



The Lodge 693 Trestleboard February 2012

Freemasonry: Friendship, personal growth, and spirituality without dogmatism

Stated Meeting

Tuesday February 7 at 7:30

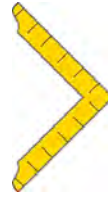


Filet Mignon Dinner served from 6:00PM.

Reservations closed. \$20.00 at the door without reservation



from the east



Looking backwards now, I see we were very busy, and it's no wonder. I feel as though I haven't come up for air since December 17th Installation. The East is a mighty chair, and the weight of it is beginning to settle on me. I love it, but there is much responsibility and work. If you're reading this, I hope you're attending Lodge.

We put on 3 Degrees last month: a 2nd Degree for Brother Dan Woodman on the 10th, a 3rd Degree for Brother Mark Hunter on the 17th and a 1st Degree for our newly obligated Brother Michael Borders on the 24th. I have never seen a Degree performed any better. it was as smooth as glass. Perhaps a few glitches, but we have grown, my Brothers, and we are worthy of the space and stations we inhabit.

We marched right into Explorations in Masonry on the 31st, and if you have not been attending classes, you are really missing out. Cesar has outdone himself once again. At the next Explorations, our Brother Dennis Williams will present Mormonism and its uncanny similarities to Masonry. These are my words; he probably has a better definition. Don't miss it!

We held a Memorial Service for our dearly departed Brother Stephan Toomer. The turnout was good and we had libation and Fellowship afterward. Stephan is sorely missed in our Lodge and certainly in the Scottish Rite.

We set out a Breakfast once again for the Officers' School of Instruction on the 14th, and have created a precedent (I hope) for the other Lodges.

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palmspringsmasons.org february 2012

An enthusiastic congratulations to **Brother Mark Hunter** of La Quinta who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 17th. This was one of the most well-attended Degrees we've seen at Casa Caballeros.

Afterwards, Mark shared with the Brethren the story of his grandfather, a Mason who lived 100 happy, healthy years and inspired him to enter our gentle Craft. It was an inspiration nourished by Mark's friendship with Brothers Joseph DiPuzo and Kurt Handshuh.

Welcome, Brother Mark, and may this milestone on your Masonic journey be the beginning of a rewarding lifelong quest on this path unique to Freemasonry.

from the west



*“Every day is a new beginning. Treat it that way.
Stay away from what might have been, and look at what can be”*

Greetings from the West, Brothers:

As you all know we started this year off with a bang! My goal for this year is to do 20 degrees by the end of the year. By the looks of it, we might even exceed that number. Explorations in Masonry night was another big hit which sparked some interest in a few young men, so we'll see what is to come soon enough.

Public Schools Month is coming up quickly next month and I'll need some help from a few of the brothers to make sure this goes well. If you're interested please call me at [760-275-1943](tel:760-275-1943) . It's the best way to reach me.

To the Officers, we'll be doing a lot of Degrees this year, so if there are things you need to qualify for the next year lets start knocking them out. Plus, let's encourage new members to join in and get thier feet wet so we can continue a fresh line of officers year after year.

As always, if you have any ideas which might benefit Masonry, our little Lodge, or our communities, please bring them up

“May peace be with us as we walk the journey together “

Ted Parker, Senior Warden

760-275-1943

tedparker93@yahoo.com

From the Grand Lodge of California

Masons have always championed public education.

Today, our leadership is needed more than ever.

California ranks near the bottom in the United States for child literacy, a crucial building block of education. The vast majority of low-income families don't have a single book in their homes. Nine out of 10 children who cannot read at grade level by 3rd grade *will never catch up*.

By focusing our resources on child literacy, we can make a profound difference in California public education.

Grand Master Frank Loui's Project aims to provide the Raising a Reader program to those who need it most - kindergartners in California's lowest-performing public schools, who are at the highest risk for educational failure.

Join us for our **April Stated Meeting** to learn more about what the Fraternity is doing to *turn the page in child literacy*. Mark this event on your calendar!





