

THE VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS

WINTER 2025

ALSO INSIDE:

ENLIST IN THE FUN
THIS YEAR

STAG & BALL SET TO
WELCOME ALL

NIGHT AT THE RACES
RETURNS

ILLUSTRIOUS SIR THOMAS E. PRAGER

125TH POTENTATE OF
SYRIA SHRINERS

AND
LADY DEBBIE



JOIN THE ILLUSTRIOUS SIR THOMAS PRAGER AND FIRST LADY DEBBIE AS THEY SALUTE THE SYRIA SHRINE, NOBLES AND LADIES AT THE POTENTATE'S BANQUET WITH DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, AND DANCING FOR A

WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 26, 2025 at the
Pittsburgh Shrine Center Grand Ballroom
Cheswick, PA 15024-1075



- Sit Down Dinner
- The New **PURE GOLD**
- Dancing
- Many surprises

DOORS OPEN 5:30 pm

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Dinner served at 7:00 pm

MENU:

Wedding Soup, Fresh Tossed Salad

Amish Style Chicken Breast or Panko Herb Halibut or Stuffed Filet Mignon

Chef's Selection of Starch & Vegetable Rolls & Butter, Dessert

*Most dietary restrictions accommodated (Specify)

CASH BAR

2 drink tickets included per ticket.

Send this reservation form to Frank Sims no later than April 20, 2025 to:
815 Clover Lane, Murrysville, PA 15668 412-260-2549

Name: _____ Lady: _____

Phone: _____

Dinner Selection: Chicken _____ Halibut _____ Filet Mignon _____ *Special _____

No. of Reservations at \$75 Per Person: _____

Check enclosed for: \$ _____ Payable to SYRIA SHRINE

Names of others in my party: (No more than 8 per table)

No tickets will be mailed – Reservations will be verified at the door.

This event does not benefit Shriners Hospital for Children and is not tax deductible.

\$75.00 per person

Reservations due by April 15, 2025

Open to all,

Public Welcome

Dress: Men-Black Tie or Business Suit

Ladies-Cocktail Attire

Hotel Reservation Available:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the

Springhill Suites Pittsburgh Mills

3015 Pittsburgh Mills Blvd.

Tarentum, PA 15084 724-274-1064

Special Rate when you ask for the Shriner rate.



Thomas E. Prager
Illustrious Potentate

SYRIA *Shriners*

DIVAN FOR 2025



Randy L. Hobaugh
Chief Rabban



G. Frederick Richardson
Assistant Rabban



W. Andrew Caldwell
High Priest & Prophet



Timothy L. McKiernan
Oriental Guide



David J. Gardy, P.P.
Treasurer



Robert T. Addleman, Jr., P.P.
Recorder



John J. Glass, Jr.
First Ceremonial Master



Brian R. Versetti, Sr.
Second Ceremonial Master

THE VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
SYRIA SHRINERS
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

WINTER 2025

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a message from the

ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE



THOMAS E. PRAGER

Greetings Nobles! I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Illustrious Sir Al and Lady Cathy on a great year. And good golly it's now my turn to enter the tee box and tee 'em-up.

As I place and survey the fairways, it's my hope that my tee shot will stay in its assigned fairway.

I want you to know I take my assigned appointment as your next Potentate seriously. I am humbled at the many nobles and their families who walked down the MASA aisle with me. I'm grateful for this opportunity to be your 125th Potentate, which was my draft number. I know there will be many hazards along the way, however, my focus will be to stay in the fairways.

At our Kickoff, I want to welcome you home to your Shrine. I have many things planned for this year. I hope that some or all these events will entice you to participate in Your Shrine. Our Kickoff, Valentine's Dance, Stag/Potentate Banquet, Night at the Races, Clown A-Rama, Bunny Breakfast, and new for this year, an Outdoor Sportsmen's Show, all will be at our beautiful Shrine Center.

Our Florida Retreat, Sights and Sound Theater, Roller Derby, Pirates baseball and Pittsburgh Passion football games will be

off-site. Ladies, we haven't forgotten about you. There will be a Ladies Luncheon for ALL ladies on Sunday, July 20th at the Pittsburgh Shrine Center, given by your First Lady Debbie.

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who has stepped up and volunteered to head the aforementioned events. We will be busy all year. Once again, I'm humbled and honored to be your Potentate. I'd ask that you don't change the channel and stay tuned for more events.

THE VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS

JAMES ELMER JR. - EDITOR
SHRINE CENTER PHONE: **724-274-7000**
1877 SHRINERS WAY CHESWICK, PA 15024
WWW.SYRIASHRINERS.ORG

DIVAN

THOMAS E. PRAGER
ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE

RANDY L. HOBAUGH
CHIEF RABBAN

G. FREDERICK RICHARDSON
ASSISTANT RABBAN

W. ANDREW CALDWELL
HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET

TIMOTHY L. MCKIERNAN
ORIENTAL GUIDE

JOHN J. GLASS, JR.
FIRST CEREMONIAL MASTER

BRIAN R. VERSETTI, SR.
SECOND CEREMONIAL MASTER

DAVID J. GARDY, P.P.
TREASURER

ROBERT T. ADDLEMAN, JR., P.P.
RECORDER

THOMAS E. RUCH
DIRECTOR

GEORGE W. POLNAR, P.P.
MARSHAL

EDWARD L. HANKE
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

EDWARD J. TANSKI
OUTER GUARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

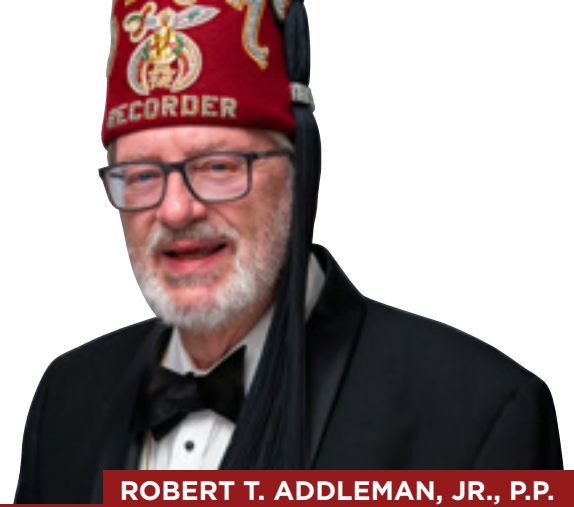
THOMAS E. RUCH - 2025
ANTHONY J. CORCORAN - 2025
BRIAN R. VERSETTI, SR. - 2026
EDWARD M. O'BRIEN - 2026
CHARLES F. ZURCHER - 2027
JOHN J. GLASS, JR. - 2027

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SHRINE PHOTOGRAPHERS:

STEVE BASEL, WITH ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY **TIM MCKIERNAN**

from the

RECORDER'S DESK



ROBERT T. ADDLEMAN, JR., P.P.

Thank you very much for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me to another term as your Recorder. I am honored and humbled to be able to continue serving you in this position.

I look forward to finding new and better ways to operate the Syria Shriners business office to provide you with exemplary member service.

Thanks also, for showing additional confidence by electing me to another term as one of your Representatives to the Imperial Council of Shriners International. I will continue to do my best to represent you in deliberating legislative matters before the governing bodies of our beloved fraternity, and its philanthropy, **Shriners Children's®**. I will also strive to identify and elect the most capable Shriners to serve at the international level in both fraternal and philanthropic roles.

Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Thomas E. Prager on being elected the 125th Potentate of Syria Shriners. Tom and First Lady Debbie have an exciting and inspiring agenda planned, and I look forward to helping them to facilitate their programs and initiatives.

Congratulations, also, and thanks to Illustrious Sir Alan R. Tedeschi, P.P., on the completion of his term as Potentate in 2024. It was a very impactful year in so many

ways. Al and his First Lady Cathie served Syria Shriners with distinction throughout the last six years, most especially in 2024. Thank you.

We have several big events coming up in the next few months. Our annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance features the oldies sounds of The Epics Doo Wop Pittsburgh on Saturday, February 8. The following Saturday, February 15, brings the return of Glitz, and their annual Anti-Valentine's Day Party. This has been a good mid-winter money-maker for us the last two years and we expect another strong show.

March brings a day-long Stag event at Pittsburgh Shrine Center, Saturday March 15, followed by the return of our big band Swing Time Nights to herald the first day of Spring, Friday, March 21, and the first of our two Night at the Races events, Saturday, March 22. Information on all three events is elsewhere in this issue. We'll also witness the installation of Amy White, a member of our office team, as Queen of Airys Temple No. 48, Daughters of the Nile, on Sunday, March 16.

