

# THE VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS

ALSO INSIDE:

OUR 2023 POTENTATE  
BIDS FAREWELL

---

GET SET FOR THE  
STAG

---

MEET OUR NEW 2<sup>ND</sup>  
CEREMONIAL MASTER

WINTER 2024

ILLUSTRIOUS  
SIR ALAN R.  
TEDESCHI  
124<sup>TH</sup> POTENTATE  
OF SYRIA  
SHRINERS  
AND LADY  
CATHIE



# 2024 POTENTATE STAG

B.M.B

**Come and join  
ILLUSTRIOUS SIR AL TEDESCHI  
and the Nobility of Syria Shrine  
for the 2024 Testimonial Stag Banquet.**

*Enjoy a fun filled day of Fellowship and Hospitality  
with Nobles and Friends visiting the Units, Clubs  
and Caravans hospitality rooms.*

**HOSPITALITY ROOMS OPEN AT NOON  
BANQUET AT 6:00 PM**



**MENU OPTIONS**  
SLICED ROASTED BEEF  
CHICKEN FRANCAISE  
PAN SEARED HADDOCK with MANDARIN ORANGE  
All dinners include wedding soup, roasted red potatoes,  
roasted vegetables, rolls, butter, beverage, dessert and cash bar



**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
SOUVENIR GIFT FOR BANQUET ATTENDEES  
All for a cost of only \$40**

**DRESS:**  
Casual, Unit or  
Potentate shirt.

**SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2024  
AIRPORT MARRIOTT  
777 ATEN ROAD  
CORAOPOLIS, PA**

**SPECIAL ROOM RATES**  
**ROOMS CAN BE RESERVED BY CONTACTING THE HOTEL  
DIRECTLY @ (412) 788-8800 MENTION THE SHRINERS**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STAG CHAIR  
MARK MARTIN @ (724) 413-0834

## POTENTATE STAG TESTIMONIAL BANQUET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ TICKETS @ \$40 EACH = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ BEEF \_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_ FISH \_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SYRIA SHRINERS AND MAIL WITH A

**SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE**

TO: HENRY MULLINS  
485 OLD HICKORY RIDGE RD.  
WASHINGTON, PA 15301

*Proceeds from this event do not benefit Shriners Children's and are not tax deductible.*



**Alan R. Tedeschi**  
Illustrious Potentate

# SYRIA *Shriners*

## DIVAN FOR 2024



**Thomas E. Prager**  
Chief Rabban



**Randy L. Hobaugh**  
Assistant Rabban



**G. Frederick Richardson**  
High Priest & Prophet



**Andrew W. Caldwell**  
Oriental Guide



**David J. Gardy, P.p.**  
Treasurer



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



**Timothy L. Mckiernan**  
First Ceremonial Master



**John J. Glass Jr.**  
Second Ceremonial Master

# THE VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
**SYRIA SHRINERS**  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

**WINTER 2024**

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# a message from the **ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE**



**ALAN R. TEDESCHI**

To the **Nobles of Syria Shrine**, I want to thank you for trusting in me enough to elect me your Potentate for 2024.

I am truly honored and very excited to serve you this coming year. I have so much planned for '24.

We are going to resurrect some events and functions from the past. We will continue improving upon our proven events, making them more enjoyable and more profitable.

I have made so many truly good friends that have supported me throughout my Shrine journey.

It is now my time to repay you all, and make you all proud to be a Syria Shriner. If there is anything that I can do for you that can make your Shrine journey more enjoyable,

please feel free to come directly to me at any time.

We are all here for the children that Shriners Children's cares for. We are giving kids dreams when kids don't even know what dreams are.

Cathie and I are looking forward to having a terrific year with all of you in 2024.

**"DOING MORE IN '24"**

Respectfully,  
Yours in the faith,

**Alan R. Tedeschi**



**BY LEE PFEIFER - CHAIR**

Your presence is needed at the Annual Memorial Service to be held on May 19, 2024. 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.

from the

# RECORDER'S DESK



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

**I am very grateful** for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me to serve another term as your Recorder and to continue representing you at the Imperial Council Session of Shriners International. It is truly an honor to serve you in these capacities.

**M**any thanks and a tip o' the fez to Ill. Sir Jerry Sciuolo, P.P. and Lady Ida for all of their efforts on behalf of Syria Shriners and Shriner's Children's for the last seven years and leading us through 2023. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir Al Tedeschi and First Lady Cathie as they assume the mantle of leadership at Syria Shriners for 2024. It is my extreme pleasure and honor to serve Al as Sadeck Azzez. Peggy and I are excited to be along for the ride.

Best wishes to Noble Jack Glass and Lady Karen, as Jack assumes the responsibilities of Second Ceremonial Master after serving on our Executive Committee and as leader

in our units, Caravans and clubs for years. I look forward to working with Jack in his new capacity.

Our first major event of 2023 after the January 13 kickoff event is our annual Valentine's Day Dance, featuring live music from the Lenny Collini FamilyPak, on Saturday, February 10 in the beautiful Pittsburgh Shrine Center Ballroom. The Collinis have wowed the crowd the last two seasons at our Thunder Thursdays series and we are excited to have them perform for us again. See the ad on page 11.

Glitz, an 80s rock band that has been very successful for us over the last four

years, plays an "Anti-Valentine's Day" show on Saturday, February 17. Our shows with Glitz have been some of the most profitable concerts we've staged since expanding that area of our fraternal fundraising in 2020. We expect a big crowd and another fabulous show.

We host our first major fraternal fundraiser of the year with our Night at the Races, Saturday, March 9. Our Stage Band returns to the Pittsburgh Shrine Center Ballroom for another season of Swing Time Nights, Friday, March 15. Parade season begins for some of our units with the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 16. We wrap up the first quarter with our annual Bunny Bash, Saturday, March 23.

Syria Shriners has many other great social opportunities for you at our units, clubs and Caravans these first few months of the new year. Be sure to take advantage of as many as you can!

## 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

**ALAN R. TEDESCHI**  
ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE

**THOMAS E. PRAGER**  
CHIEF RABBAN

**RANDY L. HOBAUGH**  
ASSISTANT RABBAN

**G. FREDERICK RICHARDSON**  
HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET

**ANDREW W. CALDWELL**  
ORIENTAL GUIDE

**TIMOTHY L. MCKIERNAN**  
FIRST CEREMONIAL MASTER

**JOHN J. GLASS, JR.**  
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

**ROBERT G. GOLDEN**  
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

**EDWARD W. HANKE**  
OUTER GUARD

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**JOHN J. GLASS, JR.** - 2024  
**JOSEPH M. MOORE** - 2024  
**ANTHONY J. CORCORAN** - 2025  
**THOMAS E. RUCH** - 2025  
**EDWARD M. O'BRIEN** - 2026  
**BRIAN R. VERSETTI, SR.** - 2026

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SHRINE PHOTOGRAPHERS  
**THOMAS RUCH**, AND HIS CREW,  
**STEVE BASEL, ROB GRATTON,**  
**LYNN RUCH** WITH ADDITIONAL  
PHOTOS BY **TIM MCKIERNAN**

# IN MEMORIAM

9-23-23 TO 12-28-23



**Noble Jack E. Albright**

**Noble Robert N. Bauman**

**Noble James L. Bayer**

**Noble Michael R. Bier**

**Noble Paul W. Campbell**

**Noble Harry E. Farrar**

**Noble Jack F. Farrell, P. P.**

**Noble Robert L. German**

**Noble Lee E. Geortz**

**Noble Harold W. Heavner**

**Noble William E. Hohman, Jr**

**Noble James Huckestein**

**Noble Robert P. Joseck**

**Noble Ronald Kilgore**

**Noble Harry K. Klose**

**Noble James Kunselman**

**Noble Jerry L. Long**

**Noble H. Martin Marietta**

**Noble S. D. Morrison**

**Noble Harry C. Palmer, Jr**

**Noble Jerome Pier**

**Noble Erik A. Pollock**

**Noble Morris Ragus**

**Noble Frank A. Ranalli**

**Noble Bert Ries, Jr**

**Noble John M. Seifarth**

**Noble George Stennett**

**Noble Edward W. Stevenson**

**Noble David A. Stilley**

**Noble Theodore M. Stone**

**Noble Jacob Streit**

**Noble Albert T. Stultz**

*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.*

# Biography of Alan R. Tedeschi, Elected 124<sup>th</sup> Potentate of Syria Shriners

Ill. Sir Alan R. (Al) Tedeschi of Canonsburg, PA was elected and installed the 124<sup>th</sup> Potentate of Syria Shriners at its Annual Meeting, January 2, 2024. Illustrious Sir Al was appointed to the Official Divan 2019 by Ill. Sir William L. Weiss.

