

almas alibi

volume 84

Number 1 - February 2009



2009 Potentate, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr and Lady Debbie

Phone: 202-898-1688 Fax: 202-789-1148 Email: almas-shriners@verizon.net Website: almasshriners.org

Almas



Shrine

Please join us as we attend the 135th Shrine of North America Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Sunday July 5, 2009 thru Thursday, July 9, 2009

We will be staying at the beautiful Omni La Mansion Del Rio Hotel on the Riverwalk only five blocks from the Convention Center and Imperial Headquarters Hotels

Room Rate: \$185.63 per night (includes tax, fees and assessments)

| First nights lodging required is \$185.6 | i3 | Check # | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| (remainder of addition | nal nights will be paid by you at cho | eck out) | | |
| The required binder fee of \$20.00 is al | lso due | Check # | | |
| | which is <u>NOT</u> deducted from you | package price) | | |
| PLEASE MAK | E ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO | | | |
| | RINE - 2009 CONVENTION | | | |
| IMPORTANT: THE FINAL | CUT OFF DATE FOR RESERVA | ATIONS IS | | |
| | APRIL 20, 2009 | 4110NS 1S | | |
| | d mail or give to George Whetzel | | | |
| Nobles Name | Lady's Name | | | |
| Address | | | | |
| City | State | _ Zip | | |
| Phone (Home) Wo | ork Unit/Club/Title | | | |
| Arrival Date | Departure Date | | | |

Please return to: George E. Whetzel, 1315 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

potentatos,

As your newly installed Potentate, I am highly honored and extremely humbled to have been selected by the nobility of Almas to serve you in 2009. Lady Debbie and I are very excited about the coming year. It has been a very rewarding journey ever since I was appointed to the line by Illustrious Sir Donald M. Holliday back in 2002. I will be always grateful for the opportunity to serve. If it had not been for my wife, First Lady Debbie, encouraging me every step of the way I would not be here writing to you as your Potentate. I would like to thank Debbie and all of the Ladies of Almas Shriners; for all that you do for Almas Shriners. Congratulations to Illustrious Sir F. William Hershiser for his service in 2008.

Thanks to all of you that were able to attend the installations. My special thanks to Illustrious Sir Donald M. Holliday for installing the officers at the closed installation. A special thanks to Illustrious Sir Anthony S. Murray for acting as Master of Ceremonies for the Open Installation. As I told some of the officers, it was a relief knowing that all I had to do is tell Tony what I wanted and then get out of the way and let him handle it. Thanks again Tony for a job well done.

A special thanks goes out to Most Worshipful Brothers William Miscovic and Raymond McMullen for acting as Grand Marshalls for the Installation. Both of you have been friends of the family for many years. I look forward to many more years of that friendship. Thanks goes out to Illustrious Sir Jeffery G. Bodie for acting as Chaplain for the Installation. I considered it a honor to have you kneeling next to me at the altar delivering the prayer during the Installation. Congratulations to all of the newly installed officers along with the Unit Heads and Club Heads. The Nobility should be excited about all of the leaders.

CSSK

It is now time to get to work. Nobles you have great group of elected Divan members this year. I have appointed some outstanding Nobles to serve on the Appointed Divan. The Board of Directors have several responsibilities to attend to immediately. We do not take this responsibility lightly.

I have appointed Rick Hall as membership Chairman this year. As you all know membership is our top priority. Membership is the responsibility of all of us. The Most Worshipful Grand Master in the District of Columbia, Kwame Acquaah, has asked us to assist the Grand Lodge in

recruitment. After they are raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason then we will have prospects that can be created as Shriners. I am going to attempt to visit all of the Lodges in DC and promote Shrinedom along the way. I challenge each of you to do the same.