Hillbilly Clan No. 53 and Caravan 20 join forces to serve you Sunday Brunch once a month through the first quarter. It's been a few years since the last time our cuzzins came outta the holler to rustle up some Sabbath Day vittles, but Raban of the Clan Ken Harvey and all his Hillbilly Helpers promise you all you care to eat of their finest offerings, all while helping our kids at **Shriners Children's®**. See information elsewhere in this issue.

Monday, April 7 brings our second Quarterly Meeting. The Easter Bunny hops into the annual Bunny Breakfast, on Saturday, April 12. And we wrap up April with the Shriners Ball, honoring Illustrious Sir Tom and First Lady Debbie, on Saturday, April 26. See the ad and reservation form in this issue.

I look forward to joining you, our new Potentate and leadership team in making Syria Shriners the best it can be in 2025. When we dedicate ourselves to fun, fellowship, and philanthropy, together we can accomplish anything.

See you around the Oasis!



IN MEMORIAM

NECROLOGY REPORT 9-21-24 TO 12-27-24

David A. Anderson

Melvin C. Blake

Orlo G. Bowser

Richard H. Broman

James L. Brown

Robert Confer Jr

Fred A. Cregut

Toby E. Croyle

Ronald P. Dankmyer

Gene C. Dunkel

Charles W. Early

David R. Elms

S. Clifford Elms

Robert G. Golden

Arthur A. Griffin

William R. Hartman

Dean W. Hillegass

Theodore Ickes

Adreon A. Jordan

James D. Kanell

James P. Lindsay

Charles Markle

James C. Mayes

G. Edwin McCombs

David C. McElroy, Jr

Tracy H. Miller, III

Robert C. Milligan

Henry W. Moore

George A. Orr

Edward W. Osburn

Larry L. Patton

John A. Pushcar

Duane D. Rausch

Howard I. Ritenbaugh, Jr

Darryl E. Ruby Sr

John J. Rufus

Robert D. Shilling

Raymond B. Smith

Robert J. Smith

William R. Stephen

Richard W. Stover

John Stavroulakis

Lance W. Westerlund

G. Richard Zimmerman

May Almighty God, of His infinite goodness, at the great tribunal of unbiased justice, extend His mercy toward our Brother, and toward all of us, and crown our hopes with everlasting peace, in the realms of a boundless eternity. So mote it be.

2025 Divan and Appointed Officers



VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS EDITORIAL CALENDAR

ISSUE
SPRING 2025

DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MARCH 21st

THE MAGAZINE IS IN MAILBOXES ABOUT FIVE WEEKS AFTER DEADLINE.
PHOTOS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! PLEASE INCLUDE THEM WITH YOUR ARTICLE!

SUBMIT YOUR MATERIAL AT www.syriashriners.org/submit



Roadrunners Had a Good Year

The Roadrunners had a good year. We are delighted with our new garage. We drove in many parades, and we transported many kids in 2024.

BY ALVIN DOUGLAS

This year we have added several new drivers and lost a few. We have added several new patients and lost a few.

We are all getting older. We accept children up to 18 years of age, and existing patients may be cared for a little longer under special circumstances. We have transported several kids that were only a few weeks old, and some have been transported all their lives.

During the 2024 MASA convention at Virginia Beach, Noble Raymond Schmidt was elected 1st Vice-president of the MASA Shepherds/Roadrunner group. Good luck, Ray.

Noble Dave Richards is a member of Washington Lodge #164 and Chairman of the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club. He presented

a check for \$1,000.00 to Syria Shrine Transportation Fund. This was part of the proceeds from the 21st Annual Blue Ride held earlier this year.

Pictured from left: Noble Rodney Bush, III Sir Al Tedeschi, Noble Dave Richards, Noble Ron Plesh, Noble Rick Cross and Noble Al Douglas.

We have several patients that meet us at the garage for the Philadelphia trips. They appreciate our heated bathroom after that long trip. The drivers all love this garage, but there are some Shriners that don't like it, don't know that it is paid for, and that it doesn't cost Syria Shrine anything.

The garage is paid off. Not from the Transportation Fund, not from the Syria

general checking account, and not from the Syria Investments. It did not cost Syria Shrine anything but a loan for several months.

I would like to review the history of the garage, but first review Roadrunner history. When Syria Shrine was relocated from the old Syria Mosque in Oakland to our new building, the only basement in this building is in the rear quarter of the building. We had a 2-car tandem garage for one van. Over the years with patient demand, we now have 3 vans, and the garage is used for tractors, mowers, and snow removal equipment. The vans were moved to the parking lot and the pavilion in the winter. Drivers have been asking about a garage ever since we were moved to the parking lot.

In 2019 III. Sir William Weiss gave us permission to open a Garage Building Fund. By the end of the year we had several thousands of dollars in the fund.

In 2020 Ill. Sir Donald Taylor gave permission to get bids for the garage (the covid year). It was the Potentate's project, and all his funds were added to the Garage Building Fund. It was fall before we could get any bids. The 3rd and lowest bid came in late December after the December board meeting for a metal building. The contract was signed to lock in the amount.

At the January 1st Quarterly Zoom Meeting in 2021, Ill Sir Donald Green tabled the project until the next Quarterly meeting. There were too many questions and not enough answers for the project.

At April's Quarterly Meeting the garage project was proposed, voted on by the members present, and overwhelmingly passed. Then the metal building could not be delivered. It was back logged for over a year, and the design had to be changed. A stone and red metal roof to match the main building was the new design. Five anonymous Noble's donated thousands to pay for the added charge.

In 2022 Ill Sir Terry Steinheiser helped getting the funds for the Garage Building Fund. By spring the garage was completed, and the bill was paid. We did not borrow from a bank to make up the difference, but we did borrow from the Shrine to pay off the contract.

By the end of December 2022, thanks to Washington Caravan No. 2 and Butler Caravan No. 14 who made large donations, plus many others, the building fund had enough to pay back the loan to Syria Shrine.

Thanks to all the individuals, Nobles, churches, Blue Lodges, Units, Clubs, Caravans and memorials for the donations to build our garage.

The garage has been paid off since 2022, and it did not cost Syria Shrine anything but a loan for several months. Also, Syria receives



rent, to cover additional taxes, insurance, and utilities. These funds come from Roadrunner parade donations and the Transportation Fund.

The drivers and patients are delighted the van wraps are not fading out anymore and that the vans are kept clean and out of the elements.

We are lucky in this Temple to have all the support needed to complete our mission to take care of the kids.

We drive so kids can walk!

"First Choice"
Wine & Beer Festival
Uncork the Fun!
Wine, Beer & Chocolate Tasting Event

First Choice Wine Festival
May 17, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Shriners Center Pavilion
1877 Shriners Way
Cheswick, PA

Live Music - Food Vendors - Crafters

For more information call
Jim Cornwell - 412-952-1275

HILLBILLY BALL

HOSTED BY THE THREE RIVERS HILLBILLY CLAN #53

Saturday, July 19th, 2025 at the Pittsburgh Shrine Center Grand Ballroom

Doors open at 5pm, creek water, libations, and little tasty vittles 5pm-6pm.

A fancy feast fit for the hillbilly family at 6:30pm

Music and Dancing from 7:30pm-10:30pm with
Country Artist: **Joe Partick and Four on the Floor**



\$50.00 per person—all are welcum!

Cash Bar

Let us know ya'll are comin' by July 6th

Dress:

Guys: Hillbilly Tux preferred (bibs, button down shirt, tie/bow tie optional) or Jeans & Button Down Shirt if your bib are gettin' warshed down at the creek.

Gals: Your best Sunday go to meetin' summer dress

Hey Grandpa, What's for Supper: Golden Fried Chicken, Homestyle Meatloaf & Gravy, Garlic Smashed Redskin Taters, Buttered Carrots, Corn on the Cob, Cole Slaw, Fresh Baked Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee ***Cash Bar***

*Bring the family, invite your Shriner & Masonic friends to show them what the Hillbilly's and the Shrine is all about!
All are welcum' to attend and have a ball!*

**WHO WILL BE THE 2025 THREE RIVERS
HILLBILLY CLAN #53 POSSUM QUEEN?**

**50/50 & BASKET RAFFLES. SO BRING UR
FOLDN MONEY**

Listen Here, this is the imporent' stuff... No tickets will be mailed, reservations will be verified at the barn door. Open Seating This 'ol shindig benefits the Shriners Hospital for Children and is not tax deduceable, so don't even try it!

