



The Almas Alibi

August 2021



Meanderings from the Potentate...

Nobles:

I hope everyone is well and safe.

All but one of your Elected Divan Officers were able to attend Shrine Imperial in Houston. There was a lot of catching up to do with old friends not seen since 2019, along with making new friends from Temples around the country and the world. I am pleased that Ill. Sir and MWB Alan L. Gordon, Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia, and his Lady Iris were able to attend the session along with a number of other Grand Masters.

There were several pieces of legislation on the agenda at the meeting, most of which were what I would call, housekeeping items, and they passed almost unanimously by hand vote. Three pieces, though, were much more controversial and had much discussion, both for and against, before voting.

Proposed amendment number 1 on the call, Article 2, dealt with allowing Shriners International to be able to accept a petition from any Mason directly without belonging to a Shrine Temple, and to decide qualifications for membership, the balloting procedure on the petition, the initiation fee, the initiation procedure, and the annual dues on candidates accepted for membership in Shriners International. **Proposed amendment number 6** on the call dealt with Article 11 and proposed increasing the annual per capita tax to Shriners International from \$30.00 per member per year to \$50.00 per member per year. **And proposed amendment number 7** on the call, Article 23, was a proposal to allow Shrine Temples to admit non-Masons to become Shriners. All three of these proposals were defeated by secret electronic ballot.

Lastly, on Saturday, July 31st, I was honored to host a luncheon for our Past Potentates, 50 Year members, and their ladies. There were many stories told by our Past Potentates about events during their year and even a few comments about their year from their ladies!

Please look at the calendar of upcoming events. This is your Shrine. It can only survive with your participation and your help.

Yours in the Faith,

George Stoklas
Potentate 2021

Quote of the Month

*"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction.
The world will have a generation of idiots"*

---Albert Einstein

Almas Wall of Honor



The next time you visit Almas Temple, take a few minutes to look at the Wall of Honor located outside the dining rooms. This project was started in 2016 with the purpose of commemorating the name of a Shriner who was special to you. It also provided a small source of income for the Temple.

Additions to the Wall have been dormant for over a year now, but it is time we continue to honor our members, past and present, who have done something meaningful to, or for you, as a Shriner. Perhaps a relative who made you aware of the work of the Shrine, a mentor who helped you on your way, or someone who you think has made worthy contributions to our many programs. They do not even have to be a member of Almas. They could be a member of any Shrine Temple.

Give this some thought. The cost to have a plaque placed on the wall is \$100. For further information or questions, please contact [III. Fred Evans](#), Past Potentate of Almas.

**White House Christmas
Ornaments Available from the
Yacht Club**



The Almas Yacht Club is again selling White House Christmas Ornaments. This year's edition commemorates President Lyndon B. Johnson and depicts the family's 1967 Christmas tree in the Blue Room of the White House. **Cost remains \$21 each.** These collectable ornaments make great gifts for friends and relatives.

Please contact Fred Evans (301-460-1982 / fwevans@verizon.net) or Jesse Villarreal (703-282-6366 / jv1301@aol.com) to place your orders.

As always, all proceeds from the sales of these ornaments are for the benefit of the Almas Yacht Club, and are not tax deductible.

From Shrine Int'l...



INTRODUCING OUR 2021-2022 NATIONAL PATIENT AMBASSADORS:

MEET SETH AND SYDNEY

Every year, Shriners Hospitals for Children® selects National Patient Ambassadors to represent the health care system's patients. The ambassadors spend the year sharing their stories of perseverance in the face of adversity and the ways Shriners Hospitals for Children has made a dramatic difference in their lives. This year, new National Patient Ambassadors Seth and Sydney will be joined by Connor and Mia, who are continuing their National Patient Ambassador journey after a year interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. We are honored to have these four impressive young people advocating for our health care system.

SETH

Seth was 11 when his doctor noticed a curvature in his spine. They began with a "wait and see" approach, and later treatment from a chiropractor. Still, the curvature of his spine quickly progressed to a severe degree. He and his family learned about Shriners Hospitals for Children from a social media group focused on the Vertebral Body Tethering (VBT) treatment for scoliosis.

Seth, who is from Fort Wayne, Indiana, underwent VBT surgery at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia in 2017. The surgery, performed by Joshua Pahys, M.D., helped the young athlete quickly return to the playing field. "My pain has been reduced dramatically, my curvature is half what it used to be, and my flexibility is on par with my peers," Seth said.

