



almas alibi

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Number 6 - September 2009

Potentate's Cruise May 2009



Imperial Session San Antonio, Texas July 2009



Uruguay Pilgrimage May 2009

Phone: 202-898-1688

Email: almas-shriners@verizon.net

Fax: 202-789-1148

Website: alasshriners.org



*Almas Shrine Center
Business Meeting*

*September 29, 2009
7:30 P M*



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

*Attest:
Ill. Sir Donald R. Ferguson, Sr.,
Potentate
&
George E. Whetzel, Recorder*

Your 2009 Dues Card needed for admittance.

potentate's Message

Nobles and Ladies,

I hope that everyone has had a great summer. At least we can not complain to much about the high heat and humidity. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Nobles that we initiated at the Ceremonial in June. I would also like to thank the Cast for another outstanding performance.

After the Ceremonial we had the pleasure of honoring the 50 Year Members along with the Past Potentates. These Nobles are the back bone of Almas and I want to once again thank them for their many years of service to the Shrine.

On Sunday June 21st the Legion of Honor sponsored the Wounded Warriors. They were given the opportunity to get out of the hospital for the day. They were taken to the Bowie Baysox game. The Legion of Honor arranged the transportation from Walter Reed Hospital to the stadium and back. While at the game they were treated to a buffet in one of the Skyboxes. Congratulations to Commander Robin Bodie and the Legion of Honor for hosting this event.

On Monday, June 29th. The annual

Golf Tournament was held at Lake Presidential. Once again thanks to the hard work given by Ill. Sir Lonnie Ramos the tournament was a success. I want thank each and everyone of you who participated in this event. I know you had a great time.

The Imperial Session was held in San Antonio, Texas from July 5th through July 9th. I want to thank everyone who was able to join us there, Other than the high heat and humidity I think everyone enjoyed themselves. While at the session the representative had a lot of legislature to consider this year. The most important issue was that we voted to keep all 22 hospitals open. The representative also gave the Joint Boards some new tools to work with as we as Shriners continue to treat our kids.

Legislation summery at the Imperial Council is as follows.

12 Items were adopted.

6 Items were adopted as amended.

7 Items were defeated.

7 Items were withdrawn.

On July 18th we held the annual picnic at the Knights of Columbus Hall in College Park. A fun time was



had by all who attended. I would like to thank George Whetzel and Ill. Sir Tony Murray for the hard work that was put in to making this a fun and successful event.

Lady Debbie and I are looking forward to seeing each of you at the beach. Safe travels to all.

Yours in the Faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Donald R. Seymour'. The signature is written in a cursive style.





The Almas Transportation Fund is in need of a little boost. If you know of a friend or family member who has a birthday or some special occasion coming along think of a donation in their honor. You will find the form on page 18. We will be very happy to receive this kind donation and acknowledge everyone for their generosity.


Thank you in advance for helping the children of the Shrine Hospital system.

WANTED

A FEW GOOD MEN

Almas Shrine is responsible for transporting Shrine Hospital patients, along with their parent or guardian, to the Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia. We need good drivers who are retired or semi retired or still working who can donate some time for periodic trips using Temple Vans. Please call 202-898-1688 and volunteer. **WE NEED YOU NOW.**

**HELP US
HELP
THE KIDS!**





ALMAS SHRINERS BEGIN PLANS FOR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

By Alan Gordon, Assistant Rabban

The Almas Shriners Board of Directors has formed a committee to begin planning for the Almas Shriners 125th Anniversary. Chairing the committee will be Ricardo Rodriguez, High Priest and Prophet.

Almas Temple, AAONMS, was chartered on June 14, 1886. We have enjoyed a rich and colorful history since that date. We have had as our membership at least two Imperial Potentates and have hosted at least three Imperial Conventions, of which two have been in our lifetime. We have also had in regular attendance at our mosque, presidents and other national politicians and dignitaries.

A date of Saturday, June 11, 2011 has been set for a gala evening which will include food, dancing and much more. We will be hoping to fill the ballroom, including the upper level, with as many members, young and old, as we can fit. However, due to the size of the ballroom, tickets may be limited.

So mark the date and watch the *Almas alibi* for more information.

