

# THE Melha NEWS Online

Member of the Northeast Shrine Editors Association



DECEMBER 2013

MELHA SHRINERS, Springfield, Massachusetts 01108



'Tis the season . . .  
 Enjoy the Holiday Season,  
 visit The Feztival of Trees  
 which runs November 29  
 through to December 8 at  
 Melha. Don't miss it! See  
 details on Page 12.

### Safe Driving Urged to Help Reduce Risk of Spinal Injury

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for those between the ages of 16 and 24, and the leading cause of spinal cord injuries in all age groups. Nearly 6,000 teens die and more than 325,000 are seriously injured in traffic accidents each year.

Improving driving skills, especially for young drivers, may be the key to fewer deaths and injuries. Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to raising awareness to help prevent spinal cord injuries.

—Story on Page 5

### Past Potentates Reflect On Melha's Past and Its Future

We asked Melha's Past Potentates to give us their views on Melha; the subject matter wasn't specific but it was suggested it might be good to look to the future—perhaps thoughts on where they might like to see Melha going and what might anticipated in the days and years ahead.

We received a wide variety of replies and we present them to you inside.

Thanks to those Illustrious Sirs for their thoughts and participation, we know they all have Melha's prosperity deep in their hearts.

—Story on Page 4

### New Year's Eve Celebration At Castle of Knights, Fairview

This year Melha will be bringing its welcome to the New Year to the Castle of Knights in Fairview. It will feature a five-course meal, a casino, music for dancing until 1 a.m., hats and horns and everything you'd expect along with a champagne toast at midnight along with a midnight buffet.

—See details on Page 10

### Annual Meeting Will Take Place at Melha January 3rd

It's always hard to believe that another year has gone by and we're talking about the Annual Meeting so soon.

Nobles will gather to elect a new Potentate and other officers on Friday, January 3, 2014. Inside you will find information about the meeting, officers who will be elected and all the usual reports as well as a dinner reservation form.

—Details on Page 3

## MELHA CALENDAR

## INDEX

<p><u>December 1-8</u>  <b>Fesztival of Trees.</b> This event continues for the entire week. Weekdays. 4 p.m.-8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. Admission is \$2, children under 12 free.</p> <p><u>Saturday, December 14</u>  <b>Berkshire Shrine Club Holiday Party.</b> Bass Water Grill, 287 South State Road, Cheshire, Mass. 1 p.m. Social, Dinner at 2</p>	<p>p.m. \$25 p.p. Reservations contact Marty Myrick 413-281-9664.</p> <p><u>Saturday, December 14</u>  <b>The Old Post Road Orchestra in its Holiday Concert.</b> Social 7 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. For reservations call Jim Marceau 413-583-5192 or call the Melha Office.</p> <p><u>Saturday, December 14</u>  <b>Past Masters Holiday Gala.</b> Country Club of</p>	<p>Wilbraham, Social 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:30 p.m. \$34 p.p. Reservations Les Lohnes, 553 Springfield St., Wilbraham, MA 01095.</p> <p><u>Sunday, December 15</u>  <b>Hadji Children's Christmas Party.</b> See ad inside for details.</p> <p><u>Wednesday, December 18</u>  <b>Stated Meeting.</b> All units and clubs must attend. Last Stated Meeting of the year.</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, December 31</u>  <b>Knights of Columbus New Year's Eve.</b> Castle of the Knights, Memorial Dr., Chicopee. Join with all our friends at the Castle for a New Year's Eve with all the trimmings. See ad inside.</p> <p><u>Friday, January 3</u>  <b>Melha's Annual Meeting.</b> Annual election of officers and introduction of the newest Captain of the Guard.</p>	<p>Berkshire Shrine Club...8                  Burns Brigade .....8                  Central Mass Shr.Club .9                  Clowns .....9                  Daughters of the Nile..10                  Directors.....8                  Drum Corps.....6                  Flyers.....8                  Franklin Shrine Club.....7                  Hadji.....6                  Helma Court.....10                  Highlanders .....7                  Hospital News .....5</p>	<p>K9s for Kids .....7                  Legion of Honor.....6                  MAP .....8                  Mariners .....9                  Melha Riders .....9                  Military Band .....9                  Oriental Band .....8                  Past Masters .....7                  Pioneer Valley Club .....8                  Ramblin' Campers.....6                  Sportsman Club.....6                  Team Circus .....9                  Vintage Autos .....7                  Yawn Rihla.....8</p>
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# Potentate's Message

To all Shriners, Family and Friends.

Before we get into this month's message, I need to apologize to Charlie (The Tuna) Demanais for neglecting to thank him for setting up and running the Tuna by Tuna Car Show, another job well done.



The beginning of the month brought the Third Annual Smoker, run by Gary Block and assisted by Dean Whalen and Ray Turrini. A great time was had by all. The food was fabulous, the cigars smooth and the entertainment was top shelf. Thank you for a great job well done.

The Fall Foliage Parade, the weather held off and the showing by our Nobles was great. Thank you to all the Nobles for a great Parade day.

The Cher and Friends show was fabulous again this year. Cher (Lisa Carter), Frank and Neil were great. The show was a success also tried a new venue with serving food. This seemed to go over well with those in attendance. Gary and all his staff did a great job organizing this event. Thank you to all.

Melha paid tribute and honored our departed Nobles at the Memorial Service. Our High Priest and Prophet Brian Connor organized and conducted a very

# Recruit and Retain



dignified tribute. Melha thanks all these Nobles for the many contributions. Our departed Nobles will always remain with us, in our hearts and minds.

Before we go into future events, I want to thank the Nobility for supporting me in some trying times this year, without your support running Melha would be impossible. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

On November 11 we have the Veterans Day Parade. The Balloon Parade on the 29th of November, and the Florence Parade the next day.

The Fall Ceremonial where we officially welcome the new Nobles into our Fraternity.

The Festival of Trees is the final major event of the year. Please give Bill and Deb Faust a great round of applause for setting up and running this event. Please support this event, it is for Melha.

Don't forget the Old Post Road Concert and the New Year's Eve Celebration at the Castle of the Knights, both are great events.

We wish you a HAPPY THANKSGIVING,

Edward Griffin, Potentate

Melha Shriners • 133 Longhill Street • Springfield, Massachusetts 01108  
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Debra Collins, Secretary  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday  
Melha Web Site: www.melhashriners.com

### ELECTED DIVAN 2013

- Potentate ..... Edward F. Griffin ..... 536-8691
- Chief Rabban ..... William J. Faust ..... 786-1272
- Assistant Rabban ..... David F. Butterfield ..... 519-5498
- High Priest & Prophet ..... Brian Connor ..... 636-4270
- Oriental Guide ..... Raymond Turrini ..... 785-5455
- Treasurer ..... Ronald Gagnon, P.P. .... 568-4402
- Recorder ..... Philip E. Thomas, P.P. .... 860-749-9735

### REPRESENTATIVES TO IMPERIAL COUNCIL

Imp. Sir Ralph W. Semb, P.I.P., Emeritus  
Edward F. Griffin, William J. Faust, David Butterfield, Brian Connor

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## THE Melha NEWS

Available on the Web at  
www.melhashriners.com

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#### SPECIAL NOTICE

All copy submitted for publication must be submitted by e-mail to themelhanews@comcast.net and received before the 12th of the month preceding publication. All Ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all copy.

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address notices to 133 Longhill St., Springfield, MA 01108.

### SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

516 Carew Street  
Springfield, MA 01104  
413-787-2000

- Chuck Walczak ..... Administrator ..... 413-787-2011
- David Drvaric, M.D. . . . Chief of Staff ..... 413-787-2057
- Tabitha Bissonnette..New Patient Services . 413-735-1234
- Bernadette White . . .Public Relations . . . 413-735-1291
- Kristina Hamel ..... Volunteers ..... 413-787-200

#### On the Board of Governors from Melha

- David H. Burstein ..... Chairman
- George Sachs, James Spear, Jr., Joseph Surprenant, Ed Geoffrion

- Gary Surprenant ..... Associate Member
- Allen G. Zippin, P.P. .... Chairman Emeritus
- Charles Weaver, P.P. .... Chairman Emeritus
- Philip E. Thomas, P.P. .... Chairman Emeritus
- Emeritus: Ernest Byron, Raymond Kalita, John Bethel, P.P., Robert W. Clarke, Edward B. Briggs, Edward W. Shore, Jr., P.P.,

### SHRINERS BURNS HOSPITAL-BOSTON

51 Blossom Street  
Boston, MA 02114-2699  
617-722-3000

On the Board of Governors from Melha  
Robert G. Spaulding, Jr., P.P.  
Dean Whalen, Associate Emeritus: Saul Michaelson

### APPOINTED DIVAN

- Assistant Recorder ..... Robert Woodruff. .... 413-786-5455
- Assistant Treasurer ..... Edward B. Briggs ..... 413-458-5151
- First Ceremonial Master ..... Gary Block..... 413-567-1950
- Second Ceremonial Master . Robert Waltermire ..... 413-663-5472
- Chief Director..... Dean Whalen ..... 413-896-7297
- Marshal ..... Edward Geoffrion ..... 413-533-3781
- Captain of the Guard ..... Daniel Smith ..... 413-531-3542

