

Almas Alibi



**Illustrious Sir Genilto Nogueira
Potentate Hikmat Shriners 2015**

**Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt
Imperial Potentate 2015 - 2016**

**Illustrious Sir Luis G. Cisneros
Potentate Almas Shriners 2015**

Volume 90

NUMBER 6 // September 2015

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September Birthdays



George R. Adams
 Neil R. Andersen
 Glaucio Antonio de Lima
 Ruben Dario Suarez Arana
 Andres Malan Arduin
 Gustavo Maria Barboza
 Ralph O. Bartlett, P.P.
 Jose Luis Bejarano
 Francisco Mario Castillo Bigot
 Walter Boomer
 Felipe Bortoli dos Santos
 Peter Brusoe
 Edgar Camacho Bustios
 Jackie M. Calloway
 Andre Cardoso Tavares
 Chen Lun Chang
 Frederick M. Cheeseborough
 Z Chris
 Timothy H. Conner
 Clifford Cooper
 Roque Cortes Pereira
 Orlando Costa Marques Leite
 Ney Batista Coutinho
 Juan Eduardo Craigdallie
 John F. Cronin
 Raymond J. Crowell
 Janier Jironda Cuba
 Leandro Fereira da Cunha Junior
 Ayrton Jose da Silva
 Marcos Divino Teixeira da Silva
 Marcus Vinicius dos Santos da Oliveira
 William de Paula Alvarenga
 Claudio Eduardo de Souza Lima
 Lawrence J. De Angelis
 Martin Pedraquosa del Campo
 Aaron W. Dodek
 Francisco Leite dos Santo
 Rafael Alvarenga dos Santos
 Peter A. Driscoll
 Carlos Eduardo Lisboa
 Hugo Bergman Eguez Montes
 Akram R. Elias
 Gordon L. Ferguson
 Alvaro Grohmann Filho
 Craig Fitzpatrick
 Ronald Adrian Forti Castrillo
 Lucas Francisco Galdeano

Ricardo Javier Garcia Peredo
 Clyde E. Grimm
 Thomas L. Groppe
 Arnaldo Toral Hidalgo
 Melvin Hirshman
 Kenneth D. Hubbard
 Rubens Jolando
 Emilo Jose Marguardt
 Joel R. Kahn
 Dan B. Lane
 Andrew Lawless
 Bernando Leis Marquez
 Louis Levy
 E. Kendall Lorenz
 Wilton Dayber Berriel Macedo
 Marcelo Dias Machado
 Fernando Marcilio Carvalho
 Milton Coscio Marquez
 Renato Parsekian Martins
 Thomas R. Mason
 Richard A. Matson
 Raymond F. McMullen
 Diego Milstein
 Scott David Miskovic
 Jose Guillermo Morrison Romero
 Charles C. Moser
 Robert Issamu Nakamura
 Roberto Neiva de Mesquita
 Idelfeson Neves Publio
 Walter Alves Noronha
 Keith W. Northup
 Joao Cesar Barbose Novaes
 Fernando Cuellar Nunez
 Edward J. Ostrusky
 Ronald E. Page
 Byron J. Pateras
 Joseph Penzo
 Renato Moraes Pereira da Luz
 Alfonso Manuel Perez Cobas
 Urban T. Peters
 Hernan Pflucker
 Charles Arthur Phillips
 Robert H. Plante
 Michael V. Porco
 Gustavo Puggina Rogatto
 Anil C. S. Rao
 James H. Reed
 Felipe Raul Ricagni Alvariza
 Thomas I. Richardson
 Thomas F. Riffe
 Juan Pablo Rodriguez Dubravel
 Steven Neal Saidman
 Vladimir Sallis Soares
 Jose Marcos Mazzucca Salvatore
 John S. Samperton
 Jorge Invanko Kuljis Santos
 William L. Shelton
 Matthew L. Smith

Robert H. Starr
 William A. Todd, Jr.
 Charles W. Tomlin
 Roberto Marcelo Uvillagomez Lino
 Victor Morales Valdiva
 Tomas Luciano Velasco Zeballos
 Jeremy Webb
 Richard A. Whitley
 Marshall N. Willner
 Douglas E. Windsor
 Robert H. Younger
 Chiucki Yuzuki
 Dale E. Zimmerman



Potentate's Message



Fellow Noble and Ladies,

Wow, time surely flies; This is my 9th month as your Potentate and let me tell you what a wonderful experience it has been, loving every minute of it! The month of July started with the Shriners International Annual Session, which took place in Houston, Texas. I spent quality time with good friends, met great new friends and I hope to increase the number of friendships as I participate in future Conventions.

