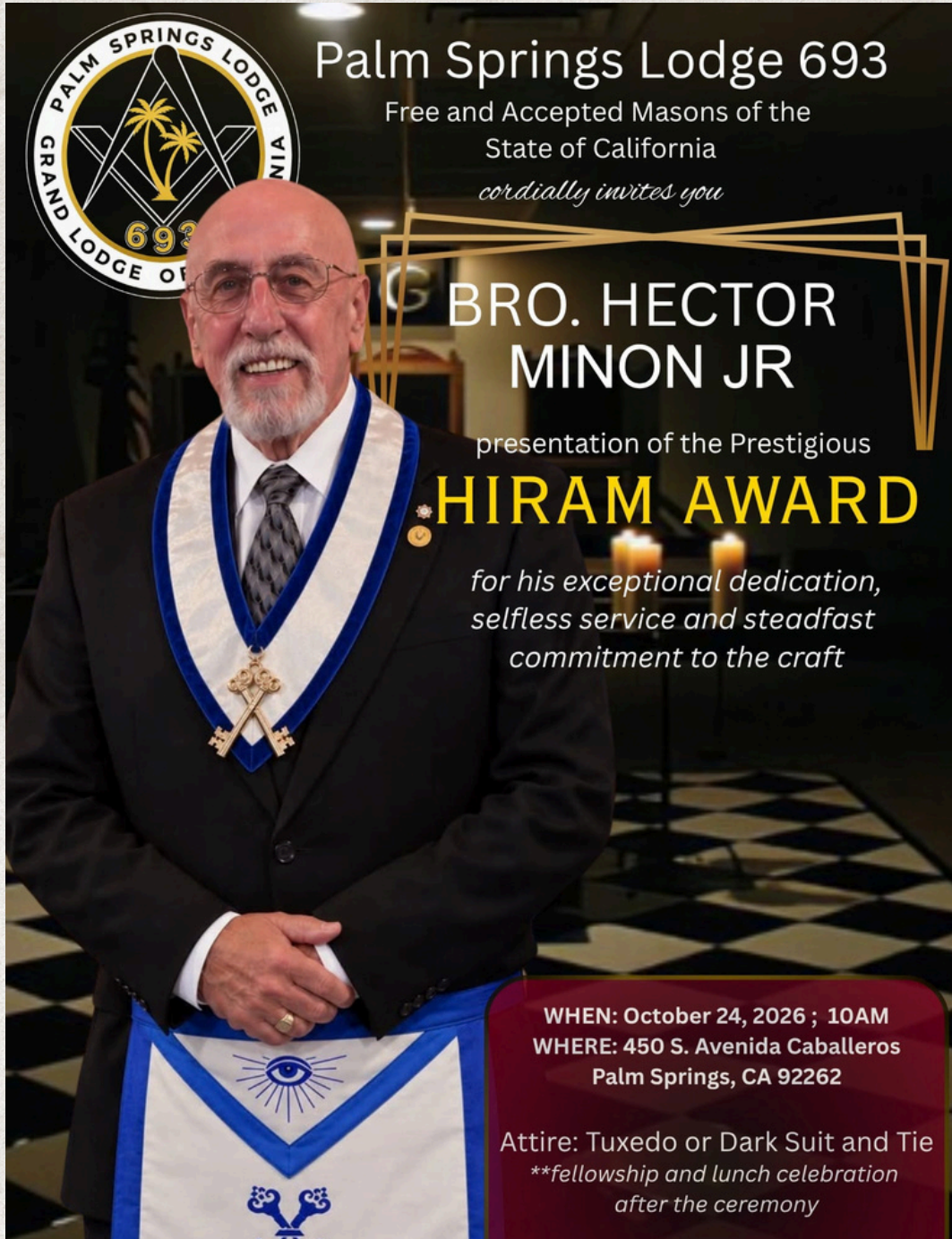


MASONIC GAZETTE



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## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!