### TRUSTEES

Daniel Smith, Michael Santos, John Greaves, Kevin LaPlante,  
Leo Plourde, Robert Wogatske

### ADMINISTRATORS

Saul Michaelson, Ronald Gagnon, P.P., Stanley Rubinstein, Nicholas Creanza, Carey Miller

### PAST POTENTATES

- \*Charles H. Miller.....1897-1902
- \*William H. Titus .....1903-04
- \*H. Leroy Woodward.....1905
- \*Charles L. Young .....1906-07
- \*Robert P. Cunningham .....1908-09
- \*Fred R. Brown .....1910
- \*Frank E. Ladd .....1911-12
- \*Albert E. Taylor .....1913
- \*Hugh J. Buckley .....1914
- \*Fred A. Eldred .....1915
- \*Walter H. Damon.....1916-17
- \*Franklin A. Latimer .....1918-19
- \*Walter H. Damon.....1920-21
- \*Fred C. Smith .....1922
- \*Harry H. Caswell .....1923
- \*Charles A. Watson .....1924
- \*Charles A. Frazer .....1925
- \*John A. Webster.....1926-27
- \*Walter S. Pease .....1928
- \*George M. Hendee .....1929
- \*Harry A. Spaight .....1930
- \*Carl P. Reilly .....1931
- \*Edward S. Chase.....1932
- \*Arlan M. Spencer .....1933
- \*Paul H. Hosmer .....1934
- \*Henry K. Fruhe .....1935
- \*Walter E. Perry .....1936-37
- \*John G. Rose .....1938
- \*Norman P. Dempsey .....1939
- \*Alfred J. Bird .....1940
- \*George W. Streeter .....1941
- \*William L. McCleary .....1942
- \*George G. Carr .....1943
- \*William E. Grohe .....1944
- \*Earl C. Daniels .....1945
- \*Dr. George W. Gray .....1946
- \*Donald H. Mudd .....1947
- \*Wesley G. Stephens .....1948
- \*Otto C. Kultur .....1949
- \*Theodore A. Wiel .....1950
- \*James Matthew .....1951
- \*Chester W. Haynes .....1953
- \*Fred S. Conkey .....1955
- \*Ralph F. Beaudry .....1956
- \*Wayne H. Latham .....1957
- \*Bennett W. Benson .....1958
- \*Norman R. Vester .....1959
- \*Jule Kaufman .....1960
- \*Robert E. Samble .....1961
- \*Richard C. Zoller .....1962
- \*Elliott Anderson .....1963
- \*John Baird .....1964
- \*Carl B. Martin, Jr. ....1965
- \*H. Edward Baker .....1966
- \*Harold E. Kjoller .....1967
- \*George Aronson .....1968
- \*Maurice M. Chaffin .....1970
- \*Dr. Kenneth E. Nicholson .....1971
- \*Robert W. Nothacker .....1972
- \*Jean R. LaCroix, Esq. ....1973
- \*Philip E. Taylor .....1974
- \*John M. Samsom .....1975
- \*Maurice H. Baider .....1976
- \*Edward W. Bock .....1977
- \*John R. Lundgren .....1978
- \*Robert D. Davis .....1979
- \*Kenneth E. Emery .....1980
- \*Robert A. Meffan .....1981
- \*Jack A. Butterfield .....1982
- \*Allen G. Zippin .....1983
- \*John E. Bethel .....1984
- \*Joseph A. Harrison .....1985
- \*Donald J. Lohnes .....1986
- \*Ralph W. Semb .....1987
- \*Gordon J. Smith .....1988
- \*Clyde O. Hooper, Jr. ....1989
- \*David Skolnick .....1990
- \*W. Douglas Spingler .....1991
- \*Richard C. Bewsee .....1992
- \*Norman T. Maagero .....1993
- \*Arthur E. Hastings .....1994
- \*Edward W. Shore, Jr. ....1995
- \*Sheldon M. Titcomb .....1996
- \*Charles H. Weaver .....1997
- \*Philip E. Thomas .....1998
- \*Robert G. Spaulding, Jr. ....1999
- \*David J. Gates .....2000
- \*Edgar W. Gelinis .....2001
- \*Edwin A. Os .....2002
- \*Robert H. Marshall .....2003
- \*Anton E. Koss .....2004
- \*James W. Marceau .....2005
- \*Tom Fielding .....2006
- \*Kirk Burkins .....2007
- \*James Blevins .....2008
- \*Ronald Gagnon .....2009
- \*Jeffrey Goddless .....2010
- \*Gardner Whitney, Jr. ....2011
- \*Russell Mitchell .....2012
- \*Deceased. †Suspended

### UNIT AND CLUB HEADS

- Clowns ..... David Merrick 413-664-7432
- Directors ..... Peter P. Magagnoli 413-949-1172
- Drum Corps ..... Ronald Mongeon 413-592-0392
- Flyers ..... Lance Whitcomb 413-369-4927
- Hadji ..... Michael Belanger 413-543-3211
- Highlanders ..... Richard MacGregor 413-592-0811
- Legion of Honor .... Stanley Heaton 413-569-6677
- Mariners ..... Robert Hager 413-786-7243
- Military Band ..... Bruce Rhodes 413-547-8283
- Oriental Band ..... Chris Parker 413-364-9541
- Past Masters ..... Nicholas Creanza 413-596-2577
- Team Circus ..... Leo Plourde 413-348-3889
- Vintage Autos ..... John Scribner 413-323-7729
- Burns Brigade ..... William Judd 413-534-7772
- Melha Riders ..... Jed Berliner 413-530-9877
- Sportsman Club ..... Shonn Monday 413-544-8466
- K-9s for Kids ..... Jim Russell 413-567-0700
- Ramblin' Campers .... Richard Birk 413-786-4742
- Berkshire SC ..... Marty Myrick 413-281-9664
- Central Mass. SC . Thomas Andrea, Sr. 860-935-5263
- Franklin SC ..... Melcolm Corse 413-369-4608
- Pioneer Valley SC ... Robert Frechette 413-536-3546

Melha honors Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards. Minimum amount charged must be \$20.00. Use it for dues, Melha events, Fezzes, Melha trips, etc.





## From the Editor's Desk

• **The Feztival of Trees** will be taking place from November 29 to December 8. You have ample opportunity to view all of the trees, visit the Marketplace and enjoy one of Melha's big holiday events.

• Once each year, we are required to include the details of the **Shrine's Fundraising Policies and Procedures** per General Order No. 1 in this publication or Melha must mail them separately to Nobles. You will find the important policies on Page 11. Keep a copy for your reference, if you intend to do any kind of fundraising for the Shrine Center, the Hospitals or your Club or Unit, be sure to comply with the provisions of these procedures and also obtain permission from the Potentate before developing plans.

• Next month will be the last issue of *The Melha News* as we have known it. Deadline for that issue is the 12th of December, please submit ads for that edition by December 1st. There will be no individual email reminders of the closing date for this issue.

• Celebrate New Year's Eve with Melha at the Castle of the Knights. . . .

• With memories of Thanks-

giving still fresh when we expressed gratitude for all our blessings, families, friends, and all the many good things we enjoy, we prepare for the holidays ahead.



We will celebrate good cheer and the special feeling of the season and beyond that look forward to yet another year with a hope it will be better than the last one.

It is a time for parties and the warm, fuzzy feelings for others that seems to come around only once a year — the season is all too short.

We at Melha have the added blessing this special fraternity provides — good friends and good times — but beyond that our kids.

We need to place our thoughts where they belong, and the real priority for all Shriners is the patients at Shriners Hospitals. Everything else, all the petty things, takes a back seat to that.

Remember the kids are the reason we are Shriners, and in the spirit of the season . . . peace on earth to men of good will.

• On behalf of the Potentate and officers, and from the Editor, our best wishes for a happy holiday season to all. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hannukah.

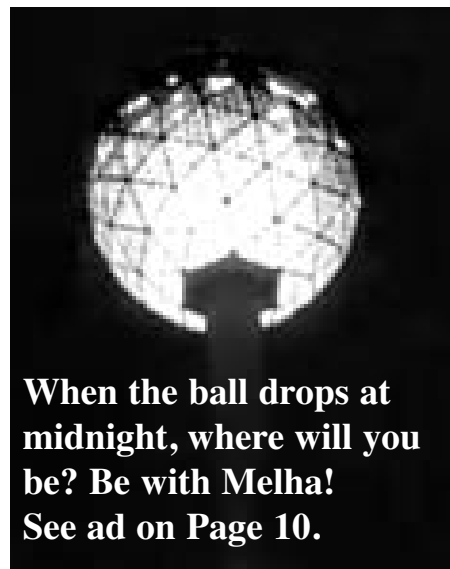
### STATED MEETING

A Stated Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18 for the purpose of conducting the business of the Melha Shriners, as well as balloting on individuals for initiation, obligating candidates, and for the dissemination of information to the membership on matters relating to current Shrine events.

All Nobles are invited to attend, all Unit and Club leaders are required to attend. Please wear your Fez.

Edward Griffin  
Potentate

Attest: Philip E. Thomas, P.P.  
Recorder



**When the ball drops at midnight, where will you be? Be with Melha! See ad on Page 10.**

### APPOINTMENTS LAST FOR ONE YEAR

For the information of uninformed members of the Nobility, when a Potentate's term of office expires, all appointments made by him during his administration TERMINATE, according to Imperial Code.