I look forward to visiting with you in 2009

Yours in the Faith,

Potentate



New Years Eve





























4 - almas alibi

New Years Eve































almas alibi - 5

BIG BUCKS at MASA

It has been suggested that Almas purchase a booth at the Mid Atlantic Shrine Association Marketplace to be used by Units, Clubs and individuals to sell raffle tickets, ornaments, crafts, e.t.c. Temples in other Associations have done this for years and earn good money. The Temple would pay for the booth (\$375 for three days) and any Unit, Club or individual could showcase their wares. Some proposed guidelines include:

- 1. Baskets of Cheer, quilts or other items being raffled by the Units or Clubs must be on display during Marketplace hours.
- 2. All involved parties would share in manning the booth which must be manned during the Marketplace hours.

- 3. Unit and/or Club proceeds go to the Unit or Club.
- 4. A portion (TBD) of the proceeds from all items sold by individuals must go to the Almas Transportaion Fund. (Sale of White House ornaments would continue as is.)

This could represent an oppertunity for significant fund raising by reaching a much larger audience. Please contact Jeff or Barbara Bodie if you would support this ides or if you or your Unit or Club would like to participate. The Temple Board of Directors has approved consideration of this idea and depending on the response, we will move forward.

Yours in the Faith Jeffrey G. Bodie, P.P.

Pop Tops

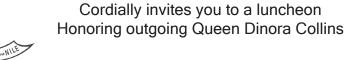
Don & Martha Boltz' daughter Abby Hanger, presented Don with a large box of pop tops from soda cans for Christmas.



Don presented Illustrious Sir Donald R. Ferguson, Sr. with the box the night of the Temple Business Meeting.

Thank you to both of you

The White Rose Circle of Samla Temple No. 51 DON



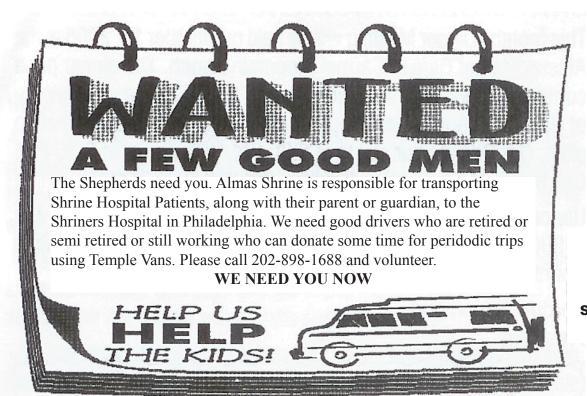
Saturday, February 28, 2009 11:45 am Social 12:15 Lunch

Ambrosia Grille 802 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD (Route 322 South of Montgomery College)

Cost \$23.00 made payable to Samla Temple # 51

Reservations by February 21, 2009
Kathlene Garnett
724 Clear Spring Road, Great Falls, VA 22066
703-430-0530









Almas Directors Staff

I would like to start by giving a big "Thank You" to each and everyone who helped to make our 2008 White House Holiday Ornament Project a success. We purchased 605 of the 2008 ornaments for the project. As in years past, we also purchased prior years and special commemorative ornaments for those who are trying to collect the entire set since the White House Historical Society began selling them in 1981. Some of the early years are sold in sets of four only, but all years are still available. We do this as a courtesy to our customers even though we only make a profit on the current year's ornaments only during the project time, which starts when the ornaments are introduced, usually in July and until the project is completed in December each year. If any one is interested, I can get these ornaments all year long. The Director's Staff mailed out 26 packages all over the country to fill orders for customers. On Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the Open Installation of Officers for Almas Shriners it was my pleasure to present to the Junior Past Potentate, Ill. Sir F. William Hershiser, a check in the amount of \$2,484.90 for the Almas Transportation Fund. This reflects the entire profit from the project. We also had some very generous people who returned their change from their \$20 bill and said "Add it to the Transportation Fund". Thanks again and please let your family and friends know about this worthy cause.

Yours in the Faith George Whetzel

Almas Yacht Club

Hopefully the weather held and we had a successful Commodore's Ball.

As of now we should break even, but this may not have happened without our successful secret weapon - The Ladies. Alma Jean Bridegum, Imelda Evans, Becky Holiday and my special first mate Nancy. Not to forget all of the ladies bringing their special treats for the Hospitality Suite.

