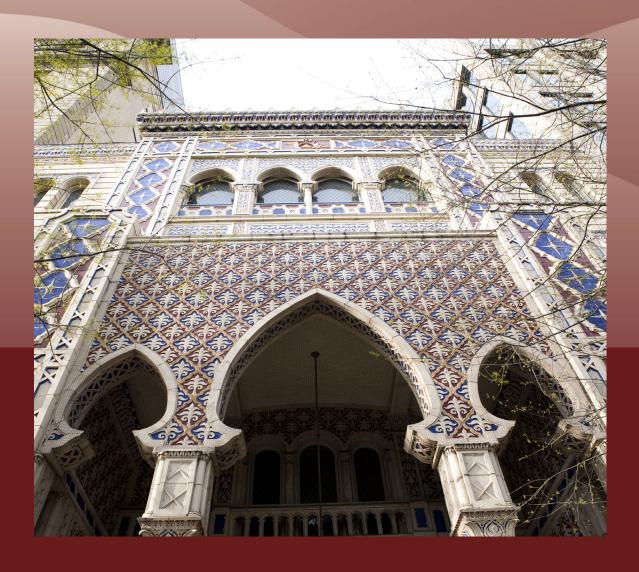
# Almas Alibi



Volume 95

NUMBER 1 // February 2020

**PHONE** 202-898-1688

**FAX** 202-789-1148

WEBSITE almasshriners.org

# February Birthdays



Paul E. Adams Gustavo Atesse Leonard J. Attman Stuart A. Becker Benson A. Benton, Jr. Robert D. Bradley Louis W. Burrows Dominador Sevilla Carreon John E. Collins Lynn A. Dean Muneer Z. Deen **Emmanuel Moise Degbey** Paul Dolinsky Moel Teofilo dos Santos Sergie Renato Duarte **Bulsby Omar Duncan** Darryl D. Duty John E. Earle Maurice E. Feghali John A. Finn James M. Hall Robert N. Hatch Wilton Hernandez Conde William H. Hessick, III Colin G. Hides Stephen P. Higdon



William G. Hinton, III Mark Hong Rufus S. Jernigan William F. Jiron, Jr. Edward M. Kerrick Todd W. Kissam Rainer Kotz Abdelaziz Mahfoudi Rafael N. Matoso Thomas S. Mitchell Stephen R. Nimmons Alexander A. Olbrich Moulero Posset Sheldon I. Rappeport Richard W. Richardson Victor Rivas Luis Riveros Pablo Alijandro Rocha James T. Rutherford, Jr. Jason C. Shaffer Leonardo Vaz Pessoa Gabriel Vega Michael E. Walko Glenn M. Whitehead Richard W. Whitlow William W. Wiard, IV Joseph J. Wisenewski Paul A. Wood Kenneth E. Worthington Thomas Yuen

# Potentaxe's Rambles



#### Dear Brethren,

Thank you for your confidence and installation of me to the Station of Potentate for the 2020 ensuing year. This privilege has left me overwhelmed and excited. Representing Almas Shriners is truly a dream come true for me; and accepting this position has left me on cloud nine.

As we continue to grow as Temple, it has become increasingly important to explicitly define the core values of Shriners Hospitals for Children from which we develop our culture, our mission, and our decision-making framework.

Per Shriners Hospitals for Children website, our Craft has a mission to:

- ➤ Provide the highest quality care to children with neuromusculoskeletal conditions, burn injuries, and other special healthcare needs within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative care environment.
- ➤ Provide for the education of physicians and other healthcare professionals.
- > Conduct research to discover new knowledge that improves the quality of care and quality of life of children and families

We know this is of utmost importance. BUT it cannot be achieved if Almas Shriners are unable to contribute. This 2020 year, we will be undergoing a physical transformation of our ballroom and kitchen areas with the rental agreement to the hotel. While this fortunate opportunity to save the physical location has been granted to us by the hand of Providence, we are in danger of continual diminishing membership.

The Grand Architect of the Universe has granted us the opportunity to fulfill our mission by saving our home, now we must all work to fill it with family. As we examine our situation, we must look to evolve this, the changing time; preserve some traditions and create new ones which will attract young Masons and more importantly, keep them engaged and inspired to service.