Such appointments include ALL appointed Officers, Potentate's Aides, members of Committees and their Chairmen, Special Appointees, Directors, Assistant Directors and all members of the Potentate's staff.

Some uninformed Nobles have mistakenly believed or assumed that their appointments are permanent. Each Potentate, when installed in office, must make his own appointments.

The Potentate has the power and authority under Imperial Shrine Law to replace every appointee; or he may, if he believes it to be in the best interest of the Temple, retain all appointees by reappointment.

Traditionally, for the sake of efficiency, many Nobles of demonstrated ability are continued in Office, but this is at the will and pleasure of the incoming Potentate. In no case is he, or can he be bound by his predecessor. By the same token in no case can any Potentate bind his successor.

Courtesy requires that a Noble holding an appointive office, position or assignment tender his resignation to the incoming Potentate. If it is the will and pleasure of the incoming Potentate that the Noble is to continue in his office or position by reappointment, he will be notified by the Potentate to that effect. In the event a Noble is NOT appointed for the ensuing year, he should return the insignia or emblem of office to the Recorder.

### BUTTERFIELD AUDITORIUM

*Events taking place in the Butterfield Auditorium in December:*

Dec. 1-8: Feztival of Trees

Thurs., Dec. 12: Two Unit Dinner

Sat., Dec. 14: Old Post Road Orchestra

Wed., Dec. 18: Holiday Stated Meeting

Wed., Dec. 25: Christmas. Office closed.

Sat., Dec. 28: Clown Installation

Every Monday: the Highlanders

Every Tuesday: the Military Band

Every Tuesday/Thursday a.m.: BNI

Group

Any errors should be reported to Debra in the Melha Office at 413-736-3647.



Winning team members for the 2013 Golf League session are, from left to right, Paul Hayes, Ed Batchelder and Shawn Record. Melha Golf League members held their annual banquet on Friday, October 25 at Melha with 25 members in attendance. At the meeting the members voted to return to East Mountain Golf Course in March for the 2014 season. They also accepted a proposal to allow seniors 70 and older to use the white tees if they wish. During the golf season members collected donations and turned the funds over to the Shriners Hospital for Children. New members are always welcomed. Officers for the season were Jack Burns, President, Mark Dunn, VP, David Ramsdell, Treasurer, and Richard MacGregor, statistician.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 3, 2014 at 7:15 p.m.

DINNER: 5:45 P.M. — MELHA SHRINERS

Nobles:

This Annual Meeting is called for the purpose of the Election of the Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant Rabban, High Priest & Prophet, Oriental Guide, Treasurer, and Recorder for 2014. Also an election will be conducted for one (1) Trustee and one (1) Administrator. We will elect four representatives to the Imperial Council for one year. We will hear the reports of the Temple and to act on any other business that might come before the Temple.

Anyone interested in a voting position should contact the Melha Recorder at 413-736-3647.

Edward Griffin  
Potentate

Attest:

Philip E. Thomas, P.P.

Recorder

Sec. 206. The printing, circulating or distribution of resolutions, letters, tickets or other devices by a Noble or Nobles, suggesting, recommending, opposing or containing the names of proposed candidates for office in the Temple, is hereby prohibited. For any violation of this section, the Imperial Potentate shall suspend the offending Noble or Nobles until next regular session of the Imperial Council, and he may, in his judgement declare the election of such officer or officers void and order a new election.

**ALL NOBLES OF MELHA ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.**

**PLEASE NOTE: All Unit rooms will remain closed and unoccupied from 7:00 p.m. until conclusion of the Annual Meeting.**

Admittance by 2014 Dues Card

### MELHA ANNUAL MEETING Friday, January 3, 2014

Social hour 5:00 p.m. — Dinner: 5:45 p.m.

Choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Francaise  
Garlic Mashed Potato, Green Bean Almandine, Tossed Salad  
— Apple Squares a la Mode  
Coffee and Tea

\$25.00 p.p.

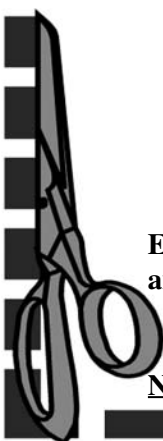
Reply to office, No tickets available at the door.

Deadline for reservations is December 27, 2013

Enclose check for \$25.00, payable to Melha Shriners, and return to Melha Office by December 27, 2013.

[ ] Prime Rib [ ] Chicken Francaise

Noble (name) \_\_\_\_\_



# Past Potentates Reflect on Melha's Past & Future

We emailed the Past Potentates of Melha requesting their thoughts about Melha and where they think we might be headed in the future or any anything they would like to share with readers about Melha. These were the responses we received.

### III. Sheldon Titcomb, P.P., 1996

As we think back to our year, we only have praise for everyone and everything that made it so successful, our heartfelt thanks go out to each and everyone.

As we look ahead to the future we can only hope for more members, and we would like to see the name *Camelha* come back as well as the name Melha Shrine Temple.

Good luck for the future of Melha.

### III. James Marceau, P.P., 2006

I remember it like it was yesterday. I was standing before the assembled Nobility at the annual meeting in January 2006, and I was delivering my farewell address. It was emotional to an extreme, and I only handled it by reminding myself that I was the only person viewing the night as an ending. To everyone else, it was a beginning! I could still play a part, just in a different role. After thanking all who had helped to make 2005 so incredible for Melha, I gave this advice to those coming after me:

"I have learned a lot during the last nine years on the Divan. If anyone asked, I could tell them about the Nobles of Melha. I would admonish future leaders to keep in mind the fact that the higher up you go, the more bosses you have, and that when you are the Potentate, everyone is your boss. I would tell them that whenever anyone, especially a Noble, asks for a minute of your time, you had best give it to him. I would say to treat them honestly and truthfully, and you will earn their respect. Give them good and faithful leadership and they will follow. Do not insult them with poorly planned events. That is a waste of everyone's time. Be true to your principles, do what you feel in your heart to be right, base your decisions on the greater good even if it means upsetting a friend. Never forget that you have a job to do and that some aspects of the job are not fun, nor are they easy.

"Yes, I would say all these things, if anyone asked. And if you do these things, you will experience a year superior to any other in your life."

I did experience such a year. And I did lose friends because of some of my decisions. Yet the groundwork we laid in 2005 gave us a gain in membership in 2006, the only time this has happened in many years. I left the position of Potentate with memories by the bushel basket full, and my memory of that moment when I took off the Potentate's jewel was right on top. Melha can have many more great years, but to do so, we all must work together. We cannot pick and choose whom we will support and whom we will not. There are only just so many opportunities remaining to turn our Temple around, and if we do not all pitch in, we will use them all up and we will not survive.

### III. Robert G. Spaulding, 1999

I became a Mason and a Shriner in Vermont. After moving to West Springfield, I became a member of two Lodges and Melha Shriners. The Shrine became an integral part of our lives, and pretty much our social life. Midge and I have done a considerable amount of traveling, much of it Shrine related, and in my humble opinion, there is no greater organization to be found. Wherever we have gone, fellow Shriners and their families have always made us feel at home and extended every possible courtesy to us. Regardless of the circumstance, be it celebratory or comforting and assisting in every way possible

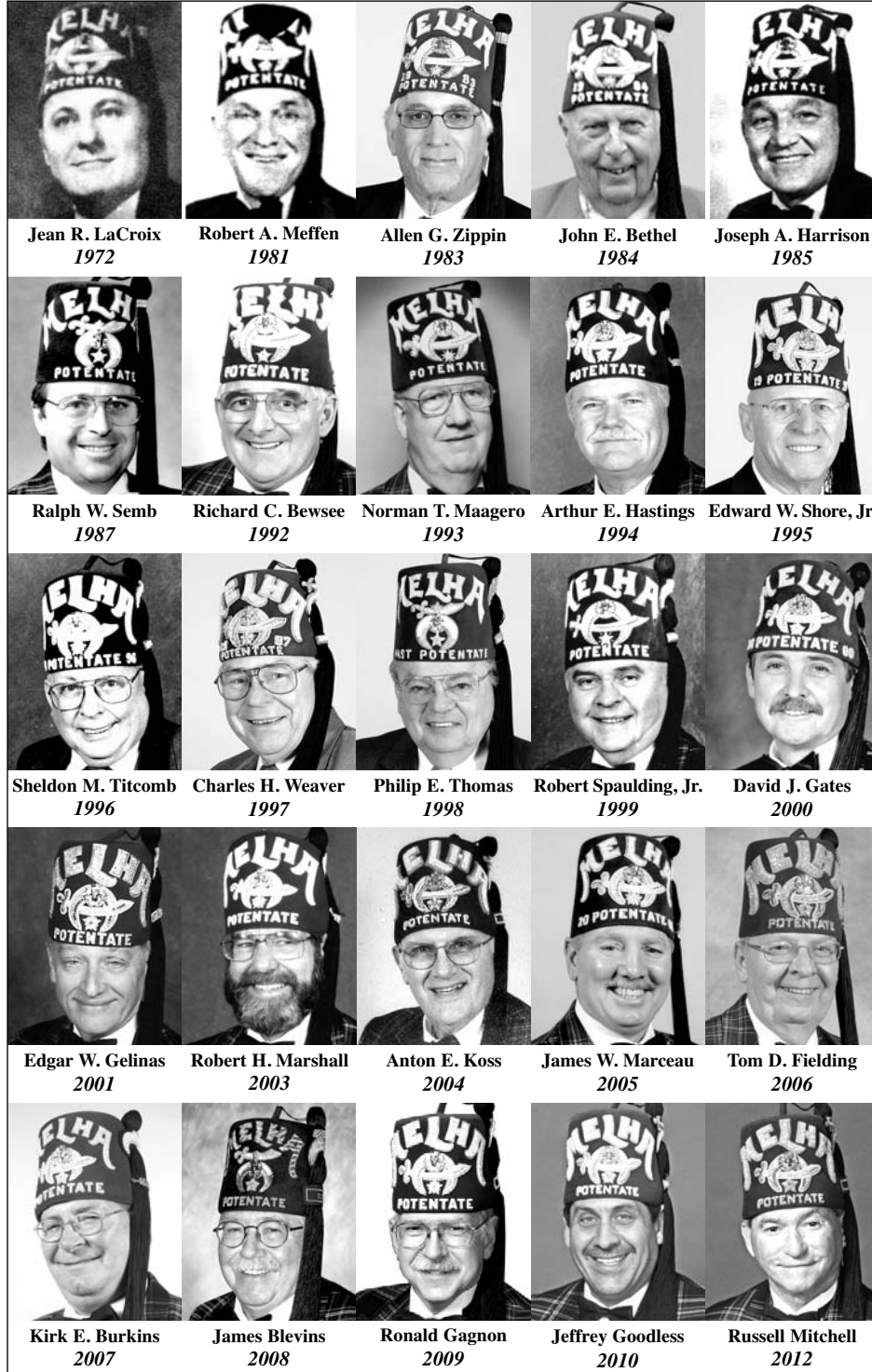
those who have experienced some sort of traumatic event, the Shrine "family" always comes together. And no Shrine family does it better than Melha.