BY ALAN R. TEDESCHI

**A** I was born and raised in Canonsburg, PA. where he graduated from Canon-McMillan High School, Class of 1970. After graduation, Al enlisted in the U.S. Army. After completing Basic training at Ft. Lewis, WA, Al was transferred to Ft. Polk, LA for Advanced Infantry Training. Al was Honorably Discharged in 1977 with the rank of Sgt. E-5 as a

Mortar Platoon Sgt.

Al married his wife Kathleen (Dayak) Tedeschi on June 2, 1973 and will be celebrating 51 wonderful years this year. They are the parents of a daughter, Yvonne (Tedeschi) DePoe of Peachtree City, GA. Al and Cathie have a son-in-law Allan and one grandson Blake.

Al was employed by Pittsburgh Consolidated Coal Co. for 15 years, first as a machine operator, and then as a

Section Foreman. The past 36 years Al has owned and operated ART WORKS, a custom sign shop with crane and bucket truck service in North Strabane Twp.

The Illustrious Sir's Masonic journey began in 1988 when he was made a Master Mason in Sunset Lodge 623 (now 237) in Washington, PA. He is a member of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Pgh. since 1989, the Royal Order Jesters, Pittsburgh Court #2 and a member of the Association of Masonic Veterans of Western Pennsylvania.

Ill. Sir Al became a Noble of Syria Shriners, Pittsburgh, PA. on March 1, 1990. He served as an Ambassador, Class of 2015, Aide to the Potentate 2016 and 2017 and Chairman of Aides in 2018. Al is Senior Director of the Directors Staff, a proud member of Syria's Legion of Honor, Washington/Greene Caravan #2, Past President 2011, Three Rivers Hillbilly Clan #53 and the O. L. Verein Club.



## VOICE OF SYRIA SHRINERS EDITORIAL CALENDAR

ISSUE  
Spring 2024

DEADLINE  
Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>

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](http://www.syriashriners.org/submit)

Join the *Illustrious Sir Al Fedeschi* and *First Lady Cathie* as they step back in time to 1963 at the *Catskills Resort, Mountain Lake Lodge* for an evening of dinner and entertainment and...

## Have the Time of Your Life!

Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Pittsburgh Shrine Center Grand Ballroom

**Variety Show Entertainment – 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm**

- ❖ Professional Standup Comedian **Bill Crawford** From the WDVE Morning Show
- ❖ Mountain Lake Lodge Dancers **Dr. Amanda J. Laichak & Ron McPorkle**
- ❖ Dancing with DJ **JOHNNY★FEVER**

**DOORS OPEN 5:30**

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 5:30pm - 6:30 pm.

Dinner served at 7:00 pm.

**Menu:**

Wedding Soup, Tossed Garden Salad  
Chicken Roulade or Panko Herb Crusted 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 Bob Moisey no later than April 15, 2024 to:  
105 Barley Road Sewickley, PA 15143 724-266-1342

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Selection: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Halibut \_\_\_\_\_ Filet Mignon \_\_\_\_\_ \*Special \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Reservations at \$60 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.

**\$60.00 per person**

Reservations due by April 15, 2024

*Open to all,  
Public Welcome*

*Dress: Men: Black Tie or Business Suit  
Ladies: Cocktail Attire*

*Dirty  
Dancing*

**Hotel Reservations**

Available: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn & Suites Harmerville. Special Rate when you ask for the Shriners rate.



# Our 2023 Potentate Bids Farewell

Writing from back in the corner office (which is all cleaned out) I look back..

BY JERRY SCIULLO, P.P.

In September, we had our Octoberfest. The Band of Barons were hot, and with John Marshall catering, so was the food. While the weather didn't cooperate as much, a good time was had. October was also "GGRRREAT." 24 Nobles, Ladies and friends went to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Balloon Fiesta.

The first two Saturdays in November were spent working on the Potentate's Project, which was fixing the front of the Pavilion. This included adding 4-foot vinyl drops to slow down the birds and keep the 'mess' to a minimum. This project was completed with the help of my brother Nobles James Rohbeck Sr P.P.; Paul Recklein, James Cornwell, Brian Versetti, Sr. and my son Kevin Sciuillo. Calvin S.M. McCutcheon, CEO of McCutcheon Enterprises, offered us use of needed equipment. Without all these willing and helpful hands the Potentate's project could not have been completed so quickly and well. Thank you, all.

November and December were also filled with dinners, luncheons and installing officers. The First Lady and I enjoyed each one very much.

I was asked many times this year if I have enjoyed this year. The answer is a resounding YES. The Stag allowed me to make a new friend named Rocky Bleier. He is also a fellow Vietnam Veteran and someone I have admired very much. We all enjoyed that dinner, hearing stories of Super Bowl winning football and life lessons.

The Divan worked to make some changes that will hopefully be good for the Shrine. I hope you see those efforts.

Going to the Balloon Fiesta had been on my bucket list for too many years to count. We enjoyed a seasoned tour guide and a rookie bus driver, but it all worked out in the end. As I know many of you had heard the story of "The Potentate Got HIGH in



Albuquerque".. Thanks to said rookie driver, we got to the grounds late. But, we found the best possible balloon team from Texas: purple shirts, with a Pilot who was receiving

his EA Degree upon his return home, and a grandfather, a fellow Brother Noble. The Pilot pulled my daughter Sandra into the basket and after a quick exchange I found myself taking her place and up we went. Completely unplanned and most exciting bucket list checkmark I could have imagined.

The First Lady and my daughters kept both the tour and guide aware of where I was. They graciously waited for this Potentate to return to the ground and tour bus after the ride of a lifetime.

As for me personally, it has been an honor and pleasure to serve all of you, and one I will never forget. This Temple is a beautiful building, but when it is filled with my brother Nobles, it really shines.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Potentate for 2023, for all your help, support, and friendship throughout this year. God bless you all and your families.



## The Roadrunner club continued to be active during the last quarter of 2023

There were **hospital trips**, parades, social functions, meetings, and training new drivers.

BY ALVIN DOUGLAS

During October, Brother Noble David Richards, from the Washington Lodge No 164 Free and Accepted Masons, presented a check for \$2,000 to the Syria Shrine Transportation Fund. This was part of the proceeds from the 20th Annual Blue Ride held earlier this year. The ride was a joint effort between the Lodge and the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club, Chapter 16. We are just one of many charities that they donate to. This picture is at the Masonic Center and a large donation was also given to the Scottish Rite Dyslexia School for their program. Pictured from left to right are; Dave

Richards, Ride Chairman, Robert Addleman, Syria Recorder, Al Douglas, Roadrunners Chairman, Ron Plesh, Roadrunner (and newly appointed 33-degree Mason) and Rodney Bush and Rick Cross. This picture and article were also submitted to the Observer Reporter in Washington, Pa.

During September thru December Roadrunners participated in 9 parades on weekends, advertising what Shriners do and raising additional funds. In the pictures submitted, roadrunners are keeping Ill Sir Jerry Sciuillo dry, and Hobo Joe is trying to get a ride in the Ligonier parade. Our patient



ambassadors, Faith & Hope Versetti were treated to a tour of Sarris candy factory, sponsored by Caravan #2 and now Ill. Sir, Alan Tedeschi. Early in December, the Patrol Unit & Roadrunners held a combined installation and Christmas party at the Church Brew Works in Bloomfield. Many of the Patrol Unit members have trouble seeing at night, so we had a noon lunch party. This was an impressive venue for our year end party.

The hospital trip volume was down, except for November, when we had six trips to Philadelphia. The Keys family had two appointments and an eleven-month-old Amish boy David, born without a soft spot, on top of his head. He had surgery and was there for a week. Later in the month he had to go back for a checkup, and all is well. He is the youngest of ten. David's trip was long. Upon leaving the Shrine Center it was an hour northeast, past Smicksburg, to pick up David and mom. Then continuing southeast to Philly for another four and half hours. One of the many roads passed the Gobbler's Knob entrance near Punxsutawney. On this trip we left home in the dark, and that evening arrived back home in the dark.

We have voted in six new drivers for 2023:

- 7/13 Thomas E. Prager
- 9/13 Benjamin K. Poole
- 7/25 Randy L. Hobaugh
- 9/19 James F. Schell
- 7/27 Daniel M. Carlock
- 9/26 C. Vaughn Wood

We now have three members of the Divan and a two past Potentate's as drivers and members of the Roadrunners.

When you see Tom Prager, Randy Hobaugh, Daniel Carlock and James Schell ask them how their first trips to the hospitals were. The other new drivers are eagerly waiting for trips to the hospital. So, veteran Roadrunners, please consider training one on your next trip.

Roadrunners meet every other month, starting in January, on the 3rd Monday at 10:00 am.

We drive so kids survive.