Brother Dan Woodman of Landers received one of three Degrees during the very busy month of January at Lodge 693. Dan was Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on January 10th. Great job, Brother Dan; may your Masonic journey continue to be a rewarding one!

...milestones



A warm, sincere welcome to the newest Brother of Lodge 693, **Michael Borders** of Palm Springs, Initiated on January 24th.

Brother Michael had long been intrigued by the Masonic presence of Casa Caballeros in his neighborhood. The seed of interest was nurtured by reading and watching the History Channel (ahem....not always the most accurate source of info on Masonry, but that's another story). Finally, a surprise announcement by Michael's out-of-state stepbrother that he himself was entering our Craft spurred Michael into action.

Michael described his Initiation as "impressive," particularly at a powerful moment in the Degree when he realized that all these Brothers were there just for him.

Well said, Brother Michael. Great to have you with us, and may these first steps on your Masonic journey be the beginning of Light and enrichment in the years ahead!

february at our lodge

450 s. avenida caballeros, palm springs



- Tue Feb 7 7:30PM Stated Meeting** Filet Mignon Dinner served from 6:00PM. Donation \$20 at the door without reservations.
- Tue Feb 14 6:00PM Sweethearts' Night**
- Sat Feb 18 9:00 AM Officers' School of Instruction at Coachella Lodge #476.** Topic is Candidate Investigations, presented by Inspector Richard Davis, PM. Light Breakfast and fellowship from 8:00AM, class begins promptly at 9:00AM. Not just for Officers, open to Masons of all Degrees.
- Mon Feb 20 6:30PM Officers' Practice for tomorrow night's Degree**
- Tue Feb 21 7:30PM 1st Degree Mr. Bernard Shannon.** Also, Brother Dave Matthews will deliver his 3rd Degree proficiency. Dinner served from 6:00PM
- Thu Feb 23 5:00PM Hall Association Monthly Meeting.** All Master Masons of Lodge 693 welcome to attend. If you have a topic to be brought before the Hall Association, please contact Brother Kurt Handshuh at least 24 hours in advance so the item may be placed on the agenda.
kurtlends@gmail.com
- Tue Feb 28 6:30PM Explorations in Masonry.** "Mormons and Masons: The Similarities" presented by Brother Dennis Williams

*Note: Above is the February schedule as of Lodge 693 Trestleboard publication date. Updates and changes are **always** announced via e-mail and via the following:*

Lodge website www.PalmSpringsMasons.org

Twitter @Lodge693

Facebook at **Palm Springs Masonic Lodge #693**

If you'd like to be on the e-mail list, just drop a note to 693Trestleboard@gmail.com

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Kurt Handshuh
General Manager
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from the east continued

It was fun, very instructive and our bellies were full. Our Brother John Cover Spear was excellent in his presentation regarding the importance of maintaining our dues. He also discussed several of the benefits we are privileged to enjoy as a result of our membership.

I have an Event planned for May 15th that you all need to mark on your calendar now! Masonic Outreach Services will make a presentation that you will definitely want to attend. We will have food, refreshment and a presentation starting at 6pm. You'll want to bring your wives and children so that they're aware of what is available to them as a result of being in the Great Family of Masons.

I want to remind you that I have Sweethearts Night planned for February 14th at 6pm. The Event will be catered: Tournedos of Beef and Scampi, Men \$25, our Ladies eat FREE!, I have a strolling magician who will please you very much. He's very talented and warm and will mix in easily.

We will also have a First Degree and a 3rd Degree Proficiency on February 21st.

The Winter solstice has come and gone; the gates of Spring are unlocked, and long as Nature shall endure, despite all the wicked powers that rule the wintry midnight hours, the Sun shall from the grave arise, and tread again the summer skies.

Fraternally and sincerely,

Luther Wood, Master
760-567-9724
lhw1972@gmail.com

from the south



Greetings brothers, friends, and family. January was such a great month filled with fun and fellowship! The officers here put on such great Degrees. Brother Kurt Handshuh and Mike Nyswonger always cook such great meals from the heart and soul. You definitely don't want to miss out on any of their home cooked meals. Worshipful Past Master Cesar Rubio always shines his light so bright on our Explorations in Masonry. There's plenty of light here in Palm Springs Lodge!