In June, our own Club, which started in 2009 in Mato Grosso, Brasil, obtained their Charter from Shriners International and became the 196th Shrine Center in the world. Congratulations to the new Illustrious Genilto Nogueira, Potentate of Hikmat Shriners, his Divan and all the Nobles that made their dream come true.

Shriners International is growing very fast overseas and we hope to see its' continued growth. In Houston there were 1,269 Representatives who were able to vote. Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt was elected Imperial Potentate 2015-2016. We have a new CEO for Shriners Hospitals for Children, Imperial Sir Dale Stauss was elected. He replaced Imperial Sir Douglass Maxwell, who had been CEO for 6 years.

Illustrious Sir Lonnie Ramos, P.P. 2006 and Illustrious Sir Royce Watson, P.P. 2005 obtained their Emeritus status for the Colorado Corporation, Congratulations !!!

On July 25, Lady Ingrid and I attended the Potentate's Ball at Syria Shriners in Honor of Illustrious Sir Robert Herbert, in Pittsburg, PA. I was presented with an Honorary Membership from Syria Shriners.

On July 31, Lady Ingrid and I accepted the generous invitation from Illustrious Sir William Ray Bosley, Potentate 2015 Boumi Shriners, for Boumi's Crab Feast. There we participated at events with Potentates from Khedive, Kismet, Ali Ghan and Boumi. We are thankful for the invitation. We were treated like royalty and I was named Honorary Member of Boumi Shriners.

In August, we had the Almas Shriners Golf Tournament at Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville, MD. The Winners were Lonnie and Ann Ramos and Mike Justin. Congratulations!

Now, in September Almas Shriners members will have the opportunity to share with members of the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association. We will

be staying at the Hampton Inn in Virginia Beach, Va.

On September 12th I will be participating at the Scottish Rite Capping Ceremony taking place at the Willard Hotel in Washington DC.

Nobles please stay safe. We will have a ceremonial for new members on December 5, 2015.

Yours in the Faith,



Almas Yacht Club

61st Annual Commodore's Ball and Change of Watch



Honoring Commodore-elect Frank Ireton

January 23rd, 2016

Cocktails, 6:00 (Cash Bar) Procession and Dinner, 7:00

Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge

1900 North Fort Meyer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209

Special room rate of \$74.00 per night plus 14% tax

Reserve by December 23rd at 703-807-2000

Hospitality, Shenandoah Room, AB

Friday, 7-10 pm Saturday, lunch 12-4 pm Sunday, 7:30-9 am

MAASYC Meeting Dogwood Room

Saturday 3:00 pm

Contacts and Questions

Fred Evans fwevans@verizon.net or Frank Ireton, fireton@mac.com

AYC Commodore's Ball Reservation Form

Per Person Ball/Dinner Deadlines

Early Bird \$65.00 by January 6 Late Bird \$70.00 by January 18

After January 18 and On Site Bird \$75.00

Mail to: Frank Ireton, Commodore-Elect, 6309 Naval Avenue, Lanham, MD 20706

Name _____ Lady _____ No. Attending _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Preferred Phone _____

Shrine Center _____ Title _____

Entrée Choice: Stuffed Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Prime Rib _____

Arrival: Friday _____ Saturday Lunch _____ Saturday Evening _____

Proceeds from this activity are for the benefit of Almas Yacht Club and are not tax deductible.

Almas Shriners Business Meeting



September 3, 2015
7:30 pm

1315 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



Attest:

Luis G. Cisneros, Potentate & Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P., Recorder



Your 2015 Dues card is necessary for admittance.
Wear your Fez.



Almas Yacht Club



Plans are underway for the 61st Commodore's Ball and Change of Watch January 23, 2016. An invitation is extended to all members of Almas and neighboring Shrine temples to attend. This year's Ball will be held at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge. A special room rate of \$74.00 per night plus tax has been arranged. The Holiday Inn has recently renovated all rooms and offers free parking. Hospitality starts Friday night and ends Saturday after the Ball with a continental breakfast Sunday morning. For information and directions see the ad in this month's *alibi*.

After a successful Shakedown Cruise to Mount Vernon and the Memorial Cruise aboard the Skipjack Dee, followed by a delicious dinner at Solomon's Pier. We are looking forward to October 17th Frostbite Cruise. Rear Commodore Don Ferguson is planning a special luncheon for this event at a bay side restaurant. Details to follow on the Almas Yacht Club Facebook page and list server.