# SYRIA SHRINE VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

*You and yours are invited to attend the  
Valentine's Day Celebration  
featuring*

**LENNY COLLINI-FAMILYPAK**

*Classic Rock, Funky Rockin' Dance Music, Jam Party Band*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024**

Syria Shrine Center  
1877 Shriners Way  
Cheswick, PA 15024-1075  
6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.



- **Grand Buffet Dinner**
- **Open Bar**
- **Music and Dancing**



**\$50.00 per person**  
*Business Casual*

.....  
Make checks payable to: SYRIA SHRINE

Send payment and reservation to: Frank Sims  
815 Clover Lane  
Murrysville, PA 15668

Number of persons @ \$50.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ RESERVATION DEADLINE  
(please print) FEBRUARY 1, 2024

**Proceed do not benefit Shriner's Children and tickets are not tax deductible.**



## Biography of John (Jack) J. Glass, Jr. 2024 Second Ceremonial Master

While watching a Steeler playoff game (they won) on Saturday January 22, 1972, commercials showed a new series called “Emergency”. Watching this show, even though I was still in junior high school, I realized that I wanted to become a rescue paramedic.

I graduated from Plum Senior High School and Columbia Hospital’s paramedic program. My dream was realized in May of 1978 when I was hired by the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Emergency Services as a paramedic. My career with them spanned

34 years and during that time I was assigned to the ambulance, training, and rescue divisions.

As I gained experience in these areas I became a Pennsylvania State Fire, Rescue and EMS instructor. I also became a diver

with the River Rescue team, a Hazardous Materials Team Technician, and was a member of the Urban Search and Rescue Team. I was presented with several city and state awards related to my work. The most memorable being the State of Pennsylvania Rescue Technician of the Year.

I married the love of my life best friend and partner Karen Glass. Karen graduated from Pittsburgh Hospital School of Nursing with her diploma in nursing and later completed the paramedic program. She graduated with Her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from La Roche College. Karen retired after 41 years of service with Allegheny general Hospital’s Life Flight Team. Currently she teaches with the Allegheny General Hospital’s Prehospital Services and the Emergency Medicine Program at the Center for Emergency Medicine.

Karen and I were blessed to have our children Victoria and Andrew both of whom are grown. We now share our home with our two golden retrievers Cheyenne and Ciara and Gus the cat who runs the house!

Currently I am a life member of West Homestead Volunteer Fire Department and a lector at St Therese Church.

I was raised as a Master Mason in the Theodore Roosevelt Lodge No. 697 in 1998. I received my 25 year service award this past November from the Corinthian Lodge No. 573. Also I received my 32nd degree from the Scottish Rite of the Valley of Pittsburgh in April 2000. I have enjoyed being a member of Syria Shriners since 2015.

Some of my accomplishments since joining Syria Shriners include: Chairman of the Kennywood family picnic, Chairman of the children’s Bunny Bash, Aide, Personal Aide, Ambassador, Executive Committee, Ceremonial participant, Two year terms: Provost Guard (Captain), Caravan 16 (President), Caravan 16, (President), Hillbilly Clan #53 and Golf League.

Jack and Karen are willing to help Syria Shrine to grow bigger and better in the future.

John (Jack) J. Glass, Jr. 2024 Second Ceremonial Master.

# M.A.S.A

George Gittins will be Parade Marshal again for MASA at Virginia Beach.

He is looking for three parade marshal assistants who will be attending MASA and can help with the line-up during the Saturday parade.

Contact George at 412-401-6450 or [georgegittins42@icloud.com](mailto:georgegittins42@icloud.com)

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Jan. 13 Kick Off and Protocol Meeting  
Jan. 16 Punta Cana Trip Presentation  
Feb. 10 Valentines Dance  
Feb. 22-26 Snowbird Pilgrimage  
March 2 Potentate Stag  
March 9 Night at the Races  
March 10 D.O.N. Installation  
March 23 Bunny Bash  
April 27 Syria Ball  
May 16 Spring Ceremonial  
May 18 Wine Fest  
June 1-2 Erie Hospital Days  
June 6 Save the date (Pittsburgh Syria Shrine Day)

June 6 Thunder Thursdays Begins  
June 13-16 Shrine Circus  
June 29-July 4 Imperial Session, Reno  
July 12 RV Club Picnic  
July 13 Gun Bash  
Aug. 10 Friends and Family Picnic  
Aug. 11 Aides / Ambassadors Picnic  
Sept. 3-7 M.A.S.A.  
Sept. 19 Fall Ceremonial  
Sept. 21 Oktoberfest  
Oct. 11-13 Ft. Ligonier Days  
Oct. 19 Special Event for All  
Oct. 26- Nov. 2 Punta Cana Trip  
Nov. 17 Prelude to Christmas  
Nov. 23 Highlanders Ball  
Dec. 8 Kids Christmas Party  
Dec. 14 Appreciation Dinner  
Dec. 27 Youth Dance  
Dec. 31 NYE Party  
Jan. 6, 2025 - Annual Meeting

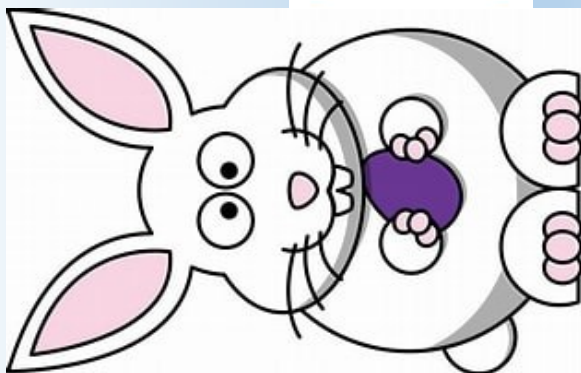


# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY





Get your reservations in for the  
**2024 Syria Shrine Bunny Bash**  
 Saturday March 23, 2024 1pm-4pm  
 Fun! Games! Music! Clowns! Prizes!



Kids ages 2 thru 12

Girl/Boy	Age	Number of Adults	Number of Kids
_____	_____	_____ x \$8 = _____	_____ x \$8 = _____
_____	_____	_____ x \$8 = _____	_____ x \$8 = _____
_____	_____	_____ x \$8 = _____	_____ x \$8 = _____

Noble: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Check payable to SYRIA SHRINERS for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservations with check to: Rob Brinkley, 1939 Winfield Rd, Worthington, PA 16262 by March 15, 2024

This event is for the benefit of Syria Shriners and is NOT Tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Reservations are required, and are on a first come, first served basis.

**DIRECTOR STAFF**

# Looking Ahead To 2024

The Director's Staff would like to congratulate the newly elected Potentate Alan Tedeschi and Divan members for 2024.



BY THOMAS NEWLAND, PD SECRETARY

We are confident that Illustrious Sir Tedeschi will lead us to a great year. It will be great to have one of our own members at the helm.

Congratulations also to the Director Staff officers for 2024

Director: **III. Sir Robert Herbert P.P.**

Sr. Assistant: **III. Sir Alan Tedeschi**

Jr. Assistant: **Alan Jacobs**

Treasurer: **Dennis Hoag PD**

Secretary: **Thomas Newland PD**

We are hard at work planning to build on 2023's success with several outings for our members, family and friends for 2024. These events will focus on family and fun this year.

After many years as the symbol of the Syria Director's Staff, we have decided to retire the parade float. The float has served us well. It provided the opportunity to entertain the crowds with many creative themes and wonderful memories. We have had everything from Disney themes, movie themes to showing our support for the Pittsburgh sports teams.

As you may know the SPOKERS have purchased several eBikes for our members to ride at parades and events. These bikes are fun, and very user friendly, and will be the perfect tool to add some excitement to parades. Hopefully the SPOKERS will be able to provide a way to keep people talking about our great organization and the children we love so much.

For anyone interested in joining us on this journey, we still have a few bikes available. Please contact any one of the officers of the unit for more information.





The Bunkey Koedel Pittsburgh Shrine  
**VIDALIA ONION SALE 2024**  
**NOW THRU APRIL 9, 2024**



		TOTAL ITEMS	TOTAL \$
ONIONS 10# BAG	\$11.00		
ONIONS 5# BAG	\$6.50		

**DRESSINGS:**

CREAMY ONION - 12OZ.	\$6.00		
CREAMY RANCH - 12OZ.	\$6.00		
POPPY SEED - 12OZ.	\$6.00		
RED FEZ - 12OZ.	\$6.00		

**SAUCES:**

ONION STEAK SAUCE - 12OZ.	\$6.00		
ONION BBQ SAUCE - 12OZ.	\$6.00		
APPLE CINNAMON BBQ SAUCE - 12OZ.	\$6.00		

ALL DRESSINGS, RELISH, AND SAUCES COME 12 PER CASE @ \$66.00

TOTAL \$

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS APRIL 9, 2024. DELIVERY WILL BE APPROXIMATELY THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 2024.