Send this here reservation form to Cuzin' Jeremy Manners,
Guardian of the Still, no later than **July 6th** to:
PO Box 11, East Vandergrift, PA 15629, Phone # for questions: 724.575.0900

Name: _____ Lady: _____

Family/Friends: _____

Number of Reservations: _____ at \$50/person = \$ _____

Please enclose a check payable to: **Three Rivers Hillbilly Clan #53**



Caravan 20's Theater Trip Returns for a Second Act this Summer!

Caravan 20 is heading back to Lancaster for another theater trip! If you missed the first trip, don't miss the next trip coming this summer from July 22nd-23rd.

BY ANDY CALDWELL

We leave the Shrine on 23rd. First stop is lunch and shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village. We stay at the Double Tree Willow Hotel, then on to the Dutch Apple Theater to see 'Wizard of Oz on the 22nd with buffet dinner. Hotel breakfast the following morning is included. Then it's off to Sights & Sounds Theater for a production of 'Moses.' Then we visit

Shady Maple Buffet before returning home on Wednesday.

For more information on how you can join this amazing trip, contact Andy Caldwell by phone 412-580-6571 or email andycaldwell60@gmail.com. The cost is only \$557.00 per person, and you may mail your checks to Andy Caldwell, 806 Wild Violet Dr., Pittsburgh, PA, 15239



JOIN ILLUSTRIOUS SIR
THOMAS PRAGER
At the
WELCOME HOME STAG
March 15, 2025
Pittsburgh Shrine Center
3 pm Social with Shrine Units - 5 pm Dinner and Program
7-? Afterglow with the Potentate
Catering by John Marshal, Dress: Coat & Tie or Unit Dress
Meet Your Brothers, Bring a Mason, Enjoy YOUR Shrine

Tickets \$40 checks payable to Syria Shriners or purchase online
RSVP mail to Syria Stag c/o 1060 Meridian Road, Renfrew, PA 16053



PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS







News from the Hills

Howdy cuzins! Our Christmas shindig was a hoot!! Thank you ta all yinz cuzins that came out ta celebrate the holidays with us!

BY BECKY HARVEY

I'd like to give a congrats to our big winner of the Giant Eagle gift card Raffle, Cuzin Lee Pfeifer. We will be rollin' out the next raffle (or 2) for the spring. Keep an eye out for tickets. Yur not gonna want to miss 'em!

We have a ton of fun planned for this year!

We're teaming up with Caravan 20 and cooking Brunch! Jan 19th, Feb 16th, and March 23rd. 9am- 2pm at the Pittsburgh Shrine Center. We're gonna have TONS of delicious foods buffet style.

Our spring spaghetti dinner is on April 6th from 12-6. Bring out all yur kin folk (and friends too!) and fill up yur bellys! All you can eat spaghetti (with cuzin Jeremy's almost famous sauce), salad and Italian bread. And of course, indulge your sweet tooth at the bake sale! Take-out orders will be available to swing in fer pick up or take one home for



tomorrows dinner too!

THE HILLBILLY BALL IS BACK!!!! Make sure all ya'll mark yur calendars fer July 19th.

Flyers will be circulating shortly so get yur reservations in once you get your hands on one! Its gonna be an awesome night!

Parades are starting to get lined up so if you wanna have a good old time riding on the trailer with us cuzins, let us know and we will get you the line up details. Our parade schedule will be posted on the Facebook page as we get them finalized.

We've got a few other ideas floating around for the summer and fall so make sure you're checkin on the Facebook page for updates as they come in!

Lastly on a sad note, one of cuzins, Adam Keathley, has unfortunately had his cancer return. If anyone is willing to donate anything (or even send cards etc.) to help him out as he gets through his treatments and is temporarily separated from his family, you can reach out to Brad and we will make sure it makes it to him (or of course you can reach out to him directly.)

We would like all cuzins to keep Adam, as well as cuzin Debbie H, in your thoughts and prayers as they fight to heal and keep their spirits high in these difficult times.

HONOR THE COB!

Ladies Night: A Huge Success!

Ladies Night was a resounding success! We had a very good turnout, and thankfully, the event proceeded smoothly.



BY BRIAN R VERSETTI SR

We showered the ladies in attendance with gifts of appreciation for all they do for us Nobles. As they entered, each received a rose and a \$25 gift card to Target for their personal use.

We seated at their tables in the ballroom where they found souvenir cups filled with small treats, donated by Ken, Kay, and Becky Harvey and Brad Fleig. After a delightful dinner with salads served by us men, the ladies were asked to check their tickets to see if they matched the numbers called. If there was a match, (hint: everyone had a match) they notified us, and we presented them with another lovely gift, ranging from an additional \$25 gift card to a wine basket, a bouquet of flowers, or a box of chocolates.

These gifts were made possible by the generous donations of clubs, units, and caravans as well as our Illustrious Sir and First Lady.

Following the gift presentations, a live band entertained the guests.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who attended, to all the clubs, units, and caravans that contributed to the gift fund, and to Illustrious Sir Al and First Lady Cathie for this wonderful idea, and the opportunity to chair this event!

**THE PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER
PRESENTS...**

**SATURDAY
MARCH 22, 2025**

**OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**



**DOORS OPEN
5:00 PM
DINNER
6:00 PM
FIRST RACE
7:00 PM**

A NIGHT AT THE RACES!

**Admission \$25 Per Person - Walk-Ins Welcome!
An additional \$10 Per Person Makes You a Horse Owner
Purchase a Table of 8 General Admission for \$160!
If your horse wins, you win \$50
Want to sponsor a race? \$100**

**FOOD * SOFT DRINKS * COFFEE * BEER * 10 RACES * TRIFECTA * AUCTION
RACE * CHINESE AUCTION * 50/50 * OTHER SMALL GAMES OF CHANCE**

RACE REGISTRATION FORM

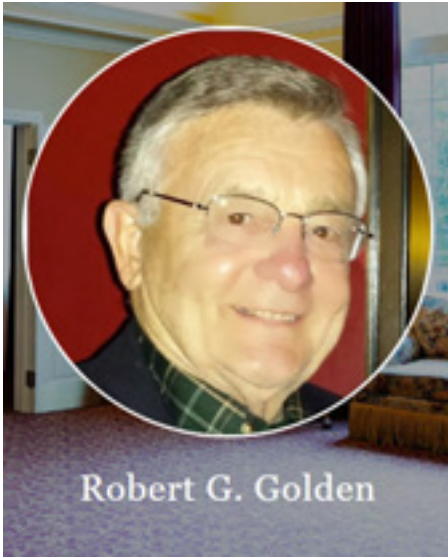
NAME: _____	PHONE: _____
ADMISSIONS _____	@ \$25.00 PER PERSON = _____
HORSE PURCHASES _____	@ \$10.00 PER HORSE = _____
TABLES OF 8 _____	@ \$160.00 PER TABLE = _____
RACE SPONSOR _____	@ \$100.00 PER RACE = _____
	TOTAL = _____
HORSE OWNER	HORSE NAME
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**PLEASE SEND REGISTRATION AND HORSE PURCHASE FORM
WITH YOUR CHECK (PAYABLE TO SYRIA SHRINE CENTER) TO:
RAY AND PATTY LANGER
717 ATEN ROAD
CORAOPOLIS, PA 15108
plang57@comcast.net
412-576-6256 (C)**

This event does NOT benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children.
The event is for the benefit of Syria Shrine and is NOT deductible as charitable contributions.

Flying Fezzes Forward for 2025

It is with profound sadness, We remember our Brother, Mentor, Skilled Pilot, and True Gentleman Robert “Bob” Golden.



BY CRAIG J. “BUZZ” CONROY

You served the Masonic Order and your beloved Shrine in numerous ways and offices,

FINAL CHECKRIDE

Do not look at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I'm up in the sky.
I've passed my final checkride.
And now I'm free to fly.
To places I've only dreamed of,
while flying mortals through the sky.
Do not grieve for me, for I'm free to fly.
Do not grieve for me, for I did not die.
I just joined the flying club in the sky.

Bob Golden an avid aviator of Cranberry Twp, PA passed away a few days after his 88

birthday. He is survived by his beloved wife Susan, 6 Children 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

He personified a gentleman and a friend to all whose life he touched.

A Veteran of over 20 years in the USAF retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant serving honorably as an Explosive Ordinance Disposal technician responsible for rendering safe explosive hazards, road side bombs, land mines, and other explosive devices. He had the honor of working with the US Secret Service providing Explosive Ordinances Disposal support for Presidential and Vice Presidential visitations in various venues.

