

Volume XXV, Issue 1

January 2025



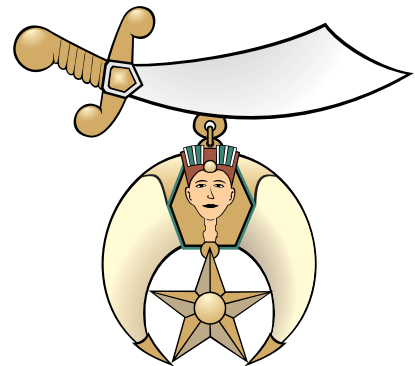
EL KORAH SHRINERS

DESERT DUST

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

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

*Please Join
Potentate -Elect Ray Breshears
and Lady Lonna
for the 2025 El Korah Shrine
Installation
of Elected and Appointed Officers*



*Reception of Officers and
Hosted Refreshments Following*



*Saturday, January 4th
at 12:00 pm*

*Scottish Rite Masonic Center
1407 W Bannock St, Boise*

2025 Divan-Elect

Elected Officers

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

Appointed Divan

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

Other Divan Positions

- Director Ron Bishop
- Assistant Director Robert Mahar
- Assistant Chaplain Skylor Lenz
- Chief Potentate's Aide Jake Matthews
- Ambassador Coordinator Mitch Davis

Potentate's Aides

- Potentate's Coordinator Mischa Brady
- Aides Sand Duners
- Chief Aide Emeritus Dick Swift

Hospital Board Members

- Salt Lake City Dave Brannan
- Portland Joe Randall

Phone Numbers

- Recorder (208) 343-0571

Desert Dust

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



James Jourdan 12/26/2024

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 gsbetts@msn.com

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!

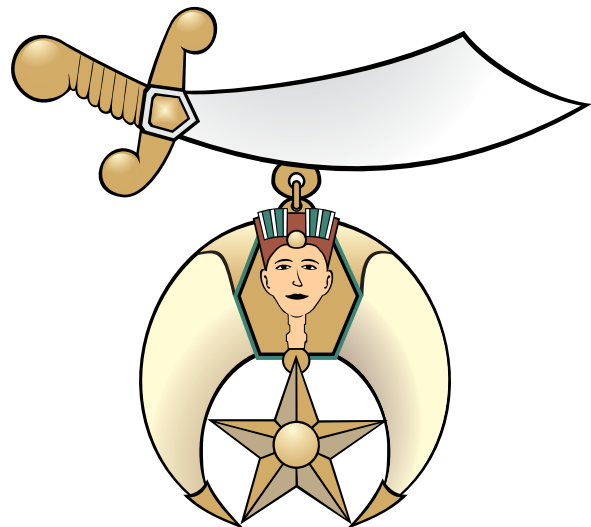
2025 Shrine Dues were due by **12/31/24**.

If you do not have a current 2025 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.



January Stated Meeting

**Wednesday Jan 9th, 7:30 pm
Boise Masonic Center - Westgate**

Potentate-elect’s Message *by Ray Breshears*



Potentate-elect Ray Breshears and Lady Lonna

I am honored and humbled to have been elected Potentate for 2025. With great pride and commitment, I accept this esteemed responsibility and look forward to serving our noble organization with unwavering dedication. Together, we will strengthen our community, make a meaningful impact

on the lives of children, and achieve greatness.

My slogan for the year is “TOGETHER WE CAN”— a call for unity, action, and transformation. Teamwork will be the foundation of our success as we work side-by-side to build a brighter future for El Korah Shrine.

Lady Lonna and I are excited about the opportunities ahead. Her First Lady projects will be announced soon, and we are both committed to making a difference within our organization and community. I also aim to have our Directory available by February.

As we move forward, we will focus on fostering camaraderie, philanthropy, and excellence. The Divan and I are committed to a strategic planning approach, particularly as we work toward securing a building for our future. Our Futures Committee is diligently pursuing this important project, and we will keep the Nobility informed so we can make decisions together on the path forward.

