



almas alibi

volume 85

Number 1 - February 2010



*Congratulations Illustrious Sir Paul
and 1st. Lady Teresa*

Phone: 202-898-1688

Email: almas-shriners@verizon.net

Fax: 202-789-1148

Website: almasshriners.org

Hospital Patients attend 2010 Installation



Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Erofile Gripiotis and I was a patient of Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia for approximately 15 years. In that time, I had a total of six operations to treat scoliosis, which is a curvature of the spine.

Having to endure invasive surgical procedures and subsequent immense pain, one would think that this is, without a doubt, an absolutely terrifying ordeal. While each operation brought with it significant physical and emotional challenges, I was, believe it or not, hardly ever overwhelmed by fear, anxiety or uncertainty. In fact, I felt a great degree of trust and security with the doctors, nurses and staff at Shriners.

Perhaps this is partly owed to the fact that my parents and doctors, in the appointments leading up to my first operation, did not shield me from the reality that operations were going to be a significant part of my life. However, I believe that my comfort with Shriners mostly stems from a deep confidence that my family and I have in their ability to do what is purely in the patient's best interest.

I did not realize until I was in my teens that what distinguishes Shriners Hospitals from other leading medical institutions is their strong commitment to providing free quality health care to children who are in dire need of it but who, often times, are not able to afford it. When I first began seeing my doctor at Shriners, my parents and I would drive up there and each time I would see a few Shriners, either in the corridors or the reception area or elsewhere around the hospital and I would think to myself, "Funny hats."

I eventually learned as I got older, though, that these individuals with the red fezes devote much of their free time to providing transportation, at no cost, to Shriners patients who otherwise would have great difficulty in making it to the hospital for their appointments. This, needless to say, elevated my admiration for Shriners Hospitals even more.

And so, that brings me to the man of the hour, Mr. Paul Friedlander. My mother and I became acquainted with Paul at a period in our lives when our family was facing one problem after another, not the least of which was my health. Paul is actually the long-time friend of my aunt and uncle and toward the end of my experience with Shriners, I had an appointment in Philadelphia which I would not have easily been able to make. As luck would have it, my mom found out that Paul was a Shriner and regularly made the trips from the DC area to Philadelphia and back, so the hospital was able to arrange for him to drive me and my mom.

Like the doctors at Shriners Hospital, Paul was there at a time when my family and I needed assistance most. Paul's commitment to the patients of Shriners, such as myself and countless others like me, is something to be highly praised and valued.

Because Shriners Hospitals treat their patients at no cost to the patient or his/her family and because I have essentially grown up within this system, I must admit I took for granted at times the fact that doctors would do whatever was necessary to improve my health without forcing me or my family into financial hardship.

In the past year, as the politicians who define this city turned their attention to health care reform, they have inevitably become embroiled in a bitter dispute over this hot-button issue, I have become acutely aware, through watching this unfold in the evening news and on the op-ed pages, of how fortunate I and other children were and still are - to have a hospital such as Shriners and individuals such as Paul who are selflessly devoted to the noble cause of providing children with the access to the best medical treatments available without throwing them or their families into a lifetime of debt. Thank you, Paul - we really appreciate all you've done and congratulations.

Potentate's Message





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 Yacht Club

Our plans are positive for our Biggest event January 16th. The installation of our new officers (Bridge) and our Commodore's Ball at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis. We have over 100 Nobles and guests reserved to greet our new Commodore Fred Evans and his Lady Imelda. The Installation of the new Bridge will be conducted by our newly installed Potentate, Ill. Sir Paul Friedlander. In addition to Almas Nobles, friends from Boumi, Crescent, Khedive, Kismet and LuLu are going to join us. A favorite of many, The 2forU Band will perform.

Special thanks go out to the Ladies of the Yacht Club without whose support and tireless efforts this celebration would not have been possible. We also sincerely appreciate the support of all of our fellow Shriners and friends.

The coming year will be filled with numerous programs including our annual Shakedown Cruise in June, The Memorial Cruise in August and the Frost bite Cruise in October. Visits to Khedive

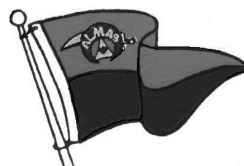
and Nur are anticipated for February. More information will be provided about these programs at a later date. We meet on the fourth Thursday at Alfios in Chevy Chase. Everyone is invited to enjoy the camaraderie of the Yacht Club. We are looking forward to working with and supporting Ill. Sir Paul this year.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank Ill. Sir Don Ferguson for all of the Divan's support during the past year. Best wishes to Joe Baker who is recovering from an operation and Past Potentate and Past Commodore Royce Watson who is in rehab for another knee operation.