### III. Edgar W. Gelinus, P.P., 2001

Melha has a rich past, and it is something in which we can take great pride. While we have always been among the smaller Shrine Centers, we have nonetheless been a big Shrine presence.

perhaps find better ways to run our organization by saving time and expense. Membership being a main topic today can be overcome by everyone working together to make the best of the changes that are needed. Certainly a strategic plan for the future is required so that everyone pulls together in the right direction as defined by that plan.

The Shriners have been in Spring-



We are justifiably concerned about membership—as is every other organization. Melha's membership has had growth spurts in the past, suffered big losses during the Depression, then had a growth spurt during the years that followed.

We may not have a solution to Melha getting smaller in the future, however, there is no reason that it can't get better. This is something every one of us can do, no matter what your involvement in the fraternity. Every unit member or leader can strive to find new and innovative ideas to improve what we have, what we do and how we do it. Don't wait for leadership to do it, don't leave it up to the next Noble, talk with others about it and do it together.

### III. Philip E. Thomas, P.P., 1998

As a Past Potentate I have seen many changes in the fraternal organization, as much as the changes in the medical field that have affected our hospital but in different ways.

The changes in membership in our fraternal organization have affected how we must operate now and into the future. We are no different than any other organization, company or corporation when changes must be made. I do agree that changes are hard, but we need to step up to the reality or face the consequences.

When we address change we may

field since 1898. Our purpose has not changed in all the years, so what happened? The answer may be in the life style changes that we now all enjoy. The families have changed as the kids are more involved in activities. We enjoy the HD television, DVDs, cell phones, and travel at will to name a couple. There is so much to do since 1898.

So, are we not smart enough to turn things around on this one issue membership, I don't believe that is the case. That being said, let's do it and get our membership back on tract. Our fraternity has strong values with a great purpose, Shriners Hospitals for Children, so let's not throw it away or let the kids down.

### III. Allen G. Zippin, P.P., 1983

As I look back over my years as a Noble of Melha — I joined in 1968 — I cannot believe the good fortune and experiences I have had. I was honored to serve as Potentate in 1983 at the age of 41. I mention my age because having served as the Potentate at a young age I have been blessed to have all of these years to continue to enjoy the privilege and honor of being a Noble and in particular as a Noble of Melha. I have been allowed to do so many things that have brought me so much pleasure—chairing the circus (2014 will be my 25th year); serving on the Board of Governors of our hospital; serving as Ralph Semb's campaign chairman

when he ran for an office on the Imperial Divan; serving as his Personal Advisor when he was Imperial Potentate; being one of only four Nobles to serve on the Imperial Membership Committee; serving as the Owner Agent for the construction of our current Shriners Hospital and chairing the hospital dedication events and the privilege of having been allowed to represent the hospital and Melha as PR spokesman for both—there is no end to the joy that I have received from having the privilege of being a Noble of Melha. The most important aspect of my experiences has been the amazing people I have had the good fortune to meet — people who love it and who give so much of themselves to make Melha a home for all of us by their dedication. All of the titles, honors and awards that I have been blessed to receive would have no meaning if they were not accompanied by the many Nobles and Ladies I consider to not only be my friends, but who I also view as members of a special extended family. At many of the most challenging moments in my life the Shrine and the Nobles and Ladies of Melha have saved my life and have given me the strength to face and deal with those challenges and I can never properly express my gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable impact all of them have had on my life. I could never put back into Melha all it has given me. I hope our current and future leaders and Nobles will be able to gain and appreciate some semblance of what Melha means because if they do their lives will be so enriched by the privilege of being a Noble that they too will feel as fortunate as I feel about our Shrine home and work hard to provide future Nobles with the same experience. Thank you—all of you who are with us and so many of you who have passed on—for allowing me to be part of this remarkable family—the Melha Family.

### III. Tony Koss, P.P., 2004

Where would I like to see Melha in the future? I hope I see Melha growing in membership. As a Melha Noble, we are representatives not only of the Shrine, but of the hospital as well. Some Nobles drop out because they don't find interesting and fun things to do. First, how can you not find helping a child and supporting our hospitals that provide the care for the children interesting? Have you been to the hospital since the day of your Ceremonial? Have you been to a patient presentation on Board Day? Please contact the Recorder's Office for dates and times. These presentations are open to the Nobility; bring your Lady or a perspective member. Sit through one, see the miracle work that has been done to improve a child's health and quality of life and then tell me you are not interested.

As far as fun, you obviously have not looked around much. I will admit that sometimes the members get a little lax at contacting new Nobles about joining their Unit or Club. DON'T WAIT FOR THEM! Contact a unit you might be interested in. It does not take as much time as you would imagine out of your schedule to get involved in a unit, and believe me, the !!!FUN!!! is there. If after a few meetings, that Unit or Club is not what you thought, try another one.

For all Nobles, why are you keeping what we do a secret? Share your experiences at Blue Lodge, at other civic meetings, or with friends and family. It would be great if we could all bring in 2 new members next year; one to replace you and one to grow on. Now I ask you, what is your vision of Melha in the future and what are you doing to get Melha there?

[Our thanks to those Past Potentates who took the time to contribute to this article.]



—SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Melha Potentate III, Ed Griffin and First Lady Louise are shown with Syeda Zainab Yousuf, a beautiful 17-year-old girl from Pakistan who was sponsored by Ill. Ed into Shriners Hospital in Springfield because she suffered from scoliosis. As a result of the surgery and the Shriners, Syeda's dream of a miracle came through and she looks forward to living a normal life.**

## Syeda Yousuf, a 17-Year-Old Girl From Pakistan, Can Now Live a Normal Life

Syeda Zainab Yousuf, a 17-year-old girl from Karachi, Pakistan, was diagnosed with scoliosis at age four. Doctors and surgeons said she needed surgery to fix her vertebral column. The surgery was a very complicated and life-threatening procedure—the success rate was slim and it was very expensive. The family could not proceed with the surgery.

Syeda was hoping for a miracle to happen. Her mother was talking to her niece, Nadia Azhar in a telephone call to the U.S., and told her about Syeda's condition. Nadia asked her aunt to send Xrays and MRI reports of Syeda as soon as possible. Nadia discussed Syeda's condition with her husband, Hillal, and how they could help them because she knew Hilal had a friend in Ed Griffin who was associated with the Shriners.

Ed brought the Xrays and MRI to the Chairman of the Board of Shriners Hospital in Springfield, David Burnstein. After several weeks, Ed got approval that Shriners Hospital would perform the surgery and necessary treatments at no charge to the family.

The family struggled to get a visa and Syeda arrived in the U.S. in May 2013 and stayed at her cousin Nadia's home with her elder brother, Ali Reza, who was her guardian because Syeda's parents could not travel due to her mother's medical condition.

In a letter from the family, they related how well Syeda was treated and by then the hospital only needed to schedule the surgery. She was treated to improve her iron level and received immunization injections. On July 8th,

Nadia brought Syeda to the hospital. Ed was there to lend support to the family.

During an eight-hour surgery, the family both in the U.S. and Pakistan prayed for Syeda and, finally, they were told that the surgery was successful and Syeda was fine.

Syeda was in the intensive care unit for three days, had a lot of pain but after pain medication and breathing exercises, she steadily recovered and started walking with the help of nurses on the fourth day. She received good attention and care by all the people around her in the hospital.

