

EL KORAH SHRINERS
DESERT DUST



Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

1755 N Westgate Dr, Suite #125, Boise, 83704

**Annual All Masonic
Christmas Party**

Sunday December 15, 2024

RSVP: to eks.mc2024@gmail.com

(you must RSVP to attend)

Limited to 100 in attendance

El Korah Shring is proud to host our
Masonic Families and invites you to join us
for a full turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings,
caroling, crafts and an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

1 pm – 3 pm doors will open at 12:30 pm

Meridian Masonic Lodge

800 E 2nd Street, Meridian ID

Santa arrives at 2:15 pm
Kids will take home
a personalized ornament



**If you would like to volunteer or donate t
the All Masonic Christmas Party.**

**Please contact
Dave Brannan
(208) 340-5273**

dlbran73@gmail.com

2024 Divan

Elected Officers

- Potentate Ric Bobier
- Chief Rabban Ray Breshears
- Assistant Rabban David Brannan
- High Priest & Prophet Bruce Drewes
- Oriental Guide Jason Morales
- Treasurer Will Votaw, PP
- Recorder Wayne Foster

Appointed Divan

- 1st Ceremonial Master . . . Anthony Patterson
- 2nd Ceremonial Master Bob Martin
- Marshal Mischa Brady
- Chaplain David Triplett
- Captain of the Guard Gail Sivey
- Outer Guard Rod Baldwin

Other Divan Positions

- Director Ron Bishop
- Assistant Director &
Parade Director . . Ray Westmoreland, PP
- Assistant Chaplain Skylor Lenz
- Chief Potentate's Aide Merl Mews
- Ambassador Coordinator Mitch Davis

Potentate's Aides

- Coordinator Mischa Brady
- Aides Black Light Patrol
- Chief Aide Emeritus Dick Swift

Hospital Board Members

- Salt Lake City Dave Brannan
- Portland Rick Holloway
- Portland Joe Randall

Phone Numbers

- Recorder (208) 343-0571

Desert Dust

- Editor Gary Betts
gsetts@msn.com
- Assistant Editor Rick Holloway, PP
elkorahdesertdust@gmail.com



None to Report

Advertise Your Business in the Desert Dust!

Reach out to the Nobility, Ladies and friends in the online and printed versions of the Desert Dust. El Korah publishes 10 newsletters annually.

For a member-owned business
a regular-sized ad is just
\$50.00 per year

Contact the Recorder's Office for larger ads, single issue ads, and ads for non-member owned businesses.

Submit your ad to the Desert Dust today!

Editor's Notice

The Desert Dust is published monthly, except July and August.

Submissions are Due by the 20th of the Month

Please be prompt!! Remember, the Editor is volunteering his time to publish the newsletter.

Pictures should include a caption, if appropriate.

Email your submission to Gary at gsetts@msn.com

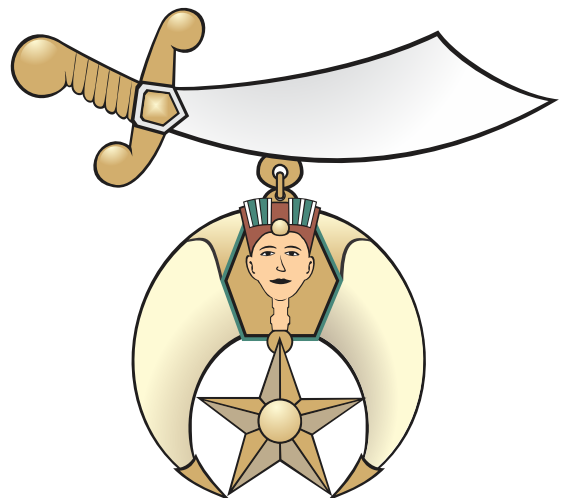
2024 Shrine Dues were due by **12/31/23**.

If you do not have a current 2024 dues card, you are delinquent and cannot attend meetings, etc.

Avoid the dreaded NPD list and contact the Recorder's Office today (343-0571).

Did you know that El Korah's budget relies on members paying their dues on time?

You dues help pay our bills and keep our doors open.



* ELECTION OF OFFICERS *

Wednesday Dec 11th, 7:30 pm
Boise Masonic Center - Westgate

December Stated Meeting

Potentate's Message *by Ric Bobier*



What an amazing way to wrap up 2024!