Almas *alibi* Advertising Rates

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or
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10 issues**

**call the Temple Office
for details
202-898-1688**



**LATIN CLUB
PRESENTS
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
CELEBRATION**

**September 26, 2009 at Almas Shrine Centre
from 6:00 PM till Midnight**

6:00 pm Social 7:00 pm Dinner 8:00 pm Music & Dancing

\$25.00 per Person to be paid to Almas Latin Shrine Club

Traditional Latin Dress or Business Suit

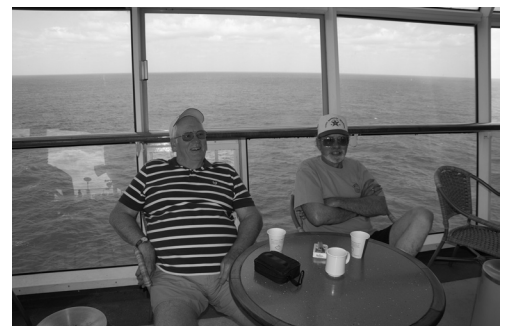
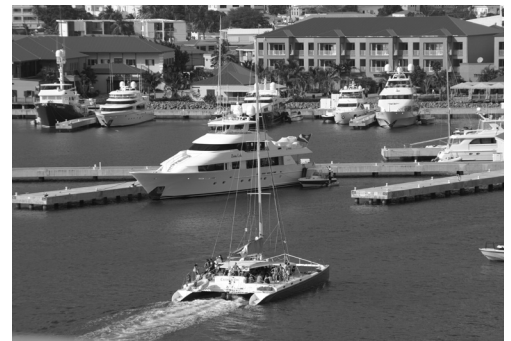


**Please RSVP by September 24, 2009
(202) 898-1688 - (703) 682-8895**

**FUN FOOD LIBATIONS DANCING LATIN MUSIC
LIVE BAND DANCE SHOW DJ AND MUCH MORE**

Proceeds are for the benefit of Almas Latin Shrine Club and not deductible as a charitable contribution

Potentate's Cruise



Legion Of Honor

Greetings!

I would like to welcome everyone back from our summer "vacation". I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable time. Before looking ahead, a recap of the summer activities is in order:

25 May, Rockville Memorial Day Parade: We had an outstanding time at the parade and finished with great results. We took First Place in the Veteran's Organization and Second Place in the Color Guard Division. Thanks go out to Jim Turner, Roberto Paucar PC, Chuck Ely PC, Art Sessoms PC, Urban "Pete" Peters, and of course the Adjutant, Antony Murray, PP/PC for coming out and supporting the Legion and the Temple.

21 June, Wounded Warriors Baseball Game: This was very near and dear to my heart, and for me it was the highlight of the summer. After some technical difficulties with the transportation we made it to Walter Reed and picked up three Wounded Warriors and their families. As an added bonus we received a mo-



torcycle escort from the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club. The Bowie Baysox put together an amazing feast and put on a great game. We could not have pulled it off without the support of those who volunteered their time, money, or both to this worthy cause. The Wounded Warriors and their families were genuinely thankful and touched. I sincerely want to thank everyone who helped make this possible.

24-25 July, El Hasa Military Ball: My Lady Theresa and I accompanied IALOH 2nd International Commander Anthony Murray, PP/PC and his Lady Jennifer to Ashland, KY for this ball. The hospitality we received was incredible over the two days. Theresa and I were in need of a mini-vacation, so it was nice to kill two birds with one stone. The beverages provided were mighty tasty.....□

15 August, Almas Commander's Ball: With only 50 RSVP'd attendees on the Friday before, I was seriously concerned on how this was going to turn out. Gladly, my fears were unfounded. Bruce, Jennifer, Ro, Anthony, and Justin pulled it off for me upstairs in the Sphinx Room and Lounge. Special thanks go out to Adjutant Tony Murray, PP/PC for taking care of protocol and the MC duties, Lady Jennifer who was indispensable as always keeping track of the business end, JD Holt for keeping the finances straight, and to my Lady Theresa for keeping me sane through the whole thing. The room looked great and everyone had a fantastic time. I would like to give a huge thank you to all who attended. A special thank you goes out to the Potentate, who took time from his birthday celebration to be with us.