Please join me in welcoming Danny Harkins as our newly elected Oriental Guide. It’s a pleasure to have a Twin Falls member on the Divan, and I look forward to working alongside him.

Throughout the year we’ll host several exciting events that will help strengthen brotherhood and fellowship within our organization. Our calendar is already filling up with opportunities to gather and support each other:

- ◆ Installation of Officers: January 4th at the Boise Scottish Rite, Installation at noon. I am grateful to have MWGM Rick Holloway, PP and Garland Risner, PP as our installing officers. Heavy hors d’oeuvres will follow.
- ◆ Black Light Patrol Crab Feeds: Starting January 24th. Check with Bob Julian for availability, as several dates are already sold out.
- ◆ Annual Clubs and Units Meeting: February 1st, with coffee, donuts, and lunch. Ladies are invited to attend.
- ◆ Sand Duners Sweethearts Auction: February 1st, an elegant evening supporting the screening clinic, which last year helped 11 children access critical hospital care.
- ◆ Daughters of the Nile Supreme Queen Homecoming: February 20-23. Let’s show our support for Supreme Queen Jackie Holloway and the Daughters of the Nile, who work tirelessly in support of our mission.



I am truly grateful to the Nobles who have stepped up to serve on the 2025 Divan. Together, we can achieve great things, and I look forward to working with each of you to make this a successful year. By working as one, there is no limit to the impact we can make.

Remember that “**Together We Can**”

Ray

For all your Real Estate needs

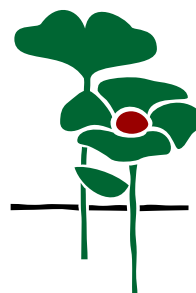


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ONE OPINION

by Gary Adams, Past Potentate

El Korah Shrine is sitting at a fork in the road, asking for a decision about its future. The building on Idaho Street has been sold, which requires Clubs and Units to convene at various locations for meetings and functions. I am taking this opportunity to offer my opinion with respect to the building of a new structure, purchase of an existing structure, or constructing an addition to the existing MTA building.

The MTA Board of Directors has welcomed our joining the other bodies and erecting a building at the current location. The recently completed Feasibility Study confirms that it is in fact possible to add a structure at the Westgate location.

I favor the Westgate option for the following reasons:

- ▶ The Boise Masonic Lodges are here, as well as the York Rite Bodies. Locating the Shrine here brings us home to family.
- ▶ The Shrine can build a structure without purchasing land.
- ▶ The location has ample parking.
- ▶ The location is close to the Freeway and on the West side of the City of Boise.
- ▶ Our current alcohol license is in place which provides the opportunity of creating a new Oasis without purchasing a new license.
- ▶ Construction on the MTA site provides the best opportunity for a debt free building. This provides a better avenue for our Masonic Bodies to use the structure for activities. Renting of the building, would be a bonus not a necessity.
- ▶ Continuing to maintain only a Recorder's Office as the official location of the Shrine will result in nothing more than slow decay and eventual demise of El Korah Shrine.

This is my opinion. I would like to hear yours. An upcoming decision will determine our path forward as we work to grow and enjoy our Shrine.

Gary Adams, PP 2010

El Korah Shrine Nobility Birthdays for January

January	1	Michael	Bean
January	1	Joseph	Dalrymple
January	1	Robert	Shappee
January	2	John	Bowles
January	3	Louis	Asker, Jr
January	3	Ted	Miller
January	4	Robert	Barclay
January	4	Rex	Reed
January	4	Richard	Russell
January	4	David	Thomas, PP
January	5	Richard	Smith
January	8	Matthew	Kelly
January	8	James	Thompson
January	9	James	Egan
January	9	Derek	Sprague
January	10	RB	Judy
January	11	Mark	Rose
January	16	Aaron	Cobb
January	17	Jason	Morales
January	18	Thomas	Eason, Jr
January	18	Robert	Girton
January	18	Martin	Lamar
January	20	Brett	Hudson
January	21	Matthew	Strand
January	24	Terry	Jones
January	25	Gary	Adams, PP
January	25	Gary	Anton
January	25	Walter	Johnson
January	25	William	Sawyer
January	26	Lawrence	Hettinger
January	26	Rodney	Ludvigsen
January	27	Michel	Cunningham
January	28	Rodney	Baldwin
January	28	James	Cafferty
January	31	Brian	Brady