Our next meeting will be at Alfio's on Thursday, February 26th. Prior to that Nur's Commodore's Ball is February 21st. and Khedive's Ball is on February 14th.

Hope to see you around.

Jay Whitcomb Secretary



2008 Shriner of the Year



At the Installation
Ceremony on
January 10,
2009, Joseph
F. Burrows
was named
posthumously Shriner
of the Year
for 2008,
by Ill. Sir F.

William Hershiser, Potentate of Almas Shrine Center. He presented to me a plaque honoring Joe for his outstanding achievements in Almas. Joe passed away in October 2008.

Joe loved being a Shriner in the appointed divan line, also being elected by the membership to serve as Trustee. He served as Fleet Captain and Commodore in the Almas Yacht Club. He currently was serving as Vice President of the Northwest Shrine Club, was the Rear Commodore with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Shrine Yacht Clubs. He also was Colonel of the Units where he loved working on Almas parades. He enjoyed this unit because this gave him an opportunity to participate with his motorcycle in the parades.

Joe really loved being involved with children and was a Shepherd at Almas participating in transporting children to and from the Shriner's Hospital in Philadelphia. It made him very happy to be a part of this.

Thank you again, Ill. Sir Bill for honoring Joe and for Almas for giving Joe the opportunity to be a proud Shriner.

Particia L. Burrows

Legion Of Honor

A new shrine year is upon us! The entire Legion of Honor would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Donald R. Ferguson, Sr. on his ascension as Potentate and extend heat felt thanks to Illustrious Sir F. William Hershiser for all of his support this last year.

To introduce myself to my fellow Legionnaires that do not normally make it to the meetings (you know who you are and yes, you really do need to start coming) I am Robin Bodie. I served in the US Army Infantry from 1989 - 1993 and I am a veteran of the Gulf War. During my enlistment I held positions as rifleman, machine gunner, fire team leader, squad leader, Bradley gunner and company sniper.

Currently, I am the Lending Manager for the Prince William County Employees Credit Union in Woodbridge, VA. I am married to Theresa and we have three children: Amanda, Aylssa and Robert. We live in Laurel, Maryland.

To briefly review the calendar or LOH events for this coming year we first have the Valentine's Day Ball on February 14th. Next is Spring MASA LOH May 14 - 16. On August 15th Almas LOH will hold its first Commander's Ball in quite a while. Fall MASA falls on September 9-12. The International LOH Arlington Wreath Laying Ceremony will be held on November 7th.

I would like to encourage all LOH members to please support your unit with your attendance this year. The Valentine's Day and Commander's Ball are going to be a great time. Spring and Fall MASA will be the time where Illustrious Sir Bill Lanham is counting on the Legion to present the col-

ors for Almas during the sessions and parade. The Arlington Wreath Laying is the time where we all can come together and salute our fallen brother and sisters in arms.

In closing, I look forward to serving you as Commander of the Almas Legion of Honor. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know.

Yours in the Faith Robin Bodie Commander



The Board of Directors

Special Meeting Called by the Potentate

The Potentate has called a "Special **Business Meeting**" to be held on March 5, 2009 prior to the Uniformed Units Meeting for the purpose of discussing and voting on the proposed changes to the Almas By-Laws that were presented at our Stated Business Meeting held on January 29, 2009.

Article 11.1 of the By-Laws of Almas Shriners reads: Amendments. These By-Laws maybe amended as provided by the By-Laws of the Imperial Council.

Therefore, Almas Shriners must follow the By-Laws of the Imperial Council as indicated in Article 31, Temple By-Laws, Sections 331.1/331.2 and 331.3.

The proposed changes (amendments) to the Almas By-Laws ars as follows (Note: The changes are bolded and underlined (except in the title areas)):

Article 6 Fiscal

Now Reads:

Section 6.5 Jewel or Token. The proposed annual operating budget of this temple shall contain an expense item not exceeding \$500.00 for the purchase of a suitable jewel or token to be presented in the name of the temple to the retiring Potentate, upon installation of his successor in office.