Almas Yacht Club will be well represented at the Mid Atlantic Shrine Association annual meeting in Virginia Beach. The meeting, held on September 10-12, has several activities for the club to participate in. We will be entering a newly designed float in the Saturday parade. Hints of the float can be seen on the Almas Yacht Club Facebook page. Final design will be revealed at the parade. The other major activity will be the Mid Atlantic Association of Shrine Yacht Clubs dinner and Change of Watch. Prizes for MAASYC competitions held during the year and at MASA are awarded during this event.

Join us for our monthly dinner meetings at the Temple on the fourth Thursday with a social hour starting at 18:00 and dinner at 19:00. Due to the proximity of the meeting date and the memorial cruise there will not be an August meeting. Our next meeting will be September 24th. Follow Almas Yacht Club on Facebook for information on upcoming events or better yet, join the club.

Yours in the Faith
Frank Ireton
Vice-Commodore





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. 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.

DONATIONS

In Memory of Eleanor Iversen

William & Edith Farran

Diana Dodd

William & Joyce Chaney

In Memory of James Previti

Charlotte Previti

In Memory of

MWB Stewart W. Miner, PGS

William & Joyce Chaney

In Memory of Jean Fisher

Alan L. Gordon, P.P.

In Memory of Don Boltz

Martha Boltz

In Honor of the Southeast

Shrine Club

Rick Hassler

In Honor of George Whetzel

Fran Sunderland

Other Donations

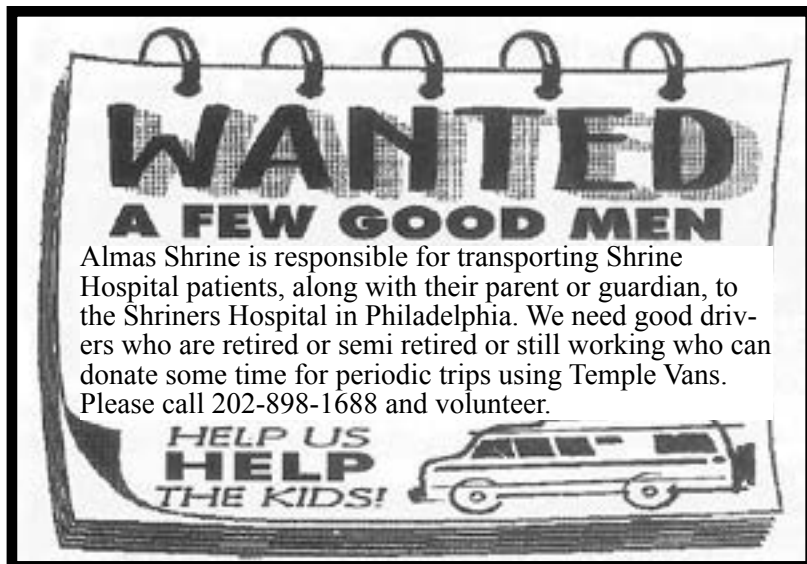
Northwest-BCC Shrine Club

Grand Chapter OES, DC

Centennial Lodge

James D. Marshall

A. T. Maxwell



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.....



Almas Annual Golf Tournament



Almas Klowns

HELP IS WANTED AND NEEDED
!!! DON'T BE AFRAID TO KLOWN
AROUND.

Some of our Klowns were in the national Fourth of July Parade in downtown DC. If it wasn't for the fact that one of our klowns had his wife and two boys made up as klowns to march in the parade, we would have made a very sorry appearance. Our fire engine still has a bad cold and could not come out to play with us.

We need help - your help. We need klowns who will be able to make three parades a year. We have the Cherry Blossom Parade, Rockville Parade and the Fourth of July Parade. We cannot do it with only three or four Klowns, we need help. Even if you are in another Unit, you would still be able to help by dressing up as a Clown and joining in the fun.

I can say no more other than we need all the help we can get to stay afloat. Don't let the Klowns down. Join now or agree to help. You can call me at 301-318-2488 or Jay Whitcomb at 301-404-7221.

Weird Wally, Boss Clown

Daughters of the Nile



It is my pleasure to bring you greetings from Salma Temple No. 51 Daughters of the Nile.

We have been very busy since our last

newsletter. We attended the 99th Supreme Session in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was a very busy week of attending meetings, handling legislation and the election of new officers. We also enjoyed two evenings of performances by the groups from many different Temples. On Saturday evening five members of the Samla Patrol Unit performed and it was wonderful.

We have three Supreme Appointments this year from our Temple: Past Queen Michelle Brink, member of the Website Committee, Past Queen Diana Dodd, Goodwill Ambassador of the Northeast Area and Past Queen

Helen Pearson, Supreme Escort to the Canadian Flag.

