



Palm Springs Valley Scottish Rite Scottish Rite News

Volume 4 Issue No. 10

Newsletter Date October 2026

The Voice

COACHELLA VALLEY RITECARE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 17th, 2026 • 8:00am Shotgun Start

Mountain Vista Golf Club, Santa Rosa Course
38180 Del Webb Blvd., Palm Desert, CA 92211

Register soon - player slots are limited!

Suggested Donation: \$175 per player

Donations may be made at the course on tournament day.

Net Proceeds benefit the California Scottish Rite Foundation's
RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley

SCAN TO JOIN



CASRF.ORG/COACHELLAVALLEY

Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Officers for 2026



**Ill. James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander**



**Ill. Arthur Salazar Jr., 33° PGM
Deputy of California**



**Clint Atherton, 32°
Venerable Master**



**David Hertzog 32°
Wise Master**



**Hon. Kurt Handshuh 32°
KCCH
Commander**



**Berry Berg 32°
Master of Kadosh**



**Hon. Mark Flint, 32° KCCH
Treasurer**



**Hon. Shane DaCosta, 32° KCCH
General Secretary**



**Ill. Arman Ordian, 33°
Personal Representative**

Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Office: 51-100 South Jackson, Indio Ca. 92202

Hours: Monday – Friday 10 Am-4PM

Voice/Text: (760) 409-1206

Valley of Palm Springs, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, The Scottish Rite News Monthly.
No Subscription Price

Deputy of the Supreme Council Orient of California Reception



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

Venerable Master



Greeting Brethren!

After being dark for a couple of months, we had a great return dinner, presentation, and meeting in September!

Specifically, the Valley held its first scripted Cap and Ring Ceremony (or at least since I have been a member). Previously, the newly initiated Brothers would have a simple ceremony where they were given the cap and ring. However, this year, we were able to do a more elaborate ceremony that detailed the significance of the Ring, Rose, "Parchment," and Cap. It involved participation of the heads of the 4 bodies of the Valley as well as a Master of Ceremonies. To me, it highlighted the importance of what we do and why we do it. In addition, it lays the foundation of learning to all in attendance and encourages the Brothers to expand their knowledge of the principles discussed. If you were not in attendance, I would encourage you try and attend a similar ceremony in future and for those that would like to review the ceremony and its contents, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

I would like to thank all that participated, but especially our Master of Ceremonies, Leonard Kienzle, who as usual provided the organization and creative spark that fuels all our cast and ritual work. In addition, I would like to thank our PR, Illustrious Arman Ordian, for sourcing the script and making this all happen. Lastly, I would like to congratulate our new Brothers, in receiving their cap, ring and other items as well as attending their first meeting. If you have not had a chance, please do so as well at the future meetings. They are Daniel Nates, 32°, James Lee, 32°, and Raymond Torres, 32°.

Overall, it was great evening and hopefully something that the Valley will continue to do in the future.

Clint Atherton 32°

Venerable Master



Senior Warden/Treasurer



Dear Brethren,

First off, Congratulations and Welcome to Daniel Nates, James Lee and Ramon Torres, on becoming our newest members, receiving all their degrees at the Statewide Reunion in Pasadena last month. What a great event. Special thanks to Leonard Kienzle for all his hard work with training the cast.

September 4th, MW Stuart Wright, 33° and I Attended the Southern California Jurisdiction, DeMolay in Riverside, to hand out merchandise to the guests.

September 16th, six members from the Pasadena Scottish Rite and five members from the Palm Springs Scottish Rite attended a 98th Birthday Celebration Lunch for Brother Herb Wilkins 33° GC, along with family and friends at the Daily Grill in Palm Desert.

September 23-25, I attended the National Rite Care Conference in San Diego. Over 150 in attendance including Speech and Language Pathologists from all over the country. Had a chance to tour the San Diego Scottish Rite new building and visit their CLC.