Change to read:

Section 6.5 Jewel or Token. The proposed annual operating budget of this temple shall contain an expense item not exceeding \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a suitable jewel or token to be presented in the name of the temple to the (delete "retiring") Potentate, upon his installation to the office.

Now Reads;

Section 6.6 Potentate and Recorder Personal Expense. The proposed annual operating budget of this temple shall contain expense items not exceed- \$4,000 over the past year that we ing \$2,750.00 for the Potentate and not exceeding \$750.00 for the Recorder, for their personal expenses and there shall be no requirement for them to account for the money received therefrom. However, any payment to the Recorder requires a prior written order of the Potentate.

Changed to read:

Scetion 6.6 Potentate and Recorder Personel Expense. The proposed annual operating budget of this temple shall contain items not exceeding \$2,800.00 for the Potentate and not exceeding **\$1,500.00** for the Recorder, for their personal expenses and there shall be no requirement for them to account for the money received therefrom. However, any payment to the Recorder requires a prior written order of the Potentate.

George E. Whetzel Recorder

Change in Parking arrangements

This is to notify everyone that effective March 1, 2009 the Temple will no longer subsidize anyone for parking in the garage.

This program was originally placed in effect on a trial basis. Our review of this program has shown that it did not achieve the desired results, we were hoping that it would encourage more members to come to the Temple to participate in our events and meetings. But, sad to say, that did not happen. The Temple has spent could not afford to spend. We regret that we have to cancel this program, but we have to be realistic in that the Temple cannot continue in the same path that it has been.

George E. Whetzel Recorder





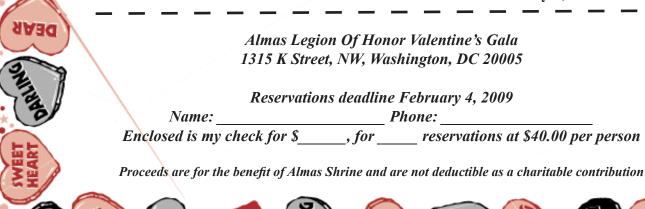
Almas Shrine's Grand Ballroom \$40.00 per person

7:00 - 7:30 PM Social 7:30 - 9:00 PM Dinner 9:00 - 11:30 PM Dancing

Black Tie & Evening Gown

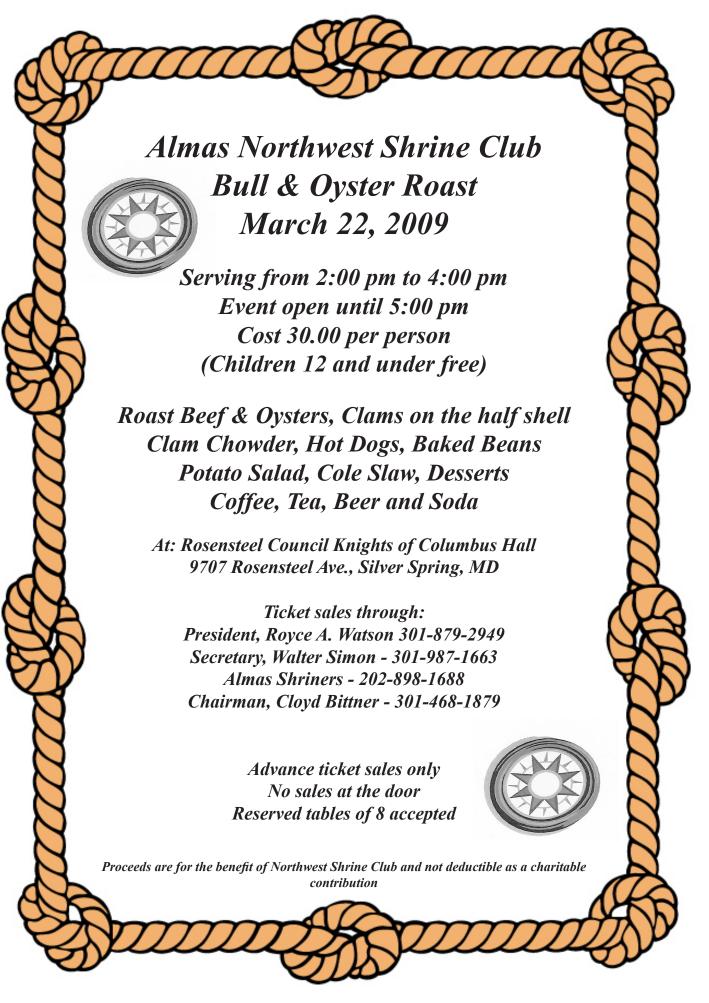
Co-Chairmen
Robin Bodie & Tony Murray, P.P.