This year has been nothing short of incredible — filled with meaningful moments and unforgettable memories. As we close out the year, I want to take a moment to celebrate our successes and thank each of you for making it so special.

The First Lady's Oktoberfest was a huge hit! With around 60 attendees, we raised \$1,620 for the Camp Un-limb-ited project at the Salt Lake Shriners Clinic. Thanks to nearly 20 raffle donations and everyone's generosity, we made a real difference — thank you!

Our Fall Ceremonial on November 9th at the Meridian Masonic Lodge was another highlight. We honored Past Potentate Dale Rutter and welcomed nine new Nobles and their Ladies to our El Korah family:

- ◆ Noble James Jourdan and Lady Debra, Mountain Home
- ◆ Noble Randy King and Lady Kathi, Star
- ◆ Noble Jake Loveland and Lady Tracy, Twin Falls
- ◆ Noble Christian Manaloto and Lady Melanie, Mtn Home
- ◆ Noble Stephen Fashandi and Lady Colene, Boise
- ◆ Noble Cristin Sandu and Lady Taylor, Kuna
- ◆ Noble Virgil Sisam and Lady Elane, Twin Falls
- ◆ Noble Trevor Thueson and Lady Sabrina, Boise
- ◆ Noble Matt White and Lady Kelsi, Twin Falls

A big thank-you to everyone who helped make the ceremonial a success, even with last-minute program changes. Please take a moment to welcome these new members into our Masonic family.

Chief Rabban Ray Breshears deserves a round of applause for leading his first Stated Meeting with great skill on November 13th. We're all excited about the leadership he'll

bring next year. And a special thanks to Danny Harkins for sitting in as Oriental Guide — you did a fantastic job!

This year has been packed with activities and milestones, starting with our Installation at the beloved old building in downtown Boise. Here are just a few of this year's highlights:

- ◆ Six unforgettable Black Light Patrol Crab Feeds
- ◆ The Sand Duners Auction
- ◆ The Greeters' Valentine's Brunch
- ◆ PNSA Shrine Association Meeting in Billings
- ◆ Ice Breaker Mini Golf Event in Twin Falls
- ◆ Snake River Shrine Club Honored Ladies Luncheon
- ◆ Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- ◆ Potentates Nobility Ball
- ◆ Twin Falls North-South District 4 All-Star Shrine Football Game in Burley
- ◆ The first Shrine-sponsored ATV/UTV Ride
- ◆ Daughters of the Nile Supreme Session crowning Supreme Queen Jackie Holloway
- ◆ El Korah Shrine Circus's
- ◆ Imperial Session in Reno, Nevada
- ◆ The 70th Annual Oregon All-Star Shrine Football Game in Baker City
- ◆ Daughters of the Nile Golf Tournament
- ◆ Air Force Appreciation Day Parade in Mountain Home
- ◆ Idaho Grand Lodge Installation with Past Potentate Rick Holloway becoming Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho



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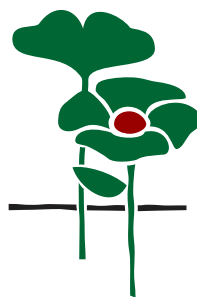


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Potentate's Message *(cont.)*

- ◆ Shrine Fundraising Association Meeting in Michigan, where our Recorder Wayne Foster became President of the Association
- ◆ The First Lady's Oktoberfest Project
- ◆ The 2024 Dale Rutter Shrine Ceremonial
- ◆ The December Holiday PBS Telethon
- ◆ All of the Shrine Unit and Club Meetings and Gatherings throughout the year and the Parades that they all have participated in.

Our El Korah Futures Committee — Il Sir Gary Adams, Ill Sir Dave Thomas and Nobles Gene Strate, Bob Julian and Gary Betts — has made great progress. Their collaboration with a local architectural firm on the feasibility study for our future Shrine home is a huge step forward.

Everything that we have participated in, or been part of, has been phenomenal and very rewarding to say the least. Our

Divan Officers and their Ladies and many other Nobles and their Ladies have gone above and beyond for us this year. I thank you all for everything that you have done for El Korah Shrine, the Shriners Children's Hospitals and for Tandy and me.

Tandy and I are so thankful for your hard work, dedication, and friendship this year. You've truly brought "**Energizing More in 2024**" to life and it has been an honor to share this journey with you.

As we move into 2025, let's carry the same enthusiasm, unity, and spirit that made this year so special. Together, we've made a lasting impact on our Shrine, our Masonic family, and the children we serve.