Our plans are always to have a good time remembering that our primary goal is to Support the Children through the Shriners Hospitals.

Yours in the Faith,

Fred Evans
Commodore



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for details
202-898-1688**



Almas Shooting Team

The Almas Shooting Team took 1st Runner Up Trophy (5 Man Team) at the Masonic Sporting Clays Shoot at the Greenbelt Range on November 21, 2009.



Congratulations to Rick Hall, Jim Cloud, Bill Hines, Mark Polansky and Ed Miller

Ken Wyvill from Centennial Lodge is presenting the Trophys.



**Please save your Christmas cards for
Teresa for craft projects.**

**Remember to save those tabs from the soda
cans. Bring them in to the Temple and
they will be collected for the Hospital.**

Alan L. Gordon, CPA, P.A.

51 Monroe Street
Suite 401
Rockville, MD 20850

Ph: 301-762-8848
Fax: 301-762-8847
E-mail: AGordon@algcpa.com

www.algcpa.com

Klowns

We are still looking for a few good Klowns who are not afraid of admitting that they are klowns and are willing to dress up to prove it.

On February 7, the Klowns are again sponsoring the Supper Bowl Party at the Shrine Center. Even though the Redskins did not make the again this year it will prove to be a great game. We may even be able to support an area team. Before the game we will have music and possible some karaoke, if people can sing. After the Superbowl, the Unit will be gearing up for the President's Day Parade in Alexandra with the Kena Clowns and the Cherry Blossom Parade with the Klowns from other Jurisdic-tions joining the Almas ranks to give the crowd a great show. We have a vintage fire engine that will lead the way for the Klowns.

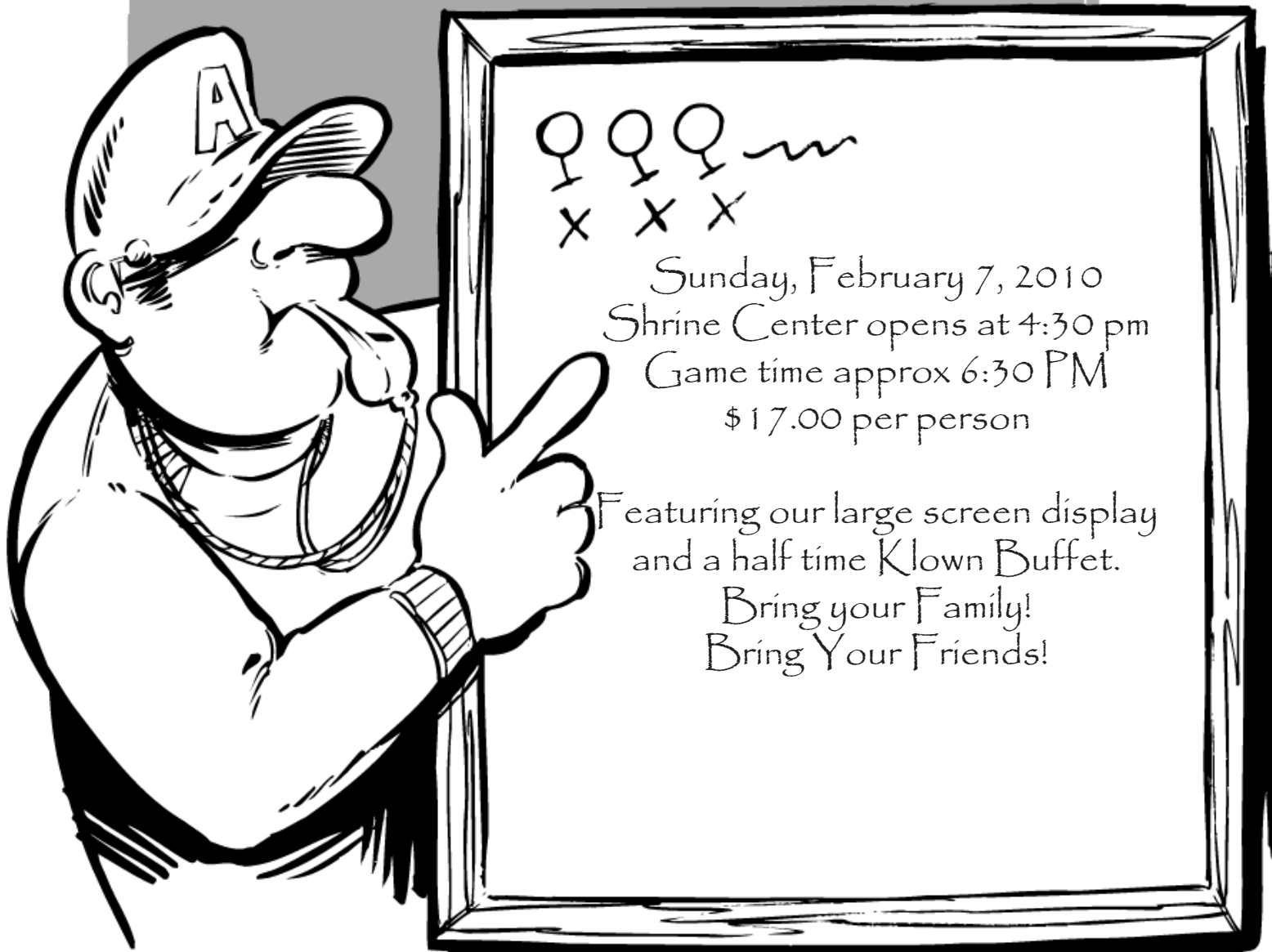
As was said before, all the Klowns love parades and activities and have more fun, no matter what the weather may bring. We also enjoy getting together with clowns from other jurisdictions cause we never know what will happen - those guts are always clowning around, in 2011, our neighboring Kena Clowns will host a clownarama where a great time is had by all. 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 kostume and will admit the same. Call Walter Simon at 301-987-1663 or Jay Whitcomb at 301-989-0121 iffing you're interested. We can use your help.