Those are the summer highlights. Now it is time to get back to work and focus on one thing and one thing only: MASA. I am going to say it again: MASA. We are down to the wire. Those of you attending please check that your uniform items are good to go. If you need anything please call me at 240-626-6973 or 703-490-3046 ASAP. We need as many as possible, and I personally want everyone who can attend to show support for Ill. Sir Bill Lanham, who has done so much for us as members of Almas. He and the rest of the temple are counting on us to lead the parade. Let's make them proud.

Fraternally,

Robin Bodie, Commanding

"I'll see you on the beach" – Tom Hanks as Capt. John H. Miller in Saving Private Ryan

Temple Picnic

On July 18th, the Temple held its annual picnic. This year, to make it more convenient for everyone, the Potentate decided to have it at a more centrally located spot. Through the hard work of Ill. Sir Tony Murray, we were able to secure a facility at the Prince George's Council #2809 of the Knights of Columbus on Cherry



Hill Road in College Park, MD. The picnic area that we had had some great shade trees which in conjunction with a truly beautiful day made for a great



time for everyone. Also available to us were their huge swimming pool, horseshoe pits, ball field, and two play ground areas for the children. We feasted on hot dogs, hamburgers, fresh roasted corn on the cob, potato salad, and baked beans. Everyone brought



along a desert, so the food was plentiful. Tom and Ann Barrett, from the Knights of Columbus, did an outstanding job cooking for us and making sure that we had everything that we needed. For those that were not able to join us, you truly missed out on a wonder day. The food, friendship, and fellowship made for a lasting memory.

Almas Travels to San Antonio for 135th. Imperial Session

On July 4, 2009, several members of the Almas Shriners Divan and their families traveled to San Antonio, Texas to take part in the 135th Imperial Session of the Shriner's International. Other members of the delegation traveled separately and arrived by air and by car. This was an important session as there was a record 37 pieces of legislation to be voted on, including proposals to close 6 of the 22 Shriner's Hospitals for Children (SHC), re-cast the 6 hospitals for ambulatory care, and to begin accepting third party payment in the form of insurance.

The plane from Baltimore Washington International Airport was filled with Shriners from several different Shrine centers. Representatives to the Session were actively reviewing and discussing the options even as the plane was heading to San Antonio. After arriving at the hotel and getting checked in, it was necessary to travel to the headquarters hotel to register for the Session. At the headquarters hotel, the importance of the decisions to be made at the Session were brought more sharply into focus by the presence of present and former patients of the Galveston SHC, their families, and members of the Galveston Board of Governors handing out flyers and campaigning to re-open Galveston SHC. It should be noted that operations at Galveston SHC had been suspended as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Ike and Galveston was one of the 6 slated for permanent closure.

After spending the weekend getting oriented and registered, the four days of meetings started Monday morning. Imperial Sir Doug Maxwell had planned the week such that the most controversial of the legislation was handled early. The resolution to close the 6 hospitals was amended to delete the names of the 6 hospitals and then the entire resolution was withdrawn. A resolution to re-open Galveston SHC was adopted. The SHC Board of Trustees was given the authority to begin the transition of the 6 hospitals toward ambulatory care and to take other cost saving measures. Imperial Sir Doug Maxwell was elected to replace Imperial Sir Ralph Semb as president of the Board of Trustees for SHC.

Another piece of potentially contentious legislation was third party pay. This legislation was adopted. The passage of this piece of legislation means that within the next one to two years, all SHC will be accepting health insurance from those patient's families who have insurance. For those families who do not, or for those who exceed the maximum limits of their policies, SHC will continue to cover the cost of the care such that there will be no out of pocket costs to any patient or their families in keeping with the original concept upon which Shriner's Hospitals for Children was founded. In addition, the type of care offered will not be affected by the insurance companies' willingness to pay.

The best way to get from one place to another in San Antonio is the Riverwalk. At just over 2 miles long, the Riverwalk sits 15 to 20 feet below street level and is lined with restaurants as it winds its way through downtown San Antonio. There are river taxis' to take people on tours and on at least one occasion, a Shrine dinner was held on board one of the taxis' as it floated by the hotel in which Almas was staying. Getting almost anywhere in San Antonio that a Shriner needed to be was possible by walking the Riverwalk.