This year, as we learn to work with our tenant and the small inconvenience of sharing our beloved ballroom, lets take the opportunity to change the offerings or lack of, we provide to our membership. By doing so, we will attract and engage new men to our Craft and mission. We must concentrate on rebuilding our temple and family locally first if we expect to be an effective contributor to Shriners Hospitals for Children. This can only be achieved if collectively, we are willing to evolve to the changing times and needs of a younger Mason whose process may not be as ours, but whose goals and results are aligned.

Please help me in opening the doors to the next generation of Almas Shriners. It is their vision and labor we must embrace to ensure our Temple and Home is healthy, prosperous, and celebrating our 200-year anniversary in 2086.

Please accept my sincere gratitude to all our brethren. It is indeed an honor and privilege to labor with all of you.

Your in the Faith, George Perez Potentate





# Almas Shriners Annual Business Meeting

February 6, 2020 7:30 PM

1315 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005





Attest: George Perez, Potentate



Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P., Recorder

Wear your Fez
Your 2020 Dues Card is necessary for admittance.

#### **Quote of the Month**



Everybody really knows what to do to have his life filled with joy. What is it? Quit hating people; start loving them. Quit being mad at people; start liking them. Quit doing wrong; quit being filled with fear. Quit thinking about yourself and go out and do something for other people. Everybody knows what you have to do to be happy. But the wisdom of the test lies in the final words: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, 33°

# Chief Rabban - George Stoklas



Nobles,

I hope each of you were able to spend a relaxing holiday season with family and friends.

I also want to thank you again for the trust that you have placed in me by electing me Chief Rabban for the coming year. I do not take this trust lightly. I look forward to working with our new Potentate, George Perez and the rest of the Divan to make 2020 a geat year.

If you ever have a question or comment for me, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, text or phone. I will try to answer as truthfully as possible.

With the signing of the hotel lease, we are embarking on a new chapter in the history of Almas Shrine Temple. A chapter that will have many changes for our Temple. Changes that some Nobles will not be in favor of, but I think that we will come to realize that they were ones we had to make.

Your in the Faith George "2" Stoklas

### Almas Yacht Club



Sometimes I feel like Christopher Columbus, going out to sea with a destination in mind, not seeing it but knowing it's out there. That's what this month's activity is like. I had planned a Gala but was told that LuLu Temple was trying to hold a combined event with us, so I put our plans on hold. LuLu's event fell through and not I am sailing along, we're going somewhere, just don't know where. There's a song in that. Anyway, February is known for three things, Valentine's Day Presidents' Day (Washington Birthday) and Leap Year, this is Leap Year.

Well, Presidents Day, most of us will be joining Washington Daylight Lodge with the wreath laying ceremony, more information on that is in this alibi. So I am taking a leap of faith that I will find us a nice venue to celebrate Valentine's Day with our sweethearts. Once I find one, I will send out a email blast to all to see who can join us.

You should join us, we have fun, silly fun at that and enjoy each other's company.

Yours in the Faith Jesse Villarreal 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 Melvin Asterken

Irwin B. Pescov

In Honor of Almas Southeast Shrine Club

Southeast Shrine Club Members

Other Donations

Michael & Polly Johnson Kevin Coy

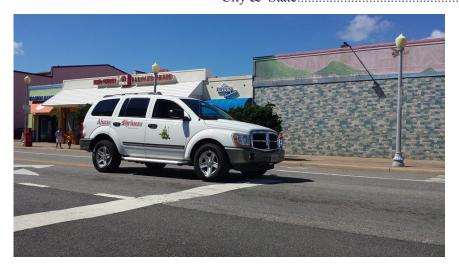


# Almas Transportation Fund Donations

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.