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The Joy of What We Do — “Helping Children While Having Fun”

by Bruce Drewes, High Priest & Prophet

In the November Desert Dust, I wrote about a young man in Glens Ferry and his high school senior project to raise funds for Shrine hospitals. His name was Bryce Sterling and he was a former Shriner’s kid. Remember the story?

Well, last year the Idaho Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) asked El Korah to assist answering the phones during their annual fundraising Telethon event. Since this could be a potential conflict with Imperial’s rules about fundraising for other organizations, I checked with Imperial. They gave the OK for our participation since we were only answering phones and not actually raising any funds. They also felt that this would provide positive exposure for Shriners.

Tying this back to Bryce, PBS invited El Korah back to assist with their Telethon again this year and Bryce and his family wanted to help. He brought along his mother, father and girlfriend. Together with three Shriners and two Daughters of the Nile, our crew was set. Ill Sir Ric Bobier served as our official spokesman and did an outstanding job.

which he did. So at the next break, Jenifer and Ill Sir Ric were joined by Bryce and his father to show the quilt that was made with Glens Ferry High School basketball uniforms. Bryce’s project is to make a quilt for each of the sports that he plays in. The quilts will then be raffled off with the proceeds going to Shriners Children’s in Salt Lake.

I would like to thank, Jenifer, Teri and the rest of the PBS staff for including our Shrine family in their program. I would also like to thank Ill Sir Ric Bobier, Asst Rabban Dave Brannan, Daughters of the Nile members Garianne Erwin and Sidonia Miller, and Bryce Sterling and his family (Justin and Mianda Sterling and Taylor Martinez).

One very important note: Having active Shriners in our smaller communities is very important to the mission of entire Masonic Family. Their visibility is key to the promotion of our organizations and for the success of our Shrine objective to help kids. Because of Nobles like David “Skip” Owen in Glens Ferry who helped Bryce make contact with Shriners Children’s, we had another successful encounter. Thanks Skip!



PBS Phone Crew (L to R): Dave Brannan, Sidonia Miller, Garianne Erwin, Bruce Drewes, Bryce Sterling, Ric Bobier, Taylor Martinez, Miranda Sterling, Justin Sterling



Ill Sir Ric as he found out he was to be the official spokesman for the evening

During one of the breaks, Ill Sir Ric introduced each of the phone workers to the folks in TV land. At another break, Jenifer from PBS interviewed Bryce on air. Bryce was a pro! He talked with Jenifer about his experience as a Shriner’s Child at Shriners Children’s in Salt Lake and his high school senior project.

While the phone crew continued taking calls during the Lawerance Welk Show, Jenifer asked Bryce if he had one of his quilts with him,



Jenifer and Ill Sir Ric



Taylor and Bryce



Phone crew at work



Justin & Miranda (Bryce’s Parents)

Chaplain's Corner

by David Triplett, Chaplain



As I am writing this article in Mexico, I am waiting for Ann's return from a quick trip back to Boise for a DON meeting. Today is the 20th of December and our 60th Anniversary. So it will be nice to spend the evening with her!!

Ann has been reading a chapter each day from the Book of Luke and by Christmas we will have a summary of Christ's epic Journey. I like to reflect on his many parables, but the Parable of the Sower is an important one for me. You probably know this story about how the Sower casts his seeds and they land on different places, off the path, on rocky ground, in the weeds, and in good fertile soil, each with different results.