Member of the Condor Aero Club, Zelenople airport and an avid private pilot. Successful business man and founder of Golden Equipment Co., Inc, Mars, PA. He was a member of Grace Church.

Bob and the late Rev. David Kinsey P.P., developed the idea for a Parade Float Plane for the Shrine “The Spirit Of Pittsburgh”. The Plane was framed as a public relations tool to represent the Flying Fezzes who raise money for the 22 Shriner Children's Hospitals. Bob and his crew designed and built the plane used in hundreds of parades.

Bob served in various capacities in numerous organization including Secretary / Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Flying Fezzes. An active member of the Legion of Honor.

Flying Fezzes are the fun, flying unit of The Finest Fraternity on the EARTH or in the AIR who never lose sight of our mission The Shrine Hospitals. For Children.

Our Glass Propeller Award



Flying Fezzes Forward for 2025

Our 2025 Year features our annual Raffle featuring Executive Flight

over Pittsburgh for Two viewing the major landmarks and stadiums (stadia) and the three rivers.

This raffle includes 5 separate drawings Executive Flight for Two over Pittsburgh \$250 Southwest Airlines Gift Certificate \$100 gift card for Longhorn/Olive Garden \$100 gift cards for Sheetz Primanti Bros. Family Fun Pak

Our members will visit Beaver County Airport with a Tour of all the facilities hosted by Bro Eric Stormy Stormfels. Stormy is our new President, a high skilled Flight Instructor and FAA certified examiner and former President of the Air traffic controllers @ Greater Pittsburgh and an official of the National Air traffic controllers Union.

Vic Perry, is our new secretary. Vic is a member of the Wilbur Wright Society, an invitation only society of the FAA for 50 years of safe and successful piloting.

We will visit and meet and be hosted by Brother Don Gilbert @ Bro Arnold Palmer Airport in Latrobe, PA including the Museum and the FBO this Spring.

Three additional special events are in the planning stages look for details in the next Issue of the Voice.



February 13, 2025 Syria Rode Rigs & Syria Provost Guard
Italian / Turkey / American Hoagie & Sunseri Pepperoni Rolls Sale
Delivery – Thursday or Friday, Feb. 13th or 14th

NEW – American Hoagie (Salami, Cooked Ham, Bologna & Fixins)



Regular Pepperoni Roll

Atomic Pepperoni Roll (Has Pepper Mix)

Hoagies - \$11.00 each, Sunseri Pepperoni Rolls (Regular & Atomic) - \$11.00 each

SOLD BY: _____

NAME	NO. ORDERED					TOTAL
	Italian Hoagies	Turkey Hoagies	American Hoagies	Reg. Pepperoni Rolls	Atomic Pepperoni	

SELLER TO CALL / EMAIL JOE MICKAS (724-344-0540 / STRUCENGPE@GMAIL.COM) BY Feb. 6th WITH ORDERS. Proceeds are for the benefit of the Syria Shrine Rode Rigs and Syria Shrine Provost Guard. **Any checks should be made payable to "Rode Rigs"**. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.

On the Road with the **RODE RIGS**

The **Rode Rigs** had another great year. We participated in 15 parades throughout Western Pennsylvania.

BY DENNIS CONRAD

We went to MASA 2024 and came home with a first place in the Obstacle Course competition, a second place in Drill Competition and won the Total over all High Point Trophy in the Mini Rig division. We made donations this year totaling \$5,299.00 which went to Shriners Children's Erie Hospital wheel chair fund, the Syria Shrine Center parking lot repaving project and Children's Christmas party, to name a few.

The Rode Rigs Christmas Dinner Party was a huge success as always. The food, drink and fellowship was nothing but fantastic. Once again Stratwood knocked it out of the park with the buffet. The 'gift game' was a blast. Joe out did himself with the gifts he bought this year. Everyone went home full and happy.

This was one of the busiest Decembers I can remember in a long time. The Rigs not only paraded, and had our own party, we also participated in the Children's Christmas party. We cooked around 1,100 pancakes and around the same number of sausages. We served breakfast and stuffed Christmas stocking decorations in the ballroom. We also helped out at the youth dance preparing Hot Dogs and Pizza and helped out where ever we were needed. As usual ,we had a good time.

Once again in 2025 the Rigs will have three Hoagie Sales the first one is February 13,



Second sale is June 19 and the last one for 2025 will be October 16.

We are adding two New Hoagies to our lineup.

First is the All American: it has salami, ham, bologna and American cheese and it comes with lettuce, tomato, onion and dressing.

Second is 3 Cheese Hoagie it has provolone, american and swiss and comes with lettuce, tomato, onions, peppers and pickles.

We still have the original Italian and turkey hoagies, and Sunseri's Pepperoni Rolls.

All hoagies and pepperoni rolls will be \$11.00 each. We had to raise the price by \$1.00 to \$11.00 each due to increases in our cost to make them. Please contact a member of the Rode Rigs or Provost Guard to place your order.

The Rode Rigs were asked to chair the 2025 Children's Easter Party which is going to be a breakfast this year. Please see the party flyer in this issue of the Voice.

Calling all Nobles interested in joining a fun-loving Parade Unit of owner operates of Mini Rigs and Mini Jeeps! We have loads of fun, no membership dues, and we provide parts of your uniform. All we ask is that you come out and participate in our unit fundraisers and parades when you can and have fun. It just so happens that we have a used Mini Jeep for sale right now, for only \$1,800.00. So, if you're interested in joining, please call President John Handshue at 412-877-4263 or Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Conrad 412-956-2245.

Remember Keep on Truck'n for the Kids.



FORT LIGONIER DAYS





The Whispering Storm

Would you believe the O L's had a **Christmas Party** in December and invited o'l Windy.

BY WINDY YARN AND FRED SHERIDAN

It began early on December 9 with a dire warning of a Limburger shortage and a notice that President Dom Pascucci had declared this an ugly Christmas sweater event. Those who know the "Gladiator" made sure they were properly attired. And with today's technology, some were even able to adorn their sweater with a picture of someone they felt sure added to the ugliness. Mike Taylor and Bill Magnotti picked presidents Pascucci and Biden. If the editors of the Voice are kind to old Windy, somewhere nearby is a picture of the O L's in their sweaters. We were rescued from the limburger shortage by Bob Addleman who called in some chits with a black-market bootlegger and kept our tradition alive with some unusually sweet cheese that soon became a memory. People ask why limburger? And I heard it said that more is more. I suppose this means limburger has more flavor or more of something, maybe odor.

I have to tell you an O L cocktail hour is not reminiscent of any image conjured by most people. The limburger hors d'oeuvres may fit well with all the German beer on tap, Jägermeister, and Riesling.. but this combination is not generally seen in society parties or country clubs, especially with those sweaters. The cocktail portion of the evening lasted several hours as we solved many of the great riddles plaguing mankind. Al Tedeschi was there and the following Saturday he hosted another party at Syria for the kids with Santa, Batman, Cinderella, and Snow White entertaining the kids. Many of the kids went home with a new bike. It was amazing seeing so many kids pushing new bikes out the door.



This being an O L Christmas Party, the evening was comprised of the cocktail party and dinner. No business meeting for this group or anything resembling Robert's Rules. Strolling around the Rathskellar the conversations were from the sublime to the whimsical. Tony Gennaccaro was explaining to Bob Truver and Rudd Van Horn the advantages of increasing the membership cap. A fatuous Jim Wehrheim was relating to Bob Barkus, Art Rauschenberger, and George Waite about the time he was abducted by a group of mimes who did unspeakable things to him. Dave Beery was telling Terry Steinheiser and Bill Fiesta the word politics is derived from poly meaning many and tics meaning blood sucking parasites. Erich Gumto was informing Al Douglas and Rick Johnson the best way to get rid of junk is to put it in an Amazon box and then leave it on your porch. In case you missed it, our Erich has an added h in his name as opposed to most fellows named Eric, which adds more distinction. Erich

informs us he will not get the h out.

Following the soiree we moved to the adjoining room, selected a table, and waited to join the queue for the wurst dinner buffet. There was knockwurst, bratwurst, three bean salad, beets, roast beef au jus, and Black Forest cake, to mention a few of the traditional dishes. The evening ended with another call back to the liquid refreshments before heading home.