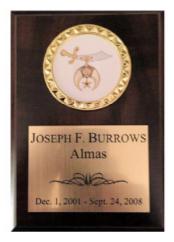
Date	Amount \$
In Memory of	
In Honor of	
Person(s) to whom acknowled	dgment is to be sent:
Name	
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City & State	Zip
Name of Donor(s)	
Address	
City & State	7in



# Wall Of Honor

# ALMAS Wall of Honor

Honor or Memorialize a Masonic friend or relative with a plaque like this one



A special wall consisting of these plaques will be created at Almas. Cost \$100 per order.

Wording and formatting of the engraving is to be specified by the buyer, and should be limited to 40 letters. Please send orders to the Almas Office, 1315 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Checks should be made out to ALMAS Temple.

Call Fred Evans at 301-460-1982

if you have questions.

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

Many individuals have been asking and showing an interest in the Wall of Honor recently. Some of those who have been honored may not be known to everyone, but they are remembered by their names being placed on the Wall for their contribution to the Craft. Unfortunately, there have been no new additions to the Wall in quite sometime

If you have a desire to recognize a Brother who has been a mentor to you along your journey in Masonry, in the Shrine or in life in general, consider honoring them by adding their name to the Wall. The cost is \$100.00 to have a plaque prepared and added to the Wall. For details contact Ill. Sir Fred Evans, P.P. at 301-460-1982.



# POTENTATE'S TEA

Lady Lesly and Potentate George Perez cordially invite you to enjoy Afternoon Tea to celebrate your extraordinary efforts and contributions to Almas Shriners.

March 21, 2020

With love and esteem, please join us for this complementary event

1:30 pm Cocktails in the Sphinx Club 2:00 pm Tea in the Oasis Room 3:30 pm Cocktails in the Sphinx Club

Almas Shriners

1315 K St NW Washington, DC 20005

**Dress: Business Casual** 

Seating is limited, please RSVP to reservations@almasshriners.org by March 6, 2020

# Membership



Hellen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."

When we work together on a common goal, we can achieve things beyond our greatest imagination. This is especially true if our intentions are real, and the purpose is for the greater good. Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has maintained an honored station of responsibility in the world, largely because we emulate this ideal by "Making Good Men Better".

Regrettably, the ravaging of time coupled with significant cultural and societal changes have produced the decline of Shriners. Many Temples suffer from at least these two things: dwindling attendance and a lack of new candidates. Many have gone dark. With great care and effort, we can avoid traveling down a path of decline.

We are fortunate in having so many Brothers who recognizing the distress our Temple is in, are proactively engaged and doubling their efforts by inviting friends and those men whom they believed to be a worthy candidate, to be our guest at Temple dinners and social events. The results of which, will be a measurable influx of petitions/affiliations.

Membership is our opportunity to grasp hold of each other in responsibility and Brotherly love. When we join Almas Shriners, we are offering ourselves to one another to be encouraged, rebuked, strengthened, supported and served. In short, becoming a member is to declare, "I am committed to this group and they are committed to me. I am here to give, more than receive".

A satisfied and active membership base is the core ingredient of any successful association. A healthy and prosperous Shrine is one which keeps its members engaged and interested in their activities and initiatives. Thus, member engagement is a shared responsibility each of us must keep in the forefront of our minds, so our Temple continues to increase our numbers, thereby ensuring Almas Shriners' overall is strengthened and everlasting.

Your Temple needs your continued support; many hands make light work. We live in the era of Tweets, Follows, Likes, and Shares on various social media channels. I believe when used effectively they are powerful, easy and cost-effective means of establishing meaningful connections with people. My Brother Nobles, our openness and acceptance are some of the core values that give our Craft a genuine uniqueness in this world. It is an honored legacy each of us are stewards of and must promulgate outward to the rest of society.

As Director of the Membership Committee, I strongly believe a social media and marketing strategy will not only promote and strengthen our brand presence, but it can also help like-minded individuals who share the same passions, interests, and values, find and connect with us. I encourage you (if you haven't already) to visit our website and share it with others. Similarly, I invite you to follow and share our Facebook page. Pairing these tools, with good old-fashioned word of mouth, is paramount to building upon our current success.