Limited number of rooms available at the Crowne Plaza for \$119.00 ++ Call the Temple Office 202-898-1688 with your reservations before February 4, 2009





DARLING



Krazy Klown Korner

From the Recorders Desk

Almas Klowns still need your help and support to bolster our ranks. When asked for clown help at events, our goal is to muster a large contingent. We still need those who love to make kids happy and who will join our elite group.

At the Childrens' Holiday Party in December, the Klowns had a good turn out and we got many smiles from the children as well as from their parents. As of this writing, the Klowns are preparing for the Annual Super Bowl Party.

As was said before, all Klowns love parades and activities and have more fun, no matter what the weather may bring. We hope to again take part in the Cherry Blossom Parade. At this event, we've had clowns from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland Shriner Centers join with us.

The Friday before the parade we have a Klown Fest where the participating clowns get together and have a grand old time with much fellowship. We make each other smile.

We're a unit where we can be Klowns in or out of kostume and will admit the same. Call Walter Simon at 301-987-1663 or Jay Whitcomb at 301-989-0121 iffn you're interested.

Weird Wally Boss Klown (for the present) I would like to thank all of those who came out to the Open Installation of Officers for 2009. There was a very nice crowd and everyone was treated to a great Installation. Imperial Sir Raoul Frevel, Past Imperial Potentate, was the Installing Officer and Ill. Sir Bill Miskovic and MWB Ray McMullen who were the Installing Marshals accompanied him. I would like to congratulate all the Officers plus the Unit and Club Heads who were installed. I am looking forward to working with each of you this year.

A couple of members have recently asked me about purchasing Life Membership. Therefore, I thought that this would be a great forum to let everyone know how the Life Membership program works. There are three parts to the "over all dues" or \$60.00 (\$40.00 is for the Temple dues, plus \$15.00 for the Per Capita (which goes to Imperial), plus \$5.00 for the Shriners Hospital (which also goes to Imperial). By the Imperial By-Laws , a Life Membership can be purchased in all three parts and are explained as follows:

20 times the Temple Dues, which are \$40.00 and would equal......\$800.00 30 times the \$15.00 Per Capita which would equal.......\$450.00 Hospital (flat fee) is\$150.00

Total\$1,400.00

To be able to purchase Life Membership you must be a member in good standing. If you purchase a Life membership in any of the three different categories, you will continue to be billed each year for the other categories until your purchase of Life Membership is complete. Please remember, by the Imperial By-Laws, all three categories must be paid each year until you purchase a Life Membership in them.

I hope that this has explained everything to you. If you have any questions please contact me.

Yours in the Faith George E. Whetzel

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301-552-1525 703-971-2001 Ask for Liz or Jen

Super Bowl Party Presented by the Almas Clowns

Almas Shrine Center 1315 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005



Mail your reservations and checks to: Almas Shrine Center 1315 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

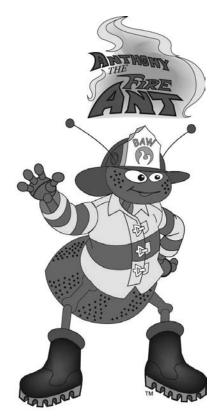
| fame: | | Phone Number: |
|---|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Enclosed is my check for \$Make checks payable to: Almas Clowns | , for | reservations at \$ 20.00 per person |

Proceeds are for the benefit of Almas Clowns and are not deductible as a charitable contribution



Burn Awareness 2009

Gasoline has only one use – to fuel an engine. Any other use is misuse.