Looking forward to attending Grand Lodge Annual Communication in San Francisco early next month.

In the meantime, I have been working on putting together a progressive line of officers for next year, if nominated and elected of course. If you are interested in becoming more involved as an officer, please reach out to me.

From the Heart,

Hon. Mark A. Flint, 32° KCCH SW / Treasurer

Palm Springs Scottish Rite

Palm Springs Scottish Rite Cap and Ring Ceremony



Daniel Nates, 32°



Raymond Torres, 32°



James Lee, 32°

Palm Springs Scottish Rite Cap and Ring Ceremony



RiteCare Childhood Language Center



RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley, October 2026

Fall is finally here, and it's starting to cool off a bit. By the time our Valley's Fundraising **Golf Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026**, is here, the mornings will be perfect for golf. We are still securing sponsors for the tournament and are seeking donors for the Silent Auction to be held there. This will take the help of all our members. If you have any thoughts on someone or a business that would like to sponsor a hole in the golf tournament or offer an auction item, please drop me a note. And golfers, please sign up to play. Please sign up soon so we can get an accurate player count. Bring your friends! Margo Hiesner, our event Chair, has been busy securing donations and planning this event to support our Language Center. We need everyone's help and participation as we move forward. I cannot say this enough.

Zack Whittet, our SLP at the Language Center, is working hard with our students and doing more evaluations. He is maintaining a waiting list of children to fill in as openings occur.

Please remember the Language Center is our Charity, and it can't survive without your help. If you have already sent in your dues for this year, please send a check to the Foundation with "Coachella Valley CLC" in the memo line; everything helps.

Thank you for all your past and future support in giving speech a chance; the children deserve it.

Hon. Dan Oates 32° KCCH

Chairman,

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley

Message from Almoner

Dear Brethren,

Thank You for contributing to the fund this September 23, 2026.

I want to thank all the brethren for your continued support of the Almoners Fund. It's up to us. Your contributions, keep our Almoners Fund at the ready, to aid and assist those in financial distress. Let's keep up the good work.

Please reach out to me if I may be of assistance. All referrals to the Almoners Fund are completely confidential.

Thank You,

Roger Roberts 32°

Almoner Phone [760-777-0796](tel:760-777-0796)

E-mail: RogerRoberts_PSSR@outlook.com



New from the Supreme Council

Master Craftsman Online College

www.craftsmancollege.org

Request Online Petition for your Valley

www.scottishrite.jotform.com/

Scottish Rite Journal Podcast

Scottish Rite YouTube Channel

Scottish Rite Research Society



Hiram Award to Brother Gary Okamoto 32°



**COACHELLA
MASONIC LODGE #476**

**IS PROUD TO HONOR
WORSHIPFUL GARY OKAMOTO P.M.
WITH THE HIRAM AWARD**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

**SOCIAL 6:00PM
LASAGNA DINNER 6:30PM
PROGRAM 7:30PM**

**COACHELLA MASONIC CENTER
51100 JACKSON AVE.
INDIO, CA 92201**

RSVP BY OCTOBER 5TH TO CLINTATHERTON@ME.COM

Director of the Work



Dear Brethren,

The Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite Degree Team will begin preparing for our annual Feast of Tishri on Sunday, October 25.

This is our special event that we open to invited family and friends. For the past three years we have produced a special presentation celebrating the beginning of Freemasonry in America – “Philadelphia 1731”. Like our founding fathers, we are always open to expanding on the theme so if you have any ideas or suggestions please feel free to share them.

The summer heat is over, so it may be easier to perform our duties. And we are going to have plenty this season. Hope to see you all as we enjoy a wonderful fall.