Syeda's life changed after the surgery, it was a dream come true for her. She can now live a normal life without medical complications and the miracle she hoped for became a reality.

The family calls Ed Griffin "an angel from God to fulfill Syeda's and her family's dream. They appreciate the good work by him and express this thought: "May God shower His blessing on Ed Griffin and all the people at Shriners Hospital forever.

"As a thank you, we, Azar and Rehman family, will support Shriners Hospital in any form of service within our means in the coming future."

Illustrious Ed says that Syeda made his year as Potentate complete. Sponsoring a patient at Shriners Hospital is one the most rewarding parts of being a Shriner — you see for yourself what happens to a child who needs the special medical attention available at our hospitals and the positive outcomes for all patients who are treated at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

## Shriners Hospitals Urge Safe Driving to Help Reduce Risk of Spinal Cord Injury

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for those between the ages of 16 and 24, and the leading cause of spinal cord injuries in all age groups. Nearly 6,000 teens die and more than 325,000 are seriously injured in traffic accidents each year. Approximately one in five new teenage drivers will be involved in a crash within the first year of becoming a licensed driver.

Improving driving skills, especially for young drivers, may be the key to fewer deaths and injuries.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to raising awareness to help prevent spinal cord injuries. The health care system has created a brochure promoting safe driving among teens, as well as additional materials raising awareness of spinal cord injury prevention. The brochure is available through the website, [www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org), and the other items can be obtained through the online ordering system. In addition the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Chicago and Texas have participated in distracted driving summits, further raising awareness in their communities.

Being aware of the risk factors that typically cause a motor vehicle crash and reinforcing safe driving tips — especially among younger drivers — may also lessen the risk of motor vehicle crashes and spinal cord injury.

### Tips for Safe Driving

- Give driving your full attention.
- Follow the rules of the road and obey speed limits.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- If transporting younger passengers, remember to restrain children under age 12 properly in the back seat, and to place children in age- and height-appropriate safety or booster seats. Never get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol.
- Be aware of the side effects of prescription medications you are taking before driving.
- Use your side and rearview mirrors every five to seven seconds.

- Never write, read or send text messages while driving.

- Always have a safety zone: a space to your left or right to drive into during an emergency. Your safety zone can also be the cushion of space in front of your vehicle when a tailgater follows too closely.

- Scan the space you are driving in by moving your eyes left and right to get



a sense of your surroundings. Use your mirrors frequently. Keep your eyes up. Look as far ahead as you can see. Do not focus only on the vehicle in front of you.

- Scan your surroundings.
- Avoid distractions unrelated to driving.

### Distractions Include:

- Texting or reading
- Talking on the phone — including using a headset, earpiece or speaker-phone
- Eating
- Fatigue
- Arguing
- An animal that is loose in the car
- Disruptive passengers
- Alcohol or other drugs
- Loud music

### Helpful Online Resources

- [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)
- [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)
- [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

## Hospital's Fourth Annual Walkathon and Barbecue Was a Success on Every Front

The fourth annual walkathon & BBQ at Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield was a well-attended event with 567 friends of the hospital joining staff, Shriners and volunteers for a three-mile walk to Van Horn Park and a barbecue. The event raised \$25,450.

Many parents and their families were on hand for the festivities wearing shirts



identifying them as Team Emma, Sam, Liah, Mariah, Malachi and Luke's family. During the registration hour, walkers posed for pictures with Six Flags characters, Trevor (Stiltwalker) the Gamesman and Zito & Karen from Mix 93.1.

As walkers returned from Van Horn Park, they were greeted by an enthusiastic group of walkathon volunteers while the back parking lot was transformed into a sea of colorful balloons, activity tents and people enjoying the food and festivities.

The Forest Park Travelling Zoo featured a stunning Peahen and Porcupine. TB Bank offered an assortment of giveaways while the Ladies of the Oriental



Shrine of North America painted faces. While waiting for hamburgers and hot-dogs, children created beautiful works of spin art to bring home.

In the hospital's courtyard, DJ Marty Fullwood played Top 40 hits and kept patients and families dancing. Across the courtyard Evelyn's Bakery handed out 500 delicious cupcakes. After a sweet treat, everyone was encouraged to meet K-9 for Kids dogs and participate in group drumming by The Beat Brigade sponsored by Mass Mutual.

—Details of the event were supplied by Lee Freniere, Public Relations.



**This year the Melha Riders' Hospital Run raised over \$90,000. The Riders presented a check to the Shriners Hospital in Springfield on Board Meeting day in October.**

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By Dick Skowron

Well, this article from the Legion is going to sound like it's coming from the Social Security office.

We have two great people coming up on retirement.

First we have Ill. Sir Ed Gelinas, P.P., who has served Melha Shrine as the editor of the *Melha News*. We cannot say enough about the success, information, and awards Sir Ed has received. The *Melha News* is the first line of information to our Nobles. Sir Ed will be truly missed, but sure he will be here at Melha watching over us when he can.

We also have a great Legion member, past Legion Noble of the Year, and presently our Personnel Officer and Chaplain, stepping down after many years in his positions. Noble Frank Hudjik did his job up to and beyond what was expected, and was always there for any problems he could help us out with. Frank did his positions as a professional, surely the training he received from the Navy, as a Seabee.

Enough cannot be said for what both of you did for our Shrine.

Nominated for our upcoming year are as follows, and as always, we must support and do what we can to make them successful

Commander, Robert Thresher; 1st Lt., Pat Moore; 2nd Lt., Robert Knight; Finance Officer, Paul Bryant; Personnel Officer, Paul Frenier, P.C.; Sgt at Arms, Steve Maagero; Adjutant Richard S Skowron, P.C.

Remember our Legion Christmas Party, December 8, 2013 at LaNotte Restaurant, East Windsor Ct, Social at 1300, Price \$25.00 per person.

Remember Lottery ticket per person. Upcoming commander Robert Thresher is presently working on the Legion Past Commander and Ladies Dance. He will have flyers and information soon, so check with Bob, or foxhole for information.

Remember our Shrine fraternal fund to help our Nobles needing this.

A nice Christmas gift would be a small donation mailed to the Shrine Center for the Fraternal Fund.

God Bless our troops for keeping us free and safe.

May all of the Nobles, family members friends and all have a great holiday season.

Merry Christmas.



A hardy group of Nobles and Ladies embarked upon the annual Legion of Honor pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. in early November. Here they are shown at Arlington National Cemetery where they visited the Tomb of the Unknown.

**DRUM CORPS**

By Jim Marceau

As disappointed as we were to have to cancel the Ham & Bean Fundraiser, I understand the difficulty with the economy being what it is and many other events vying for the same dollar. Perhaps we can do better with our next attempt which is...

On Saturday, December 14, the Old Post Road Orchestra will be at Melha to present their annual Holiday Pops Concert. There will be a holiday punch bowl provided, a cash bar, and an exhibition by the Melha Percussion Ensemble! You can bring your own refreshments to this popular event. Dress code is holiday red & green casual. There will be a social hour at 7:00 PM with the concert following at 8:00. This is now a Temple event, so reservations can be made through the office. The orchestra will play a variety of beloved Christmas and Hanukkah tunes, providing something for everyone to enjoy. Treat yourself and a loved one to a little "time out" during this hectic season! Tickets are only \$12.00 per person.

We were pleased to welcome three new members to the Drum Corps at the last Ceremonial. Avi Kushner, Mike Robinson, and Richard "Digger" Baldyga are all now firmly entrenched in the fold. They are valuable additions.

Ron Mongeon was re-elected president for 2014, with Lou Redfern (VP) and Jim Marceau (Sect./Treas.) rounding out the slate. Avi Kushner will function as Quartermaster for our jolly group. As expected, Ron centered his campaign on the "Doesn't anyone else want the job—please?!" theme. You can see how well he made out.

Never too early to start thinking about our Buglers Hall of Fame show coming in April of 2014. It should be bigger and better, as evidenced by the fact that we now have the prime date for preliminaries, just before the Championships! Hope to see you there.

On behalf of all of us in the Drum Corps, we would like to wish one and all the merriest of Holidays, celebrate what you will. May 2014 be a good year, and in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us every one!"

**MELHA SPORTSMAN CLUB**

**Ramblin' Campers**

**HADJI**

By Don Haskell

Special thanks to everyone who participated in the parades this year! We all enjoyed many good times at the parades, but sadly it is time to put our vehicles away for this season and prepare them for next year. It is now the time of year for peace, good cheer, and enjoying special times with family and friends. We hope that you and your families have a happy healthy holiday season. Please remember our military that are away from home protecting and defending us, as well as those in shelters and hospitals who are less fortunate. Also, please give a warm welcome to our newest Melha members.

The nominating committee has made their recommendations for next year's slate of Hadji Officers: President: Glen Surprenant, Vice President: Brad Dimiero, Treasurer: Gary Surprenant, Assistant Treasurer: Bob Wogatsky, Secretary: Don Sacco, Sr., and Tillerman: Don Sacco, Jr.

Please don't forget to attend and help out at the Melha Children's Christmas Party sponsored by Hadji and chaired by Scott Duncan. This is our third year running this event and it has always been successful. It takes place at Melha on Sunday, December 15th.