Noble, Derek Rivas Director of Membership







# Presidents Day

Presidents' Day" is celebrated on the third Monday in February each year as a day to recognize all presidents, past and present. Some consider it a celebration of certain key presidents, such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

"Presidents" Day was originally established in 1885 in recognition of President Ill. Bro. George Washington, it is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the Federal Government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ill. Bro. Washington's actual day of birth, the holiday became known as "Presidents' Day" after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act.



Ill. Bro. Washington, according to the calendar which has been used since the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old-style calendar in use back then, he was born on February 11. In 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

At the time, III. Bro. George Washington was venerated as the most important figure in American history, and events like the 1832 centennial of his birth and the start of construction of the Washington Monument in 1848 were cause for national celebration.

Ill. Bro. George Washington's Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s. It was not until the late 1870s when it became a Federal Holiday. Senator Steven Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas was first to propose the measure, and in 1879 President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law. The holiday initially applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it expanded to the entire country. At the time, Washington's Birthday joined four other nationally recognized Federal Holidays; Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving Day. This was the first holiday which celebrates the life of an individual American.

As Deity would have it, our country way given President Abraham Lincoln, a revered president born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both Houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address.



The change from Washington's Birthday to "Presidents' Day" began in the late 1960s when Congress proposed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This law shifted the celebration of several Federal Holidays from specific dates to a series of predetermined Mondays. While the holiday in February remains officially known as Washington's Birthday to the Office of Personnel Management, it has become known as "Presidents' Day" to the general public. This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring both Presidents Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as President.

Lawmakers debated combining Washington's birthday celebration with Lincoln's birthday, but the act never established the observance of both birthdays as one. Interestingly, even though William Henry Harrison and Ronald Reagan were also born in February, "Presidents Day" never actually lands on a president's birthday. All of their actual birth dates are too early or too late in the month to fall on Presidents' Day.

Presidents Washington and Lincoln remain the two most recognized leaders of "Presidents' Day" and is now seen as a day to recognize the lives and achievements of all of America's Chief Executives. Some lawmakers have objected to this view, arguing that grouping George Washington and Abraham Lincoln together with less successful Presidents minimizes their legacies. Most firmly agree, as Ill. Bro. Washington's achievements far over shadow the achievements of those who have come after.

#### Masonic News



#### The Masonic Choir of Washington DC

The Masonic Choir of Washington DC is a musical organization sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. It is a non-profit group dedicated to the study and performance of music that supports Masonic events and organizations. Music is one of the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences revered by Freemasons, and the goal of the choir is to return music to a prominent role in Masonic rituals and ceremonies. Men who join the choir will find their love of music and singing strengthened by voice instruction, rehearsals, performances, and even classes in reading music.

If you are a Freemason in the District of Columbia area, and you would like to join in the fun and rewarding experience, please send an email to choir@dcgrandlodge.org. It is not necessary that you are a member of a Lodge in Washington DC, but you must be a Freemason in good standing.



#### **Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mount Vernon**

On February 17, 2020, Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14 will continue the long tradition of laying a wreath at Brother George Washington's tomb. All Masons are welcome to join the lodge procession from the front entrance of Mount Vernon to the tomb and back. The procession starts at 10:30 am. The march to the tomb is led by a bagpiper. The wreath is laid at the tomb with a ceremony and the procession will return to the Visitors' Center. After the ceremony, you will have approximately an hour to an hour and half to tour Mount Vernon. After touring, all are invited to join Washington Daylight

Lodge No. 14 for lunch at Cedar Knoll Restaurant in Alexandria VA. Lunch will be compliments of Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14. If you plan on joining them for lunch, you must let RSVP with MWB. Jesse Villarreal, PGM. This is a family event, so family members are welcomed, and they may join the procession.

For those who need transportation to Mount Vernon, Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14 has arranged a bus to convey you there. The bus will pick up passengers at 16th and S Street, NW, in front of the Supreme Council House of the Temple at 8:30 am. As there is limited seating on the bus, please let Washington Daylight Lodge No.14 MWB. Jesse Villarreal, PGM know if you will be attending this event.