See you soon,

Hon. Leonard Kienzle, 32° KCCH

Director of the Work



FEAST OF TISHRI

The Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite

PRESENTS

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



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

Scottish Rite Education Website

Dear Brethren,

Thank you for your service to your Mother Council SJ, California, and Valley of Palm Springs. You are a key part of our Gentle Craft. One of the key factors of building our Fraternity is educational work. The lessons that are taught throughout all the aspects of the 29 Degrees are ones that can deeply enrich our service to God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

I would like to encourage the Master Craftsman Courses that are available for all members of the Scottish Rite to help strengthen your knowledge and education.

<https://mastercraftsmancollege.org>

There are **Thirteen Courses** in total, ranging from Symbolic Lodge, Scottish Rite Education, Scottish Rite Blue Degrees, and Scottish Rite Philosophy. The vast amount of education is at your fingertips. There are books that are attached to courses and links are available on the website for purchase. A small fee is attached to the courses but, for the cost, the educational return is far and above the cost.

Small steps create large bounds. The time has come to apply the knowledge to the advancement of our Gentle Craft. Each course, question, chapter, and essay are steps in the positive direction. Celebrate your victories and be proud of where you came from to where you are. As you complete these courses, you will have become an example among your Valley and encourage others to follow on the same path. As you complete many of the courses, there is a Certificate and Pin that will be issued to you on behalf of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction. Display and wear them with honor.

Be the example you needed; we are all humble servants.

Hon. Michael J Sekera, 32° KCCH

VMAP Chairman, Valley of Palm Springs



Personal Representative



Brethren,

At our recent cap and ring ceremony, we had the pleasure of welcoming new 32° Brothers to the Valley of Palm Springs Scottish Rite. To each of you, welcome. I hope you will find in our Valley a place to keep learning, form lasting friendships, and serve alongside your Brothers.

Reaching the 32° is a meaningful milestone, but the lessons of Scottish Rite continue well beyond the ceremony. We often call it the university of Freemasonry because it invites us to return to its teachings, consider them more deeply, and apply them in our lives. We all have something to learn, and each new Brother brings experiences and perspectives that enrich our Valley.

Fellowship grows when we spend time together and take part in the work we share. October offers several opportunities to do both. On Saturday, October 17, our golf tournament will benefit the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of the Coachella Valley. Thank you to everyone who plays, sponsors, volunteers, or helps spread the word.

We also congratulate Brother Dustin Murphy on receiving the Hiram Award, a recognition of his service to his Blue Lodge. His celebration will be held on Monday, October 19. On Saturday, October 24, our Brothers in San Bernardino will hold their fundraiser, and on Sunday, October 25, we will gather for the Feast of Tishri.

On Wednesday, October 28, we will have the pleasure of welcoming Illustrious Arthur L. Salazar, Jr., 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in the Orient of California, for his official visit at our stated meeting. I encourage our Brothers to join us in giving Illustrious Art a warm Palm Springs welcome. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and all Master Masons and their ladies are welcome.

Please see the flyers in this newsletter for details and reservations. I hope you will join us when you can, introduce yourself to our new 32° Brothers, and help them feel at home in the Valley.

As we move through October, I am grateful for the Brothers who give their time and care to our work. The strength of our Valley lies in those everyday acts of welcome, learning, and service. I look forward to sharing this season with you.

Fraternaly,
Arman Ordian, 33°
Personal Representative
Valley of Palm Springs



San Bernardino Mystery Dinner



3RD ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

A MASQUERADE MURDER MYSTERY FUNDRAISER

NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE RITECARE CHILDHOOD LANGUAGE CENTER OF SAN BERNARDINO

Saturday, October 24th, 2026 | 5:00 pm–10:00 pm

Phoenix Rising Lodge #178 260 S Palm Ave, Rialto, CA 92376

Suggested Donation: Early Bird: \$75 Regular: \$90

Cocktail attire. Masquerade masks encouraged.