Please remember that all line officers and sub-unit officers are expected to attend the monthly Hadji meetings. Please make sure that all sub-units are represented by someone who will impart any and all information from the business meetings to their respective sub-units. It is important that the information from our meetings gets disseminated to all our members who can't attend our meetings. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

**Florida Winter Picnic to Be In Inverness on February 1, 2014**

The next Florida Winter Picnic will be held on February 1, 2014, at the Citrus County Shrine Club in Inverness. The social hour is at 1:00, dinner at 2:00.

Price is \$12 per person, with cash bar. Checks should be made out to: *M.J. Corse* and reservations need to be made no later than January 19, 2014.

Contact Malcolm Corse, 288 Truce Rd., Conway, MA 01341 —phone 413-369-4608, or you can contact Malcolm at [mjcorse@comcast.net](mailto:mjcorse@comcast.net).

Directions: I-75 to Exit 66 Route 44 West to Independence St., turn right. Turn left onto Berry St. The lodge is at 468 N. Woodlake Ave.

There are several motels in the area for anyone interested.

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# THE HIGHLANDERS

By Michael Sands

I would like to thank Pam and III. Dave Gates for the wonderful day all Highlanders had at the Highlander picnic at the Gates' residence in Holland, Ma. This is about the 5th or 6th year in a row that they have been so gracious and hospitable for us. Behind the scenes they do so much work that is not even mentioned by them, but is known by every one that has been in their shoes with such events. From all the Highlanders, Thank you, Pam and III. Dave.

All Highlanders and guests enjoyed and evening out for the "Ladies Night" at the Europa restaurant in Ludlow, run by Noble Cory Lacrosse and his wife Melanie, job well done. Also, III. Dave Gates, and his wife Pam, were recognized and awarded a proclamation for their hospitable and continued use of their residence for our annual picnic.

Gentlemen: we have a tight and proud marching group of men that make up one of the last marching units at Melha. Sadly we are losing marchers, due to age and lack of new young members, however, we still look and sound great, and continue to March on. Using one of my defense mechanisms, "fantasy," I can only think how nice we would look coming down the street with a Pipe Major, nine Pipers, six side drummers, one base, two tenors, and several marchers Fantasy thought, yes. However, it can be a reality Nobles, if each one of us could just bring in a new member this year it will be a reality in 2015. Let's do it guys. Please consider this paragraph as the, "TIP OF THE YEAR, AND FUTURE OF THE HIGHLANDERS."

To all I wish you a safe and happy holiday season with your loved ones. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah to all and have a Happy New Year.

# PAST MASTERS

By Richard Poudrier

I trust that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving and Hanukkah holidays. Speaking of holidays, a final reminder regarding our Combined Past Masters Unit of the Melha Shrine and the Past District Deputy Grand Master Association of Western Massachusetts' Holiday Gala. The event will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at the Country Club of Wilbraham, 859 Stoney Hill Road. The Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with the dinner consisting of your choice of Filet Mignon or Baked Stuffed Shrimp at 7:30 p.m. Following the dinner there will be Dancing to the Music of Dave Colucci. All Area Masons, Ladies and Friends are Cordially Invited. Donation: \$34.50 per person. Reservation Form Due w/ Payment No Later Than December 6th. Make checks payable to: Past Masters Unit and mail with your choice of meal to: Les Lohnes, 553 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Please, No Pay at the Door. Don't miss out on this great Holiday Gala. Get your reservations in now!!!

Due to the proximity of the Gala to our regular PM Unit Meeting, our December Meeting has been Cancelled.

Our unit's slate of officers for 2014 has been elected and the officers are as follows: President: Mark C. Mueller, 1st VP: Anthony M. Langone, Sr., 2nd VP: Garth Parker, Treasurer: Andrew P. Tieman, Secretary/Melha News Correspondent: Richard A. Poudrier. On behalf of our unit, I extend our thanks and congratulations and best wishes for a successful term in office.

With Christmas & New Year's just around the corner, the President, officers and members of the Past Masters Unit Wish You and Yours a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season.

# Vintage Autos

By Don George

Upcoming events for the unit. We will be trimming our tree for the Festival of Trees on Tues., Nov. 26, at 6:00 PM. We need ornaments that are auto related. Join us for food and fun at the unit room.

Our annual Christmas party will be held at the Hofbrauhaus in West Springfield on Saturday, December 8. It will be a buffet with the main courses of Stuffed Fillet of Sole, Sliced top sirloin and Chicken stuffed with cranberry cornbread. Notify Bill Boucher by our December meeting. The cost is \$34.00 per person. We hope to see you there.

*Dinner will be at 4 pm, with a cocktail hour at 3 pm. The flyer is available at the Temple or available from Bill Boucher at WHB460@msn.com—a reply will be sent out with one. All are welcome to join us. Reservation cut-off date is Dec 3rd. You may send Bill Boucher a reservation at the same email address and get a confirmation along with the address to send in your check.*

The 2014 Car show has been scheduled for September 7th at the Moose Center in Chicopee. We will begin working on the details in January.

2014 is almost here and that means that your unit dues are now due. Bring it to a meeting or send it to the unit by

mail. Remember that the meetings now start at 7:00 PM.

2014 officers are: President, John Scribner; Vice President, Bill Boucher; Secretary, Don Salva; Treasurer, Don George and Tyler, Tim Vadnais.

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MY FRIENDS."**




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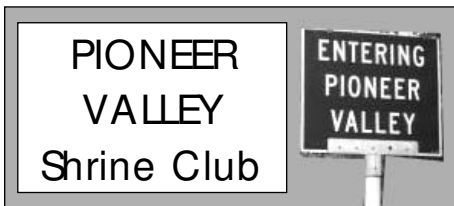
WHEN YOU WANT A GREAT STEAK



**By Lance Whitcomb**

Well fellow Nobles, the leaves are falling (along with the temperatures), and our thoughts are turning to tuning up the snowblowers, polishing the shovels and digging out the holiday decorations. For some of us, our thoughts also turn toward going South for the winter – and how soon we can go! Remember the Melha Winter Picnic at the Citrus Shrine Club in Inverness, FL – it's on Saturday, February 1, 2014 and for more details or to RSVP please contact Malcolm Corse at (413) 369-4608. We hope to see many of you there!

When this Camelha comes out, we will have the Fall Ceremonial behind us. It is always an exciting day and a wonderful opportunity to meet our newest Nobles and re-connect with those who we may have not seen in a while. Speaking of re-connecting, please visit your Blue Lodge whenever you can, or visit a different Lodge and make some new acquaintances.



**By Robert Frechette**

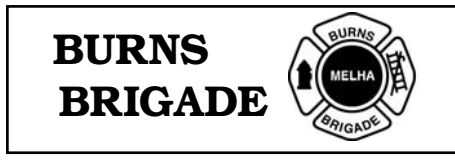
The annual meeting of the Pioneer Valley Shrine Club is Saturday, January 11, 2014, at 6 p.m. in the Jack Butterfield Auditorium. There will be pizza and soda. All Nobles and their ladies are welcome to attend. If you decide to join PVSC the dues are \$10 per year for both you and your lady. Hope to see you there.

**\$100 MILLION CLUB**

4009 In loving memory of Nina M. Butterfield from Melha Cabiri Ladies

4010 In memory of Sharon Ann Haswell from her loving family

4011 In memory of Arthur "Doc" Lapine from the Melha Military Band



**By Bill Judd**

This month's article is a very tough one for me to write. The Melha Burns Brigade was started years ago with the purpose of getting Burns and Fire Prevention materials to the public. We had been achieving that goal at the Eastfield Mall and the Fire Chief's show. We lost members and are not getting any replacements to keep this small but important unit alive which was important. This year Eastfield was cancelled due to commitments of our partners and members, we staffed the booth at the Fire Chief's Show and received \$2,000 each for our Springfield and Boston Hospitals. But it takes a Village not just a few to keep this unit running, and we are losing the battle. Think about that, a small unit that could save a life. In each month's issue I always had "Do you want to be or know someone that's wants to be part of a unit that keeps people safe from Fire and Burns? Come and join us." We got no replies. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Station house just left of the Melha Office. We got the fire safety devices checked to keep our building safe. In October we discussed disbanding the unit and decided that at our meeting on November 26 we will vote to keep the unit running or disband. If you're a member and have not been around, November 26th will be a very important meeting to attend. In closing, I would like to thank Joe, Howard, Charlie, George and Lee we did made a difference. Be safe!



**By John H. Fiske**

The Christmas Season is here and the Berkshire Shrine Club will be having their Christmas Party at the Bass Water Grill in Cheshire, Ma. The date is December 14, 2013. Social will start at 1 pm with the dinner at 2 pm. Reservations should be made to Pres. Marty Myrick by December 11, 2013 at 413-281-9664. The Berkshire Shrine Club would like to wish each and everyone a Joyous Holiday Season. We would also like to send our Thanks and Best Wishes to all of our servicemen and women.



**By Alan D. Stratton**

It's Ceremonial time for Melha so the Directors Unit is busy preparing for the big day. Special thanks go out to Dean Whalen, Chief Director, for organizing the day (and the unit) to make sure it is a success for the new Nobles to Melha.