On Thursday, August 27th we will welcome our Supreme Queen, Sharon St. John to our Temple. September 3rd will be our first Session after the summer break.

I hope everyone had a safe and fun summer and we will see you soon.

Nile Love,
Fran Sunderland, PQ
Queen Samla Temple No. 51
samla51queen@gmail.com



141st Annual Imperial Session Shriners International Houston, TX - July 5-9, 2015

The report of the Credentials Committee listed those qualified to vote: Elected 644; Emeritus 71; Advitum 16; At Large 13; Colorado Representatives 525.

We have a new Oversight Committee that reviews fundraising events and reports on the bottom line. The cost to fund the float in the Rose Bowl Parade totaled out at \$149,000.00 but was viewed by thousands at the parade and millions of viewers on television. The FedEx Las Vegas Open Golf Tournament had expenses of \$4,350,000.00 in 2014. There were 1000 volunteers from 37 states and 249 Shriners from 39 Shrine Temples.

I am certain that we have all seen the new videos about the success stories of some of our children. The fundraising portion has been very successful with Direct Mailing raising \$3.3 million and another \$3.2 million from online pledges was received. Our headquarters received about 28,000 calls from individuals pledging to have \$19.00 per month charged to their credit cards. Some individuals even agreed to commit to a higher amount per month which will result in an average commitment of \$24.75.

Imperial Sir Doug Maxwell gave the Hospital report. During 2009, there was talk of closing 5 or 7 hospitals but changes in those hospitals to same day surgery facilities has reduced cost and they are doing well led by the success of our Erie Hospital. Also starting during this time of reevaluation, over-staffing in the hospitals was reduced with new procedures and the change to the very latest in new equipment. E.O.S., a new full body scan with about 10% of the radiation of an X-ray; Gait Labs to diagnose the problem of patient's walking; new Prosthetics Labs to produce our braces, etc. at the regional facilities. In the Mid-Atlantic, they are done in Philadelphia.

Since we began accepting third party pay, we have received \$450 million in income. Before the changes, the average cost to treat a patient was \$10,000.00 while outside hospitals were costing about \$3,900.00 per

patient. During 2007, we were drawing heavily on the Endowment Fund at \$180 million from investments. During the past year, we have reduced that number to a deficit of \$72 million. Many of these accomplishments are a result of a Strategic Plan of 78 changes to improve our mission. We hope that through the new plan and new means of fundraising we expect to have a balanced budget by 2018. Our hospitals got a superior rating from US News and World Report. The hospital in Hawaii was rated the best place on the Island to work. Our new Canadian hospital is scheduled for dedication on August 20, 2015.

A candidate for Imperial Outer Guard was elected. We had two candidates. James Ed Stolze (511) and Richard G. Burke (212). As a result, Ed Stolze was elected.

A new Shriners Reward Card with discounts from businesses is available for Nobles, families and friends. The sports report of 31 Shrine Bowl Games raised \$739,000.00; 72 Golf Tournaments raised \$978,000.00, 170 sporting events raised \$1,640,000.00. A golf outing for the new Montreal Hospital raised \$504,000.00.

The election for the CEO of Shriners Hospitals for Children® was held with 1,272 eligible to vote and 978 actually voted. Imperial Sir Dale Stauss-500 and Imperial Sir Doug Maxwell-478. Imperial Sir Doug has been the chairman for 6 years.

There were 22 items to be voted on in the Call of the Annual Session by the representatives. Three items were withdrawn from consideration. Two Shrine Temples requested they be part of a group previously approved to elect members based on a written ballot if the candidate receives 51% of the votes. Four Shrine Temples requested permission to relocate to a new location.

A resolution by the officers and nobility of Hikmat Shriners, UD Cuiaba, Mato Grosso Brazil to have their charter granted was approved. The fraternity is alive and well in Brazil and DeMolay has substantially more members than the United States.

The following is a list of items passed:

Item #1 - Proposed to raise Per Capita Tax to increase an additional \$15.00.

Item #3 - 211.2 Temple dispensation fee is now \$1,000.00

211.3 Temple charter fee is now \$1,500.00

Item #6 - The Imperial Potentate has the authority to grant a special dispensation for a temple to move the location of their annual meeting.

Item #7 - The Imperial Potentate has the authority to grant a special dispensation for a temple to allow participation in any meeting electronically.

Item #8 - The Treasurer has the duty to either complete or arrange for completion of all financial documentation required to be filed by the temple.

Item #9 - When a temple receives a request for a waiver of jurisdiction from another temple to initiate a candidate, it would be incumbent on that temple to act upon that waiver at their next stated meeting. Failure to do so would automatically grant such waiver to the requested temple.