Jesus cast his seeds — his words of God and teachings — and they will fall many ways. My hope is that we each make our soil worthy of his words so that they may bear good fruit

This new year let us focus on more smiles, giving more positive compliments, and sharing your good fortune. Take time to read His word and be Thankful and Prayerful.

This reminds me of another of my favorite stories.

It was the coldest winter ever – so cold that many animals froze to death. In an effort to save themselves from this icy fate, the porcupines decided to gather together to fend off the chill.

They huddled close to each other, covered and protected from the elements, and warmed by their collective body heat. But their prickly quills proved to be a bit of a problem in close proximity – they poked and stabbed each other, wounding their closest companions

The warmth was wonderful, but the mutual needling became increasingly uncomfortable. Eventually, they began to distance themselves one from the other, scattering in the forest only to end up alone and frozen. Many died.

It soon became clear that they would have to choose between solitary deaths in the frigid wilderness and the discomfort of being needled by their companions' quills when they banded together.

Wisely, they decided to return to the huddle. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their fellows.

Are we able to remind ourselves of the higher priority of our social connections? Who will hold your hand as you grow old? Who will sit with you in a doctor's waiting room as you wait to hear the outcome?

Our lives come with inevitable contentions. Our own hurts and wants butt up against those we are closest to, wanting them to be the one to remind us that we are loved and connected, no matter how prickly we are acting.

Here are some morals we can take from the porcupines:

- 1 We all hurt each other from time to time, it's an inevitable part of being in a relationship and community. But in the end, we're often better off together than we might be apart.
- 2 Accepting each other's imperfections can be a successful survival strategy. We need each other to keep warm.
- 3 People are not perfect. Accepting and living with our own imperfections as well as those of others, is one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves and those close to us. Seek to eliminate blame from your life as much as possible.
- 4 A little needling can be a good thing. Being poked by those we love can cause us to separate and look closer at our own quills.
- 5 Learn to live with the pricks in your life – they may be serving some higher purpose.

Find ways to reach out to a Friend and Brother,
And remember to always Keep the Faith

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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 at the Eccles Alumni House. I will be scheduling trips to Salt Lake for the 100-year celebration and the Walk for Love that will be held in September. Please let me know if you are interested in attending either event.

The Philanthropy Department has raised 145% of their annual goal as of November 31, a 77% increase from 2023,

which will result in a much lower draw on the endowment than was predicted for 2024.

There were 72 clinics held in November and 733 unique patient visits. There were 45 surgical procedures performed and 3 infusions. There were 584 Therapy sessions, 31 Motion Analysis sessions, and 26 Locomat sessions. The Orthotics and Prosthetics Department delivered 373 orthotics and 18 prosthetics for a total of 391 devices delivered. The wheelchair department worked on 139 wheelchairs for the month.

In the Northwest Market (Portland, Spokane, and Salt Lake), there were 895 new patient visits for a YTD total of 11,185. Salt Lake had 101 for November and 1,322 YTD.

See the one sheet “Shriners Hospitals for Children is Dedicated to Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation” on the next page.

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

Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill Sir Rick Holloway



The December 2024 Board meeting was held earlier than normal due to Christmas. The annual Board Christmas party was held at Al Kader Shrine on Sunday, December 15 which included recognition of my attaining Emeritus status from nine years of service on the Board of Governors.

The Portland Hospital continued a strong fourth quarter with total inpatient and outpatient surgeries matching our highest month ever. Net patient revenue remains very close to last year's totals and is still second only to NorCal. Perhaps the most remarkable statistic is the fact our donations (which were approximately \$1.2 million per year when I started on the Board in 2016) have surpassed the \$5 million threshold.

As I am leaving the Board as a regular Board member, I wish to thank the members of El Korah who consistently supported my representation of El Korah on the Portland Board over the years. Ill. Sir Joe Randall will be the sole representative of El Korah on the Board beginning January 1, 2025 so he will be writing these reports beginning with the February 2025 Desert Dust. If you are interested in running for the Board, please talk to Joe or any of the former Board members about the experience. From my perspective, there are few things any of us can do as Shriners that is more supportive of our mission than serving on the Board for a Shrine Hospital.