Many years ago the O L Verein used to meet at Grant Bar in Millvale. A high school principal, George Clark, would capture the evenings events in The Voice and frequently imparted some worldly knowledge in his articles. George was also famous for writing the column for the Arab Patrol and playing the Philosopher in the ceremonial. In honor of the style employed by George I thought I might elucidate the history of the mansard roof. For those not familiar with this roof, it is a double sloped roof with a lower slope almost as vertical as the walls of the building and capped with a hip roof that is almost flat. The name comes from a renowned 17th century French architect, Francois Mansart. The boxy roof style had a financial advantage in Paris at the time where property taxes were based on the number of floors below the roofline and this allowed for an upper floor above the roofline or a free floor. About two hundred years later it was popular in Pittsburgh. To name a few of the buildings back then with a mansard roof; there was the post office at Fourth and Smithfield, the Second City Hall, and the Alexander King mansion in Highland Park (which is still there). and the row homes on Liverpool Street in Manchester located in the city's first historic district.

I recently learned many people write congrats because they can't spell congajulashions.

In January the O L's will induct a new slate of officers and if all goes well I will tell you how that evening went in the next issue of our "Voice of Syria".



Your presence is needed at the Annual Memorial Service to be held on **May 18, 2025.**

BY LEE PFEIFER - CHAIR

Why do we need you? Because this service is a time of remembrance for our departed nobles. Your attendance honors all nobles who now are in the presence of the Great Architect of the

Universe. Your attendance reveals to the departed noble's family the special bond we all share as brother nobles. In the Memorial Service we "remember with gratitude the lives and service of our departed Illustrious Sirs and Nobles, who, since our last Memorial Service, are now gathered into your presence

in Paradise." This service may be in many instances our last time to show family members our gratitude and love for the members who are no longer with us. We owe it to those nobles and to their families to show how much we appreciate their service to the Shriners. Some may have given a lot; some may have only come when they could. Regardless, they were Brother Nobles who cared enough to be part of our great fraternity. Whether or not you knew any of the nobles whom we will memorialize this year, I urge you to attend this meaningful service to honor a noble's life and to show their families that we too are a family that misses the presence of all our brothers.



3RD ANNUAL



MONTE CARLO NIGHT

Feeling Lucky?

You Are Invited to a Monte Carlo Night featuring:

Delectable Hors D'oeuvres
Created by
Partyline Catering

Musical Entertainment By:
DJ Pete Highlands

Various Casino Games by
Elite Casino Events
Silent Auction
Top Prizes and More

THIS EVENT BEING SPONSORED BY THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH TO BENEFIT

[PITTSBURGH CHILDREN'S DYSLEXIA CENTER](#)

A Great Evening of Fun....for a Fantastic Cause!

★ Tickets \$100 each ★

**WHERE: GREATER PITTSBURGH MASONIC CENTER
MARCH 8TH, 2025 6:00PM - 9:00PM**

For more info or tickets contact

Jack Jones 412-559-1057 or jackjones11@reagan.com

GAMES ARE COMPLEMENTARY, NO PURCHASE REQUIRED TO PLAY





Caravan No. 2 ends year with BANG!

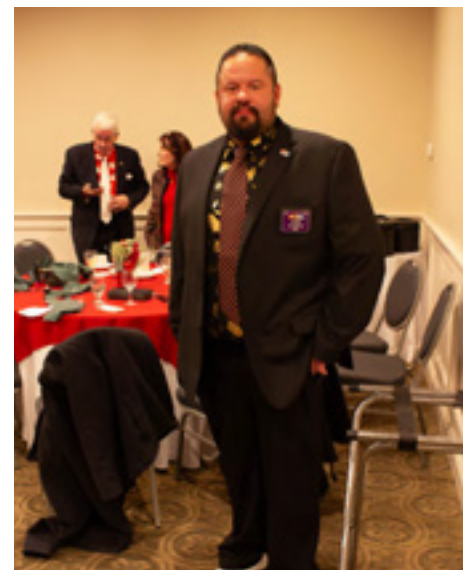
Washington Greene Caravan No. 2 held their Annual Past President and Potentate's Party on Friday December, 6th.

BY MARK J. MARTIN

This year's event was at the Washington Country Club, where guests enjoyed a Social Hour followed by a buffet dinner.

The 2025 Officers were installed by Illustrious Sir Alan R. Tedeschi, who was the guest of honor, along with the first Lady of Syria, Cathie.

2024 President Scott Carlson presented three checks to the Illustrious Sir in the amount of \$11,000 for the Transportation Fund, \$1,000 for the general fund of Syria Temple, \$4,000 for the 2024 Potentate's Project. This was in addition to the check of \$5,000 presented to the Illustrious Sir at the Potentate Stag held



earlier this year.

The upcoming Officers for the 2025 year for Caravan No. 2 will be President Timothy J. Solobay, First VP Michael E. McMillen, Second VP Pete Rameas, Third VP Dean Petrone Sr., Treasurer Harry E. Bertrand and Secretary Mark J. Martin.

Over 100 people attended this year's event. Guests included Past Potentates, the 2024 Divan, members of the Caravan and the 2024 Syria Shiners Patient Ambassador, Faith Versetti and her family.

PICK-YOUR-PRIZE RAFFLE!

Syria Shriners' Caravan 14 is giving away 11 months of prizes & cash in 2025! Winners will 'Pick-ANY-Prize' from our list below during our February – November drawing with an individual prize value up to \$1,400! Win \$600 cash each day from December 1st–10th, and \$1,500 cash on December 24th!

- ★ Seven Springs Weekend Getaway
- ★ Pirates Tickets Gift Card
- ★ Pens Tickets Gift Card
- ★ Golf Galaxy Gift Card
- ★ Osiris Wellness & Day Spa Gift Card
- ★ Butler Tire Gift Card
- ★ Luxury Purse
- ★ Best Buy Gift Card
- ★ Dicks Sporting Goods Gift Card
- ★ Public Lands Gift Card
- ★ Blackstone Grill Package
- ★ Lowes Gift Card
- ★ Costco Gift Card
- ★ JD Tractor Land Clearing Package: Chainsaw, Weedwhacker & Apparel

\$100 PER TICKET, UP TO

\$21,500

IN TOTAL PRIZES!

500 tickets sold, two numbers per ticket. Winning numbers are decided by PA Pick 3 PM Lottery drawing on the last day of each month February–November, each day December 1st–10th, and on December 24th. Prizes are subject to availability. Selected prize value not to exceed \$1,400. Visit syriashriners.org/caravan14 for details & winning numbers. SGOC#5098.

Use our QR code for more details and see winning numbers!



www.syriashriners.org/caravan14

Proceeds benefit Syria Shriners Caravan 14 and are not tax deductible as a donation.





HIGHLANDER BALL







Bunny Breakfast!

Join us for the Children's Easter Party!

When: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 9:00AM-12:00

Where: Pittsburgh Shrine Center

Cost: \$8.00 Per Person

Join us for an egg-cellent morning of games, pictures with the Easter Bunny, the clowns, surprises, an egg hunt, and a delicious breakfast for everyone!

Send Reservations to:

John Handshue

935 Sun glow St. Munhall, PA 15120

(412)877-4263 jjhpm@aol.com

Make checks payable to:

Syria Shrine

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Total: _____ @ \$8.00/person= \$_____

Each Attending Child's

Gender/Age:

Cutoff is Age 12

M F _____

M F _____

M F _____

M F _____

Reservation Deadline is April 1, 2025 or we reach 350 reservations.

We cannot accept walk-ins.

This event is not a benefit for the Shriners Hospital for Children and is not tax deductible.

Happy 120th Birthday!

Music has always played a prominent part in the Shrine. After 120 years our Pittsburgh Syria Shrine Band continues to carry on important musical traditions.

BY PEG ANDERSON

The Band had its start in 1902 when four volunteers, responding to a call by then Potentate William H. Walker, organized a brass band. It received its charter as a unit

in December, 1904. Throughout the following years, several professional musicians were recruited. Band leader Charles Easton helped to grow the Band, and directed it in many concerts and Imperial Sessions. Since the Shrine Band was comprised of Shrine

members exclusively, it was designated as the first Shrine Band in North America in 1907!