The Director's Unit has been considering a couple of big changes for the unit, so support, comments and/or concerns are being solicited. First, when the next several months of week-end Hospital Duty coverage is assigned, we are planning a trial having only one Director assigned each day for hospital duty rather than two. This was not an easy decision to make and we all realize there are pros and cons to this approach. On one hand it is sometimes very important to have two Directors available for tours, but on the other, we are losing tour guides, simply because we are asking them to cover duty too frequently. Keep in mind this is only a trial and we will evaluate this approach as we progress through it. The goal is to provide the best level of coverage we can to support our Hospital.

Next, we are nearing completion of some pretty significant by-law changes for the unit. A revision was drafted several months ago and has been discussed at several recent Director Meetings. A copy of the draft is available for review and comment on the Director's web page. The primary change being proposed is to modify the classification of "active" and "inactive" unit members and to provide flexibility to retain "active" status. The changes are expected to be put to a final vote in the December meeting so if you have any comments, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.

Finally, a mailing was made in October, asking Directors to update their contact information – and very importantly – their availability for Hospital Duty coverage. If you have not done so already, please complete and return this survey as soon as possible.



**Melha Association of HADJI  
ANNUAL CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Party starts at 1 p.m., Santa arrives at 1:30 p.m.  
Melha Shrine Center, 133 Longhill St., Springfield

- \* \$8.00 donation per child requested. Includes: Christmas presents, ice cream, cookies, refreshments and Christmas music
- \* Party open to all Children and Grandchildren of Melha Shriners who are 10 years of age and younger.
- \* We assign tables so please include the total number of people who will be coming to the party in the form below. Please complete the form below and send it along with the donation (check made payable to Melha Association of Hadji).

Clip coupon and mail to: Scott Duncan, 87 Butternut Hollow Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY FORM**

Shriner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name	Age	Boy/Girl
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Total number attending including children		_____





# TEAM CIRCUS

By Al Zippin, P.P.

At our meeting in October a slate of officers for 2014 was met with a unanimous vote of approval. The list of officers will be published once they are elected and we look forward to another year of strong and energetic leadership for Team Circus. Outgoing president, Leo Plourde, has earned both the respect and admiration of those who know and have worked with him for many years. His leadership as our president was typical of his commitment in his role as the chairman of our ad book committee, a position he has held for many years. In prior years, Leo served as our Chief Steward and in that role he demonstrated the same commitment to excellence that he displays in all that he does. I would be remiss if I did not mention Leo's wife Trish, whose efforts on behalf of Melha and whose very active support of Leo's work in the Shrine have set an example of a husband-wife partnership that could be a model for so many others. Thanks Leo and Trish for all that you do for all of us in the Melha family.

We are currently hard at work on our 2014 circus which will take place on May 1st through May 4th. This will be the 60th consecutive year for our circus and we are looking at various options to give this anniversary a special feel for all of us. The circus comes together because so many Nobles and Ladies make a commitment to make it a success. After all, the reality is that however the circus does has a direct impact on every member of our Melha family and

**DON'T FORGET . . .**  
Our fellow Nobles who may need assistance. Send \$1.00 or more to the **Fraternal Fund** in care of the Melha Office. Many Nobles have been enabled to keep their membership in Melha through your generosity. Please don't forget them now.

for that reason alone we need to motivate as many of our Nobles and Ladies to get involved in supporting the circus in whatever manner they can do so.

Our most pressing issue right now is the sale of ads for our program book. Just imagine if each one of us—Nobles and Ladies—sold or purchase just one ad in our circus program book. That would give us a rousing success and the money from the ads is, as they say, "money in the bank" for Melha. If you haven't sold ads we need you! If you want information about ad sales please contact Leo Plourde at: 413-348-3889 or at: leop08@charter.net for information. For those of you who have sold ads please keep up your good work for Melha. Last year approximately 100 Nobles generated over \$ 74,000 in ad sales. Imagine what we could accomplish if we had even 150 Nobles and ladies selling ads. This year our ad form will be available on line at our website, melhashrinecircus.com. This will enable those of you for whom getting out to sell ads is challenging. Take advantage of this option and make a few calls to sell ads for Melha.

As a result of our 2013 circus we are pleased to let everyone know that we are turning over \$55,000 to Melha.

Please remember our fellow Nobles who are challenged in various ways by making a donation of \$1.00 or more to the Jim Garvey Memorial Fraternal Fund. As I have said for years, no Noble should ever have to lose his Melha membership because he cannot pay his Shrine dues. Let's make sure that doesn't happen.

**MILITARY BAND**



**Melha RIDERS**



**Central Mass. Shrine Club**



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**The Melha Vintage Autos' Annual Christmas Dinner**  
December 8, 2013

**Hofbrauhaus**  
International & Bavarian Cuisine

1105 Main St., West Springfield, Ma 01089  
**Cocktail Hour: 3 pm**  
Cash bar with Cheese and Cracker Plate, Fresh Fruit Salad  
**Dinner at 4 pm**  
**Christmas Holiday Buffet**  
Mixed Green Salad, Fresh Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes & Rolls  
**Entrees**  
Stuffed Fillet of Sole  
Sliced Top Sirloin with Sherry Mushroom Sauce  
Chicken Stuffed with Cranberry Cornbread  
Dessert: Chocolate Mousse  
Cost is \$34.00 per person (tax & tip included)  
Contact Bill Boucher for more information at 413-313-1710 or email to WHB460@msn.com



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**Helma Court #64**

Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Inc.



By Anita L. Gay

Lady Linda Birk is once again hosting her popular "Annual Christmas Get-Together" at her home on Friday, December 13 at 6:00 pm. Husbands

and/or significant others are also invited. She tells us that both casual or Christmas dress are equally appropriate. As in previous years there will be an optional cookie swap (please remember to include the recipes).

Helma Court is dark in December, but we will hold a regular Court meeting at Mt. Moriah on January 9, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

Ladies, I have something for you to think about. Ask yourselves if you want Lady Jody to make a name for herself in Helma Court by being the very last High Priestess to be installed. Because there are two unfilled chairs for line officers at Court right now (Associate Princess and First Ceremonial Lady) and when Lady Jody is installed in the Spring, it will be the Princess and Associate Princess line officer chairs that will be unfilled. She will have no immediate successor. We all love Lady Jody and I'm sure that we all would really like to see her make a name for herself in our Court, but do we want her to make it in this way?

**AHLEM TEMPLE**

#84



*Daughters of the Nile*

By Olive Larson

Our December Session will be held at the Meadows Masonic Lodge, 43 Chestnut St., in East Longmeadow at 7 p.m. preceded by a holiday dinner at 5 p.m. Note the change of location.

We thank everyone who helped with the Pumpkin Fair in October. It was nice to see so many Past Queens commemorating Founders Day at our November Session.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

"And all the angels in heaven shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning."

—Old English Carol

**\$100 MILLION CLUB**

The 100 Million Dollar Club is a way for Shriners and non-Shriners alike to provide a gift of hope for a child in need. The goal of the program is to add \$100 million to the endowment fund through gifts or bequests of \$100 or more.

There are three ways to become a member of the 100 Million Dollar Club:

- (1) Contribute \$100 or more to Shriners Hospitals for Children;
- (2) Include a bequest of \$100 or more to Shriners Hospitals for Children in a will;
- (3) Add a provision to an existing will leaving \$100 or more to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Memberships can also be purchased in another person's name as a special anniversary, birthday or appreciation gift.

Just contact the Records office.



Melha's 2012 First Lady Anna Mitchell's project for Shriners Hospital was to purchase a piano for the hospital for entertainment and music therapy for the patients. A presentation was made at the hospital in October. Shown at the piano is Anna Mitchell, surrounded from left by Ill. Russ Mitchell, P.P., Michael Mitchell and Board Chairman David Burstein.

**Celebrate  
New Year's Eve**

**Tuesday, December 31st  
Castle of Knights  
Fairview**

**Cocktails 6 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.  
Dancing until 1 a.m.**

This year Melha will be bringing its New Year's Eve Celebration to the Castle of Knights. Opening at 6 p.m., a cocktail hour will include cheese, fruit and veggie display, platters of Canapes at each dinner table, a cash bar and feature a casino complete with roulette tables, etc.

At 7 p.m., the casino will temporarily close to begin serving a five-course dinner along with live entertainment provided by David Colucci.

Following a Fettuccini Carbonara appetizer, Hearts of Palm salad and classic Lemon Sorbet, guests will enjoy a choice of four entrees.

**Menu**

Fettuccini Carbonara appetizer, hearts of palm salad, classic lemon sorbet  
Choice of—

- Roast Prime Rib of Beef au jus, served with a horseradish popover;
  - Stuffed Breast of Chicken, wrapped in puff pastry;
  - Shrimp, Scallop & Lobster Casserole in a Cognac sauce;
  - Mushroom Wellington served with a cream sauce
- Dessert —  
Russian Strawberries Romanoff



Casino opens at 6 p.m.; reopens at 11 p.m. Roulette tables, chug-a-lug, and cash wheel \$1,000 cash prize in the "World Raffle" Midnight champagne toast and buffet featuring sandwiches, desserts, tea, coffee

Event tickets are \$60.00 per person. Jackets are required.

**New Year's Eve, 133 Longhill St., Springfield, MA 01108**

Make my reservations for \_\_\_ at \$120 per couple for Melha's New Year's Eve Celebration at the Castle of Knights. My check is enclosed in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Melha Shriners.