The positive energy at this Lodge is strong. I am so excited at what February is going to bring us. Please check our calendar and join us in the festivities. Being in Palm Springs, is such a great gift and we always appreciate our many visitors from the Lodges all around the world. We are also experiencing a wave of many prospects interested in Freemasonry. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Fraternally,

David Pucksoontorn, Junior Warden
glck40boi@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Stephan Toomer (33 degree)

Brother Stephan Toomer was remembered Sunday January 15th at Palm Springs Lodge 693 by his Masonic Brothers and guests. Conducted by Worshipful Master Luther Wood and Past Master Richard Davis (Chaplain) he received a truly Masonic memorial. Eulogies were presented by Brothers Charlie Ash (PM) and James Leighton (PM) followed by refreshment and fellowship.

Brother Toomer was born 4/26/1934 in Newbury, England and died 11/18/2011 at his home in Wasaga Beach, Ontario, Canada.

Lodge Membership:

St Johns 209a – London, Ontario, Canada
Manito 90 – Collingwood, Ontario, Canada
Pacific Rim Lodge 12 – Grand Lodge of Russia – Vladivostok
Palm Springs Lodge 693 - (Scottish Rite, Valley of Palm Springs)

A Sense of Peace

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another
Romans 14:19

(report provided by Brother Dennis Williams)

Lodge 693 2012 Officers

Worshipful Master: Luther Wood
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glck40boi@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Berg
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Secretary: Oscar Rodriguez
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Chaplain: Jeffrey Huffman
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Senior Deacon: Imanuel Eisendle
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Junior Deacon: Kurt Handshuh
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Marshall: Dan Oates
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Senior Steward: Nick Seneca
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Junior Steward: Mike Nyswonger
760 464 1498 mjn770@yahoo.com

Tyler: Dennis Trospen
760 343 2129

Inspector: Richard Davis, PM
760 219 7083 rdavis4@dc.rr.com



Lodge life

Want to learn more about the Grand Master's "Raising A Reader" initiative? Check out the new Division 8 website at www.Division8Masons.com . It includes a link to a very cool and inspirational video. The big event is coming this June.



Prayers and good thoughts going out to **Brother Dennis Trospen** who has been in and out of rehab for 2 minor strokes and a broken hip. Word is that our sword-bearing brother will be making an appearance or two at Lodge 693 real soon!

Lodge 693 **Brother Bahman Nassiri** has made his feature film "The Golden Veil" available for free for a limited time on You Tube. Filmed in part inside Casa Caballeros with a cameo by a very distinguished Past Master, it's a love drama dominated by the events of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. There is a Masonic element to the story which Brethren will appreciate. If you haven't seen it, go to www.YouTube.com and enter "The Golden Veil - full 84 minutes" in the search window.

From **Brother Dennis Williams** who's been spending many Thursdays at the Street Fair:

Changing the World
Caring for Kids
Every gift makes a difference in the life of a child.



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

These three simple lines are the reason a select few brothers every Thursday night volunteer their valuable time and resources. 2011 was a good year at the street fair for the Shriners. We ended the year with a total contribution of \$28,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children. We have started off this year running with our first two Street Fairs donations each at \$1000 or more. So thank you all who participated and let's have another great year for the kids.

Many Brothers have read The Hiram Key. In the **Lodge 693 Library**, I picked up Turning The Hiram Key, by one of the same authors, Robert Lomas. Much of the book is an interesting peek into Masonic Ritual as practiced in England. The words are different, but the elements of Ritual are very familiar. Recommended for Master Masons only. For EAs and FCs - please wait.

Want some cool Masonic business cards? **Brother Don Shore** alerted me to some at Zazzle.com . Enter "Masonic business cards" in their search window. Dozens of great designs!

Finally Brethren, remember to pay your 2012 Dues!