Seth, now 17, enjoys playing many sports, including football, baseball and basketball, and is now focusing on competitive golf. "VBT has given me the opportunity to perform my best in athletics without the limitations of scoliosis," Seth said. "The extra inch I gained on the operating table didn't hurt on the basketball court either."

Seth is pleased and proud to have the opportunity to be a National Patient Ambassador for Shriners Hospitals for Children. "I was impressed by the amazing treatment that I received at Shriners Hospitals, and I would be honored to guide someone to their care," Seth said. "It will mean a lot to me to give back to the Shriners community because of the gift that they gave me."

SYDNEY

Sydney, who is from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, learned she had scoliosis when she was 10. Her treatment began with bracing, but despite a strict exercise regimen and wearing her brace 23 hours a day for 1½ years, her curvature progressed. Searching for an alternative to spinal fusion surgery, Sydney and her family learned about the VBT treatment option.

Sydney had her VBT procedure at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia in 2018, performed by Steven W. Hwang, M.D. "VBT has allowed Sydney to retain her flexibility and to get back to all the things she loves faster and stronger than ever," said her mother, Melissa.

Now 16, Sydney loves playing the oboe in the school band, and enjoys painting and swimming. Sydney, whose great-grandfather was a Shriner, looks forward to continuing that family legacy by telling her story as a National Patient Ambassador.

"To make my scoliosis journey a more positive experience, I had to reach out and to help others," Sydney said. "I said 'yes' to being a National Patient Ambassador because Shriners Hospitals has done so much for me, and I feel I could never repay that. That surgery has changed my life. It has shaped me to be the person I am today."

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS • Watch Seth and Sydney's video at [YouTube.com/ShrinersHospitals](https://www.youtube.com/ShrinersHospitals).

To learn more about Shriners Hospitals for Children, please visit [shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org).



**Shriners Hospitals
for Children®**

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Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, August 14** – *Special Communication of Grand Lodge of DC*
- **Monday, August 23** – *Divan meeting for elected & appointed officers*
- **Monday, September 2** – *Almas General Membership Meeting*
- **September 9th thru 12th** – *MASA Fall Convention – Virginia Beach, VA*
- **September 16th thru 19th** – *SASA Fall Convention – Myrtle Beach, SC*
- **Sunday, September 19th** – *Grand Lodge DC Picnic – Glen Echo*

- **September 23rd thru 25th** – *Outer Guard School (Shrine Imperial – Tampa)*
- **Monday, September 27th** – *Divan meeting for elected & appointed officers*
- **September 27th thru 29th** – *Asst. Rabban School (Shrine Imperial – Tampa)*
- **Thursday, October 7th** – *Almas General Membership Meeting*
- **Saturday, October 9th** – *Memorial Service for Noble Ralph Connolly – 1 PM*
- **Monday, October 18th** – *Almas Golf Tournament*
- **Sunday, October 24th** – *Grand Lodge DC Day of Thanksgiving*
- **Monday, October 25th** – *Divan Meeting for elected & appointed officers*
- **October 26th thru 28th** – *Imperial Potentates Visit to Almas*
- **Saturday, October 30th** – *Almas Halloween Party*



**2021 Almas Shrine
Golf Tournament**

2021 Shrine Golf Tournament

Monday, October 18th. More details coming soon!





Almas Yacht Club Fishing Trip

SOLD OUT!!!!

Almas Yacht Club is hosting a fishing trip on August 9th out of Deale. The outing will entail the following, plus lunch upon returning to dock:

- Up to six hours on the water
- Trolling, chumming, bottom fishing
- Includes all fishing licenses and insurance
- Includes all rods, reels, bait, and tackle
- Includes ice for you catch
- \$75 per person

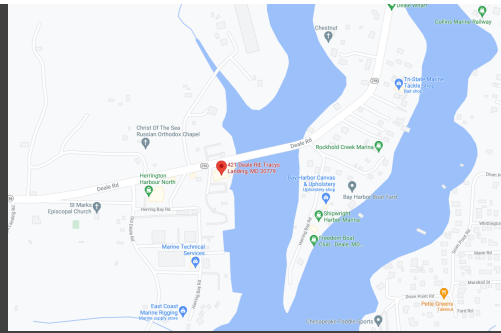
You may bring: food (sandwiches in your own cooler), beverages of your choice (*remember water, dehydration is real also we are not encouraging alcoholic beverages*), non-slip shoes, rain jacket (better safe than sorry), sweater or light jacket as it gets chilly out on the water, sunglasses, sun screen, camera, lucky fishing hat, and a cooler to transport your catch home.