Socially, Illustrious Sir Donald Ferguson and his Lady Debbie hosted all Almas nobles and their families at a dinner high atop the Tower of the Americas. The food was excellent and the view was amazing. During the Potentate's Dinner, we were able to greet Noble Hector Masiotti, president of the Almas Uruguay Club and his Lady Miriam and Noble Alberto Canteo, also of the Almas Uruguay Club. Nobles Hector and Alberto had been invited by the Imperial Sir to speak at the Imperial Session after he had visited Uruguay in May of this year.

Lady Iris Gordon and daughters Adrienne and Samantha took time to visit Sea World and had a wonderful time. Most of the attending family members not involved in the Session took a day bus tour of the outlying areas around San Antonio. While on the bus, they visited Fredericksburg, Texas, and stopped in the small town of Luchenbach, Texas (population 3).

There was also a stop at a museum dedicated to Admiral Nimitz. The Imperial Sir's evening was a concert by Franky Valli and the Four Seasons. The entertainment was wonderfully received with Nobles and their ladies dancing in the aisles. Imperial Sir Doug Maxwell introduced the entertainers by saying that "they were playing on the radio in the front seat while you were playing in the back seat".

The parade proved to be as entertaining as always with wild cars that bounced around, mini motors and motorcycles from all around the country and clowns, clowns, and more clowns. A poignant moment occurred at the beginning of the parade. Deputy Imperial Potentate Terry McGuire had passed away suddenly earlier this year. The parade was led by Imperial Sir Douglas E. Maxwell walking along side his car. He was followed by a noble of Alzafar Shriners, Imperial Sir Terry McGuire's home Shrine Center, leading a saddled rider less horse, representing the fallen leader. Each member of the Imperial Divan followed, most on foot, including Imperial Sir Jeff Sowder who had been elected to the position of Imperial Outer Guard earlier that day.

The last morning of the Session started early with much legislation still to be addressed. After completion of the voting, Almas Nobles from Uruguay were introduced to speak. Noble Alberto Canteo spoke eloquently about Uruguay, the Masonic Family there as well as the need for the type of care that only Shriner's Hospitals for Children can provide. This was followed by Imperial Sir Jack H. Jones installation as Imperial Potentate and the closing of the Session.

That evening, several of the Almas delegation had a seafood dinner at Joe's Crab Shack. Afterwards, everyone retired to the Almas hospitality room before getting ready for the early flight home the next morning.

The Almas delegation would like to thank the Alzafar Shriners for hosting a wonderful week.

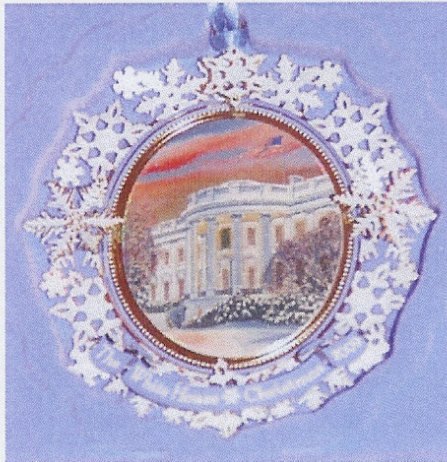
Alan L. Gordon
Assistant Rabban

Imperial Session San Antonio, TX



The Director's Staff of Almas Shrine Center Present Their

2009 White House Christmas Ornament Sale



(Front)



(Back)

The only president of the United States elected to two non-consecutive terms, Grover Cleveland served as the 22nd president from 1885 to 1889 and as the 24th from 1893 to 1897. The 2009 White House ornament commemorates the 24th presidency and it is the second of two produced in Cleveland's honor by the *White House Historical Association*.

This second ornament illustrates the special place of the Christmas tree in the holiday celebrations of President Cleveland's young family. The central hologram depicts the south façade of the White House after an evening snowfall. The warm glow of the first Christmas tree to be illuminated by electric lights is seen through the tall windows of the second floor Oval Room beyond the center of the columned portico. This softly colored view is based on a modern watercolor rendition by Margaret Huddy, a Washington, D.C.-based painter.

The reverse side of the ornament recreates a scene from the tree-trimming parties of President and Mrs. Cleveland, which were held annually for their children and those of cabinet members. The words of a period newspaper report help to describe the president's delight in preparing Christmas day for his young family. A finely crafted gold plated wreath of snowflakes, painted ice blue and white, frames the oval ornament.