The 2009 Burn Awareness campaign again features the popular character, Anthony the Fire Ant! Anthony is featured in the coloring book, as well as on posters, stickers and other materials that are available for order through www.burnawarenessweek.org.

Shriners Hospitals for Children has treated more than 800 children since 2002 for acute burns caused by ignition of a highly flammable material, such as gasoline. More than 200 of these children were under age 7, and 584 were in the "tweens" and teens category – ages 8-18. Kids ages 13 and older are in the highest at-risk group for gasoline and other flammable substance burns.

Gasoline is a necessary part of our everyday lives. Without it, we'd be unable to get to and from work; our store shelves would be empty; our lawn mowers would be idle.

While gasoline is important, it also can be very dangerous. Its fumes can quickly ignite, causing serious injury or death. "Gasoline has only one use – to fuel an engine. Any other use is misuse" is the theme of Shriners Hospitals for Children's 2009 Burn Awareness campaign.

Feb. 1-7, 2009, is Burn Awareness Week, and Shriners Hospitals for Children will use this week to kick off a year-long campaign focused on preventing gasoline burn injuries.

Preventing burn injuries and burn awareness education should be an ongoing effort, not just a week-long campaign. Shriners are encouraged to share gasoline burn prevention messages throughout 2009 using materials developed specifically for this effort.

Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children have been participating in Burn Awareness Week for almost 20 years, and the 2009 campaign will use a multimedia approach, encompassing print, broadcast and online resources in order to reach as many people as possible with this important information.

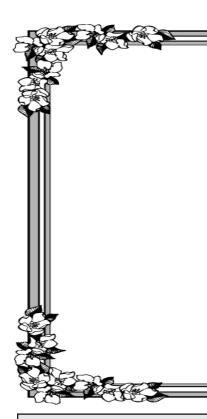
A coloring book, classroom lessons, posters, stickers, pens and other materials are available to order at www.burnawarenessweek.org. A video is also available that features the story of a Shriners Hospitals for Children patient, Austin Bailiff. Austin, 16, of Cashmere, Wash., knows first-hand the dangers of playing with gasoline. One day in March 2006, Austin and a friend were "bored." Looking for something to do, they found an old work glove, and wondered if motor oil would ignite the glove. When it didn't, they poured gasoline into the glove and set it on fire. What they didn't realize before pouring gasoline into the glove was that a small tag inside the glove actually had caught on fire during their first attempt with motor oil.

Before both teens knew what hit them, the gasoline fumes ignited, covering Austin and burning 90 percent of his body. The doctors who initially treated him gave him a 10 percent chance for survival.

Luckily, the Bailiff family found Shriners Hospitals for Children — Northern California, where Austin continues to receive care. His story is featured in the video, which targets teen audiences, and is available through the Web site.

The video, along with the coloring book and other burn prevention educational materials and promotional items, can be ordered directly through www.burnawarenessweek.org.



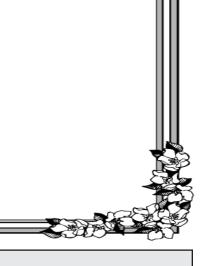


In Memoriam

Thillip W. Deckelbaum 11|22|1918 - 12|15|2008

Eddie L. Daniel 9|19|1917 - 12|21|2008

William T. Nottingham 8|8|1938 - 12|31|2008



Almas Temple Sick and Shut-in Nobles, Give them a call or send them a card.

If you know of a Noble who is ill or shut-in please call John Garrison at 202-898-1688

T. Forbes Smith

14200 Laurel Park Dr. #107-A Laurel, MD 20707 410-724-3595

Davis S. Watson

908 Shipmaster Court Annapolis, MD 21401

Andrew J. Sabonis, Jr.