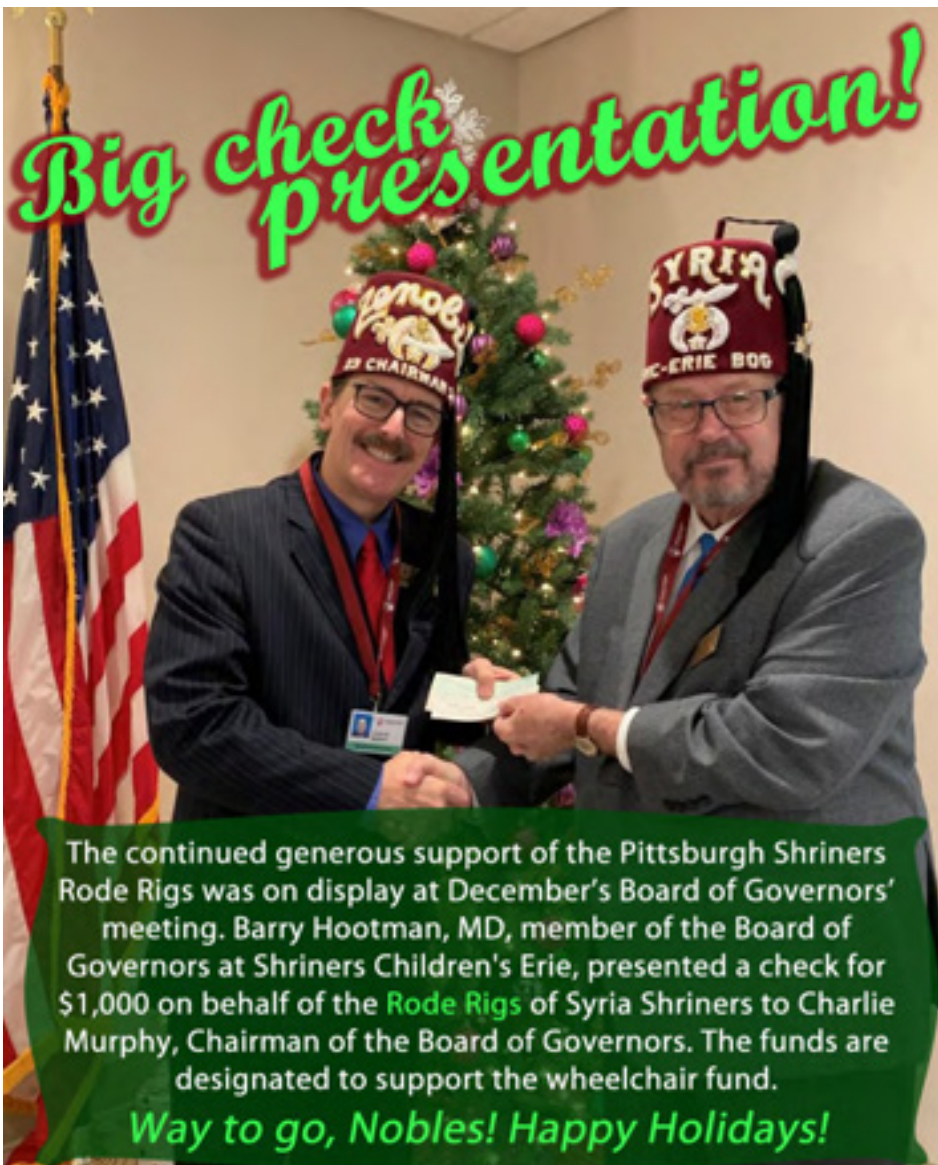
When Noble Gaston retired in 1916, Noble Arbogast became the director of the Band. He led the Band in a dedication concert of the Syria Mosque in 1916. Following his leadership, the Band was fortunate to have many talented directors over the years: Noble George Matz, Noble Fred Smith, Noble John Stephens, and Noble Robert Timmons. During Timmons' 10-year tenure, the Band played many concerts, parades, and entered band competitions. In 1993, Noble Dean Streater was elected director of the Syria Band and served for approximately twenty years, all the while improving the musicianship of the Band.

The Shrine Band is currently led by Noble Jack R. Anderson who became the director in 2015. He directed the Band when it performed several years at MASA in Virginia Beach, VA and received several first-place awards. With the addition of wives and friends of band members playing, the Shrine Band currently has a membership of almost 30 people.

The Syria Shrine Band concluded its 2024 season at the Prelude to Christmas Concert at the Shrine Center in November. It is on a winter break until practices resume in early March. After 120 years, the Pittsburgh Syria Shrine Band carries on rich traditions and continues to entertain at concerts and parades in the Pittsburgh area.

Happy 120th Birthday, Pittsburgh Syria Shrine Band!

(Information taken from an article written by Harry Collins, former tuba player, and provided by Bill Hieber, current baritone player in the Shrine Band.)





POTENTATE TRIP TO PUNTA CANA





2nd Ceremonial Master



Noble Brian R. Versetti Sr. was born and raised in Munhall, Pennsylvania, where he attended Park Elementary, Woodlawn Middle School, and graduated from Steel Valley High School in 1996.

BY PEG ANDERSON

Brian then attended Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), earning an associate degree in business management. After graduating from college, he began an apprenticeship with IBEW Local Union #5. Upon completing the program and earning another associate degree in electrical construction technology, he became a journeyman wireman. In 2007, he left the

union and established his own contracting business, which he continues to operate today.

Noble Brian met his wife, Lady Danielle, at a young age and is blessed to remain by her side. They married in 2003 and welcomed their first child, Brian Jr., in November 2004. Three years later, they were blessed with their second child, a daughter named Bailey. Believing their family was complete, they were

surprised by the arrival of twin daughters, Hope and Faith, in 2012.

Brian's interest in Freemasonry stemmed from the organization's historical significance and the good deeds he had heard about. He joined Wilson Joppa Lodge #714 (now OMNI Lodge #509) in 2012, where he progressed through the chairs and served as Worshipful Master in 2018. During his time in the Blue Lodge, he conferred all three degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason) multiple times. He also became a member of East Hills Royal Arch Chapter #268, Liberty Valley Council #50, and Duquesne Commandery #72, serving as presiding officer in both Chapter and Commandery. In these bodies, he conferred the Mark Master degree and the Order of the Temple. He is also a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, an instructor at the South Hills School of Instruction, and a member of the AMD. A significant honor for him was conferring all three degrees of Blue Lodge, the Mark Master degree, and the Order of the Temple upon his son.

In 2018, Brian joined the Shrine, motivated by a desire to assist children in need and inspired by the support his daughter Faith received from the Shriners. As a Shriner, he enjoys participating as a Rode Rig and performing as a Clown, finding joy in bringing smiles to others. He is a member of The Three Rivers Hillbilly Clan #53, Caravan #2, the Knights of Mecca, and serves on the executive board.

Brian deeply appreciates the Shrine and its members for their support of his daughter and his family. He considers the Shriners his extended family and looks forward to serving them in all his endeavors. The welcoming of his family, including his wife becoming a Lady of the Shrine and a member of The Daughters of the Nile, his son Brian Jr. becoming the youngest Shriner, a member of the Motor Corp drifters, and the secretary of the Motor Corp, his daughter Hope being invited to be an honorary Chanter, and his daughters Faith and Bailey serving as ambassadors, is a profound blessing for the Versetti family, and is their way of giving back for the care and help they've received for Faith and Bailey.

2024 CASH GIVE AWAY TICKETS

Winners

HOLIDAY-CASH-GIVE AWAY

Based on the Pa Lottery FOUR DIGIT NUMBER the week of Christmas

Dec 21st - \$500 – 0197- Cathy Zolbecki – Rode Rigs

Dec 22nd - \$1000 – 7945 – Judith Albert – Caravan 02

Dec 23rd - \$1500 - 9293 - Pete Rameas – Caravan 02

Dec 24th - \$2000 – 5851 – Richard Terolli – Caravan 02

Dec 25th - \$20,000 – Paul Schreckengout – Road Runners

Congratulations to all Winners

Lend Your Support to our First Lady's 2025 Project

As **First Lady** of Syria Shrine, my project will be to raise funds to purchase an AED for our Shrine Pavilion.

BY **DEBBIE PRAGER**

With the number of events and activities that happen here, an AED onsite makes perfect sense.

In order to raise the necessary funds, the Divan Ladies will be selling raffle tickets for a Hand-Stitched King Size Quilt. Winning

number will be taken from the PA "Pick 3" 7:00 PM evening lottery, first 3 digit number drawn is official. No Bonus or Wild Card numbers are eligible. Each ticket will contain 2 chances to win. Drawing date is Saturday, July 19, 2025. Donation \$5.00.

Thank you for your support!

REMEMBER NOBLES!

Unless prevented by a Holiday, Quarterly Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of January, April, August and October. Make a point of joining us for all the deliberations.



SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2025 - 12PM-5PM

DOORS OPEN AT 11:00AM (W/ DOOR PRIZES!)

1877 SHRINERS WAY, CHESWICK, PA 15024



Our 124th Potentate Bids Farewell

I would like to take this time to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your **124th Potentate** of Syria Shrine in 2024.