Cost: \$19.00 each (includes sales tax)

(For an additional charge of \$6.00 we can mail from 1 to 3 ornaments to you.)

Make your checks payable to:

Almas Director's Staff

Send all orders to:

George Whetzel
7619 Kipling Parkway
Forestville, MD 20747-1861

If you have any questions please contact George Whetzel at:

Home: 301-336-5895 or Cell: 202-691-6318

E-mails: almas_recorder@verizon.net or gwhetzel@vzw.blackberry.net

ALL profits from this project are for the benefit of the
Almas Shrine Center's Transportation Fund.



First Lady Charlene's Program Supports Emergency Transportation for Burn Patients

First Lady Charlene McGuire's fundraising program **"Giving the Gift of Hope, Life and Dreams,"** will benefit children who need emergency transportation to one of the Shriners Hospitals for Children specializing in expert burn care.

Proceeds from her yearlong initiative will be donated to Shriners Hospitals for Children's emergency patient transportation fund, which helps sponsoring Shriners International temples cover transportation costs for burn patients when needed.

Since the early 1960s, when Shriners Hospitals for Children first began offering pediatric burn treatment, thousands of patients have been given a second chance to lead productive lives, thanks to the expert medical care they received at these state-of-the-art hospitals.

When children experience burn injuries, receiving the kind of multidisciplinary pediatric burn care available at Shriners Hospitals for Children is paramount to their overall recovery. Since their injuries can be severe and even life-threatening, burn patients often require transportation to Shriners Hospitals for Children in medically equipped airplanes with medical professionals on board to monitor them.

In 2008 alone, the Shriners Hospitals for Children emergency patient transportation fund provided \$670,000 for medical air flights for 45 burn patients. And, the cost for these medical air flights is rising every year. Since 2005, the average cost for each of these flights has increased by approximately \$5,000.

"It's clear that the costs for these flights are escalating," said First Lady Charlene McGuire. "Often, temples have to make arrangements to transport a burned child to one of our hospitals immediately, so the funding has to be there. Many temples may not have funds to cover these emergency transportation costs. Proceeds from my program will help meet this important need."

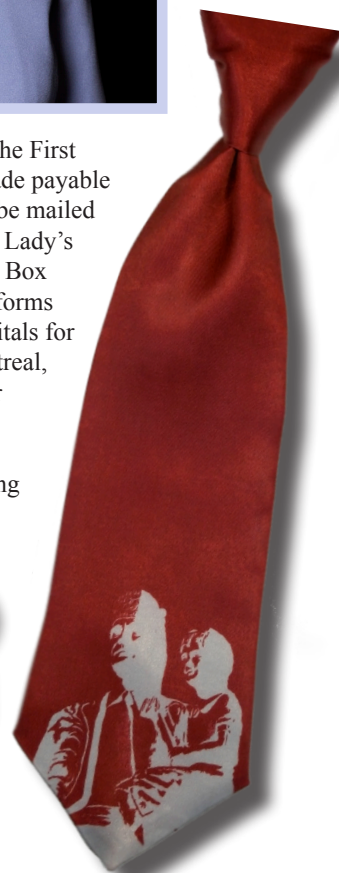
As First Lady Charlene makes her visits throughout the Imperial Year, she asks that in lieu of personal gifts, nobles and ladies make a donation to **"Giving the Gift of Hope, Life and Dreams."** With each donation of \$25, they will receive their choice of a beautiful silver and gold lady's pin, or a handsome gentleman's tie featuring the "Editorial Without Words" image.



2009-2010
First Lady
Charlene
McGuire

Completed order forms may be given to the First Lady. Order forms, along with donations made payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children, can also be mailed to Shriners International Headquarters, First Lady's Program, Donor Relations Department, P.O. Box 31356, Tampa, FL., 33631. Canadian order forms and donations may be sent to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Canada, 1529 Cedar Ave., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1A6. Additional order forms and return envelopes can be obtained from the donor relations department at Shriners International Headquarters by calling (800) 241-4438 or by sending an e-mail to donorrelations@shrinenet.org.

Donations to the program can also be made online at www.donate2shc.org/firstlady.