My meal choices are:

\_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_ Seafood Casserole \_\_\_ Mushroom Wellington

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my \_\_\_ VISA, \_\_\_ MasterCard, \_\_\_ Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



*Special Event*

*Please join Deborah Faust for the  
Chief Rabban's Lady's Dinner  
Friday, January 3, 2014  
at 6:30 p.m. at*

*The Mahogany Room  
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel  
One Monarch Place  
Springfield, MA*



*Chicken Cape Cod with Cranberry Stuffing \_\_\_\_\_  
Sliced Sirloin of Beef \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner \$35.00 per person*

**Includes Parking at the Sheraton Hotel**

*Please come and help Lady Deborah introduce the new  
Low Man's Lady and enjoy a delicious dinner.*

**Make checks payable to Deborah Faust  
42 Stony Hill Road, Feeding Hills, MA 01030**

**R.S.V.P. by December 20, 2013  
to Deborah Faust at 413-246-8886**

## SHRINE FUNDRAISING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

It is natural to associate the fez with Shriners Hospitals for Children. Because of this, meticulous attention must be given to all fundraising activities, including circuses, to make certain that such activities comply with the law of the land and that a contributor is not led to believe that his money will be used for the Hospitals when all or a portion thereof will be used otherwise. The integrity of our charity and of our fraternity must remain above reproach.

Your specific attention is called to the following fraternal and charitable bylaws:

§335.3 USE OF NAME "SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN." The use of the name "Shriners Hospitals for Children" or reference to the Hospitals in connection with any fundraising activity by a temple or Noble without the written consent of the Imperial Potentate and the chairman of the board of trustees of the Hospitals is prohibited.

§503.11 COMMERCIAL USE OF NAME. The use of the name "Shriners Hospitals for Children" or reference to the hospitals in connection with any commercial product or business enterprise is prohibited unless the written consent of the boards of directors and trustees has been first obtained.

Now, therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Fundraising for Fraternal purposes:

(a) No Noble (in his capacity as a Shriner), club, unit, organization of Nobles or affiliated or appendant corporations, shall engage in any fundraising activity without the express written consent of the potentate of the temple having jurisdiction thereof.

(b) There can be no representation, express or implied, that the proceeds will be for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

(c) The temple potentate shall carefully examine all phases of the advertising, promotion and solicitation to determine that it complies with §335.3 and §503.11 of the fraternal and charitable bylaws.

(d) The temple potentate must approve the terms and provisions of any contract for a fundraising activity after receiving the advice of the temple attorney, and, additionally, as may be required by the temple bylaws.

(e) A copy of the temple potentate's written consent shall be mailed to the Executive Vice President, Shriners International. Further, such written material pertaining to the fundraising activity, as requested by the Executive Vice President, Shriners International, shall be promptly mailed to him.

2. Fundraising for Charitable purposes:

(a) No Noble (in his capacity as a Shriner), club, unit, organization of Nobles or affiliated or appendant corporations shall engage in any charitable fundraising activity other than for Shriners Hospitals for Children. Permission therefor must be first obtained in writing from the temple potentate. The temple potentate must then obtain written permission from the chairmen of the boards of directors and trustees. This request for written permission shall be sent to the Executive Vice President, Shriners International, P.O. Box 31356, Tampa, FL 33631-3356. No charitable fundraising activity shall be held in the jurisdiction of another temple without the written permission of the potentate of that temple.

(1) A joint charitable fundraising activity with another 501(c)(3) charity may be authorized, provided that a minimum of 50% of the net proceeds are for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children, and the chairmen of the boards of directors and trustees determine, on a case by case basis, that it is in the best interest of Shriners Hospitals for Children and they grant their written permission for the activity.

(2) A charitable fundraising activity conducted by a temple located outside of the U.S.A. may be authorized for other charities, provided that the chairmen of the boards of directors and trustees determine, on a case by case basis, that it is in the best interest of Shriners Hospitals for Children and they grant their written permission for the activity.

(b) 100% of net proceeds (as defined in the Charitable Fundraising—Approval And

Reporting provisions of this General Order) from charitable fundraising must be given to Shriners Hospitals for Children except for such portion thereof as may be permitted to be retained for the temple Shrine Hospital Patient Transportation Fund, pursuant to the Special Purpose Funds provisions of any General Order. Provided, however, if the chairmen of the boards of directors and trustees determine for good cause shown, that the law of the land requires that a portion of the net proceeds must be distributed locally, then they may, if they determine it to be in the best interest of Shriners Hospitals for Children, grant their written permission for such distribution.

(c) The temple shall report the result of each charitable fundraising activity within sixty days of the activity, pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising—Approval And Reporting provisions of any General Order.

(d) This section shall not apply to activities exempt under §335.4(b) of the bylaws of Shriners International.

(e) Each independent corporation or entity that receives the permission of the chairmen of the boards of directors and trustees to raise moneys for Shriners Hospitals for Children, and which does not have its financial statements reviewed pursuant to §§334.6 & 337.8 of the bylaws of Shriners International, shall have its financial statements audited by a certified, chartered or licensed public accountant and shall submit such audit report to Shriners International within 120 days of the activity.

3. Statement of purpose and Disclosure:

(a) Every fundraising activity must contain factual information on its solicitation material, tickets, programs and documents, including all electronically transmitted material, regarding the use of the proceeds.

Examples: "Proceeds are for the benefit of (\_\_\_\_ Shriners) (\_\_\_\_ shrine club) activities." "Proceeds are for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children."

(b) Every fundraising activity which is not entirely for the benefit of Shriners Hospitals for Children shall prominently state on all solicitation material, including tickets, programs, documents and electronically transmitted material, that "payments are not deductible as charitable contributions."

(c) There must be compliance with the Revenue Act of 1987 provision of any general order by U.S. temples.

4. Compliance with Applicable Laws:

It is the responsibility of the temple potentate, after receiving the advice of the temple attorney, to determine that there is compliance with all applicable laws in its jurisdiction for the temple's fundraising activities.

5. Financial Records:

(a) The temple shall maintain detailed financial records pertaining to all fundraising activities involving Nobles, clubs, units, organizations of Nobles and affiliated and appendant corporations. Details of all revenues and expenditures shall be maintained in such financial records.

(b) The temple must retain such detailed financial records for a period of seven (7) years.

(c) There must be compliance with Financial Reporting on Charitable Funds and Activities provision of any general order.

6. Notification to nobility:

A copy of the Fundraising Activities provisions of this General Order shall be printed in the temple publication at least once every calendar year. If there is no temple publication, then a copy shall be mailed to each Noble in the temple not later than the last day in March of each calendar year.

7. Discipline:

Any officer, Noble or temple which violates a provision of Fundraising Activities is subject to discipline pursuant to the bylaws of Shriners International.

ENTRANCE FEES  
starting at  
**\$183,100**  
(90% refundable)



# TODAY

I met friends for breakfast.

**They invited me to try something different: Yoga!** So refreshing! I plan to join the class! **Then lunch:** fresh grilled salmon—fabulous, but there is always something different on the menu. For a change of pace in the p.m., I went to the **art studio.** Wait until you see my first watercolor! Jean and George joined me for dinner and we went to hear a bluegrass band. **Every day brings something new since I moved to The Overlook! What a difference it has made!**



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3rd  
Year

# FEZTIVAL OF TREES

**M**ore than 2,000 people visited Melha's *Feztival of Trees* over its 10-day run in 2012 and viewed some 40 gorgeous, fully-decorated artificial trees on display.

The accompanying *Feztival Marketplace* was filled with crafters and vendors who sold a wide array of items—many holiday and unique gift items and more. The front hall, living room, dining room and the sunporch were all transformed into a unique “*Holiday Wonderland*.” Trees were donated then decorated in a wide variety of themes by many local businesses. There

was a mighty mini-tree auction, some large gift baskets, and a wide variety of old & new holiday items as well.

This year many more trees are expected to be on display and the *Feztival Marketplace* will be larger and offer even more to see than it ever has before. Worth the trip!

This year Santa will be visiting the *Feztival of Trees* once again. He will meet with visitors—young and old—so be sure to check his schedule.

Raffle tickets will be on sale so visitors can enter to win a beautiful tree and then take it home, fully decorated and ready for the festive holidays.

**NOVEMBER 29 THRU  
DECEMBER 8**

ADMISSION \$2  
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

HOURS:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 HOURS ARE  
10 A.M.-8 P.M. HOURS:

WEEKDAYS 4 P.M.-8 P.M.

SATURDAYS: 10 A.M.-8 P.M.

SUNDAYS 11 A.M.-5 P.M.

The really good stuff: Refreshments and food will be available throughout the week of the *Feztival*. There is truly something for everyone.

Going to *Bright Nights*? The *Feztival of Trees* is a perfect way to begin or end your evening, enjoy all the wonderful holiday festivities going on at Forest Park in Springfield and at Melha.

**Merry Christmas  
and Happy Holidays!**

Visit with  
Santa — live  
and in person!



One of the most popular features of the *Feztival of Trees* is the *Feztival Marketplace*. You can find Christmas decorations of all kinds, many made and decorated by hand, vendors with a large variety of unique items that are perfect for gift giving, an assortment of hand-made goods that are unavailable anywhere else. Once you see the many beautiful and impressive trees on display, stop by and take home a little something for yourself or for under your tree.