BY ALAN R. TEDESCHI

It was a true honor and a year that I will never forget. I have now obtained the suffix of P.P. at the end of my name. One that was always a dream, and you made my dream come true.

I would like to thank our Clubs, Caravans and

Units for your generous donations to Shriners Children's, the Transportation Fund, my 2024 Project Fund and for First Lady Cathie's Project Fund.

I would also like to thank the Daughters of the Nile for all of their hard work and support this year, and to the Office and Maintenance Staff for doing a fantastic job with all of the

behind the scenes work that sometimes goes unnoticed. Again, THANK YOU. We had a wonderful year together. I love you all.

Respectfully,
Yours In The Faith
AI, P.P.



Camel Wheels Party with Our Potentate this Christmas

Another year has come and gone for the Camel Wheels, and it has zipped by.

BY VICTOR PERRY

The Wheels have traveled from Prospect in the north, to California University in the south, and many stops in between. Memorial Day had us participating each day of the weekend and July 4th had us performing in back-to-back parades. Demanding commitments, but we enjoyed each and every one! Ending the season was Ligonier Days – always a favorite for us and the community!

We ended the season with the Shriner Potentate's party on November 16th at Monte Cello's in Pittsburgh.

The Wheels honored our Illustrious Potentate, Alan Tedeschi and Lady Cathie for their service this past year. At the party, representing Donnie Panzone, President of Camel Wheels, was Vic Perry, Vice President

along with his Lady Rose.

Camel Wheels presented the Potentate a gift for his support of the Shrine.

In addition to the Camel Wheels honoring the Illustrious Potentate were representatives of the Flying Fezzes.

The Camel Wheels would like to wish our new incoming Illustrious Potentate Thomas Prager for 2025 for a successful new year.

The Camel Wheels unit representative that attended the Santa Christmas Party on December 14th would like to congratulate the members that organized and ran this event! The kids were smiling from ear to ear as they ran to each game to earn prizes. The smiles on their faces confirmed what a good time was had by all. The pancake breakfast, games and gifts were plentiful. Santa even



found time to join the Wheelers to listen to the children's wish lists. We would like to also thank the Clown Patrol for their diligent and untiring work making the hundreds of balloon creations the children requested. The kids were proud of their hats, swords and animals that were twisted before their eyes. Good job, guys.

After a brief rest from all the activities, Wheelers will be renovating the bikes for the next season. We will soon start planning what events the Wheelers will be participating in for 2025. We are reaching out to local communities to see if they would like our presence in their local parades to help fill out our schedule for the upcoming season. If anyone has any suggestions on how to approach other neighborhoods, please contact Herb Brant at 412-889-6113 in order that we can pursue any interested parties. Thank you!

If you are interested in joining the squad, and you know you always wanted to drive a trike down a street, please contact Herb. No strings or commitments attached. You won't find a better deal. The only cost you will have is the cost of the uniforms. The trikes are available to ride for any new member. It's a blast!

The current officers of the Camel Wheels are President, Don Panzone, Vice President, Vic Perry, and Secretary-Treasurer, Herb Brant.



Pictured left to right: Tom Prager, Vic Perry, and Alan Tedeschi.

2025 Potentate's Trip:

Trains of Western Maryland & Pennsylvania!

Join Chief Rabban Tom Prager & Lady Deborah and Boscov's Travel for a feature-packed unforgettable trip and tour of 'Trains of Western Maryland & Pennsylvania' traveling May 1-4, 2025!



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip transportation via private motorcoach equipped with reclining seats and restroom
- Three (3) nights' hotel accommodations: one (1) night at the Holiday Inn Express, Altoona, PA, Two nights (2) at the Hampton Inn, Glen Burnie, MD
- Seven (7) included meals: three (3) breakfasts, one (1) lunch, three (3) dinners
- Tour of the Queecreek Mine Rescue Site, Somerset, PA
- Visit to the Horseshoe Curve & Railroaders Memorial Museum, Altoona, PA
- Visit to Boyer'sv Candy Outlet, Altoona, PA
- Visit to Historic Fort Roberdeau, Altoona, PA
- Tour of the U.S.S. Constellation, Baltimore, MD
- Dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
- Self-guided visit of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, MD
- Tour of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, Baltimore, PA
- Admission and self-guided visit to the National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD
- Train ride & lunch aboard Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's Frostburg Flyer
- Services of a Boscov's Travel Tour Director
- All taxes and gratuities for tour features
- Gratuities for your tour director and motorcoach driver

Call Boscov's Travel Group
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**Allegheny Valley Caravan No. 16
Penn Hills Caravan No. 20
Knights of Mecca
The Provost Guard
Rode Rigs of Syria Shrine**

You and your Lady are cordially invited to our

Annual Potentate's Dinner

**Honoring Illustrious Sir
Thomas E. Prager, Potentate**

Date: Friday, March 14, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Dinner
Cash Bar

Location: Palmieri's Restaurant
Banquet Room Lower Level
951 Old Frankstown Road
Plum, PA 15239



Dress: Business Casual and Fez
Cost: \$30.00 per person

Menu:

Grand Buffet, since it is Lent a fish will be included
Salads, Desserts, coffee, tea and soft drinks included.

Friends and Family Welcome!!

Make Checks Payable to: **Allegheny Valley Caravan No. 16**

**Send reservations by March 3, 2025, to:
John J. Colaianne, 616 Whispering Pines Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044-7854**

Name: _____ Lady _____ Phone Number: _____

Of Adults: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Sunday **BRUNCH**

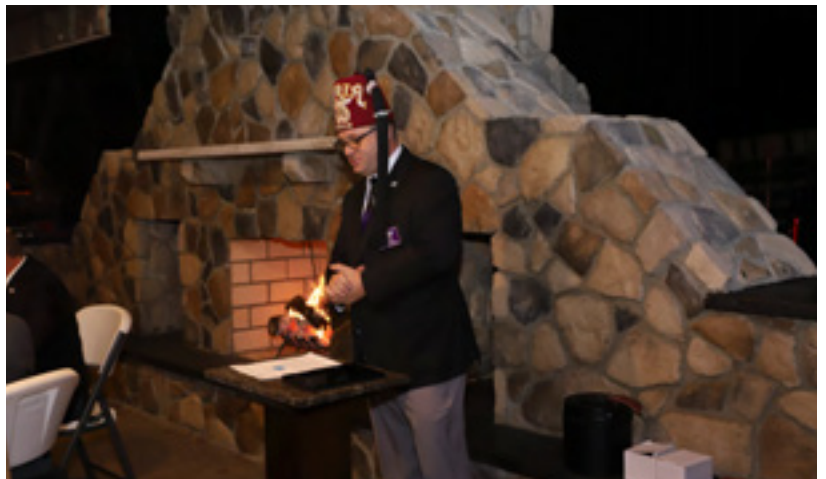
Caravan 20 and the Hillbillies are partnering to host a fundraiser brunch series this spring!

**Sunday, January 19th,
Sunday, February 16th
Sunday, March 23rd**

Cost is only \$12 and hours are 9am-2pm in ballroom at Pittsburgh Shrine Center.

Come and join the camaraderie!





PITTSBURGH SHRINE APPAREL 2025

Customer Information: PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ |

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____



ITEM	DESCRIPTION / FIRST NAME	SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
	NOTE: ALL ITEMS ARE CUSTOM DESIGNED.				
	CAN NOT BE EXCHANGED FOR DIFFERENT SIZES				

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PERSONALIZED 4 YOU

ORDER TOTAL

Total

PITTSBURGH SHRINE CLOTHING 2025


M500 SAND



MEN'S LS DRESS SHIRT

S-XL	\$41.00
2XL	\$43.00
3XL	\$44.00
4XL	\$45.00

M500T (TALL) SAND



MEN'S LS Dress Shirt

XLARGE TALL	\$43.00
2XLARGE TALL	\$45.00
3XLARGE TALL	\$46.00


M500S SAND



MEN'S S.S. DRESS SHIRT

S-XL	\$41.00
2XL	\$43.00
3XL	\$44.00
4XL	\$45.00


M500W SAND



LADIES LS DRESS SHIRT

S-XL	\$41.00
2XL	\$43.00
3XL	\$44.00

M500SW SAND



LADIES S.S. DRESS SHIRT

S-XL	\$41.00
2XL	\$43.00
3XL	\$44.00


ST241 SILVER



MEN'S FULL ZIP JACKET

S-XL	\$41.99
2XL	\$42.99
3XL	\$43.99
4XL	\$44.99

LST241 SILVER



LADIES FULL ZIP JACKET

S-XL	\$41.99
2XL	\$42.99
3XL	\$43.99
4XL	\$44.99

F243 SILVER



UNISEX 1/4 ZIP

S-XL	\$40.99
2XL	\$41.99
3XL	\$42.99
4XL	\$43.99

PC54 SAND



SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT

S-6XL	\$12.00
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G2400 SAND



LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT

S-4XL	\$16.00
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PC78H SAND



HOODED SWEATSHIRT


S-4XL	\$26.00
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G18000 SAND




CREWNECK SWEATSHIRT

S-4XL	\$22.00
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EMBROIDERY: LEFT CHEST

EMBROIDERY: LEFT CHEST



EMBROIDERY: BACK NECK



EMBROIDERY: MEN'S CUFF OR SLEEVE



PRINT: LEFT CHEST AND FULL BACK



SAVE THESE DATES!