OSJUL09FLCP

Uruguay Trip

Back during the first week in May of this year, a delegation from Almas Shrines had a pilgrimage to visit our Shrine Club in Montevideo, Uruguay for assisting in their Ceremonial. The Almas delegation consisted of Ill. Sir Donald R. Ferguson, Sr. and First Lady Debbie; High Priest & Prophet, Noble Ricardo Rodriguez and his lady Maggie; Captain of the Guard, Noble Luis Cisneros; Past Potentate, Ill. Sir Lonnie L. Ramos and his lady Ann; Past Grand Master and Noble, MWB Akram R. Elias and his lady Lou; and the Recorder, Noble George E. Whetzel. The Imperial Potentate, Imperial Sir Douglas E. Maxwell and his First Lady Patricia joined us in our pilgrimage. As soon as we landed, after our 22 hours of travel time, we experienced the hospitality of the people of Uruguay. We were met by several members of the Club and their ladies plus some others that we later found out were candidates for the Ceremonial (They really get them involved down there before they are even become a member.).

On Thursday, our first meeting was with the creator and staff of a rehabilitation facility called Teleton. Teleton is a state of the art facility that works with children with orthopedic prob-

lems. The creator started the facility to mimic what she saw when she was trained at the Tampa Shriners Hospital. The whole facility is something to be proud of. Their staff is very creative



and talented. They make their own prosthetics, their own computer programs, and special computer assisted

wheelchairs on site. The work they are doing is truly making a difference in all of the children and their families that they help. That evening, we met with MWB Jorge Walter Caillabet, Venerable Gran Maestro, and Gran Lodia de la Masoneria del Uruguay, some of his Grand Lodge Officers plus the Officers of our Shrine Club at the Grand Lodge building. We discussed the future and the importance of the Club. The meeting was followed by a wonderful time of fun and fellowship over a delicious dinner.

The next morning we returned to the Grand Lodge to meet with the Officers of the Club. Hector Massiotti,



President of the Club, and his Officers discussed the concerns of the Club. We also talked about the Ceremonial that would be held the following morning. Imperial Sir Doug Maxwell thanked Hector and the Club for all the work that they are doing in Uruguay. He also told Hector that if possible, he

would like to have some members from the Club come to the Imperial Session in San Antonio, TX and he would let them have an opportunity to speak to the representatives at the Business Meeting on Thursday morning, July 9th.

Later that morning, we toured the oldest hospital in the city. It is so old that we found out that it is the very hospital where our High Priest & Prophet, Ricardo Rodriguez, was born. All joking aside, the hospital has a very



sophisticated surgical and rehabilitation facilities in it. We met a gentleman who came to the hospital as a boy to work and he has been with them for 65 years. Everyone calls him doctor, even though he has very little schooling. He basically runs the hospital. After the tour, the hospital had arranged a fantastic lunch for us at one of the local hotels. The lunch was served in a room at the top of the hotel, some 30 stories up, with a truly breathtaking view of the city.

That evening we had a Club meeting which was followed by a dinner. The dinner was for their club members



and their families, the candidates and their families, as well as our delega-



tion. The creator started the facility to mimic what she saw when she was trained at the Tampa Shriners Hospital. The whole facility is something to be proud of. Their staff is very creative

Uruguay Trip

tion. Also in attendance were the two children who had been flown to the



USA for treatment and their families. It was really great seeing how well the children are doing. The entertainment for the evening was also very enjoyable. It consisted of a group of college students, all members of the schools music program. They specialized in the tango style of music. They were very good, so good that a few couples got up and started to dance, which also added to the evening.

Saturday morning, we went back to the Grand Lodge building to take part in and witness the Ceremonial. Thirty-nine new members were created



Shriners. Nine of them were from one of the Grand Lodges in Brazil. They included the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and two of the Grand Secretaries. These new members nearly doubled the membership of the Club. We later found out that the Club makes it a requirement that each new member recruit at least one new member during the year. This is the method they are using to build their Club, as well as the Almas membership. The open Ceremonial was very well done.

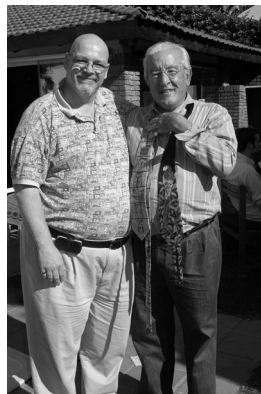
It was very impressive to everyone. The only problem is that at their next Ceremonial the Club will have to make



arrangements for a larger room, they have outgrown the room they used at the Grand Lodge building. After the Ceremonial, the Club had made arrangements to have a luncheon back at our hotel. At this luncheon, President Hector Massiotti honored the charter members of the Club as well as our delegation by presenting each one with a plaque.