Orders to be Picked Up at Shrine Center Pavilion when Notified by Paul

**SEND ORDERS TO:**

SYRIA SHRINERS  
 1877 SHRINERS WAY  
 CHESWICK, PA 15024



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT: Paul at 724-304-1832**

All proceeds are for the benefit of Syria Shriners and are not Tax Deductible as a Charitable Contribution.

# PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT





# Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association (M.A.S.A)



## Get ready to join Syria Shrine at the **HOLIDAY INN & SUITES- VIRGINIA BEACH-NORTH BEACH**

3900 Atlantic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA  
September 5-8, 2024



Plan to join Potentate Al Tedeschi and Lady Cathie at this beautiful location situated on an impressive stretch of oceanfront on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach is a stunning resort hotel designed for families as well as groups and individuals. This Virginia Beach hotel features oceanfront rooms and suites with flat-screen TVs, microwaves and refrigerators. Relax on the sands of the Atlantic Ocean, soak up rays by the gorgeous beachfront pool, and let the kids play at Splash Lagoon. Savor fresh seafood and Italian fare at the resort's three restaurants.

Other amenities include:

- Potentate's Hospitality Room
- Poolside Bar
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- Free Wireless Internet
- Complimentary Guest Laundry Facilities
- Child Activity Center
- Movie Theatre
- Outdoor Swimming Pools
- Business Center
- Valet or Self Parking
- Fitness Center
- Express Check-In/Check-Out

**DOING MORE IN '24**

**PLAN TO BE PART  
OF THE SYRIA SHRINE  
M.A.S.A EXPERIENCE  
See future issues of  
"The Voice of Syria"  
for reservation forms  
and other information**



# 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 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 6:00PM - 8:30PM**

**For more info or tickets contact**

**Jack Jones 412-559-1057 or [jackjones11@reagan.com](mailto:jackjones11@reagan.com)**

**GAMES ARE COMPLEMENTARY, NO PURCHASE REQUIRED TO PLAY**

For tickets  
Scan below



# *Attention Writers!*

Our Spring 2024 issue deadline is

**Friday, March 22.**

Don't delay, submit ALL your Voice  
of Syria content at:

**[www.syriashriners.org/submit](http://www.syriashriners.org/submit)**

# Spring is near, or not

A bit late but, that's how calendars and submission dates go, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

BY PAPPY PATCHIN, DRUM MAJOR

The Highlanders Ball went well and "We Had A Ball"! One cannot do better than that. Congratulations to our Veteran Highlander, Frank Sims, for doing all the work in making a success of our annual fest. Frank was also honored as our Veteran Highlander. He is actually the longest serving Highlander in the band. Charlie Gledich made the comment Frank was there when the drone was added to the bagpipes. I'm not too sure about that but it does sound reasonable. Big thanks to Melissa Gledich for making a superb slide show of us over some of the past years. She and a camera are usually present with us. It was truly entertaining.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and one of the Ladies asked if we could do another one in the summer. I thought "DOUBTFUL", thinking of how much work goes into one of these so I said "Thank you, glad you are enjoying yourself."

For we Highlanders the best part of the evening was asking the representative of Jaffa Highlanders to come up on the stage and assist in presenting a check of over \$6,000 to Ill. Jerry Scullo for the transport of patients and their family members to our Shriners Hospitals. That was what we raised during the St Patrick's Day pub crawl and individual efforts.



Our next big event will probably be the St Patrick's Day Parade and pub crawl, again. It is hoped the weather will be milder than some of the kilt-chilling wind and snow we have experienced at the parade in earlier years. We are always gratified with the great job Matt Perry does setting up the crawl. He makes the time frames at the establishments, coordinates transportation, makes sure

if someplace has food for us, and that we have time to enjoy it then continue on. Every year we truly appreciate what he does and all we can do is say thank you to him.

One of our newer activities is having some of the Jaffa

Highlanders from Altoona join with us for the St Patrick's Day parade and pub crawl. It is great fellowship to be joined by other Nobles to help support our activities with Shriners Hospitals.

As always, if you would like to become one of us, ask one of us and the process begins. Sound familiar? In the meantime, enjoy life and be grateful. Be blessed.



# Pittsburgh Shrine Center

Presents

## 2024 Syria Shriner Golf Scramble

When: Monday, July 29, 2024

Where: Westmoreland Country Club

7100 Mellon Road, Export, Pa 15632

Time: Shot Gun Start Noon – Check-in 10:30AM

Format: Four Man Golf Scramble

Golf, Cart, Lunch, Steak Dinner, Prizes  
All for the low cost of \$150.00 per Golfer.

Open to Everyone: Nobles/Friends/Ladies

Dinner Only - \$60.00 per person

### Entry Form

Mail entry form for both Golfers and/or Sponsor to:

Randy Hobaugh, 39 Rosanne Circle, Irwin Pa 15642

Phone 724-858-7158 Email: [rhobaugh23@gmail.com](mailto:rhobaugh23@gmail.com)

Make Checks Payable to “Syria Shrine”

---

**Golfers Sign up** - \$150. Per Golfer X No.Golfer = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_ 3: \_\_\_\_\_ 4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual entries will be accepted and assigned to teams.**



## On the Road with the **RODE RIGS**

Well, **2023** has come and gone, and the Rigs had another busy and productive year.

**BY DENNIS CONRAD, SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**W**e participated in 12 parades this year including the Mid Atlantic Shrine Association Parade in Virginia Beach. We brought home another First Place Trophy.

Speaking of M.A.S.A. 2023 the Rigs cleaned up again this year winning the Obstacle Course competition and taking a second-place



finish in the Precision Drill competition. We also won Total High Points in the Mini 18-Wheeler competition. We chaired both Night at the Races fundraisers for Syria. We provided the children and adult games and prizes for the Shrine Family picnic again this year. We also helped at the Children's Christmas Party. We were also able to once again make a series of donations to the Shrine Center, Erie Shriners Hospital and Children's Christmas Party totaling in the amount of \$4,500. The Rigs had three hoagie sales in 2023 and are planning three sales for 2024. The first one is in February, so keep an eye out for one of our order sheets.

Our year ended with the Rode Rigs Family Christmas dinner party at the Shrine Center. It was Super. As usual there was plenty of good food, drink and fellowship. And what's a Christmas party without Joe's Gift Game. Again this year there was one gift that everyone wanted.. I think at one time all the 37 people that attended the party had possession of it. A great time was had by all.

The Rode Rigs are always looking for new members. Right now we have a Great opportunity for someone that's looking to join a motorized unit. Just picture yourself driving down the parade route this parade season with one of the most popular units in Syria, the Rode Rigs. We currently have a slightly used Mini Jeep for sale from one of our members that retired. The cost is only \$1,800 and you don't need a trailer. It will fit in the back of a pickup truck. We supply parts of your uniform. We have no annual dues and no parade quotas. We have loads of fun on and off the parade route, and we are family oriented. We can also work out a payment plan with a small down payment. So, give us a call and we will be more than happy to sit down and talk and answer any questions you might have.

Call President John Handshue 412-877-4263 or Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Conrad 412-956-2245 or Membership Chairman Joe Micikas 724-344-0540.

Remember Keep on Truck'n for the Kids!



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

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 9, 2024**

**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:**

**WILLIAM BRANTHOVER  
101 MILDRED STREET  
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010  
724-581-7052 (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.

# Shrine Band Concludes a Successful Year

The Shrine Band concluded its 2023 season by participating in the “**Prelude to Christmas**” concert at the Shrine Center on Sunday, November 26 and enjoyed a fun time together at their Christmas party in early December.

BY PEG ANDERSON

A catered dinner was served and a grab-bag gift exchange was enjoyed by all. After a short mid-year break, the band will resume practices in mid-February to begin preparations for some parades and performances during the next season. Practices are held on Thursday evenings at the Shrine Center every other week from 7 – 9:00pm. The band is comprised of approximately 25 musicians who love playing

music together.

Jack R. Anderson has served as the director of the band since 2015, a few years after retiring as the Director of Bands at the University of Pittsburgh. Michael Panza graciously serves as the Assistant Director and fills in when Jack is unable to attend practices and performances. Mike has also arranged many musical arrangements for the band.

The Band runs smoothly due to the hard work and dedication of its officers. Don

Taylor, the first chair trumpet player, serves as the president and Ken Yarnot, trumpet, is the vice-president. Bill Hieber plays baritone and serves as the band’s treasurer, and Ray Langer, tuba, is the secretary.