Thank you for an unforgettable 2024!

Fraternally and affectionately,
Ric and Tandy

Potentate's Challenge Coin

by Bruce Drewes, High Priest & Prophet

If you are looking to buy one of the Potentate's 2024 Challenge Coins with a number lower than 200, you will be in for a real challenge. Over half of the 500 available coins have been sold in just the first three months. The popularity of this coin has even surprised me. Many Nobles (and spouses, too) have purchased more than one coin. Some have five or more. Challenge Coins are being bought as gifts for family members, children and grandchildren, and even for people outside the area. Remember that this is a fundraiser that supports El Korah. Don't forget that we'll draw two numbers later this year for \$500 prizes.

Yes, you'll have **two chances** to win a **\$500.00** gift card!

Only 500 of these beautiful coins have been created and will be offered for sale to the Nobility and the general public for \$20.00 dollars each.

ANYONE can own one (or more) of these beautiful keepsakes!

The proceeds of this fundraiser will be set aside for future El Korah activities.



Front



Back

NOTE. The proceeds of this fundraising activity support El Korah Shrine and are not tax deductible.



I Have a Quilting Project!

Noble Steve Priest is looking for any old uniforms with emblems on them that could be used for making quilts. If you have something that might be useful, please contact Steve directly via text or email.

(208) 869-1752 pspriest1@gmail.com

2024 Potentate's Challenge Coin



Just a heads up . . . You'll want to start bringing your Challenge Coin with you whenever you attend a Shrine gathering, such as a Stated Meeting. You never know when a Potentate's special drawing might pop up.

El Korah Shrine Nobility Birthdays for December

December 2	Timothy	Stock
December 3	EB	Pfeil
December 4	Harold	Napier
December 5	Frederick	Lyon
December 5	Vernon	Haley
December 8	Bruce	Drewes
December 10	Carl	Jeffries
December 10	Rodney	Burke
December 10	Rodney	Horn
December 11	David	Roberts
December 11	Matthew	Thompson
December 12	Jacob	Matthews
December 18	Donald	Bailey
December 19	Michael	Yavno, PP
December 20	Richard	Kaiser
December 20	Raymond	Schild
December 20	Mark	Beckman
December 22	John	Matthews
December 26	Marvin	Askey
December 26	Darren	Hall
December 28	Rick	Holloway
December 30	JS	Wilson
December 30	Gary	Joslyn
December 31	Larry	Snapp



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Salt Lake Shriners Children's Clinic

by Dave Brannan, Board of Governors



The Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City continues to work toward their mission of providing patients with "The Best Care Anywhere" and "Caring for More Kids in More Places".

In 2025, Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City will celebrate 100 years of service with a Gala event on May 10th. I will schedule a trip to Salt Lake for the celebration, and another trip for the Walk for Love in September. Please let me know if you are interested in attending either event.

The Philanthropy Department raised 134% of their goal for the year which will result in a much lower draw on the endowment than was predicted for 2024.

Dr. Kristin Carroll stepped down as the Medical Director of Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake on November 1st. Dr. Theresa Hennessey has been selected as the Interim Medical Director until a new Medical Director can be found. Here is a summary of Dr. Carroll's work at Shriners Children's:

Kristen Carroll become interim chief of staff (COS) in early 2014 and became permanent COS later that year. Her role changed to Medical Director of SLC after our transition from a hospital to an outpatient clinic on

September 1, 2021. During her tenure, she became a full professor at the University of Utah (UU) in 2015 and was also awarded the Sherman S Coleman presidential endowed chair in pediatric orthopedics in 2019. She served as a member of the physician executive team, then as a founding member of the Shriners Medical Group (SMG). She has been medical director of the SLC gait lab since 2014. She served as physician lead for research for the SMG for 4 years. This year she was awarded the UU faculty wide award for her work in equity and diversity for the UU.

She will step down as Medical Director from Shriners Children's SLC on November 1, 2024. She will continue to work as a staff physician, focusing primarily on children with neuromuscular disease, until 2026 which will mark her 30th year of service to Shriners Children's.

There were 74 clinics held in October and 809 unique patient visits. There were 56 surgical procedures performed and 4 infusions. There were 571 Therapy sessions, 28 Motion Analysis sessions, and 24 Locomat sessions. The Orthotics and Prosthetics Department delivered 327 Orthotics and 18 Prosthetics for a total of 345 devices delivered. The wheelchair department worked on 127 wheelchairs for the month.