Weird Wally
Boss Klown

Super Bowl Party Presented by the Almas Klowns

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



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

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$17.00 per person

Make checks payable to Almas Klowns

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

Legion Of Honor

Greetings!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ill. Sir Don and Lady Debbie on the success of the past year. You have led from the front and always by example, willing to get your hands dirty. You have led honorably, upholding the highest principals of Order and of Masonry. We will always look back and remember your year with great pride.

Looking forward, I would like to congratulate Ill. Sir Paul Friedlander and Lady Teresa. Your dedication and enthusiasm for everything we as Shriners do and stand for has been an example for us all. The upcoming year will be exciting, interesting, and I have no doubt one that will be remembered for years to come. You have the full support of the Legion Of Honor in all your endeavors.

I would also like to congratulate Most Worshipful Paul Gleason on being installed as Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia. We as Nobles could not be more proud having one of our own guiding us. Being a member of the Legion Of Honor is the icing on the cake. You truly honor us in all you do. You have the full support of the Legion Of Honor in all your endeavors.

On a personal note: As many of you are aware, I was given the honor of being named Shriner of the Year for 2009 at the installation. I had never been on the receiving end of a "shock and awe" campaign until that afternoon. Now I know what it feels like. I was so stunned standing there at the podium I could only get a few words out. Now that I have had time to recover and get my thoughts together, I can give proper credit and thanks where they are due. I would like to first thank Ill. Sir Don for believing me worthy of such an honor. I feel like there are many others more deserving. I was just doing my job and doing what I felt was right, nothing more. I would like to thank IALOH 2nd Lt Cmdr Anthony Murray, PP, PC and Lady Jennifer for their guidance and assistance in helping make everything

happen. I want to thank the Nobility in general and the members of the Legion Of Honor specifically, for their attendance and support in everything we accomplished. I would like to thank my parents, Ill. Sir Jeff and Lady Barbara, for always being there to support the efforts of the Legion. Lastly, and most of all, I need to thank my wife Theresa, my daughters Amanda and Alyssa, and my son Robert for all of their love, support, and patience. Receiving this honor would not have been possible without it, and without all of you.