A group of band wives work hard to assist the band in many capacities throughout the year. Patty Langer, Linda Hieber, Bernadette Gardy, Eleanor Taylor, and Betty Balla provide delicious desserts for band members at every practice. They also organize cookie receptions, decorate for band functions, and provide any help necessary throughout the year.

Band members appreciate their selfless work and thank them for their service!

The Band looks forward to another successful musical season in 2024 and hopes to expand its performance opportunities. If you are interested in joining our group or know of an opportunity for us to play, please contact Jack Anderson (andersonp1970@aol.com) or Don Taylor (trumpetdon@gmail.com)

## *BIG Check Presentation!*

Barry Hootman, MD, Member of the Board of Governors at Shriners Children’s Erie, presented a check for \$25,000 on behalf of **Butler Caravan 14**, to Charlie Murphy, Chairman of the Board of Governors. Caravan 14 collected money through golf and lottery fundraisers.

*“Thank you so much for this amazing donation! We are so grateful for the wonderful, continued support of Caravan 14 and Syria Shriners!”*

**-Ms. Micheal Widrig**, Manager, Marketing & Communications





# All-Inclusive Punta Cana Vacation

## OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 2, 2024

*Ill. Sir Al and First Lady Cathie Tedeschi invite you to relax at the beautiful All-Inclusive Dreams Royal Beach Resort in Punta Cana for 7 Nights October 26 – November 2, 2024 . Perfectly located on the magnificent northeast coast of the Dominican Republic, it is surrounded by the natural beauty of the island. A 5 Star Resort, it features unlimited dining, unlimited drinks, best-in-class service, Wi-Fi, endless entertainment, and 24 hour room service.*

*The All-Inclusive resort stay in paradise and round trip nonstop charter service from Pittsburgh to Punta Cana for \$1,669.68 per person based on double occupancy for a deluxe tropical view and \$1,674.32 per person based on double occupancy for a deluxe pool view. Transfers are included.*

A passport is required.

# SYRIA SHRINERS YOUTH DANCE





# And Now for Something Completely Different

As another **holiday season** is upon us, we begin to partake in the celebrations of the Christmas season and the start of a new year.

BY CHARLIE ZURCHER

As Masons and Shriners, let us think of the true meaning of Christmas, and perhaps concentrate on the more significant and important gifts of life, such as giving the gift of time, the gift of a kind word, the gift of family, and the gift of getting away from the fast and stressful pace of life for a moment. None of these costs anything but they are, well, priceless.

Though this season is truly "The most wonderful time of the year" as a famous singer once proudly proclaimed, it can also certainly be the most busiest time of the year. It is typical in our Masonic realm to have a party of some kind or function almost every night leading up to Christmas Day. With this in mind, I wondered what I could do to come up with something different, something completely different, that would really be enjoyable. To come up with something that everyone would say "I gotta be part of this!" I believe a good party will be remembered perhaps for a couple of weeks, but a great party will be remembered for a lifetime. So, what can I possibly do to go off the grid in this instance? What can I plan that is completely different?

As Worshipful Master of Avalon Lodge No. 657, I have tried many different and progressive ideas to stimulate attendance and interest. My favorite being the all candlelight and oil lamp Stated Meeting. With approximately thirty candles placed in a rectangular configuration along the outer parameters of the lodge room, it gave a very solemn glow and showed us first-hand what it was like to attend lodge before electricity. During my two years as Master, these

meetings had the highest attendance and were actually looked forward to.

After discussion with our Patrol Unit Members, we discovered that daytime driving and less crowded venues were a popular request for a Christmas party. After all, this is the highlight of the year, and we want our members to attend. This is the time when we can get together and reminisce about our year marching in the streets as well as memories from the past. This is the time when we invite and honor the Illustrious Potentate and his Lady, the Divan, the Aides, and any other Syria Shriner willing to take part in our moment. It's when we all come together as a family.

I contacted the Church Baw Works in Lawrenceville, one of my favorite restaurants in the Pittsburgh area, and asked them if we could get a private room for our Christmas party. I was told they did not have private rooms, HOWEVER, if we were willing to have our party during the afternoon and midweek, we could have a private party and have the

entire restaurant to ourselves! I had to jump on this. To have our Patrol Unit Christmas Party in this beautiful old church all to ourselves would be absolutely incredible. The daylight driving, the elimination of rush hour traffic and weekend crowds certainly made this an attractive option, but what about the members who had to work and just could not get the time off? I knew I could not please everyone, but I really wanted to do this. For the people who could make it, I wanted it to be a very enjoyable and memorable experience. I wanted it to be something completely different! So, the Church Brew Works it would be!

The festive atmosphere began immediately as we started entering this incredible old church converted into a brewery and restaurant. The daylight illuminated the beautiful stained-glass windows and left a spiritual glow for all of us to enjoy. Our favorite Christmas music played as we greeted each other. A slide show of Patrol Unit pictures from over the years was shown on one of the walls close to our seating area. It was so comfortable.

This event was attended by our Illustrious Potentate Jerry Sciuillo and First Lady Ida, as well as members of the Divan. Also in attendance were members of our Syria Shrine Roadrunners Club. The attendance turned out favorable as we tried something different. Everyone had a great time.

Every year during the Christmas party, the Patrol Unit gives out an award called the



Patrolman of the Year Award. This award is an actual Patrol Unit shoe which has been dipped in bronze and attached to an attractive wooden base containing the names of recipients from past years. The award is passed on year after year to a member of the Patrol Unit who exemplifies the qualities necessary to be awarded "Patrolman of the Year." This award was presented to Patrolman Alvin Douglas at the Christmas party last year. The recipient gets to keep and enjoy the award for the year and then present it to the Patrolman who receives the award the following year. I understand Alvin kept this award on the nightstand in his bedroom. I bet his wife Gwen is really glad the year is up, and he can finally get it out of the house and pass it on to someone else!

Well at the Christmas party this year, when it came time to give out the award, Alvin called my name for this year's award. I was very humbly surprised. As he handed the award to me, I wasn't sure what to do with it. My first reaction was to hold it over my head like the Stanley Cup in hockey, which I did. Then I thought just as the Stanley Cup is filled with champagne, maybe I can fill the bronze shoe with beer. After all, we were in a brewery, and I wouldn't mind a shoe filled with Pious Monk Dunkel to take a celebration drink and pass it on to the other Patrolmen. After all, everyone loves day drinking! Right? Well not so fast. Though the outside of the shoe was shiny solid bronze, the inside of the shoe was not bronzed and still leather, old leather.



The thought of pouring fine beer brewed on premises into a leather shoe with probably over sixty years of old foot odor suddenly didn't seem very appetizing, appealing or fun, so I passed on this one. The Pious Monk Dunkel tasted much better in a glass with the Church Brew Works logo on the side.

The Christmas season can also serve as a moment of reflection. This is times when we can reminisce over past years as well as give thanks for the positive things that are currently going on in our lives. For me, every year being a Shriner seems to get better and better. I reflected back upon a time during COVID when we could not meet in person for our Quarterly, but rather had to use the Zoom internet platform instead. On that night, it's what happened before the meeting rather than the actual meeting that has all the significance. I would like to share this with you:

I logged on early for the meeting, and as the Zoom matrix began to populate, I was comforted by the familiar faces and smiles of some of my brothers that I've dearly missed. The background music played, and we sort of stared at each other with some back-and-forth conversation going on. My t-shirt and unruly hair were definitely noticed and commented on. Remember that we could not get haircuts back then, and although I was wearing a t-shirt and not a shirt and tie, at least I was wearing pants...

The background music continued to play, and then it happened. I was stopped cold. In total awe, I had absolutely no idea what just hit me. Perhaps one of the most beautiful and inspirational songs and video I've ever heard and seen in my life just started playing. I just stared at the video and listened to the lyrics, totally blocking out the rest of the world. It just went right through me straight to the heart. This was totally unexpected and without any reason. This music and video are everything we are as Shriners. WOW!

It's "I'm a Noble of the Shrine" by Howie Damron. Who? I had no clue who he was and certainly not aware he is one of us. Learn something new every day, even sometimes by accident! If I would have logged into the meeting on time at 7:30, I would have missed

it. I'm sure some of you are aware of this video and song, but I was not.

"No man stands as tall as when he stoops to help a child

Like the clown who works and paints his face just to bring out a little smile

No gift is ever given is as good as giving time

I will wear my Fez with honor  
I'm a brother of the Shrine"

So inspirational, so deep, so powerful, so real.

Since becoming a Shriner, I've had many different and mixed feelings and emotions going in different directions. I've been in the trenches taking kids and their families to the three hospitals we work with, seeing the positive results at first hand. I've been in parades, in my Patrol Unit uniform with those pointed up shoes, bringing that split second smile to an unknown child as he watches with his family from the curb. I've been to a wide variety of our social events just simply to relax and take in the brotherhood. Listening to this song and watching the video seemed to put all these emotions in a perfect organized perspective. If you have not seen this video, please go to YouTube and type Howie Damron I'm a Noble of the Shrine.