Saturday evening a few of us were able to do a little site seeing and shopping in the old harbor section of the city.

On Sunday, before we caught our flights home, we enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship at the lovely home of Noble Pablo and Monica Fontaina. They went all out making everyone feel like family with great fellowship and a fantastic BBQ cookout.



George E. Whetzel
Recorder

Klowns

YOU ARE MISSING IT!

You are missing all the fun and enjoyment of clowning around and making people smile and enjoying the camaraderie of other Klowns.

The Almas Klowns took part in the 4th of July parade, the Montgomery County Lodges Picnic, will be at the Samuel Gompers - Benjamin Franklin Lodge Picnic on Labor Day weekend and we will be at MASA.

As was said before, all the Klowns love parades and activities and have more fun, no matter what the weather may bring. We also enjoy getting together with clowns from other jurisdictions cause we never know what will happen - those guys are always clowning around. We really would like to have your smiling face join the unit. If you are in another unit or club and would be interested in suiting up for a parade where it would not impact on your unit or club, we would love to have you join us at such times.

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

Weird Wally
Boss Clown (for the present)

Proposed Change to the By-Laws

The Membership Committee and various Nobles propose the following By-Laws change.

We feel that current members of the Armed Forces should be given a 15% discount in their initiation fee. This discount would be applied to the initiation fee only (current initiation fee is \$100.00; the discount would be \$15.00). The annual dues, Hospital assessment, and Per Capita fee would not be affected. This discount would still be within the limits allowed of the minimum required initiation fee required by the Imperial By-Laws. We believe that this discount would encourage the members of the Armed Forces to join the Shrine.

The By-Laws now reads:

Section 5.1 Initiation Fee. The initiation fee shall be determined at a stated or special meeting of the temple after notice has been given to each member stating the proposed amount of the initiation fee. The initiation fee shall not be less than prescribed by the bylaws of the Imperial Council. It must be paid in full prior to initiation. If a candi-

date is rejected or accepted and does not present himself for initiation, he is entitled to the return of his fee upon request.

The proposed change to the By-Laws would be to ADD the following sentence:

Active members of the Armed Forces will receive a discount of 15% of the current initiation fee.

If approved the By-Laws would then read:

Section 5.1 Initiation Fee. The initiation fee shall be determined at a stated or special meeting of the temple after notice has been given to each member stating the proposed amount of the initiation fee. The initiation fee shall not be less than prescribed by the bylaws of the Imperial Council. It must be paid in full prior to initiation. If a candidate is rejected or accepted and does not present himself for initiation, he is entitled to the return of his fee upon request. Active members of the Armed Forces will receive a discount of 15% of the current initiation fee.

This proposed change will be voted on at the Business Meeting on September 29, 2009.

Almas Yacht Club

Have you noticed how fast this Summer has gone. Maybe it's because the really hot weather hasn't been around.

Almas had a good turnout for the Rockville Parade in May. It always is a fun day and the weather was a great help.

On August 8th we had our Remembrance Cruise in honor of Joe Burrows, Past Commodore and Harold Snider. 25 Nobles and Guests attended the Memorial service held on the banks of the Patuxent, a beautiful and peaceful setting. We were also reminded of all of our members who have passed to the Celestial Lodge in previous years. Special thanks to David Gregory, Rear Commodore, Jeff Bodie, P.P. Chaplain, Len Kahan, Rick Hall, Fleet Captain and Bob Noel for assisting with the service. This was followed with a delicious meal at Stoney's Restaurant

Special thoughts and prayers go out to all of our Club members who have been sick this summer and we wish them a speedy recovery.

As of this writing, we are planning for the upcoming events at the MASA Convention in Virginia Beach in September, LuLu Commodore's Ball on October 9th & 10th. Our Frost Bite Cruise will be on October 17th and the Almas Commodore's Ball will be held in January.

Our regular meetings are on the fourth Thursday beginning in October and we meet at Alfio's Restaurant in Chevy Chase, we could sure use some new members, why not come on out.