Back to business: Please remember the Valentines Day Ball is Saturday, 13 Feb. The flyer is in this issue. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible. Don't be shy about spreading the word to your friends, family, co-workers, Lodge brethren, and anyone else you think would have a good time. The more the merrier!

Additional upcoming events are as follows:

6 Feb: Ladies Luncheon honoring Lady Debbie Ferguson
7 Feb: Super Bowl Party at Almas.
18 Feb: LOH meeting at Almas. Planning session for the upcoming year.
6 March: Warehouse Clean-up Day.

Remember: It IS an honor to be in the Legion of Honor. The Legion can only be as good as the sum of its parts. Without YOUR participation, we are nothing.

Fraternally,

Robin Bodie, Commanding

"Don't look conspicuous; it draws fire"

24, Murphy's Law of Combat



125th Gala Committee

The 125th Gala Committee met January 7th to continue to plan for the day of our 125th anniversary in 2011. Since the Gala is planned at the end of the International Brotherhood Week sponsored annually by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the Deputy Grand Master has indicated that many of the guests in town for their event will be attending our Gala. In looking at the bigger picture and to allow for Almas members and guests to get good seating, we will be planning for an event that could potentially maximize the space in the ballroom. In addition, we will be holding fund raising events to help make this event revenue neutral. All funds will be maintained in a separate restricted account in accordance with the vote of the Nobility in late 2009.

Tickets are expected to go on sale in July, 2010. Keep a close watch on the *alibi* for further details.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on February 3, 2010 at Almas Shrine Center. All who are interested are welcome to attend.

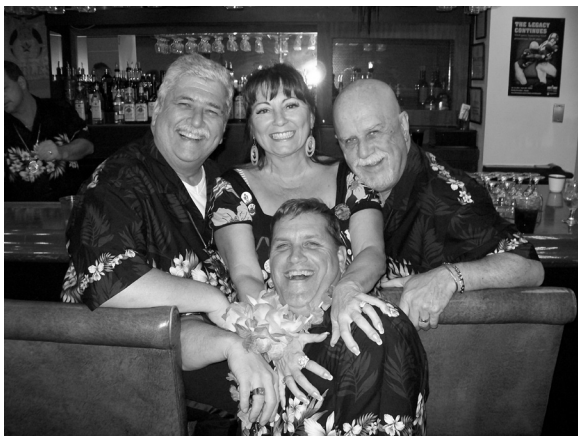
Yours in the Faith
Alan Gordon
Chief Rabban



Open Installation of Officers 2010



Open Installation of Officers 2010





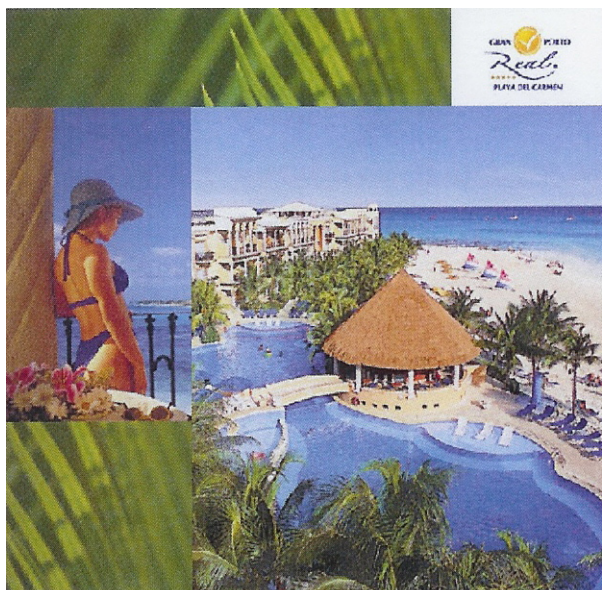
*Join us on February 6, 2010
from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
as we honor
Lady Debbie Ferguson
at a Colonial High Tea.*

*Reynolds Tea Room
7 Church Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-295-9555*

*Cost: \$30.00 per person
(includes gift)*

*RSVP by February 1, 2010:
Teresa Quinn
301-434-1031 Home
301-742-5288 Cell*





Escape to Cancun, Mexico with Almas Shriners and the Grand Lodge of DC

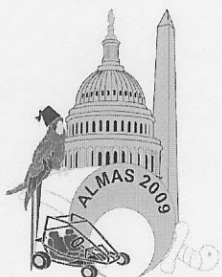


May 22 - 29, 2010

Join Potentate Paul Friedlander and Lady Teresa and
Grand Master Paul Gleason and Lady Particia in sunny Cancun, Mexico
for an all-inclusive stay at the Gran CaribeReal Resort.