See the attached one sheet "Shriners Children's is a Recognized Leader in Burn Care".

Please contact me if you have any questions about the Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City, or about becoming a member of the Board of Governors.

Shriners Children's is a Recognized Leader in Burn Care



Since opening the first Shriners Children's hospitals dedicated to treating children with burn injuries in the mid-1960s, our physicians and care teams have contributed to most of the significant advancements in acute and reconstructive burn care. They draw on their own pioneering work when they treat a child for a burn, which can include acute care, wound care, scar management and reconstructive surgeries.

Shriners Children's treats all levels and types of burns, including scalds, chemical burns, electrical burns and flame burns. We're known around the world for our innovative, caring approach to treating burns in children. Our medical teams are driven to achieve the best outcomes for each patient and to provide:

- The physical and emotional support they need to heal
- A specialized treatment plan that minimizes scarring
- The plan to get them back to their daily life with minimal disruptions

Improving Treatments and Saving Lives

The medical teams at our burns hospitals are renowned for their expertise in critical care, particularly in technique that may help save the life of a patient with severe burn injuries – such as fluid resuscitation, early excision and skin grafting, management of increased metabolism, medication responses and post-burn care.

Since Shriners Children's entered the burn care field, the survival rate for children with burns over more than 50 percent of their body surface has doubled. In addition, today, patients with burns over 90 percent can survive, and go on to lead full, productive lives.

Shriners Children's is a respected leader in the field of burn prevention and treatment. Physicians from all four of our burns hospitals have served as president of the American Burn Association. Our clinicians have published journal articles and book chapters that are widely regarded as primary sources for pediatric burn care treatment.

In order to provide the best, most innovative treatment to patients with burns and burn-related injuries, Shriners Children's is committed to research in burn care. Shriners conducts research studies involving different aspects of burn injury and treatment. Currently two of the clinical studies are multisite, involving Shriners Children's Boston as the lead site with our Texas and Northern California hospitals participating.

Shriners Children's shares its expertise in burn care and research through academic affiliations with noteworthy institutions and through different medical outreach programs. Shriners Children's offers residency and fellowship programs, as well as opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers interested in this field.



Specialized Services

Our highly trained and experienced medical teams provide critical, surgical and rehabilitative care to children with varying degrees of new and healed burns, as well as burn-like conditions that can be treated with the same plastic, laser and reconstructive techniques used for burns. Specialized treatment is available for:

- All levels and types of burn injuries
- Skin grafting
- Healed burns
- Scarring that has caused contractures or limited mobility
- Smoke inhalation
- Facial scarring or deformities
- Congenital hairy nevus
- Port wine stains and hemangiomas
- Complex skin conditions
- Congenital ear deformities

To learn more about our burn care, scan or visit: ***shrinerschildrens***



call 800-237-5055 (U.S.)
or 800-361-7256 (Canada)

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill Sir Rick Holloway



The Portland Shrine Hospital had a robust October with the total number of inpatient and outpatient surgeries matching our highest month slightly slower August with total surgeries matching the highest they have been all year. Net patient revenue is slightly less than last year but continues to be second only to NorCal. The case mix adjusted Average Length of Stay (ALOS) is the lowest in the entire Shrine hospital system despite our acuity being among the highest for all Shrine hospitals. The number of rehabilitation visits was the highest it has been all year for October as well as being the highest it has been for any month over the past three years.

We also measure the total draw on the endowment per patient. We once again set a record for the lowest this metric has ever been, drawing only \$583 per patient

currently when it was nearly \$2,000 per patient in 2018.

We would like to remind everyone that we do not provide "free" care. We are contractually required to bill insurance companies (including Medicaid) if a patient has coverage and by law we must send a bill to the family. If a family is unable to pay, we cover the cost through the endowment. Payment is never a barrier to receiving care and treatment.

Twenty-three members, spouses, and guests from Gizeh Temple in Vancouver, BC jumped on a bus and visited the Portland Hospital on November 15! It was a great opportunity for them to see the hospital in person and some were there for the first time. Anyone who wants to tour the hospital is welcome to do so. Please reach out to Joe Randall or Rick Holloway to arrange it. The hospital prefers advance notice of tours by the Nobility and supporters so they can give them the best experience possible.