January 19 - Caravan 20/Hillbilly Brunch
 February 8 - Valentine's Dance
 February 13 - Rode Rigs Hoagie Delivery
 February 15 - Glitz Anti-Valentine's Day Party
 February 16 - Caravan 20/Hillbilly Brunch
 February 20-24 - Florida Retreat
 March 14 - Group Potentate's Dinner
 March 15 - Stag-Past Potentate Banquet
 March 16 - Daughters of the Nile Installation
 March 21- Swing Time Nights
 March 20-22 - Spring MASA
 March 22 - Night at the Races
 March 23 - Caravan 20/Hillbilly Brunch

April 6 - Spaghetti Dinner
 April 7 - Quarterly Meeting
 April 12 - Bunny Breakfast
 April 13 - D.O.N. Craft Show
 April 26 - Potentate's Ball
 May 1-4 - Potentate's Trip
 May 15 - First Ceremonial
 May 17 - First Choice Wine Festival
 May 18 - Memorial Service
 June 1 - Erie Hospital Days
 June 19 - Rode Rigs Hoagie Delivery
 June 21 - Sportsman's Bash
 July 19 - Hillbilly Ball
 July 20 - Ladies Luncheon
 July 22-23 - Lancaster Theater Trip

SHRINERS CREED

Shriners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling diseases, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family. We respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relations will be trustworthy and our spirits forgiving of each other.

As brothers we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together we will support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we and our communities will be the better because of our fraternity and its principles.

As Shriners we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shriners Hospitals to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.



Spring MASA

March 20-22, Hershey, PA

Registration Fee: \$175 Per Person (Men and Women)
 - Fee includes Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks on Friday as well as Breakfast on Saturday
 Room Rate: \$199/night

Events:

Brewery Tour - Price TBD, Zembo Circus - Price TBD

For updated information:

Please contact the MASA Secretary at masashriners.com.

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE





Syria Shrine Ladies Luncheon

ALL Ladies of Syria Shriners,
Please mark your calendar and save
the date, Sunday, July 20th, for our
Ladies Luncheon.

Watch the next issue of The Voice for
more details and RSVP information!

We hope to see you there!

*-First Lady Debbie and
Her Divan Ladies*



It was a Shriener Celebration

On an autumn evening back in October, two Shriener groups came together for an unforgettable evening of fun and fellowship.

BY CHARLIE ZURCHER

The Syria Patrol Unit held their annual appreciation dinner, and with honor, shared the evening with the Roadrunners Club. Also invited were the Potentate and his Lady, the Divan and their families, our Syria Shriners 2024 Hospital Patient Ambassador and her family, and anyone else willing to be a part of this very special event.

This appreciation dinner in the past has been part of the Christmas season ritual, but in this instance an autumn get together seemed to be more of a definitive option. Though nowhere near Christmas, and Halloween about four weeks away, it was kind of a challenge coming up with a theme for this event. With Labor Day having passed by more than a month, our get together could hardly be called an end of

summer celebration either. Naming this event became increasingly difficult, much like searching for a needle in a haystack, except the haystack was composed entirely of synonyms for fun, fellowship, and celebration. Then just like magic it all came together! Since many groups of our fine Temple were going to be present, it became simply the "Shriener Celebration Dinner", and it was an incredible evening.

Our Shriener's celebration was held at Sunny Jim's Tavern located on Camp Horne Road in the North Hills. As you approach the restaurant, you are greeted by a vibrant digital display, showcasing their specials in vivid eye-catching color graphics. On this day, however, the owner was gracious enough to allow me to change this glowing marquee into a guiding light into a harbor of welcome and warmth for our Syria Shriners. This bright digital sign was a splash of color against a very dark and threatening sky that day and symbolized the confines of this fine restaurant as a safe haven for what turned out to be an exceptional evening of fun, fellowship and family.

As the Shriners and their families entered the parking lot, three graphics welcomed them. The first welcomed all Syria Shriners and their ladies, the second welcomed our Illustrious Potentate Alan Tedeschi and First Lady Cathie, and the third welcomed Faith Versetti, our Syria Shriners 2024 Patient Ambassador, complete with pictures. One of many highlights of the evening was how Faith's eyes widened in surprise and delight as she saw her photo amidst the bright lights on the display for everyone to see.

The evening was a symbolic celebration and representation of the full circle. First, we had the Patrol Unit family, who marches in the parades to raise money for the Shriners Children's hospitals, primarily Erie. Then we had the Roadrunner's Club who works in the trenches and transports the children patients and their families to and from the Shriners Children's hospitals. We also had the Potentate and the Divan, the leaders of our organization. Finally, we had Faith Versetti and her family as living proof and a success story of what we really do as





Shriners. The remainder was the strength of the friendships and joy of being part of a community dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others.

Prior to the dinner, I stood up front at the podium and offered a short and simple toast; "Let's make a toast. Here's to fellowship. Here's to family. Here's to being a Shriner." Afterwards, I just stood up there for a moment and as I looked over at all my Shriner brothers and their families, I felt an incredible calmness and warmth and realized that I was surrounded by the most amazing people I've ever met in my life. I felt incredibly fortunate to be sharing this moment with them. I felt so at home. I could not believe I felt so at home standing in front of almost fifty people. There was a time not long ago when I was terrified to stand in front of five people, let alone fifty!

When you surround yourself with positive people, positive things will tend to happen. It's a foundation. It's energy. It's very positive energy that we're all a part of, as well as the unique bonds that tie us all together in the world's greatest philanthropy.

To conclude, I find it rather interesting and appropriate that our new Potentate has coined the slogan "Welcome Home" for 2025. As I reflect on my incredible Syria Shriner journey which seems to become more enjoyable and rewarding each and every year, I came to the realization that I've been "Home" for many years...

"We march so kids can walk"

That's what we do.
That's who we are.
We're Shriners.



INDOOR HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW

APRIL 13, 2025

**PITTSBURGH SYRIA SHRINE CENTER
1877 SHRINERS WAY, CHESWICK, PA**

Admission \$ 3/pp

Basket Auction

Concession Stand

Get everything you need for your Holiday shopping right here!

Vendor Spaces available

We DO NOT accept Electronic Payments

Vendor Contact: Peggy Addleman

724-709-9916

peggyaddleman@gmail.com

HAPPY EASTER

Proceeds Benefit Daughters of the Nile

Syria Shrine Onion Sale

We will be having onion sale again for 2025, look for more info to follow!



Contact Jeffrey Held

412 897 1060

For questions or info

SYRIA SHRINERS
1877 SHRINERS WAY
CHESWICK, PA 15024



CALLING ALL SHRINERS!

TO THE 2nd QUARTERLY MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 7th, 2025 7:30PM
GRAND BALLROOM AT
THE PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER

2025 DUES CARDS WILL NEED TO BE DISPLAYED FOR
ADMISSION. BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUESTED.

SYRIA SHRINERS WILL BE OPENED FOR BUSINESS TO
CONDUCT THE 2ND QUARTERLY MEETING OF 2025. IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA, CONTACT
ROBERT T. ADDLEMAN, JR., P.P., RECORDER IN WRITING AT
1877 SHRINERS WAY, CHESWICK, PA 15024 OR BY EMAIL AT
syriarecorder@gmail.com.

*A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ITEMS WILL BE
DISCUSSED. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO
ATTEND.*

THOMAS E. PRAGER
Illustrious Potentate

ATTEST:
ROBERT T. ADDLEMAN, JR.,
P.P. Recorder

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR APRIL-JUNE ISSUE IS
FRIDAY, MARCH 21st**

SUBMIT YOUR MATERIAL AT: www.syriashriners.org/submit

PLEASE INCLUDE PHOTOS!