For information, please contact
Lori J. Hatton at
Travel Planners International, Inc.
703-492-7380 - 703-201-7750
or
lorihatton@comcast.net





Almas Shrine Legion of Honor



Presents

The Annual Valentine's Ball

Saturday, February 13, 2009

Almas Shrine's Grand Ballroom

\$50.00 Per Person

6:30 - 7:00 PM Social

7:00 - 8:00 PM Dinner

8:00 - 11:30 PM Dancing

Black Tie & Evening Gown

Co-Chairmen

Robin Bodie & Tony Murray, P.P.

***Almas Legion of Honor Valentine's Gala
1315 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005***

Reservations deadline February 4, 2010

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____, for _____ reservations at \$50.00 per person

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

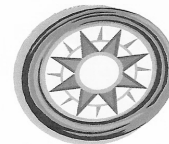


*You are cordially invited to the
Installation of Officers
of
Samla Temple No. 51
Washington, DC
Saturday, March 20th
at 2:00 p.m. in
The Grand Ballroom
of
Almas Shrine Center
1315 K Street, NW
Washington, DC*



Reception immediately following the ceremony

*Almas Northwest Shrine Club Bull & Oyster Roast
March 14, 2010
Serving from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cost \$30.00 per person
(Children 12 and under free)*



*Roast Beef & Oysters, Clams on the Half Shell, Clam Chowder, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans
Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Desserts, Coffee, Tea & Soda*

*At: Rosensteel Knights of Columbus Hall
9707 Rosensteel Ave. , Silver Spring, MD.*

Advance ticket sales only, No sales at the door, Reserved tables of 8 accepted

*Reservation:
Walter Simon 301-987-1663
Cloyd Bittner 301-468-1879, Almas Shrine 202-898-1688*

The “Newest” in Almas’ Fleet

On December 15, 2009, Ill Sir Donald R Ferguson, Sr. and Noble George E. Whetzel traveled to Sport Honda in Silver Spring, MD to take possession of a new 2010 Honda Odyssey Van, which MESH, Inc. donated to Almas for transporting patients and their guardians to our Shrine Hospitals. This donation culminated an almost two-year endeavor to work out the details. Their most generous gift is very much appreciated.

This van replaces one of our older vans, which has done a yeoman’s job of transporting our kids to the Hospitals. It does not take long for the mileage to mount up with all the trips that are made yearly. The new van has all the bells and whistles, including powered right and left passenger doors plus a built in DVD player so that the kids can be entertained on their rides.

Before we could even get the lettering accomplished, the van was put into service on its first Hoapital trip. As you can see from the photo, the van has a smart appearance and the lettering lets everyone know who we are and who donated the van to Almas.

We have also been told that MESH, Inc. is very interested in helping our Transportation Fund out from time to time in the future.

Please join us in giving MESH, Inc. a huge THANK YOU!!

George E. Whetzel, Recorder



FOR SALE

Almas Shriners is offering for sale two of our Hospital vans. It will be by sealed bids starting at \$1,000.00 each. These vans will be sold in ‘AS IS’ condition.

The sealed bids need to be sent to:

Almas Shriners,
1315 K Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20005



Van # 1 is a 2002 Pontiac Montana Mini Van approx mileage 70,000 Color Silver

Van # 2 is a 2005 Chevy Venture Mini Van approx Mileage 70,000 Color Green

Bids need to be in before February 19, 2010.



Keep a watch out for
the little Leprechaun's
there will be a
St. Patrick's Day Party
on March 17, 2010
More information to
come in the next issue of
the *alibi*





In Memoriam

*He is a wise man who does not
grieve for the things which he has not,
but rejoices for those he has.*

Epicetus

Almas Temple Sick and Shut-in Nobles,
Give them a call or send them a card.
(as of 1-29-10)

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 R. Christiansen

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

Tom Riffe

6315 Spyglass Court
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-664-1087

Davis S. Watson

908 Shipmaster Court
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-266-6305

Joe J. Dingess

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

William M. Bartlett

c/o Sunrise Assisted Living
5111 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20008

Andrew J. Sabonis, Jr.