If anyone has any questions about the Portland Hospital, please reach out to Joe Randall or I via text, email, or phone. We are always willing to provide any additional information you may have regarding the Portland Hospital. If you have any questions about what it is like to serve on the Board of Governors, please contact Joe Randall or I. We would be happy to tell you what it is like and how rewarding it is to serve on the Board of Governors for Portland.

Chaplain's Corner

by David Triplett, Chaplain



November brought us elections, not just about politics, but about the Shrine, Units, Clubs, Lodges and other Masonic bodies.

I am so happy to sit on the sidelines as a past something, but I am always willing to serve when requested, as I know each of you

would when called on. The December's Chaplain's Corner does not come from the stories from Matthew and Luke about the Birth of Jesus, but from the readings of Mark.

He starts the Good News with the story of John the Baptist preparing the way as promised in the Old Testament by Isaiah. Mark 1:(1-44) gives the many Parables and short windows of Jesus' ministry before his Glorious Ascension Mark 16:(19) shows Jesus is the Light of the world and the inner Light in each of us.

Jesus explained to his disciples why he spoke in parables, and we still learn from those parables today, whether it be the

Sower, Light Under a Basket, a Growing Seed, or the Mustard Seed. These help us find and hold onto that inner Light.

This thought about our **Inner Light** led me to a lesson in the Scottish Rite's 14th degree, which was presented very well in the Nov-Dec 2024 Scottish Rite Journal.

The Royal Arch of Solomon and the Perfect Elu: THE DIVINE SPARK OF THE SCOTTISH RITE. Adrian Castro, 33° gives a great summary and ties the closely related 13th and 14th together from the discovery of the Divine Virtue within to receiving the ring reminding us of its connection to the temporal world.

I Google searched for the latest Scottish Rite Journal, but the last available issue was Sept-Oct. However, when the Nov-Dec issue is put online, the article is well worth reading.

So from Mazatlan, Ann and I wish you the best in December and a Happy New Year in January. When we return in February, Ann and I will celebrate 60 years together.

Newsletter Submitted by Joe Randall, PP - Portland Board of Governors

TEMPLE LIAISON MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2024



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE LAST BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING



The Al Kader Food Caravan was a success! Thank you to everyone involved in supporting this

noble cause. Total donations were \$81,122.25! This includes the money raised from the sale of cows, pigs, sheep and goats as well as \$10,800 in cash donations.



Alumni Ambassador, Justin Chi, tees off at **Shriners Children's Open**. Twenty-five

years ago, he was in an accident that left him with third degree burns on major parts of his body. Today he is fully recovered due to the commitment of Shriners Children's Portland to help him throughout the healing process. He has since been a proud supporter of the Portland hospital. He was grateful to play at the Shriners Children's Open and raised a total of \$4,287. Read about Justin's story [here](#).



The 45th Annual Abate Toy Run is coming up on Saturday, December 7th!



The Office of Philanthropy is in need of a MUSIC THERAPISTS to interact with our patients. Please reach out to our Sr. Director of Philanthropy, Angie Gofredo at **971-544-3334** if you would like to find out more!

GREAT INFORMATION ON HOSPITAL PATIENTS, STAFF, AND BOARD MEMBERS

- Shriners International shares the historical meaning behind the beginning of Shriners Children's. Check out the video and reenactment of the that meaningful moment [HERE](#).
- Our continually growing [Walk-In Fracture](#) and Sports Injury Clinic is open M - F (except holidays) from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please help us spread the word! [CLICK HERE](#)
- Shriners Children's Portland has unwavering high quality award winning healthcare. Check out our [2023 Outcomes Book](#). Also, feel free to circulate our [Fraternal Toolkit](#).



Want a chance to win a Shriners Children's Blanket or free Caravan Coffee? Please click [HERE](#) to leave any questions, comments or suggestions for the Temple Liaison Committee about hospital communications.

Yours in the faith,

**Portland Board of Governors
Temple Liaison Committee**

Daughters of the Nile

by Meeka Pedersen, Princess Badoura

Another busy month for Iras Temple No. 40. In November we honored our 41 fifty-year members and our Club members at our Stated Session.

We had a fashion show that was out of this world . . . for us anyway. The fashions were from a world renowned artist, Shaun Muscolo. She designs clothing made out of recycled trash. Yes, you heard me right. From circuit boards to wine corks, and even dental X-ray film. Oh, and film from movies. Oh, and the beloved Crown Royal bags.