SOLD OUT!!!!

Dock Address:

[421 Deale Rd.](#)

[Tracy's Landing, MD 20779](#)



Driving directions from DC -Take Rt. 495

to Rt. 4. Take Rt. 4 south 15 miles, take right onto Rt. 258 (Bristol/Deale). Follow Rt. 258 5 miles to first stoplight. At the stoplight make a right onto Rt. 2. Proceed 1/4 mile and take first left onto Rt.256. Follow Rt. 256, 2 1/4 miles to Dockside Restaurant & Sports Bar. Turn right to rear of restaurant to unload (under arch next to restaurant); then park in lot in front of restaurant.

Important: You must be at the dock by 6:00 AM.

Almas 2021 Directory

ALMAS SHRINER'S DIRECTORY

ELECTED DIVAN/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GEORGE J. STOKLAS, JR. 202-256-7448
Potentate gstoklas@dcgrandlodge.org

JESSE VILLARREAL 703-282-6366
Chief Rabban jv1301@aol.com

CARPENTER ARPA IV 703-863-1319
Assistant Rabban jcarpa@hotmail.com

CHRISTOPHER S. DIPASQUALE 202-255-5969
High Priest & Prophet cdipasquale@hotmail.com

Geoff Newman 301-428-3311
Oriental Guide geoff@newmanadvising.com

MICHAEL A. GORDON, P.P. 817-366-6377
Treasurer almas@michaelgordon.com

DONALD R. FERGUSON, SR. P.P. 202-898-1688
Recorder dferguson@almasshriners.org

MEMBERSHIP

Geoff Newman, Chairman 301-428-3311
Scott Farrell 662-889-9221
Derek Rivas 202-880-9733

POTENTATE'S ADVISORS

Fred W. Evans, P.P.
Melvin E. Harrison
Edwin J. Whitcomb
Jeffrey D. Holt, PP

FINANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Mike Gordon, P.P. Chairman
Fred W. Evans, P.P.
Geoffrey Newman

APPOINTED DIVAN

Larry A. VILLEGAS-PEREZ 202-421-4652
First Ceremonial Master larryavp@gmail.com

SCOTT FARRELL 662-889-9221
Second Ceremonial Master farrellalabama@gmail.com

BRUCE D. FRENCH 240-543-2657
Director frenchbruce@hotmail.com

Omar LORENZO 787-671-3160
Marshal omarlorenzo@hotmail.com

SCOTT C. JACOBS 443-878-2042
Captain of the Guard cpojake@gmail.com

ADOR CARREON 240-475-2645
Outer Guard ador.carreon1@gmail.com

WALTER F. SIMON 301-318-2485
Chaplain velvel13@yahoo.com

FRED W. EVANS, P.P. 301-460-1982
Chaplain fwevans@verizon.net

COLONEL'S STAFF

PAUL FRIEDLANDER, P.P. 301-949-6211
Colonel of the Units eod1blue@aol.com

FRANK IRETON, P.P. 301-254-5893
Lt. Colonel of the Units fireton@mac.com

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Raymond F. McMullen Recorder
George E. Whetzel Recorder
Anthony S. Murray, P.P. Trustee
Melvin E. Harrison Treasurer
Alan L. Gordon, P.P. Treasurer

INSURANCE ADVISORY

Scott Wallace, Chairman
 Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P.,
 Donald M. Holliday, Sr., P.P.,
 Alan L. Gordon, P.P.,

**JURISPRUDENCE AND
LAW**

Donald Hadley, Temple Attorney

WAREHOUSE

Paul Friedlander, P.P. Manager
 Frank Ireton, P.P. Asst. Manager

**SPHINX CLUB BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Melvin E. Harrison,
 President

Bruce McMullen,
 Vice President

Richard E. Hassler,
 2nd Vice President

Mike Gordon, P.P.