14900 Flintstone Lane Silver Spring, MD 20905 301-384-8482

Joseph A. Wilson

4116 Atmore Place Temple Hills, MD 20748 301-423-7868

Charles Jack Stratton

15317 Durant Street Silver Spring, MD 20905 301-879-9593

Robert Dixon

Heartfields Assisted Living 7600 Laurel Bowie Road # 12 Bowie, MD 20715 301-805-8422

Charles R. Christiansen

20535 Earhart Place # 102 Potomac Falls, VA 20165 703-404-5419

A. Wallace Moore, Jr., P.P.

6335 Chillum Place, NW Washington, DC 20011

James Davis

9509 Wire Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20901 301-588-0808

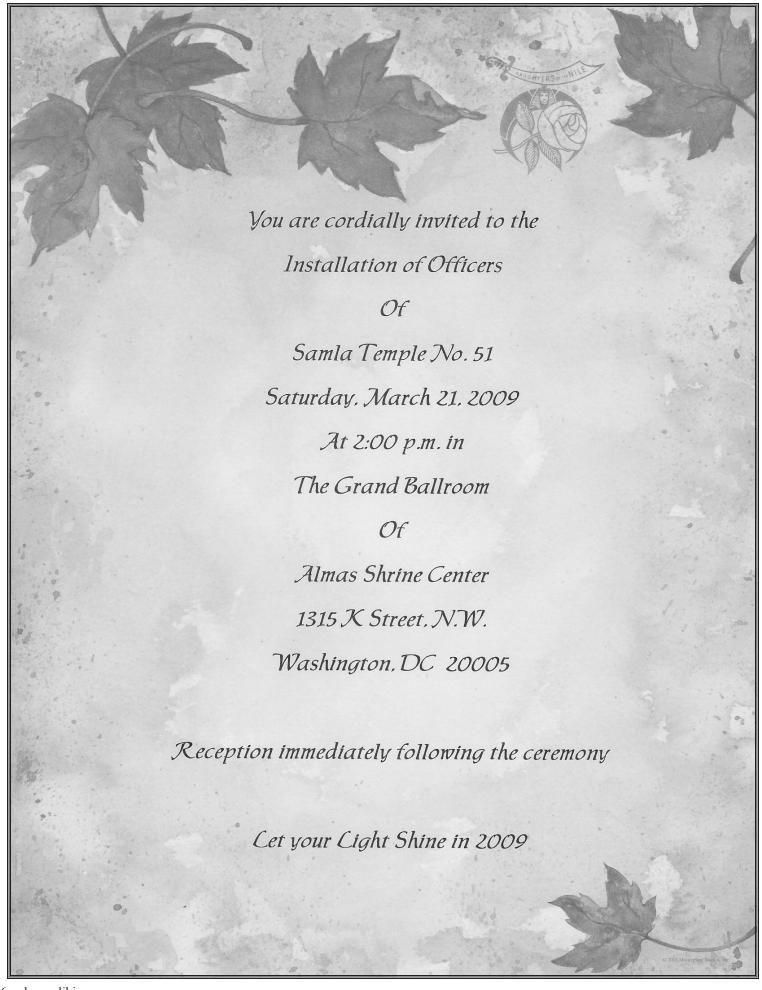
Joe J. Dingess

P.O. Box 2006 Advance, NC 27006 336-998-2285

Ken Gibala

4902 Artic Terrace Rockville, MD 20853





6810 Oak Hill La.

Columbia, MD 21045

301-596-2929 / 410-381-1124 Fax:410-381-8277

12411 Clarksville Pike (Rt.108) Clarksville, MD 21029

301-924-4498 / 410-531-6116 Fax: 410-531-3279

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WSSC #478





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F. William Hershiser, Potentate

George E. Whetzel, Recorder

Jennifer Murray, Judy Whetzel & Ro Parker, Staff

Martha Boltz, **Proof Reader**

George Whetzel, Photographer

If you are attending the monthly Thursday meetings: Please remember to contact

> Thelma Barmack at 301-598-3623

or the Temple Office at 202-898-1688

And make reservations no later than the previous Wednesday A.M.