On this note, I will sign off and wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. Let the true Masonic light shine brightly and may it touch your heart in ways you never thought were possible. Let your heart be Light...

As we start the New Year, I wish health and happiness to every one of you, and look forward to another great year of fun, fellowship and friendship.

Please contact Captain Charlie Zurcher at [czurcher7696@gmail.com](mailto:czurcher7696@gmail.com) for further details on the Syria Shrine Patrol Unit so you can join us for Faith, Family, Friends and Fun. After all, that's what it's all about.

"We march so kids can walk"

That's what we do

That's who we are

We're Shriners

Thank you Tim McKiernan for the photography.

# Chanters Happenings

The Chanters have been busy with no signs of slowing down!

BY LEE PFEIFER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

We ended 2023 with a flurry of activity. We participated in one final parade in mid-November when we went to Tarentum for their Christmas parade. The Annual "Prelude to Christmas" concert with the Bands and the Highlanders the weekend after Thanksgiving was a great deal of fun surrounded by excellent music. In December we sang carols with the children and parents at the Children's Christmas Party. Also in December, the Chanters revived our unit Christmas dinner for the first time since the pandemic. It was a very enjoyable evening that included the installation of our 2024/25 officers and a preview of the music we have planned for 2024.

The officers who will be leading us for the next two years are President Bill Branthoover, Vice President Ron Fodor, Treasurer Gary Ridgway, and Secretary Jack Doverspike. The accompanying photo shows Ron and Jack congratulated by Ill. Sir Jerry Sciuлло following their installation. Bill and Gary were unable to attend the dinner. Their installation



will take place at a later date. Jack served the Chanters well for the past two years as president. He graciously agreed to take on the role of secretary after our long-time secretary, David Eichelberger, steps down. He has a very busy schedule in other Masonic bodies. We say a most sincere thank you to Jack for his past leadership and for moving into the position of secretary. We also gratefully acknowledge David for his many years as our secretary. He has served us well in that role. Now David can relax a bit at rehearsals and "just" sing without any added responsibilities.

Speaking of the music for 2024, we begin rehearsals in January to learn new repertoire and brush up some pieces we have sung in the past. While I am relaxing in sunny south Florida, the Chanters will be under the very

capable direction of our Associate Director, Lou Valenzi. The Chanters will be preparing music for the Syria Shrine Memorial Service in May and for the Imperial Convention in late June.

We are very excited that we will be competing internationally again. This will be our first time attending Imperial since the pandemic and we are looking forward to singing with the other Chanters groups at the worship service and against them at the competition.

If you like to sing and want to get in on these wonderful opportunities to express yourself through vocal music, contact Music Director Lee Pfeifer by email at [lpfeifer@zoominternet.net](mailto:lpfeifer@zoominternet.net) or by phone at 724-504-6623.

# DOING MORE IN '24



# The Continuing Adventures of the Award Winning Syria Shrine Clowns

By the time you read this, the clowns will be more than ready to **break out of hibernation** and begin the merriment in earnest!



BY SPLOTCHEE

While it is delightful to head south to warm waters put toes into the sand, a handful of guys headed to Plymouth, Massachusetts in the dead of winter to attend the Northeast Clown Institute. Our very own Dennis "Radish" Schweinsburg serves on the board and is one of the instructors. Joeys from all over the U.S. enjoy a solid weekend of seminars, make-up classes, skit training, and so much more. Best of all, the guys come back and they talk about their experiences and show off the latest techniques they have learned – all to promote the advancement of the art and science of clowning!

March and April provide some opportunities to get out and stretch our clown muscles. The Shine Bunny Bash in

March always delights the home crowd, and of course, we honor Pittsburgh's Irish roots in the St. Patrick's Day parade. In mid-April, we have our Mid-Atlantic Shrine Clown Association Clown-A-Rama, followed the next weekend by the Jaffa Circus.

The rest of our 2024 schedule is starting to shape up nicely. Parades for Memorial Day and the 4th of July are already committed, and of course, the Big Butler Fair will bring out Captain Jack "Bubbles" Jones' troops to delight hundreds of thousands of fair goers over the 4th.

Oh yeah, I think we have a gig down in Washington County sometime this year – hmm, gotta check the calendar.

It is a great year to be a clown, and we always look forward to seeing you all around the Oasis!

God Bless You All Real Good!



You can now know **what is going on at Syria Shriners** anytime, anywhere! This QR code will take you right to the 2024 event calendar:





**ASSISTANT RABBAN RANDY  
L. HOBAUGH RECEIVES  
DEMOLAY LEGION OF  
HONOR**





# The Whispering Storm

Since my last article, the O L's have lost three immensely popular members to the Black Camel, Ed Monroe, Fran Bellante, and Grant McLaughlin. Fran was a member of Masonic Lodge 45, Syria, The Jesters, joined the O L's in 2014, and died September 1, 2023.

BY WINDY YARN AND  
FRED W. SHERIDAN

Grant lived in the Masonic Village in Sewickley, a member of Syria, The Jesters, and joined the O L's in 2012 where he served as Treasurer and died September 12. Ed was a member of Avalon Lodge #657 and became a member of the O L's in 2009.

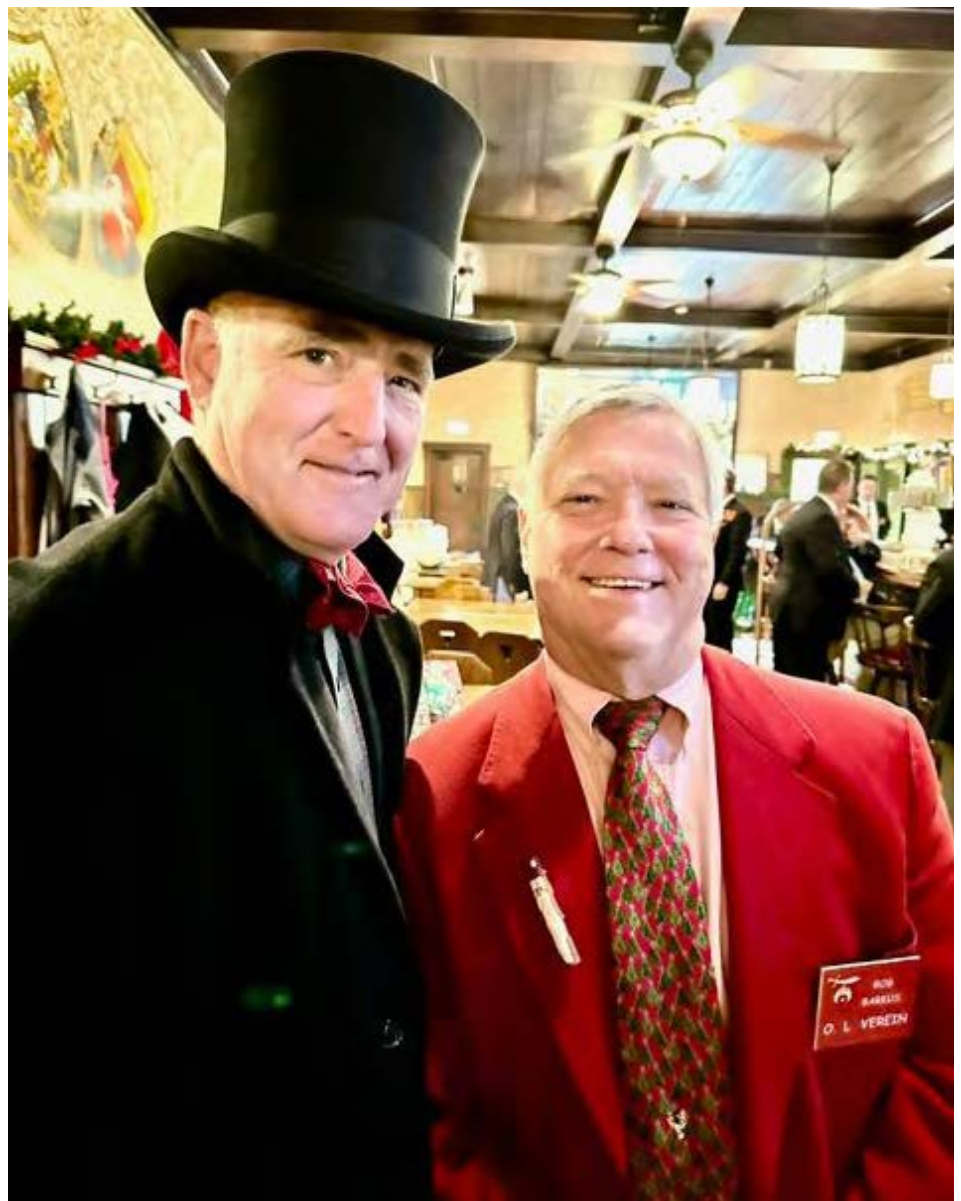
My name is Balthasar Yarn while my friends prefer the sobriquet Windy. Sobriquet being a fancy word which I once found scrawled in a bathroom of the old Syria Mosque. Looking it up I find it means nickname. Anyhow my name is Windy and I have been writing articles for the Voice since some time in the nineties. I took over for George Clark who used to write the O L articles and several other units and clubs. I have not been too active the last few years what with COVID but now I am back and have a report for the last two O L meetings in 2023. The first being their Oktoberfest and the latter their Christmas party.