Harmony Hall Assisted Living
6336 Cedar Lane, Apt. 235
Columbia, MD 21044

Michael N. Boltz

306 Copper Oaks Road
Woodsboro, MD 21798

James Turner

4917 Arbutus
Rockville, MD 20853
301-942-7000

Joseph A. Wilson

P.O. Box 1023
Colonial Beach, VA 22443
804-224-1512

Sol Ziedman

13003 Evanstown Street
Rockville, MD 20853
301-946-4043

Walter Simon

17802 Stoneridge Drive
North Potomac, MD 20878
301-987-1668

Charles Jack Stratton

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

Royce A. Watson

15022 Snowden Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20905
301-879-2949

Warren I. Barrows

6514 Ridenour Way E, # 1C
Eldersburg, MD 21784
302-436-4312

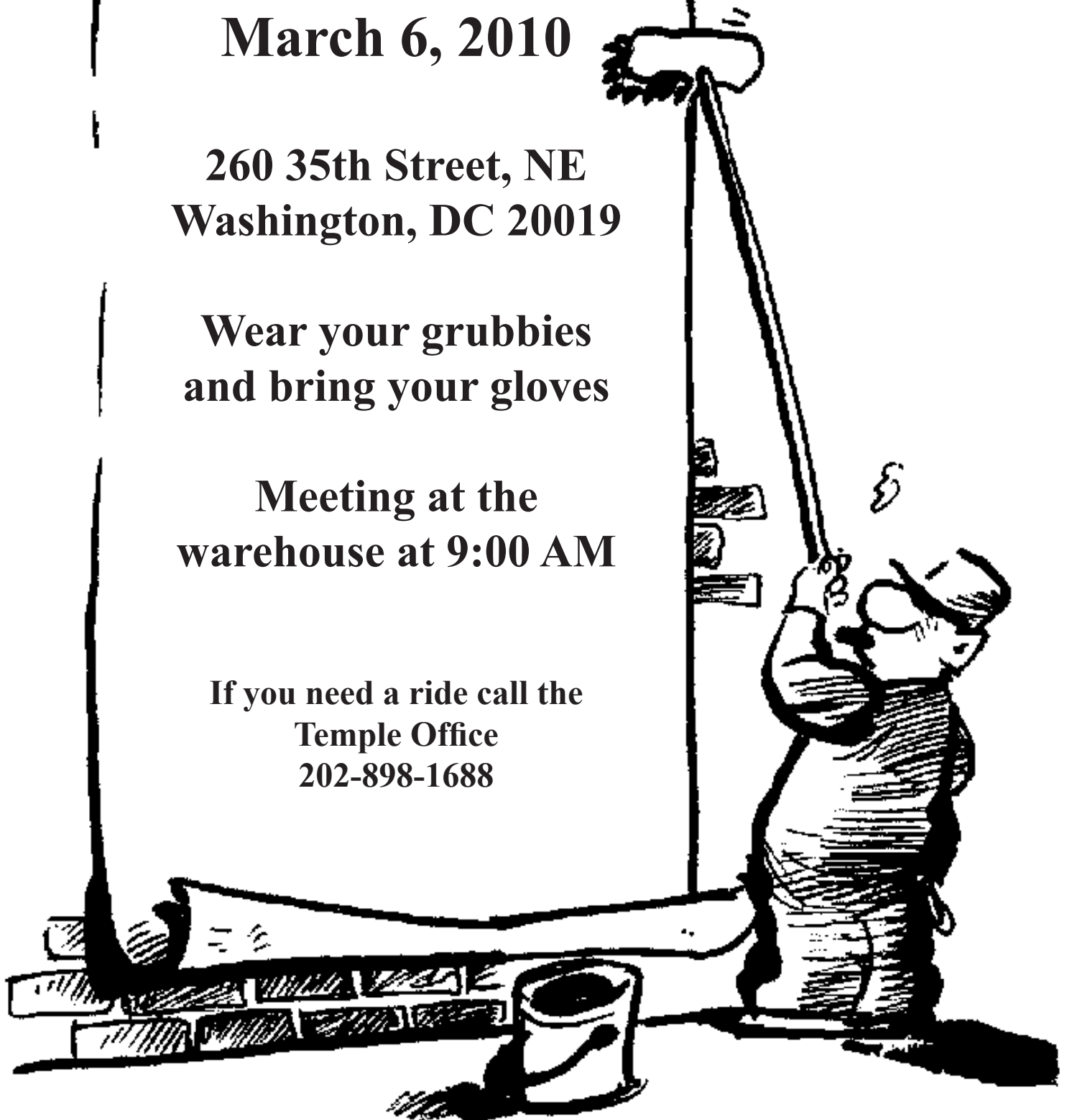
**Work day at the
Warehouse
March 6, 2010**