William D. Hines

George Stoklas, Potentate

Jesse Villarreal, Chief Rabban

Alan L. Gordon, P.P., Treasurer

Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P.,
 Secretary

COMMITTEES

100 Million Dollar Club, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. 202-898-1688
 50 Year Members & Past Potentate's Lunch, 202-999-0327
 By Laws, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. 202-898-1688
 Children's Holiday Party, George Stoklas 202-256-7448
 Custodian of Candidates, William M. Lanham, P.P. 301-622-0492
 Endowment, Wills & Gifts, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. 202-898-1688
 Financial Oversight & Real Estate, Michael A. Gordon, P.P. 817-366-6377
 Golf Tournament, Anthony S. Murray, P.P. 301-648-0800
 Hospital Representative, Paul Friedlander, P.P. 301-949-6211
 International Member Relations, Michael A. Gordon, P.P. 817-366-6377
 Installation, Anthony S. Murray, P.P. 301-648-0800
 Potentate's Tea, George Perez 202-999-0327
 Memorial Service, Walter Simon & Fred Evans, P.P. 301-318-2485
 Potentate's Ball, George Stoklas 202-256-7448
 Public Relations, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. 202-898-1688
 Photographer, Larry Villegas-Perez 202-421-4652
 Sick & Shut-in, Bruce D. French 301-942-0364

UNIT HEADS

Klowns, Walter F. Simon (Director) 301-318-2485
 Greeters, Alan L. Gordon, P.P. 301-570-8865
 Legion of Honor, Omar Lorenzo (Commander) 787-671-3160
 Motor Corps, Eddie Dixon (Director) 301-254-2087
 Provost Guard, Fred W. Evans, P.P. 301-460-1982

CLUB HEADS

Cast, Jean Paul Dongmo (Director) 240-375-4581
 Cabiri, Donald R. Ferguson, Sr., P.P. (President) 202-898-1688
 Northwest-BCC Shrine Club, George Stoklas, Jr. (President) 202-256-7448
 Peruvian Shrine Club, Jose Boggio (President) 703-930-4007
 Southeast Shrine Club, Fred W. Evans, P.P. (President) 301-460-1982
 Shepherds Club, Carlos Landazuri (President) 703-282-7612
 Yacht Club, Jesse Villarreal (Commodore) 703-282-6366
 Club Shriners del Uruguay
 Alfonso Manuel Perez Cobas (President) aperezcobas@gmail.com
 Club Shriners Brazil-ES, Brazil
 Eduardo Antonio Bertacchi Uvo (President) 5527-99874930
 Almas Brasilia Shriners Club
 Germano Cesar de Oliveira germanocesar@hotmail.com
 Austria Shrine Club, Johannes Kollar (President)
 UK Shrine Club, Derek Williamson secretary@ukshriners.co.uk

Living Past Potentates

Charles W. Corey III	1985	Alan L. Gordon	2011
Grant R. Burning	1998	Ricardo Rodriguez	2012
William M. (Bill) Lanham	2000	Rick Hall	2013
Anthony S. (Tony) Murray	2001	John R. Garrison	2014
Donald M. Holliday, Sr.	2002	Luis G. Cisneros	2015
David W. Finn	2003	Fred W. Evans	2016
Kenneth J, Collins	2004	Michael A. Gordon	2017
Lonnie L. Ramos	2006	Jeffrey D. Holt	2018
Jeffrey G. Bodie	2007	M. Frank Ireton	2019
Donald R. Ferguson	2009	George E. Perez	2020

50 Year Members

George W. Haller III
George E. McKenney
Tasios Backus
Clifton P. Campbell
Kenneth M. Griffith

Louis E. Ernest
Jesse F. Goodson, Jr.
Robert L. Moore
W. Dickerson Charlton
Philip E. McAllister

Friends of the Temple

Alan L. Gordon, CPA, P.A.



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The Almas Transportation Fund

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.



WANTED

A FEW KLOWNS IN FUNNY
COSTUME TO ENTERTAIN
CHILDREN AND LOVE BEING
FUNNY.

PARTICIPATE IN PARADES
AND ALMAS TEMPLE
ACTIVITIES.

SHOW YOUR INNER AND
OUTER SELVES AND MAKE
CHILDREN AND ADULTS SMILE.

DRIVE THE KLOWN FIRE
ENGINE OR BE A HOSE MEN.

CONTACT WALTER SIMON,
WEIRD WALLY
AT 301-318-2685

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