Both meetings began with the usual suspects and libations, limburger, and lies. At the Oktoberfest meeting Bob Petty was telling Rip Miller, Tom Leonard, and Bob Sabilla this year he planned to send family Christmas cards with a strange kid in the picture that nobody knows. Mac McIlrath told Max Smith and Eric Gumto if you cannot get up to vote you may have erectile dysfunction. I noticed there is only one eye in McIlrath so I wonder why he is not called "one eye." Larry Burton said his lady broke her leg while Rob Truver was telling Ron Gongaware and Al Douglas about his golf game. Bob Addleman and

George White showed up in Lederhosen. Mike Taylor roamed the room selling share the wealth tickets and Jack Bock said on his last flight the stupid airline said his baggage was overweight and to put some of this in his

carry-on.

Dom Pascucci led us in the flag ceremony while Lawton Stokes gave the invocation and then the culinary alchemist performed their kitchen mystique and we surrounded the buffet tables to partake of a gastronomical experience. After the German feast Dom arose to demand do not call me Il Dulce which gave rise to an astronomical number of phonetic pronunciation's of the title, not all fit for this publication. The Burgermeister failed to attend the meeting so Lawton Stokes was appointed to serve in this capacity for the evening. It was announced George Wagner is in dire need of a name badge so that the Burgermeister might not fine him for failure to



be properly attired. Again the Secretary failed to provide minutes from the last meeting so the reading of the minutes was dispensed with as has become the usual protocol. Our venerable Secretary Bob Addleman then announced he is so overburdened not reporting any minutes that he must resign the Secretary position which was met with great applause. Surely the members were expressing their appreciation of Bob's many years of service. For now Scott Allen has volunteered to serve as Secretary in the interim until we elect a new Secretary in January. It was then announced the Christmas party would again be a stag party in the Teutonia Rathskellar. At this point a

disguised voice was heard to request Bud light for the party. The next item on Dom's agenda was birthday presents for those celebrating the anniversary of their birth and each was given a very inexpensive bottle of wine to savor with their birthday meal. George Wagner won the share the wealth and someone proclaimed with his new wealth he might purchase a name badges. Going one better George announced anyone who made breakfast at Mac's Café in Butler on Tuesday would enjoy a meal at his expense. I believe about twenty dined the next morning with George. Here's hoping his good fortune with lotteries continues. Eric Gumto brought some maple whiskey on Tuesday for those

ordering pancakes so George ordered one pancake for everyone.

In December we were back at Teutonia for the annual Christmas party. President Dom announced since this was the Christmas party there will not be a business meeting and all decorum is abandoned and revelry should guide your actions. And revelry it was as we began again with the usual limburger, libations, and lies followed by a Bavarian Buffet of three bean salad, beets, wurst, German Chicken, red cabbage, sauerkraut, German Chocolate cake, to mention most of the buffet treats. Many were appropriately attired for the holidays, some like Rip Miller in red jackets, but Erich Gumto was the most unusual in a Charles Dickens Top Hat. Tom Smith mentioned he had back surgery and is feeling much better. Bob Petty was reported as also having back surgery and being on the mend but is still recuperating and unable to negotiate stairs which prohibited his attendance of the Christmas party. Bob Sabilla said the doctor informed him his sugar was too high so he moved it to a lower shelf. Jin Wehrheim was overheard telling Al Tedeschi and Bob Addleman if it takes a village to raise a child it takes a distillery to home school an O L. Meanwhile Mac McIlrath was telling Tony Gennaccaro and Rip Miller that he was not self-medicating. Mac said, "The guy at the state store wrote me a prescription. Well maybe he called it a receipt." Rob Truver said he gained fifteen pounds since it became too cold to play golf.

Guests at the dinner were Kyle Whitaker sponsored by Ed O'Brien, Nick Ridgeway by Robert Nelson, Jack Goodrich guest of Scott Allen, and Eric Richter who was a guest of Charles Myer.

John Habel missed the meeting but has been quoted as saying he is so old his blood type has been discontinued and he remembers things that never happened.

In closing, for the PETA people, did you know some lions mate over fifty times in one day and starfish have no brains. I bet you know some people who could pass for a starfish and talk about stamina, what about those lions.



*Only a few months away*

*May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

*12:noon - 5PM*

**The First Choice Wine Festival, 2024**

*As always, open to the public*

Acoustical Entertainment by:

Devon Allen Johnson of  
Ruff Creek®

Syria Shrine Center, 1877 Shriners Way,  
Cheswick PA 15024

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## GET THE LATEST UPDATES

on events and happenings in the Oasis of Syria! Follow us on Facebook, and sign up to receive WEEKLY email updates at:

[www.syriashriners.org/subscribe](http://www.syriashriners.org/subscribe)

# Syria Shriners, Shriners International settle dispute over estate

On Thursday, December 7, 2023, Syria Shriners, Shriners International and the estate of Joanne Hunkawitz entered a mediation session with retired judge Gary Caruso aimed at settling their dispute over proceeds of the estate.

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

A settlement was reached, whereby Syria Shriners retains 78 per cent of the liquid assets in the estate and all real property and residual income from mineral rights on the real property.

While we are bitterly disappointed that the leaders of Shriners International chose not to behave in a fraternal and ethical manner, we are satisfied that the settlement was in the best interest of Syria Shriners moving forward. There should be approximately \$2 million accruing to Syria Shriners from this bequest.

We had promised to update you as developments would occur. As the matter is now settled, consider this our final word on the subject.

## Dues increase to be postponed

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

In light of the unexpected windfall Syria Shriners has received from a bequest, a motion was offered at the Annual Meeting, January 2 to forgo the \$23 increase in Syria Shriners dues scheduled to take effect January 1, 2025. Action will be had on that motion at the Quarterly Meeting, April 1. We hope the Nobility will approve this motion and maintain Syria Shriners dues at the current level for the time being.

Save The Date:  
OCTOBER 19, 2024  
Illustrious Sir Al  
Tedeschi's Big  
Surprise!  
Something Never Done Before  
Festivities 6-10 P.M.  
You Won't Want To Miss This!  
Updates On The Secret Will  
Follow

# Thank you Illustrious Sir and First Lady, aka Mom and Dad

Dear, Illustrious Sir Jerry and First Lady Ida aka Dad and Mom

BY THE SCIULLO CHILDREN

This past year we, your children and grandchildren have watched you both go, come, pack, unpack and generally not be home, but tracked through the family calendar (Thanks Jack!). We wanted to say publicly how very proud we are of all that you have accomplished in this past year.

You managed to get all of us in one place at the same time for your kickoff.

Throughout this year, a subset of your family if not all of us have managed to attend the "big events" and even the ones for which we didn't have to get all gussied up including the Potentates Ball, Wine Fest, Sportsman's



bash, picnics, etc. We know you enjoyed every minute and will look back and think did that happen, as you said more than once, some of it was a blur...

We watched with pride, each time you

were introduced as Syria's Illustrious Sir and First Lady, and we saw the details you wrestled and sweated through that no one else but us saw and talked Mom off each ledge she found to walk.

We saw firsthand how hard you both have worked for this organization, and we know you do it because of your passion to help children and to bring smiles to their faces.

We also know that you will have stories to share for many years and are very much looking forward to your well-deserved break, but we know you. You will both find a way to continue to serve Syria Shrine and the great work that they do.

I know Faith and Hope had a wonderful year; and in 8 years, Tim will find a way to thank and forgive you for his appointment.

From your kids, Angela, Sandy, Kevin; your granddaughters Emma, Zoe and Martina, and the in-laws Bob, Wendy, and Kurt, we want to say job well done. We love you with all our hearts. Your presence makes all the difference to us too.

At least you get to keep the Grand Poobah Hat.

## NOBLES!

## HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED THE MYFEZCARD VIEWER APP?



LEARN ALL ABOUT IT AT:

[WWW.SYRIASHRINERS.ORG](http://WWW.SYRIASHRINERS.ORG)



# Soar in 2024

**2024 is the year to soar.** Join us in numerous activities and fun events. We have airport tours, new member events and fun!