**260 35th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20019**

**Wear your grubbies
and bring your gloves**

**Meeting at the
warehouse at 9:00 AM**

**If you need a ride call the
Temple Office
202-898-1688**



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Fax: 301-963-8706

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



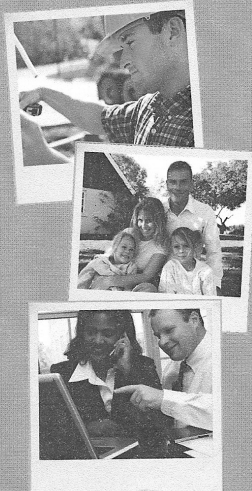
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Potentate

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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.**

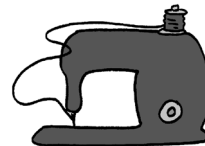
**COST OF THE DINNER IS
\$12.00**

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FAX 301-926-8611
P.O. Box 5008, Laytonsville, MD 20882

TRANSPORTATION DONATION

In Honor of George & Judy Whetzel

Ralh & Connie Connolly

In Honor of Robert Drechsler

Rick Hassler

In Honor of William & Nancy Lanham

Ralph & Connie Connolly

In Honor of Jeffrey & Barbara Bodie

Ralph & Connie Connolly

In Honor of Rick & Bobbie Hassler

Ralph & Connie Connolly

In Honor of Mel & Earlene

Harrison

Ralph & Connie Connolly

In Honor of Paul Friedlander

Andrew & Barbara Dawson

In Honor of Donald R. Ferguson,

Sr., P.P.

Ralph & Connie Connolly

Other Donations

Almas Director's Staff

Almas Latin Shriners Club



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

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 of.....

In Honor of.....

Person(s) to whom acknowledgment is to be sent:

Name.....

Address.....

City & State..... Zip.....

Name of Donor(s).....

Address.....

City & State..... Zip.....

February 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Uniformed Units Klowns, DON Chanters	5	6 Past First Lady Debbie Ferguson's Luncheon
7 Super Bowl Sunday	8	9	10	11 Screwballs	12	13 Valentine's Ball
14	15 President's Day Temple Closed	16	17 CHSC Motor Corp.	18 Greeters LOH LOS	19	20
21	22 Board Meeting	23	24 NWSC	25 Flag Unit Yacht Club	26	27
28 Recorder's Seminar						

March 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1Recorder's Seminar.....	2	3	4 Uniformed Units Mtg. Klowns, Chanters DON	5	6 Wearhouse Clean-up Day
7	8	9	10	11 Screwballs InstallationOriental Guide's Seminar.....	12	13
14Assistant Rabbi's Seminar.....	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Party CHSC, Motor Corp.	18 Greeters LOH LOS	19 Rainbow Grand Assembly Temple Showcase	20 Daughter's of the Nile Installation
21 Easter Egg Roll	22 Board Meeting	23	24 NWSC Meeting	25 Flag Unit Yacht Club	26 Peruvian Shrine Club Family Night	27
28Treasurer's Seminar.....	29	30	31			

April 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Uniformed Unit Klowns, Chanters DON	2	3 Legion of Honor Fundraiser
4 Easter Sunday	5	6 AIBA Annual Meeting	7	8 ScrewballsSpring MASA, Gettysburg, PA.	9	10 Cherry Blossom Parade
11 Lady Shrine Installation	12	13	14 CHSC Motor Corp.	15 Greeters LOH LOS	16	17 Almas Potentate's Ball
18	19	20	21 NWSC	22 Flag Unit Yacht Club	23	24 Hospital Clinic
25	26 Board Meeting	27	28	29 Temple Business Meeting	30 Peruvian Shrine Club Family Night	