Item #10 - A noble holding a demit could affiliate with a temple within the jurisdiction of which he is and for at least 6 months has been an actual resident or with the temple nearest to his actual place of residence.

Item #12 - Mahi Shriners no longer has jurisdiction in the Republic of Honduras or in the country of Peru, and Miami-Dade county should be correctly identified.

Item #14 - Cyprus Shriners would no longer have exclusive jurisdiction in the country of Jamaica.

Item #16 - Anezah Shriners has exclusive jurisdiction in the Republic of Honduras.

Yours in the Faith,
Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P.
Elected Representative



The Masonic Family places a wreath at the WWII Memorial



Some photos curtesy of
the
Grand Lodge of DC and
Brother Boggio



Chief Rabban



Greetings Nobles,

Spring has faded away, summer has come and now we look forward to fall. During the passing days, weeks and months, many opportunities existed for everyone to be a part of Almas Shriners related activities. I took the opportunity to be a part of many of them and had a busy but rewarding couple of months. I represented Almas at the Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star Installation in Fairfax, Virginia. I had the opportunity to speak for a short time. I participated in three visitations of the Grand Lodge of D.C. Then there were the monthly Almas Business Meetings and Board of Directors meetings. I was a voting delegate at the Grand Lodge semi-annual communication. Several of the Nobles and their ladies attended the Kena Yacht Club annual Pirate's Ball and we all had a great time. The MASA Motor Corps installation took place at Almas where we met many representatives of other MASA Motor Corps. Congratulations to Noble Eddie Dixon on his installation as President.

Participation in the Scottish Rite Spring Reunion took some time as did the Almas Memorial Service where we were able to meet some of the relatives of our departed Nobles. Next came the Almas Ceremonial rehearsals and production where we initiated 23 new Nobles. It was a great pleasure to see so many individuals take the obligation and become a member of our Shrine family. Those of you who did not attend missed seeing the new format for the ceremonial come to fruition. Thanks to Alan Gordon, P.P. and Tony Murray, P.P. for their work in revising the format. Attendance at the monthly Northwest-BCC Shrine Club and Yacht Club meetings with our ladies always provides a great time for fellowship and a good meal.

My Lady and I had the great opportunity to attend the annual Counterparts weekend held at Irem Temple in Wilkes Barre, PA. Here we were able to meet our counterparts from other Temples. We were treated royally, ate much and even had a tour of a nearby coal mine. Many activities were scheduled for the Grand Lodge World Brotherhood week celebration. Three days of opportunities to meet the Brethren from other Lodges and Jurisdictions and join in fellowship and food. The third Grand Lodge School of Instruction provided several hours of information and explanation of the Third Degree. This was followed by St. John's Day Festive Board. It seems that the eating and toasting never ends. On the Fourth of July it was off the Imperial in Houston, TX.

After returning and resting for a few days, it was off the MAASYC annual rendezvous at Chestertown, MD.

Where else could one have so many opportunities to participate in such a wide variety of activities and have so much good fun? Almas Shriners are busy and having a great time.

Yours in the Faith,
Fred W. Evans



Get out there.®



Personal Service Since 1984

Liberty of the Seas

Seven-Night Western Caribbean Cruise, February 28-March 6, 2016

from \$705.08[†] per person plus airfare

Please join **Fred** and his **Masonic friends** as you sail the Western Caribbean aboard RCI's **Liberty of the Seas**. Round-trip from Galveston, Texas, you will visit Honduras, Belize, and Cozumel, Mexico. Roatan welcomes divers and snorkelers eager to explore the thriving coral reef. Boaters, beachgoers, and water-sports fans enjoy the sparkling seas, too. Belize City is your gateway to an array of adventures in this tiny nation, like hiking in the rainforest, cave-and-river tubing, bird watching, exploring Mayan ruins, and enjoying the gorgeous Caribbean coastline. Cozumel features great diving, snorkeling and beaches, marine-life encounters, botanical gardens, trails and shopping in the town of San Miguel.