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

Shriners Hospitals for Children is Dedicated to Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation



Sustaining a spinal cord injury (SCI) can be a frightening, overwhelming experience. A spinal cord injury can affect every function of the body.

There are 12,000 new cases of spinal cord injury in the U.S. each year, and approximately 10 percent affect children under age 16. Automobile crashes are the leading cause of spinal cord injury.

In addition to providing expert medical and rehabilitative care for a patient with a spinal cord injury, it is critically important for caregivers to be aware of and meet the developmental, social and educational needs of children and adolescents with these injuries in order to ensure they have the best opportunity for a full, satisfying life. Accordingly, in the mid-1980s, Shriners Hospitals for Children® established the nation's first spinal cord injury rehabilitation and management programs specifically designed for children and teenagers.

Patients participating in these programs – available at the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Chicago, Philadelphia and Sacramento, Calif. – receive the complete range of services needed in order to recover to the fullest extent possible.

As is true of all care offered at Shriners Hospitals for Children, the SCI rehabilitation program is family-centered and interdisciplinary, offering each patient a complete, easily accessible care program. The treatment team includes a variety of surgeons and other physicians, nurses, therapists, therapeutic recreation specialists, psychologists, social workers, and dietitians.

Innovative therapy efforts include body-weight supported manual treadmill training or robotic treadmill training with the Lokomat, a device that automates movement therapy and improves the efficiency of treadmill training in patients with neurological movement disorders, such as spinal cord injury. Both of these therapies provide weight-bearing opportunities and can help stimulate muscles and build strength and stamina. Some of our hospitals also offer robotic assisted gait training via the ReWalk exoskeleton system.

In addition to therapy, exercise and activity-based rehabilitation, including aqua therapy, pet therapy and adaptive sports, is emphasized. These activities build strength and stamina and increase social interaction, confidence and independence. Some of the hospitals also offer specialty camps emphasizing aspects of health, fitness and independence.

In order to provide the best, most innovative care possible, Shriners Hospitals for Children is involved in several research efforts involving SCI. These include quality of life studies and studies to understand the complexities of regenerating the spinal cord.

Shriners Hospitals for Children shares its expertise in pediatric spinal cord injury rehabilitation through academic affiliations at prestigious nearby institutions, such as Rush Medical College in Chicago, University of California Davis and Temple University in Philadelphia, and through various medical outreach programs.

While the health care system provides this expert care regardless of a family's ability to pay, the organization depends on the generosity of donors to support its mission of caring for children. To learn how you can help, please visit donate2SHC.org.

For more information about Shriners Hospitals for Children, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org.



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

Membership

by Dave Brannan, Chairman

As the 2025 Chief Rabban, I have been asked to remove myself from chairing any committees so that I will be available to provide better support for the Potentate. As such, our new High Priest & Prophet Jason Morales will assume the Chair for the Membership Committee. Jason has some new ideas, activities, and programs that planned for the coming year.

The All-Masonic Christmas party was held at the Meridian 47 Masonic Lodge on December 15th. We had over 60 people in attendance that included Shriners, Masons, Daughters of the Nile, two Bethels of Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Order of the Eastern Star, and some family and friends. Everyone has a great time! After a full turkey dinner, crafts projects were available for the children, Santa arrived to hear Christmas lists, and every child went home with a Christmas ornament that included their name and the year (2024) that they could hang on their tree at home.

A special thanks goes out to my wife Terri for helping put this event together, our Recorder Wayne Foster and his lady

Candie for cooking a wonderful Christmas dinner (I don't know how they keep up with all of the things that they do, but I am happy they are willing to cook for us), the Divan and their Ladies for the decorations, serving food, and clean up, the Job's Daughters for helping the children at the craft tables, and our special Santa for greeting the children.