BY CRAIG J. "BUZZ" CONROY

President Bryan DeFranco announces tickets for our successful Annual Executive Flight over Pittsburgh are available in the first quarter of 2024. Why wait until later in the year to purchase these highly desirable tickets? As always the drawing will take place at the Annual Sportsman's Bash at 4:49 PM.

You can feel like royalty in your Executive Private Flight for Two over Pittsburgh. See all the Famous Landmarks from a view very few people ever see. The Golden Triangle, the Stadiums and many other attractions. Contact any Flying Fezz to purchase a ticket for a chance to win. Good Luck!

The Flying Fezzes look forward to an active parade season with our Spirit of Pittsburgh Parade Plane. We also have two classic chase cars to follow the plane in the Parades. In 2024 we'll be soaring for the hospitals and the children.

Our pilot extraordinaire, Eric "Stormy" Stormfels will be the beacon for our organization. And Bob Golden capably covers the finances and the records of our unit. Vic Perry, a member of the prestigious Wright Society is building more hours in various crafts. The Wright Bros. Society is an invitation only group for aviators with 50 years safe experience in the air.

We look forward to the numerous new members and their active participation in all



of our events. Welcome aboard!

Rick Bates, our loyal member, monitors Lawrence & Beaver Counties and announces a 14 year old young woman just earned her Private Pilot license. Paul Cherep is hoping to be in the air after a few flight checks.

We wish Potentate Al Tedeschi an extremely successful year and we're certain he'll have one! 2024, the year to soar!

### CONTEST WIN WIN WIN

Guess the Flying Fezz in the GUESS WHO PHOTO! The winner gets a highly collectible Limited Edition Flying Fezzes Flying Disc. Email your answer to: Aviation@journalist.com with your best guess.

A current member update for Don Gilbert Jr. He is the son of the late Donald Gilbert



(Dunaldo the Magician) the Shrine Magician. Don and his 12 year old daughter, Estella, live in Ligonier. He studied Aeronautical / Aerospace Engineering at Trine University, Angola, Indiana, and a BS in Mathematics at Muskingum College, MA Physics from Indiana University of PA.

Don's Aviation interest began with his Grandfather, Merl Gilbert, of Loyalhanna Lodge & Syria Shrine, deceased, would take him Arnold Palmer Regional Airport to watch airplanes fly from Blue Angels restaurant. He attended airshows with his father and began with Radio Control airplanes. At the age of 16, he met Clancy Speal, aerobatics pilot from Derry who perished in a crash in Pittsburgh in the Ohio River. Don lost interest in aviation after the passing of Clancy.

Then his former student became a Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot. He took Don for a ride in a Cessna 150. Then Don took ground school & lessons. In March of 2020, Don passed his written test bought his 1962 Cessna 182E. Don received his Private Pilots License November, 2020. His 182 is based in Latrobe (KLBE). Don is working on IFR training, & multi-engine rating and working toward commercial status. He hopes to fly corporate aircraft in the future. Don can be reached via email: N3257Y@infinitefx.com

If you have any interest in our unit, contact any Flying Fezz. We are a fun-based Flying unit of the finest fraternity on land or in the air. As always the Conroy family mantra, "There are old pilots and bold pilots but there are no old, bold pilots".



# Syria Shrine Legion of Honor marching forward in 2024



The Legion of Honor has kept busy these last few months. Not only with Shrine events, local parades and Shrine quarterly meetings, but also with lodge visitations and presentations we've done.

**BY RAYMOND J. PFISTER,**  
**COMMANDER SYRIA SHRINE LEGION OF HONOR**

Like with many organizations and units, the LOH membership numbers have dwindled these last couple years. But as military veterans, we keep fighting on. We initiated our lodge program a couple of years ago. It has yielded well for us as far as spreading the word on promoting membership into the Shriners and for those Veterans out there to become a member of our unit.

In 2024 we plan to push forward with promoting our lodge programs and our involvement with Shrine events. Once again,

we presented the colors at the annual Prelude to Christmas concert and at the Shrine's annual Memorial Service this past May. We are planning some fun events in the coming year not only for our members, but for all members of Syria. So look for our ads in the Voice and postings at the Syria Shrine Center. Membership in the Legion of Honor is open to all armed forces veterans that are members of the Shrine.

Are you looking for a presentation for your lodge, civic organization, church or other organization or club?

The Syria Shriners Legion of Honor perform presentations on the Flag Ceremony,

Veterans Day, Memorial Day and our Commander's favorite program, the history and role of the Military Bugler and Drummer through our military's history.

Sons of Veterans revamp in 2024

Inclusion will be the theme for the fledgling unit of the Sons of Veterans in 2024. SOV members are invited to all Legion of Honor events and meetings in the coming year. It has been difficult for those in their ranks to gather enough members for meetings, events, etc.

We welcome all Shriners who are Veterans to join the ranks of the Legion of Honor and those Shriners with a parent or grandparent Veteran in their family to join the ranks of the Sons of Veterans.

The main point of contact for both the Legion of Honor and the Sons of Veterans is our LOH Commander

Raymond J. Pfister  
 Cell: 412-977-6239

Email: [armybugler@comcast.net](mailto:armybugler@comcast.net)

It's a humble honor to have served one's country and be a military Veteran. It's a humble honor to be a Shriner and an honor indeed to be a member of the Legion of Honor! We hope to hear from our fellow Veterans and Patriots!



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Winners of Last year's 'Executive Flight for Two' over Pittsburgh & landmarks:  
**George & Marsha!**

**FLYING FEZZES**



Add our  
**Spring Ceremonial**  
to your Schedule!



**Thursday, May 16th**

Follow us on Facebook for more details TBD!

## 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.



### *Congratulations!*

To Justin Zbigniew Capozzoli, winner and proud owner of a Schecter Diamond Series guitar, autographed by the members of Mötley Crüe and Def Leppard!

April 7th 2024 10am-4pm

# INDOOR SPRING CRAFT SHOW

Basket Auction

Concession Stand

Admission \$3/pp

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

**Vendor Spaces Still Available**

We DO NOT accept any Electronic Payments

Vendors/Contact: Colleen- 412-418-0604

HColleen7@comcast.net

**Proceeds benefit Daughters of the Nile**









# Mark your Calendars



*Daughters of the Nile  
Airys Temple #48*

*2024 Officer Installation  
where*

*Princess Peggy Addleman, PQ  
will be crowned Queen*



*Sunday, March 10th  
2024  
Pittsburgh Syria  
Shrine Center*





# SHRINE THE WORD PUZZLE

BAND  
FLYING  
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LEGION  
POTENTATE

DIRECTORS  
FUNDRAISING  
HONOR  
MARINERS  
PROVOST

FEZZES  
HARIGE  
ILLUSTROUS  
MASA  
TEDESCHI

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M K I X B G O I O R U Y L J  
A S U S S N I F R L O Y Q P  
S R I U O O J R I E I V A I  
A E D H V T L C A N C A O T  
R D J I O L M V G H L T D S  
G N I S I A R D N U F L O K  
T A I L L U S T R O U S M R  
E L S R E N I R A M W Y U Q  
D H L Y B A N D F D I M N B  
E G K E S P O T E N T A T E  
S I N C G Y R K Z C I P W U  
C H E H N I S F Z I G Q E K  
H P Z N C S O S E J K U D T  
I D W U E J B N S P C T Q Y





**SYRIA SHRINERS**  
1877 SHRINERS WAY  
CHESWICK, PA 15024



**CALLING ALL SHRINERS!**

## **AND TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTERLY MEETING**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 7:30PM**  
**GRAND BALLROOM AT**  
**THE PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER**

Action will be had on a motion, made at the January 2 Quarterly Meeting, to indefinitely postpone implementation of the increase of Syria Shriners annual dues to \$80, effective January 1, 2025.

AND TO THE 2ND QUARTERLY MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 1ST, 2024 7:30PM  
GRAND BALLROOM AT THE PITTSBURGH SHRINE CENTER

2024 DUES CARDS WILL NEED TO BE DISPLAYED FOR ADMISSION. BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUESTED. SYRIA SHRINERS WILL BE OPENED FOR BUSINESS TO CONDUCT THE SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING OF 2024. 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](mailto:syriarecorder@gmail.com).

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

**ALAN R. TEDESCHI**  
Illustrious Potentate

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

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS**  
**FOR OUR APRIL-JUNE ISSUE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>.**

SUBMIT YOUR MATERIAL AT: [www.syriashriners.org/submit](http://www.syriashriners.org/submit)

**PLEASE INCLUDE PHOTOS!**