This year, lunch will be at Cedar Knoll Restaurant in Alexandria VA overlooking the Potomac river. The bus will depart from MT Vernon at 12:45 pm and transport everyone to the restaurant. For those driving in, Cedar Knoll Restaurant is located at Lucia Ln. Alexandria, VA 22308 about two miles from Ill. Bro. George Washington's home heading back into Washington DC. There is plenty of free parking available.

RSVP information: Washington Daylight Lodge No. 14, MWB. Jesse Villarreal, PGM, email JV1301@aol.com, cell phone 703-282-6366. E-mail notification is preferred.



#### Petition for Initiation and Membership in

#### Almas Shriners

the District of Columbia: I, the	undersigned, hereby de	clare that I am a Maste	er Mason in good s	standing in	
in amity with the conference of	odge # Located in		Which is a	lodge recognized by or	
in amity with the conference of	Grand Masters of Nort	h America. Furthermo	re, I have resided a	at my current address	
for not less than six(6) months,					
made a Noble of the Mystic Sh					
ed, I promise to conform to the		on and the By-Laws of	Shriners Internation	onal and the By-Laws	
and Ceremonies of your Templ	e.				
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Birthplace:	Date of Birth: If so, what was the Chapter Name and Location?				
D C . O 1.					
Profession or Occupation:	or admission to any Tom	nla of the Order?			
If so, to what Tample?	applied for admission to any Temple of the Order? When ?				
ii so, to what Temple?		when?			
Residence Address:					
Street:	City:	State:	Country:	Zip:	
Home Phone:	N	City: State: Country: Zip:			
<b>Business Address:</b>		-	_		
Street:Business Phone:	City:	State:	Country:	Zip:	
Business Phone:		E-mail Address:			
Hat Size:	Spouses Name:				
Signature:			Date:		
Print Full Name:					
Print Full Name:	(Initials are no	ot sufficient)			
Recommended and vouched	for on the honor of:				
Noble:	Shrina #	Noble:		Shrina#	
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# Thursday Night Dinner

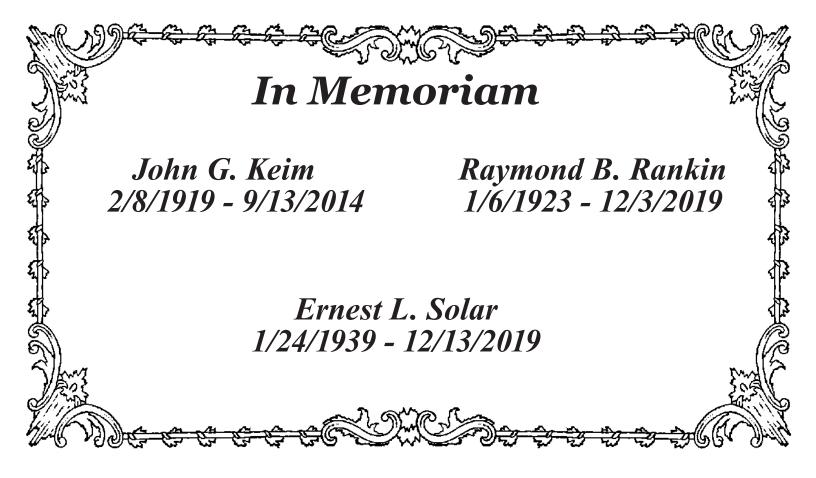
February 6, 2020 is the Temple Business Meeting.

Dinner will be served starting at **6:00 pm** in the dining room and is open to all who make reservations.

The cost is \$15.00 per person.

Call the Temple Office at 202-898-1688 to make your reservation by Wednesday, February 5, 2020 before 12 noon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone.



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

(as of 1-24-2020)

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

Paul Adams 2101 Deyerle Ave. # 318 Harrisonburg, VA 22801 540-333-5822 Scott Miskovic Summit Place Assisted Living 491 Highway 17, # 232 Little River, SC 29566 843-685-5554

# Illustrious Brother, George Washington



Ill. Bro. George Washington joined the Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia, at the age of twenty in 1752. During the War for Independence, Ill. Bro. Washington attended Masonic celebrations in several states and attended Masonic lodges which formed within army regiments.

Ill. Bro. Washington was initiated an Entered Apprentice in 1752, was Passed in 1753, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason that same year.