The Shrine Mystic Band Cigar group is coordinated by Noble Tom McClung and continues to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm at Sturman's Cigar Shop (4204 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City). Come join us for cigars, beverages and good conversation.

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 Shriener, 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 many of us ended up in the Shrine and it is something that we can all be proud of.

El Korah Annual Awards



Ill Sir Ric presents the 2024 Unit of the Year Award to Noble Bob Julian representing the Black Light Patrol

Ill Sir Ric presents the 2024 Club of the Year Award to Ill Sir Dave Thomas, Oriental Guide-elect Danny Harkins and Ambassador Emeritus Johnny Willis representing the Twin Falls Shrine Club

Ill Sir Ric presents the 2024 Shriener of the Year Award to Noble Bob Julian

Daughters of the Nile

by Meeka Pedersen, Princess Badoura

The magic of Christmas was certainly felt throughout Iras Temple No. 40 as we enjoyed having a float in the Boise Holiday Parade on December 7th. Our "All Ladies" float enjoyed good cheer and cold noses. Apparently, we were NOT televised, but we WERE there. We all had a fun time! Anyone for Apple Juice?!



Iras Temple ladies riding the Holiday Parade float



Iras Temple ladies in front of the Great Potato

We were then guests at an Open House put on by Princess Valerie Cooper and Princess Kathy Kinney. It was held at Princess Valerie's beautiful home on December 12th. Her home has the spirit of Christmas inside and out. She has such beautiful collections. The food was, as expected, above and beyond yummy.

Our December Stated Session luncheon was decorated and cooked for by our Iras Temple Dancers and Pageantry before the meeting. Thank you for all your hard work. Our Iras Temple choir sang two lovely Christmas songs and we joined in on two sing-a-longs, which help put us in the Christmas spirit.

We are looking forward to another great year of working with our El Korah Nobles as they continue to heal children from all over the world.

Finally, we want to congratulate Noble Ray Breshears and the newly elected and appointed Officers of El Korah. 2025 will be another successful year for the books!



I Have a Quilting Project!

Noble Steve Priest is looking for any old Shrine 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.

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Greeter's Annual
Valentine's Day
BRUNCH

Sunday, February 9, 2025
10:30 am to 1:00 pm

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 morning of Brotherhood,
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Greeters

by Bob Martin, President

On behalf of all the Greeters, we would like to wish the El Korah Family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Since our January dinner meeting falls a few days after New Year's Day, we'll move it to the following Friday, January 10th. We will meet at Banbury Golf Club at 6:00 pm. We will have a preset menu to choose from: Hamburger, Chile Cheese Burger, Brisket Sliders, Fish & Chips, or a Salad. Come join us at Banbury in Eagle. We should have a exceptional speaker.

Our Sweetheart's Valentine Brunch will be at the Riverside Hotel on Sunday, February 9th. It will start at 10:30 am. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date!
Saturday, June 28th

2025 El Korah Shrine
Fun Ride

"Idaho's Gold and Masonic History"



ATV/UTV Ride

from Idaho City Masonic Lodge #1
to Placerville Masonic Lodge #3

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 Crab Feed at Scottish Rite	25 Crab Feed at Scottish Rite
26	27 Black Light Patrol El Korah Clowns Snake River SC	28	29	30	31 Crab Feed at Scottish Rite	

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Crab Feed at Scottish Rite Duners Sweetheart Dinner & Auction
2	3	4 Tin Lizzies	5 Provost Guard	6	7 Greeters Players	8
9 Greeters Valentine's Day Brunch Super Bowl	10 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC	11	12 Stated Mtg	13	14	15 Crab Feed at Scottish Rite
16	17 MLK Day	18 Cameleers Sand Duners High Country Sidewinders SC	19	20	21 Crab Feed at Scottish Rite	22
				← Winter PNSA - Spokane, WA →		
23	24 Black Light Patrol El Korah Clowns Snake River SC	25	26	27	28	