Jay Whitcomb
Secretary



In Memoriam

Elmer H. Duff

1/28/1921 - 6/00/2009

Harold W. Snider

9/6/1947 - 6/26/2009

Robert Crosser

6/10/1913 - 5/24/2009

John L. Drake

9/5/1921 - 6/1/2009

Leonard B. Fleming

10/25/1919 - 7/15/2009

Isadore Levin

2/24/1904 - 1/00/2003

**Almas Temple Sick and Shut-in Nobles,
Give them a call or send them a card.
(as of 8-31-09)**

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

Charles Jack Stratton

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

Walter Graham

1409 18th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-678-5181

Davis S. Watson

908 Shipmaster Court
Annapolis, MD 21401

Charles R. Christiansen

20535 Earhart Place # 244
Potomac Falls, VA 20165
703-404-5419

Daniel T. Graham

1409 18th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-678-5181

Andrew J. Sabonis, Jr.

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

Joe J. Dingess

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

Joseph A. Wilson

512 Monroe Bay Avenue
Colonial Beach, VA 22443
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**Shriners Hospitals
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Welcome New Nobles



Ill. Sir Donald R. Ferguson, Sr. with the new nobles from the ceremonial on June 13, 2009

Noble Steven E. Orr
Noble Erik Milmam
Noble David M. Benson
Noble Larry F. Vigil
Noble Edward C. Miller

We also initiated Nobles Robert K. Carter & Arthur L. Talley in the Potentat's office on April 30, 2009
Please welcome these new Nobles next time you see them.

Rick Hall
Membership Chairman

Copa Airlines, Uruguay

While In Uruguay, Imperial Sir Douglas Maxwell, Ill. Sir Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., Noble Gabriel Lorenzo Ozores (Secretary of the Club), Noble Carlos Frachelle (Past Secretary of the Club), and Noble George E. Whetzel were taken to a meeting with Mr. Hugo Perelli who is the General Manager of Copa Airlines in Montevideo. Copa Airlines is a subsidiary of Continental Airline. Mr. Perelli was very instrumental in having

the airlines donate two round trip tickets from Montevideo to Mexico City so

at our Mexico Shriners Hospital. Mr. Perelli was presented a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the Uruguay Shrine Club for his efforts in obtaining this most generous gift. Imperial Sir Maxwell also extended his appreciation and congratulated Mr. Perelli. Ill. Sir Ferguson thanked Mr. Perelli on behalf of the entire membership of Almas Shriners. Mr. Perelli said that Copa Airlines was very glad to be able to help in this special case.

George E. Whetzel
Recorder



that one of our patients could be treated

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next *alibi* is
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EDITORIAL STAFF

Donald R. Ferguson, Sr.,
Potentate

George E. Whetzel,
Recorder

Jennifer Murray,
Judy Whetzel &
Ro Parker, Staff

Martha Boltz,
Proof Reader

George Whetzel,
Photographer

**If you are attending the
1st. 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**

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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

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September 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Special Business Mtg. Uniformed Units Mtg. Klowns,DON	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Temple Closed	8	9	10	11	12
			 Fall MASA Virginia Beach		
13	14	15	16 CHSC Mini Motors Motor Cycle Club	17 LOS	18	19
20	21	22	23 NWSC	24 Flag Unit Yacht Club Chanters	25	26 Hispanic Heritage Party
27	28 Board Meeting	29 Temple Business Meeting	30			

October 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Uniformed Units Mtg. Klowns, DON	2	3 Crescent Potentate's Ball
4	5	6	7 Chanters	8 Screwballs	9	10
11	12	13	14 CHSC Mini Motors Motor Cycle Club	15 Greeters LOH LOS	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Flag Unit Yacht Club Chanters	23	24 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of DC Halloween Party
25	26 Board Meeting	27	28 NWSC Meeting	29	30	31

November 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Uniformed Units Mtg. Klowns, DON	6	7 International Association Legion of Honor Wreath Laying
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day Temple Closed	12 Screwballs	13	14
15	16	17	18 CHSC Mini Motors Motor Cylce Club	19 Greeters LOH LOS	20	21 Annual Com- munication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland
22	23 Board Meeting	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Temple Closed	27	28
29	30					