Western Caribbean Cruise February 28, 2016 Itinerary[†]

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
1	Galveston, TX		4:30pm
2	At Sea	--	--
3	At Sea	--	--
4	Roatan, Honduras	8:00am	5:00pm
5	Belize City, Belize	8:00am	5:00pm
6	Cozumel, Mexico	7:00am	5:00pm
7	At Sea	--	--
8	Galveston, TX	7:00am	

Your vacation package includes:

- Seven-night cruise aboard RCI's *Liberty of the Seas*
- Meals and entertainment on board ship
- Port charges, departure taxes, and government fees

A fully refundable deposit of \$250.00 per person is required to reserve your cabin. Rates, which expire on **October 31, 2015**, start at \$705.08[†] per person, based on double occupancy, for a promenade stateroom and \$1,055.08[†] for a deluxe ocean view stateroom. Some staterooms can accommodate a **third and/or fourth person**. Please call Linda Cleveland at 301-662-8080 or Carol Morris at 301-471-1295 for availability and rates. **Airfare is extra.**

Category*	Accommodations	Cruise-Only Rate [†]
PR	Promenade View	\$ 705.08
E3	Deluxe Ocean View Balcony	\$1,055.08

* Other categories may be available. Please call for rates.

[†] Rates and itinerary are subject to change without notice.
Fuel supplement, if imposed by RCI, is extra.





ANTIETAM TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.
2190 OLD FARM DRIVE
FREDERICK, MD 21702
301-662-8080 800-722-3489 FAX 301-662-8666
ats.travel

Important Information:

- Final payment will be due to Antietam Travel Service on December 4, 2015.
- A valid Passport is required. Boarding will be denied without proper documentation.
- You should seriously consider purchasing trip cancellation/interruption insurance. Please call Linda at Antietam Travel Service at 301-662-8080 or Carol at 301-471-1295 for details and rates.
- Airfare is extra. Please call Linda for availability and rates.
- Space is very limited at these special rates, which expire on October 31, 2015, so please book early.

Please call Carol Morris at 301-471-1295 or Linda at 301-662-8080, or send an email to catsmorris69@gmail.com or linda@ats.travel to reserve your stateroom.

Reservation Form:

Antietam Travel Service, Inc., 2190 Old Farm Drive, Frederick, MD 21702

Enclosed is my deposit of \$ _____ at \$250.00 per person. Please make check payable to Antietam Travel Service, Inc. OR complete the credit card information below.

Reserve a Category _____ Stateroom. RCI's Crown & Anchor # (if any) _____

Cruise Dining Preference: Early _____ Late _____ My Time Dining _____

(Please list first, middle, and last names on Passport):

NAME _____ Date of birth _____

PASSPORT # _____ Passport Exp Date _____

NAME _____ Date of birth _____

PASSPORT # _____ Passport Exp Date _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____

(Cell) _____ (Email) _____

Credit Card Information (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club, Discover)
(If not paying by cash or check)

Name as it appears on Credit Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ Sec Code _____

Signature _____

RCI Liberty of the Seas

7-night Western Caribbean Cruise, February 28-March 6, 2016.





SHRINERS

INTERNATIONAL

OFFICE OF
JERRY G. GANTT
IMPERIAL POTENTATE

MEMBER
ARABIA SHRINERS
HOUSTON, TX

August 12, 2015

Dear Fellow Nobles,

You are certainly aware of the recent political controversy relating to the display of the Confederate Battle flag by units of government. Shriners International is not a political organization. Therefore, it has no interest in involving itself in the political debate over whether this particular flag should or should not be displayed. As your Imperial Potentate, however, I have a great interest and an even greater responsibility in ensuring this political controversy does no harm to Shriners International or Shriners Hospitals for Children.

As a Texan, I understand the passions that surround this issue. In drafting this Special Order, I had to dispassionately consider the following question: "Is the display of this flag beneficial to Shriners International or Shriners Hospitals for Children?" I ask that you carefully consider this question from the perspective of our great fraternity. If the display of this flag by Shriners is not beneficial to our fraternity or to the children we serve, what, then, is the purpose of the display?

Therefore, we have ordered Temples, Units and Clubs to refrain from using the Confederate Battle Flag in Shrine or Civic Parades and in Shrine or non-Shrine public appearances and events. We also ordered that a Temple, Unit or Club refrain from participating in non-Shrine public appearances in which a Confederate Battle Flag is expected to be displayed by the organizer, promoter or those in control of the premises or facility of the non-Shrine event.

The purpose of this effort is to protect the image of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children from those who would seek to drag our fraternity and charity into a political debate that has absolutely nothing to do with strengthening our great fraternity and the World's Greatest Philanthropy, Shriners Hospitals for Children. This order is not issued for purposes of "political correctness." To the contrary, this Special Order continues the long-standing position of Shriners International to avoid political entanglements.

Additionally, this Special Order is intended to protect the peace and the safety of our members and members of the general public who attend events where Shrine Temples, Units or Clubs participate. In addition to threats of violence against those who display the Confederate Battle Flag, there have also been violent actions. This Special Order is not motivated by a sense of fear but instead by prudent judgment based upon actual occurrences and the foreseeability of future harm to those attending events where Shriners participate and damage to the reputation of Shriners International.