Sue Davis

Debi Irish

One of the highlights of the day was hearing from a former Shrine child, Julia Pierce. She told us all about her time at the Salt Lake City Hospital and her road to recovery with her cleft palate issues. She thanked the Shrine and the Daughters of the Nile many, many times during her talk. She is a senior at BSU and will go on for a Masters in Social Work. Her message to us was priceless.

Iras Temple No. 40 will have a float in the Holiday Parade in Boise on Saturday, December 7th. Please look for us and give us a big shout out when you see our entry.

My Christmas List of Blessings

From the members of Iras Temple No. 40 to
El Korah Shriners and the children they care for

*My christmas list is more than just a way to keep track of
The special people God has brought into my life to love.*

*It's like a treasured scrapbook filled with pleasant memories
Of all the times God answered prayer through friends and family.*

*Every name's a touchstone that leads to a place and time
Where God has used another's heart to reach out and touch mine.*

*It may have happened years ago or even yesterday,
But every person on my list has changed my life some way.*

*Through simple conversation, a warm hug or a shared meal,
Every person on my list has helped me grow or heal,*

*Or laugh or love or learn or smile...the blessings never end
As God allows out paths to cross as family and as friends.*

*So please know that this greeting is more than a Christmas wish
It's a "thank you" card to God for putting on my list*

*Each and every one whose name I've come to hold so dear . . .
Those who've shown me Christmas joy each day of the year.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Membership

by Dave Brannan, Chairman

The 2024 Dale Ruter El Korah Shiner Ceremonial at the Meridian 47 Lodge on November 9th was a great event, we have 8 new Nobles that joined the El Korah Shriners, and 1 Ceremonial member that was brought in through a Cold Sands, for a total of 9 Ceremonial members this year.

Please see the Cover page for the 2024 All Masonic Christmas Party flyer on December 15th the Meridian Masonic Lodge. It will be limited to 100 attendees so please RSVP to EKS.MC2024@gmail.com if you are planning to attend. Doors open at 12:30 pm and Santa will arrive at 2:15 pm.

We are continuing to make contact with the new prospects that were generated from the Western Idaho Fair Booth and have had many positive responses. One of the contacts just received his Entered Apprentice Degree on November 19th at Meridian Lodge 47.

We currently have one new petition and 2 prospects in the Webfez system.

The Shrine Mystic Band Cigar group, continues to meet monthly on the 3rd Sunday at 2:00pm at Sturman's Cigar Shop (4204 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City). Come join us for a cigar or beverage and good conversation.

There are 48 members who have not paid their 2024 dues and 12 projected suspensions at the end of the year. Some of these individuals will be eliminated from the list and remain in good standing because of their age and years of service to El Korah. If you haven't paid your 2023 or 2024 dues, please do so as soon as possible. Call the Recorder at (208) 343-0571 to make a payment.

Please do your part to help our Temple grow. Talk to men you know who would be good Masons about your Masonic journey. If you know a Mason that would make a good Shiner, ask them to consider joining the Shrine. You can also invite them to one of our activities. Talk about our philanthropy and tell them about the children we serve. These children are the reason that most of us ended up in the Shrine and is something that we can all be proud of.

Twin Falls Shrine Club Annual Christmas Party

Monday, December 9, 2024

6:00 pm

Mountain View Barn in Jerome

Shriners and their Spouse are Welcome

Please RSVP by Nov 30th to
Kris Carney at kris@roiampm.com

\$38⁰⁰ per person

Appetizers are Included

Veggies & Dip — Cheese & Fruit Board

Select your Entrée, Side and Dessert

Entrées:

- 1) Filet Mignon
- 2) Filet Mignon & Grilled Chicken Breast in White Wine Sauce
- 3) Filet Mignon & Grilled Salmon
- 4) Filet Mignon & Shrimp
- 5) Marry Me Chicken (Chicken Breast in Garlic Sauce with Red Pepper Flakes and Sun-dried Tomatoes)

Sides:

- 1) Roasted Garlic & Rosemary Potatoes
- 2) Roasted Seasonal Vegetables

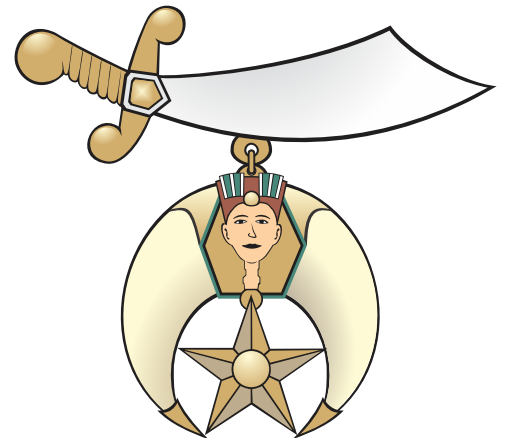
Desserts:

- 1) Apple Crisp
- 2) Chocolate Mousse

Music provided by Jon and Jenny Jacobsen



**White Elephant
Christmas Gift Exchange**
(Gift Cap: \$25 per person)



The Masonic Family is like a box of Chocolates

by Bruce Drewes, High Priest & Prophet

When I was a child, I would receive a small box of chocolates for Christmas from my aunt in Utah. She made the chocolates. The box would only have three or four pieces of candy, but I would look at them to see if I could figure out what each of the pieces of candy were.

The Masonic Family is like a very large box of chocolates. The foundation of the box is the 41 Masonic Lodges across the state of Idaho. This is the oldest Fraternal Organization in Idaho.

Inside the chocolate is brotherly love and the working tools, which include some type of charity within the community. All of the other pieces of chocolate are based on this foundation. The chocolates of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, Scottish Rite, York Rite and the Shriners. Like the Masonic Lodges, all these organizations are based on those core values.

For El Korah Shrine, that outer layer of sweetness is the parades and circuses that we are known for. If you ask the general population what they know about the Shriners, it is that outer layer. As the Black Light Patrol and Cameleers moved through the streets of Boise during the Veteran's Day Parade, we heard "Where are your little cars?" This is what the public knows about us, but like those chocolates, that is only the outer layer. Let's peel back that layer and look at our true mission, Helping Kids While Having Fun.

In 2021, El Korah sponsored 266 visits to one of the 22 Shriners Children's Hospitals at a cost of \$54,545.58 for travel.

In 2022, we sponsored 242 visits to our hospitals at a cost of \$47,996.40 for travel

In 2023, we sponsored 223 visits to those hospitals at a cost of \$79,337.24 for travel

Our chocolate's filling is all of the Idaho kids that we have helped get medical assistance over the past 102 years, which is when the Idaho El Korah Shriners began helping the kids of Idaho. In the past three years we have assisted with 731 visits. Just think about how many of the Shriners' Children are Idaho Kids. And we have been doing this for over 100 years!

This is only one piece of candy in this large box of chocolates called the Masonic Family.

We need to get our story out to the public. This Fraternal organization called the Masonic Family is the oldest and largest charitable organization in Idaho.

This year like last year, El Korah will remove a small piece of chocolate to reveal a small part of our organization through our efforts in conjunction with the December PBS Festival telethon. On the evening of December 7th, El Korah will be answering the telephones at PBS station. If you are a donating PBS member or want to donate or even become a GEM member, call us between 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm to let us know. We'll be glad to help you out.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May your 2025 be filled with joy.



WE ARE HERE
FOR YOU!

Choosing a retirement / assisted living / skilled nursing community is a surprisingly difficult process. Boise Home Care Senior Services specializes in providing senior care options based on care needs and quality of life for your loved ones. Our services are at no cost to you.

Once our Senior Services Specialists narrow down the number of communities that meet your loved ones criteria, we will arrange and accompany you on a tour of the community.

Please contact: Sonjia Yates (208) 869-6922 • Debra Baum (619) 218-1726
Dawn Lewis (208) 860-1651

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Tin Lizzies	4 Provost Guard	5	6 Greeters Players	7 PBS Festival Telethon
8	9 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC	10	11 Stated Mtg (Elections)	12	13	14
15	16 Black Light Patrol	17 Cameleers Sand Duners High Country Sidewinders SC	18	19	20 Divan Christmas Party	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30 El Korah Clowns Snake River SC	31				

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Provost Guard	2	3 Greeters Players	4 Installation of Officers
5	6 Board/Divan Meeting	7 Tin Lizzies	8 Stated Mtg	9	10	11
12	13 Twin Falls SC	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 MLK Day	21 Cameleers Sand Duners High Country Sidewinders SC	22	23	24	25
26	27 Black Light Patrol El Korah Clowns Snake River SC	28	29	30	31	