∞ SCAN TO RSVP ∞



casrf.org/sanbernardino

HIRAM AWARD

HIRAM AWARD DINNER

HONORING

DUSTIN P. MURPHY**OCTOBER 19, 2026**5:30 PM
DOORS OPEN6:00 PM
SOCIAL6:30 PM
DINNER7:30 PM
CEREMONYFONTANA LODGE NO. 653
16650 ARROW BLVD
FONTANA, CA 92335**RSVP**

Robertbronner@ymail.com

FAITH

HOPE

CHARITY

Happy Birthday!!

Kirk R Weiss	(October)	9th
Nicholas J Seneca		16th
Arman A Ordian		23rd
Ronald R Winkle		28th



We are always open to welcoming new candidates to the Valley of Palm Springs.

**Interested Masters Mason can contact our
General Secretary Hon. Shane DaCosta 32°, KCCH at
secretary@psscottishrite.org**

PSSR 2026 Calendar

1/21/2026	Installation - Stated Meeting
2/25/2026	Stated Meeting
3/25/2026	Stated Meeting
4/25/2026	Celebration & Remembrance - SGIG Meeting
5/27/2026	Mothers Day
6/24/2026	Stated Meeting (Luau -Hawaiian)
8/22/2026	11th & 14 th Degree Teams
9/23/2026	Stated Meeting
10/25/2026	Feast of Tishri
10/28/2026	Reception for Ill. Art Salazar 33 ^o Deputy of CA
11/18/2026	Nominations – Stated Meeting
12/16/2026	Elections – Stated Meeting

September Dinner Menu

RSVP please with
Clint Atherton
clitnatherton@me.com

\$20.00

Steak
Green Beans
Potatoes
Dessert

To Register & Pay for
events please scan the code
below.



PAST VENERABLE MASTERS

1984	*ILL. BEN LANE, 33°		
1985	*Hon. RICHARD McDERMOTT, 32° KCCH	2012	III. ARMAN ORDIAN, 33°
1986	*ILL. ALLAN CHAPNICK, 33°	2013	*Hon. JAMES PETERSEN, 32° KCCH
1987	*ILL. HARRY ZEBRACK, 33°	2014	Hon. KURT HANDSHUH, 32° KCCH
1988	*ILL. CURTIS PAXMAN, 33°	2015-2016	Hon. SHANE DAOOSTA, 32° KCCH
1989	*ILL. BEN HACKEL, 33°	2017	*Hon. ROBERT JACOB, 32° KCCH
1990	*ILL. JOHN MAULE, 33°	2018	Hon. DAN OATES, 32° KCCH
1991	*ILL. CHARLES ASH, 33°	2019-2020	Hon. MICHAEL J SEKERA, 32° KCCH
1992	*JACK KARTZINEL, 32°	2021	Hon. ROY POOL, 32° KCCH
1993	*Hon. JOE LA COST, 32° KCCH	2022	*JAMES L RIDLEY, 32°
1994	*Hon. LEN LENHOFF, 32° KCCH	2023	**HECTOR MINON, 32°
1995	*ILL. NORMAN MANDEL, 33°	2024	**STUART RYAN, 32°
1996	*Hon. ED NORTON, 32° KCCH	2025	Hon. LEONARD KEINZLE, 32° KCCH
1997	*ILL. LLOYD GRAY, 33°		
1998	*ILL. DONALD SANDERS, 33°		
2000	*Hon. HOWARD KOCHMAN, 32° KCCH		
2001	*Hon. JOHN BOWLEY, 32° KCCH		
2002	ILL. JOSEPH DiPUZO, 33°		
2003-2004	*Hon. ELBERT McKINNEY, 32° KCCH		
2005	*Hon. HENRY KERCE, 32° KCCH		
2006	*ILL. JIM LEIGHTON, 33°		
2007	*ILL. DAVE BERG, 33°		
2008	*ILL. BILL HAWTHORNE, 33°		
2009-2010	*Hon. STAN ADAMS, 32° KCCH		
2011	** ILL. MICHAEL POWELL, 33°		

* *DECEASED*

** *Demitted*