Many of our members are aware of very unfortunate incidents that have occurred in the distant, as well as the very recent, past in which the display of the Confederate Battle Flag led to serious harm to the reputation of our fraternity, where no harm was intended. While appropriate efforts to apologize for the harm caused by the display have in certain cases been made, some measure of that harm cannot be erased.

Our reputation has been built by nearly one hundred fifty years of selfless service to mankind. Shriners are respected and trusted throughout the world. It is unfortunate but true that one sensational and unintended incident, captured on a cell phone and alleged to have been provoked by the display of the Confederate Battle Flag at a parade, could have devastating consequences for the future of our fraternity and our charity. It would be irresponsible to ignore the fact that there are politically motivated people who would eagerly seek out the opportunity to create such a controversy.

This Special Order restricts display of the Confederate Battle Flag only as it relates to the participation of Nobles in their capacity as Shriners. It does not, in any way, place any limitation upon any Noble's right to express his personal views or expressions on the issue. Furthermore, this Special Order does not limit a Noble's ability to freely associate with others in historical, patriotic or heritage organizations, such as Sons of Confederate Veterans. It does not limit a Noble from joining an organization of other like-minded individuals in advocating for or against any political question. The only prohibition is that a Noble attending such non-Shrine events or gatherings be careful not to give any impression that his participation is in any way related to an official Shrine body.

Historically, our leaders have protected our fraternity by keeping it separate and apart from divisive political issues. This Special Order continues that tradition, so that we can remain focused on our stated mission.

Shriners are admired and respected throughout the world for our integrity and compassion. We are committed to protecting the hard-earned reputation built by generations of Shriners. Together, we have moved mountains by building a great fraternity and a world-class health care system. I ask that you work with me to protect Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children from the divisiveness and unnecessary strife typically caused by political controversies.

Our fraternity currently faces many great challenges. It will take the focused energy and commitment of every one of us, working together, to meet those challenges and strengthen both our fraternity and philanthropy. Let us focus on those efforts and the purposes to which our founders and forbearers selflessly and steadfastly dedicated their lives, and continue to move forward together, in unshakeable unity, as brothers.

I thank you for your understanding and for your commitment to Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children. I value and appreciate every one of my fellow nobles.

Yours in the Faith,



Jerry G. Gantt
Imperial Potentate

SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL

Special Order No. 4

2900 Rocky Point Drive
Tampa, FL 33607-1435

Series 2015-2016

To the Potentates, Officers and Members of Shriners International, fraternal greetings:

Attention has been drawn to the political debate over the Confederate Battle Flag in the wake of the recent incident in Charleston, SC. As a result, in my opinion, as Imperial Potentate, I believe it is in the best interest of the Order and the Nobility that no temple, unit, club or member of Shriners International shall display in any form the Confederate Battle Flag or any image that reasonably can be construed as a reference to the Confederate Battle Flag.

Under the circumstances, it is my opinion, as the Imperial Potentate of Shriners International, that the following order with respect to the Potentates, Officers and Members of Shriners International should be, and hereby is issued.

ORDER

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by § 206.5(a) (1) and (5) of the bylaws of Shriners International, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG PROHIBITION

1. No Noble (in his capacity as a member of Shriners International) or club, unit, organization of Nobles or affiliated or appendant organizations of Shriners International, shall display any Confederate Battle Flag or any image that reasonably can be construed as a reference to the Confederate Battle Flag in Shrine or Civic Parades, Temple activities or in Shrine or non-Shrine public appearances.
2. No Noble (in his capacity as a member of Shriners International) or club, unit, organization of Nobles or affiliated or appendant organizations of Shriners International, shall participate in non-Shrine public appearances in which a Confederate Battle Flag or any image that reasonably can be construed as a reference to the Confederate Battle Flag is expected to be displayed by the organizer, promoter or by those in control of the premises or facility of the non-Shrine event.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2015


Jerry G. Gantt, Imperial Potentate

ATTEST:


Jack H. Jones, Imperial Recorder

Copies to: John C. Piland, Executive Vice President/COO, Shriners International
Robert O. Kuehn, General Counsel, Shriners International
Jon A. Hanson, Chairman, Jurisprudence and Laws Committee

In Memoriam

Quinton N. Marsh
7/1/1915 - 12/22/2014

William C. Yowell, Jr.
6/25/1926 - 7/15/2015

Robert H. Younger
9/25/1940 - 8/15/2015

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

(as of 8-24-15)

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

Warren I. Barrows
1353 Becket Road
Sykesville, MD 21784

Larry De Angeles
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Room # D314
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Paul Adams
524 Hollingsworth Road
Woodstock, VA 22664
540-459-9337

Brooks C. Dodson, Jr.
Dogwood Forest Assisted Living
253 North Main Street # 314
Alpharetta, GA 30009
770-410-9169

Marion K. Warner
6100 Westchester Park Dr. #802
College Park, MD 20740
301-446-1749



Shriners Hospitals
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Thursday Night Dinner

September 3, 2015 is the Temple Business meeting and the Daughters of the Nile Session.