At his first inauguration in 1791, President Washington pledged his oath of office on a Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York. During his term in office, he presided over the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the U.S. Capitol in 1793. The cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol was laid in ceremony by Potomac Lodge No. 9 and Federal Lodge No. 15, under the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and Alexandria Lodge No. 22, under the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The Masonic Tools used at the Cornerstone Ceremony:

- Silver Trowel with Ivory handle owned by Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Wood T-Square and Level owned by Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Marble Gavel with wood handle owned by Potomac Lodge No. 5, Washington D.C.

Ill. Bro. Washington was a charter Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22. He sat for a portrait in his now famous Watson-Cassoul apron which was presented to him in 1783. On December 14, 1799, Ill. Bro. Washington passed away after a day and night of suffering.

Ill. Bro. Washington, Father of our beloved Country, was buried at Mount Vernon with Anglican Christian Burial Rites accompanied by a Masonic funeral ceremony conducted by members of Alexandria Lodge No. 22. The Bible used at Washington's funeral is owned by Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, DC.

In 1802, Martha Washington died at Mount Vernon and was reunited with her husband and our dear brother.



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Alan L. Gordon, CPA

51 Monroe Street Suite 401 Rockville, Maryland 20850 Ph: 301-762-8848 Fax: 301-762-8847 E-mail: AGordon@algcpa.com



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#### **Editorial Staff**



George Perez - Potentate

Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. - Recorder

Jennifer Murray - Editor

Mel Harrison - Proof Reader

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

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.

# Temple Agenda

#### February 2020

Saturday 1st Scottish Rite Open Installation

Tuesday 4th Scottish Rite Meeting
Thursday 6th Almas Business Meeting
Thursday 6th Daughters of the Nile Session

Tuesday 11th Scottish Rite Meeting

Monday 17th Presidents Day, Temple Closed

Tuesday 18th Scottish Rite Meeting
Wednesday 19th Motor Corp Meeting
Monday 24th Board Meeting
Tuesday 25th Scottish Rite Meeting

Wednesday 26th Northwest/Bethesda Chevy Chase Shrine Club Meeting

Thursday 27th Almas Yacht Club Meeting

Saturday 29th Grand Lodge Schools of Instruction

#### March 2020

Tuesday 3rd

Thursday 5th

Almas Business Meeting

Thursday 5th

Daughters of the Nile Session

Saturday 7th

Grand Lodge Combined Visitations

Tuesday 10th

Scottish Rite Renewal & Remembrance

Saturday 14th

Daughters of the Nile Open Installation

Sunday 15th Northwest/Bethesda Chevy Chase Shrine Club Bull and Oyster Roast

Tuesday 17th Scottish Rite Meeting
Wednesday 18th Motor Corp Meeting
Saturday 21st Potentate's Tea
Monday 23rd Board Meeting

Tuesday 24th Scottish Rite Meeting
Thursday 26th Almas Yacht Club Meeting
Sunday 29th Southeast Shrine Club Meeting

#### **April 2020**

Thursday 2nd Almas Business Meeting
Thursday 2nd Daughters of the Nile Session

Friday 3rd Scottish Rite Reunion
Saturday 4th Scottish Rite Reunion
Tuesday 7th Scottish Rite Meeting
Saturday 11th Grand Lodge School of

Saturday 11th Grand Lodge School of Instruction

Tuesday 14th Scottish Rite Meeting Wednesday 15th Motor Corp Meeting Tuesday 21st Scottish Rite Meeting

Wednesday 22nd Northwest/Bethesda Chevy Chase Shrine Club Meeting

Thursday 23rd Almas Yacht Club Meeting

Monday 27th Board Meeting

Tuesday 28th Scottish Rite Meeting



"You know, the new line of officers isn't half bad."
"Nope, they're ALL bad!"

#### **Almas Alibi**

1315 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

PHONE

(202) 898-1688

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(202) 789-1148

WEBSITE

Visit: almasshriners.org



# Almas Alibi

Volume 95 // Number 1 // February 2020

Almas Temple Chartered June 14, 1886 133 Years