COST OF THE DINNER IS \$12.00

> Deadline for the next *alibi* is the 5th of the month

Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs of Metropolitan Washington

800 King Farm Boulevard, Suite 200 Rockville, Maryland, 20850 301-984-5900 Fax 301-692-4474 www.hrh.com

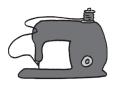
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Unity Chapter OES

In Memory of Robert Purcell
Suzanne Han

In Memory Of Joseph Burrows
Mel & Earlene Harrison

In Memory of Al & Shirley Moritt
Mel & Earlene Harrison

In Memory of Robert Blaine Mel & Earlene Harrison

In Memory of Eddie L. Daniels
Donald & Kathyn Jennings

In Memory of Willima J. Kollar,
P.P.
Nancy Wyrick

*In Memory of Robert Crump, Jr.*Alan Gordon

In Memory of Victor Heyman
Alan Gordon

In Memory of Keene Taylor, Sr.
Alan Gordon

In Memory of Terry McGuire Deputy Imperial Potentate

Thelma Barmack

In Honor of Annabeth & Caroline
Miller

Dalie Cole

Other Donations
Su-Zu Court # 21 LOS
Senica Artisans

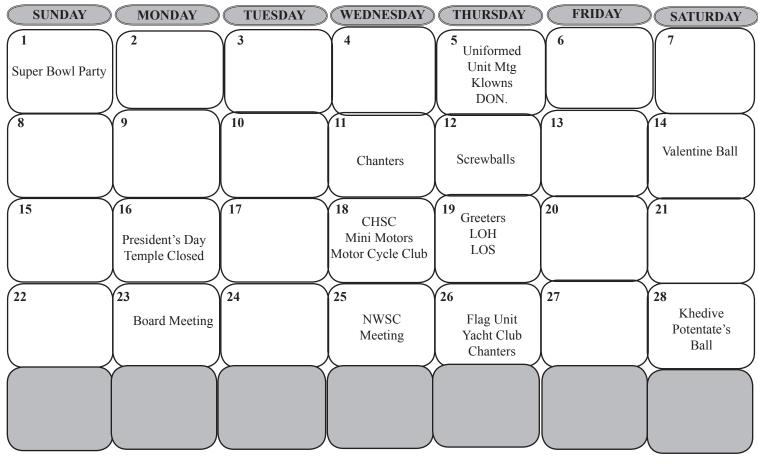
Almas Transportation Fund Donations

Remember a loved one or a friend, make a donation to the Almas Hospital Transportation Fund. Make checks payable to: Almas Hospital Transportation Fund and mail to Almas Shriners,

1315 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005. Donations to the Transportation Fund are tax deductible.

| Date | Amount \$ |
|--|-----------|
| In Memory ofIn Honor ofPerson(s) to whom acknowled | |
| Name | |
| Address | |
| City & State | Zip |
| | |
| Name of Donor(s) | |
| Address | |
| City & State | Zip |

February 2009



March 2009

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| | | (3 | 4 | Uniformed Unit Mtg DON. | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins | 9 | 10 | Chanters | Screwballs Installation | 13 al Guide Seminar | Hospital Screening Clinic |
| 15 | 16Ass | St. Patricks Day Party . Rabban Seminar | CHSC Mini Motors Motorcycle Club | Greeters LOH LOS | Rainbow Ass | DON Installation sembly Session |
| Bull & Oyster Roast Rainbow Assembly Session | Board Meeting | 24 | 25 | Flag Unit Yacht Club Chanters | 27 | Salaam Potentate's Ball |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | Apr | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | Uniformed Units Mtg. Klowns DON | 3 | 4 Kena & Jaffa Potentate's Ball Cherry Blossom Parade |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Chanters | 9 Screwballs | 10 | LOS Installation |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 CHSC Mini Motors Motor Cycle Club | Greeters LOH LOS | 17 | Lu Lu Potentate's Ball |
| 19 | 20 Board Meeting | 21 | 22 NWSC Meeting | Flag Unit Yacht CLub Chanters | Spring MASA | 25 Almas Potentate's Ball |
| 26 | 27 Order of the | 28 Eastern Star | 29 | 30 Temple Business Meeting | | |