Palm Springs Lodge 693  
Free and Accepted Masons of the  
State of California  
*cordially invites you*

**BRO. HECTOR  
MINON JR**

presentation of the Prestigious  
**HIRAM AWARD**

*for his exceptional dedication,  
selfless service and steadfast  
commitment to the craft*

**WHEN:** October 24, 2026 ; 10AM  
**WHERE:** 450 S. Avenida Caballeros  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

**Attire:** Tuxedo or Dark Suit and Tie  
*\*\*fellowship and lunch celebration  
after the ceremony*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

### The Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite PRESENTS

THE MASONIC EVENT OF THE YEAR  
JOIN US FOR OUR TRADITIONAL TABLE LODGE & FESTIVE BOARD



## Feast of Tishri

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026  
A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE MOTHER CITY OF  
FREEMASONRY  
"PHILADELPHIA 1731"

4:30pm – Social Hour • 5:00pm – March In  
Coachella Masonic Center  
51100 Jackson St., Coachella, CA 92236  
Dark Suit Suggested • Special Commemorative Gift  
Limited Seating – Reservation Required by Oct. 12  
\$50 Per Person

RESERVATIONS: PSSCOTTISHRITE.ORG  
LENNYJAMES69@GMAIL.COM • (760) 485-8880

Open to public

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!!!



**VALLEY OF PALM SPRINGS  
SCOTTISH RITE**

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE  
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION



**OCTOBER  
STATED MEETING**

**OCTOBER 28, 2026**

**OFFICIAL VISIT**

**Ill. Arthur L. Salazar, Jr., 33°**  
*Deputy of the Supreme Council  
Orient of California*

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED  
DINNER 6:30 PM



SCAN TO RESERVE

*All Master Masons and their Ladies are Welcome*

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## MASONIC HISTORY

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*This month in Masonic History Leroy Gordon "Gordo" Cooper, Jr. passes away in 2004.*

Leroy Gordon "Gordo" Cooper, Jr. was an American astronaut.

Cooper was born on March 6th, 1927 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. In his youth he was active in the Boy Scouts of America. He attended local Shawnee schools, Jefferson Elementary School and Shawnee High School. He graduated high school from Murray High School when his father was called back into military service in the middle of Cooper's senior year. He attended two months at Murray High School, graduating in 1945.

After high school, Cooper looked into joining the military. When he discovered the Army and Navy flying schools were not taking any candidates, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as a reservist. He attempted to get on the list to go to the United States Naval Academy and was not able to get in.



In 1956 Cooper was assigned to the USAF Experimental Flight Test School at Edwards Air Force base. After he graduated he was assigned to the Flight Test Engineering Division at Edwards.

While at Edwards, Cooper was intrigued by the announcement McDonnell Aircraft had been awarded a contract to build a space capsule. Shortly after, Cooper was called to Washington, D.C. where he was tested with 109 other pilots to become one of the seven Mercury astronauts. Cooper was the youngest of the seven astronauts chosen. Cooper was assigned the last Mercury mission and was launched into space on May 15th, 1963. He orbited the earth 22 times and had more time in space than all of the other six Mercury astronauts combined. On his 19th orbit his capsule, Faith 7, lost power. Cooper was forced to fly the capsule manually. He had to calculate his trajectory for reentry and perform other complex math equations to ensure he properly entered the Earth's atmosphere. His calculations put him very close to the aircraft carrier assigned to pick him up. Prior to this point in Cooper's flight, the Mercury Astronauts were seen as merely passengers. Chuck Yeager referred to the seven Mercury astronauts as "Spam in a Can" due to their passenger status.

Cooper went up again as part of the Gemini program. He flew with Pete Conrad on Gemini 5. The two astronauts set a space endurance record remaining in orbit for more than 190 hours. Their flight set some of the ground work for the Apollo mission proving men could survive in space for a time equivalent to traveling from the Earth to the Moon and back.

Cooper was also a part of the Apollo program. He never got a chance to land on the moon. He retired from the Air Force in 1970. He went on to work in various jobs in the private sector. This included working for the Disney corporation as a Vice President of Research and Development for Epcot.

Cooper passed away on October 4th, 2004 from heart failure. At the time of his death he also suffered from Parkinson's disease.

Cooper was a member of Carbondale Lodge No. 82 in Carbondale, Colorado.

*This article provided by Brother Eric C. Steele.*

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## OSI SCHEDULE

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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. 1<sup>st</sup> Degree open and obligation

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

**March 25-** Oasis of Light Lodge. Second Degree 1<sup>st</sup> section

**April 21-** Palm Springs Lodge Exemplification of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree first section

**May 18-** Oasis of Mara Lodge. 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, first section

**June 25-** Coachella Lodge. Exemplification of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

**July 21-** Palm Springs Lodge. Second Degree Second section

**August-** Dark

**September 21-** Oasis of Mara Lodge Exemplification of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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