There will be dinner served starting at **6:00 pm** in the dining room and it is open to all who make reservations. The cost is \$12.00 per person.

Call the Temple Office at 202-898-1688 to make your reservation by Wednesday, September 2nd before 12 noon.

Catering by
Catering Resources

Looking forward to seeing everyone.



Delicious Deals

Starter
Classic Ceasar Salad

Entree
Grilled Skirt Steak w/Garlic Fries
Pan Seared Salmon
Fried Chicken Tenders w/ Buffalo Mac and Cheese

Dessert
White Chocolate Mousse
Seasonal Fresh Fruit

Northwest-BCC Shrine Club Fun Luncheon Old Europe Restaurant Octoberfest

On Sunday, October 18 at 1:30 p.m., the NW-BCC Shrine Club is having a fun luncheon at the Old Europe Restaurant in D.C. to help celebrate Octoberfest. The cost will be \$25.00 a person. We would like to invite other Shriners, Families and non-Masons to join us for this event. Space is very limited and it will be on a first call basis. Please call the Secretary, Walter Simon, at 301-318-2485 as soon as possible to make your reservations. A menu will follow in the October alibi.

The location of the Old Europe is: 2534 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007. Parking is available on the street behind the restaurant or in the Liquor store lot next to the restaurant at a cost of \$10.00.

Any questions, please call me at Almas Temple or the Secretary, Walter Simon.

Yours in the Faith,
Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P.
President



Hump Day Happy Hour

Wednesday,
September 16, 2015
5:00 PM till 9:00 pm



Open to all Shriners,
Master Masons
and Friends.



Light refreshments will be
served



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443-266-7140
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Jennifer Murray - Editor

Martha Boltz & Bobbie Hassler - Proof Readers

George E. Whetzel - Photographer

Unless otherwise
indicated proceeds from all activities
advertised in this publication benefit
Shrine Organizations only.

They do not benefit Shriners Hospital for Children
and are **not** tax deductible.

Thursday Night Dinners

Make your reservation by calling
Thelma Barmack at 301-598-3623 or
the Temple Office at 202-898-1688
no later than the
Wednesday before.



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

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Scottish Rite	2 AFA #92	3 Business Meeting & DON	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Temple Closed	8 Scottish Rite	9 Mid Atlantic	10 Shrine Assoc. Convention	11 VA Beach.....	12
13 Grandparents'sDay	14 Rosh Hashanah	15 Scottish Rite	16 AFA # 92 Hump Day Happy Hour	17 Compass Lodge	18	19
20	21	22 Scottish Rite	23 NWSC-BCC Meeting Yom Kippur	24 Flag Unit Yacht Club	25	26
27	28 Board Meeting	29	30 Legion Mtg.			

OCTOBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Business Meeting & DON	2	3
4	5	6 Scottish Rite	7 AFA #92	8 Screwballs	9	10 Hispanic Heritage Party
11	12 Columbus Day Temple Closed	13 Scottish Rite	14 Motor Corp Mtg.	15 Greeters Compass Lodge	16	17
18 NWSC-BCC Mtg. Old Europe Rest.	19	20 Scottish Rite	21 AFA #92	22	23	24
25	26 Board Meeting	27 Scottish Rite	28 Hump Day Happy Hour	29	30 Legion Mtg.	31 Almas Halloween Party

NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3 Scottish Rite	4 AFA #92	5 Business Meeting & DON	6	7
8	9	10 Scottish Rite	11 Veterans Day Temple Closed	12 Screwballs	13	14
15 NWSC-BCC Shrimp Feast	16	17 Scottish Rite	18 Motor Corp Mtg. AFA #92 Hump Day Happy Hour	19 Greeters Compass Lodge	20	21 Bolivia Ceremonial DC Grand Lodge Annual Communication
22	23 Board Mtg.	24 Scottish Rite	25 NWSC-BCC Meeting	26 Thanksgiving Day Temple Closed	27 Thanksgiving Temple Closed	28
29 Southeast Shrine Club Meeting	30 Legion Mtg.					

Almas Alibi

1315 K Street, NW
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WEBSITE

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Almas Alibi

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