



EL KORAH SHRINERS

DESERT DUST

Official Publication of El Korah Shriners

1118 W Idaho St

Boise, ID 83702

Daughters of the Nile

Iras Temple No. 40

Bid for Smiles

ONLINE AUCTION

November 8 - 21, 2020

8:00AM - 8:00PM

Bidding closes @ 8:00 pm on Nov. 21st



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Potentate Message by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway



We finally were able to hold a stated meeting in person in October, and the Past Potentates did a terrific job running the meeting. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons for the Idaho Grand Lodge Steve Zimmerman was present and thanked El Korah for his Grand

Master's fez. Carlas put on a great steak dinner for those who were ready to get back to enjoying a great meal before our stated meeting.

Our November meeting will be on November 11th, which is also Veterans Day. We will take a moment during the meeting to recognize our veterans and thank them for their service. That night will be Chief Rabban night as well as taking some time for the Players to perform a Cold Sands for some new Nobles. Because we are still restricted on the number of people who can attend, there will be a maximum of 50 people allowed for the in-person meeting. Look for updates in the Desert Dust and Constant Contact for information on how to log in and participate electronically.

Unfortunately, the number of COVID-19 cases in Idaho grew rapidly over the last week, with over 1,000 cases per day documented last Thursday and Friday. As a result, Governor Little placed the entire state back to Stage 3, which limits the number of people in groups, public events, and certain businesses. Ada County was already operating under that plan,

but the growth in cases means we will need to continue to screen everyone who comes into El Korah for the stated meeting. I understand we have been dealing with COVID-19 for seven months now, but it is still important for everyone to maintain distancing, stay away from large groups, wear your mask, and sanitize your hands frequently.

As mentioned last month, the East-West Shrine Football Game normally held at Eagle High School will not happen. In addition, the 2021 East-West Shrine Bowl™ in Tampa has been canceled as well.

I hope everyone remains positive and can look with joy at the incredible things still going on in our hospitals. It will make you proud to be a Shriner!

Thank you all again for your support of El Korah as we continue to deal with the outbreak. If there is anything the Divan can do for you, please let us know. We are a great organization with a great mission and that will never change.



Provost Guard

by John Kinney, Secretary

The Provost Guard was finally able to hold a function since March! The Provost Guard with our ladies held our October meeting and summer picnic together, we met at Mark Isserman's home. The Guard held a short meeting before our picnic. Several different subjects were discussed wine tasting, what everyone had been doing over the summer, holding our Christmas dinner and several other items before holding our election of officers for the 2021 year. Several different places were suggested for our Christmas dinner taking into consideration social distancing and masks!

Our newly elected officers are Justin Boyer President, Matthew Thompson Vice President, Wayne Foster Treasurer, and John Kinney Secretary. At our meeting we welcomed and became acquainted with new members Ray Breshears and Matthew Thompson. The Guard also voted Bob Carleton as a life member of the Provost Guard!



Following our meeting, the Guard held our annual summer picnic (even though summer was almost gone). We feasted on steak, chicken, baked potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls and many other delights. Mark and Jennie Isserman were our host and hostess. The Provost Guard is looking forward to getting back to a new normal and Shrine functions! We have missed our Shrine Brothers and the social interaction with each other.

Iras Temple No 40 Daughters of the Nile

by *Debbi deBoer, Princess Badoura*

Greetings from Iras Temple No. 40.

I hope everyone is having a fun and enjoyable fall. I love the crisp mornings and the warm afternoons.

We are kicking off fall with an exciting event. Our 3rd Annual Run for the Kids, October 31st - November 13th. This is a family fun costume run or walk and 100% virtual. Invite all your friends and family to participate. Registration is \$20, you can also buy a t-shirt with all the wonderful sponsors on it. I Hope to see all of you on the virtual run/walk.

<https://www.raceentry.com/run-for-the-kids/race-information>

Our next fun event is Bids for Smiles November 8th - 21st. There are lots of great items to bid on. Artwork, quilts, wine tasting, sports memorabilia, Tuscan villas, golf trips, make a donation to help a Shrine Child, and much more! You can preview the website and register as a bidder today.

<https://irastempeno40.afrogs.org>

Please stay safe and check on one another.

Chaplain's Corner

by *Santa Bob Albert, Chaplain*

Greeting from El Korah, as the Black Camel Caravan has stopped by our Oasis and collected travelers for the journey to that great Oasis in the heavens.

Lady Deloris Silver: September 2020

Lady Dawn Barnes: October 5, 2020

Charles E. Locey:

January 23, 1928 - October 3, 2020

Ill. Sir Richard "Dick" McFarland (Potentate 2002):

May 15, 1946 - October 15, 2020

Edward "Bud" Patrick McDonald:

May 4, 1940 - October 21, 2020

We will miss them all.

Remember to reach out to your family and friends because this isn't over yet, round 2 is coming.

God Bless you all

News from the Recorder's Office

by *Jimmy Hansen, Director*

Here we are heading into the second to last month of 2020, November! This just tells me we are getting closer to Thanksgiving and all that amazing food, Chief Rabban Stated Meeting Night (Nov. 11th), and Elections (Dec. 9th).

As most of you already know, the Shrine has been getting back to its normal routine, or as close as possible. Last month we had our October Stated Meeting, which was wonderfully run by our Past Potentates. Ill. Sir Gary Adams was in the Potentate seat and assisted by Ill. Sir Risner, Ill. Sir Thomas, Ill. Sir Randall, Ill. Sir Westmoreland, Ill. Sir Miller, Ill. Sir Krommenhoek, and Ill. Sir Stevenson. The entire time I have been a Shriner (since 2013) that had to be the most efficient and shortest meeting I have attended, a whopping 37 minutes.

In the Recorder's Office goes, everything has been well taken care of by our Recorder, our wonderful Office Manager, Kim and our handy helper, Noble Jimmy. Our boiler was recently restarted to make sure that we all stay warm in the coming months since fall is here and winter feels like it is right around the corner. Constant Contact and Patent Travel are running smoothly, as are the building maintenance, cleaning, etc.

If you haven't been getting the Constant Contact blasts, please contact the Recorder's Office to hopefully fix that issue. Constant Contact seems to have problems with "q.com" email addresses and there is nothing we can do to fix it. If this is your case, you'll need to contact your service provider to determine the issue. Maybe it sees our blasts as spam or something and blocks it for you.

We recently improved our Wifi as well as the building security. We installed eight new cameras with six more to come which should be helpful during our events, particularly TreeFort. Our Oriental Guide Dave Bennett and his helper were instrumental in getting these things done and they did a great job! We also installed five permanent hand sanitizing stations at key locations throughout the building.

Starting in October, we have rented our Circus Office (downstairs by the men's room) to Larry Menges of Wright Brothers: The Building Company, who is constructing the upcoming park and small parking lot behind our building. Larry was an active Shriner and Player who is currently working to get his status reinstated.

Information just came into the Office that Summers Funeral Home across the street will close its doors on Oct. 30th and move its operations to their Ustick Chapel. This means that parking status for Shriners using their lot is unknown. Parking there will be at your own peril until our Recorder can find out the details. He is also working on other parking options for our meetings and events.

I hope all Clubs and Units will get their 2021 officer lists turned in by Oct. 31st. They must be submitted to Imperial at that time. The Recorder's Office has received the officers for High Country and Twin Falls Shrine Clubs, Black Light Patrol, Cameleers, Greeters, Players, Provost Guard, Sand Duners, and Tin Lizzies.

October 26, 2020 El Korah COVID-19 Update

by Will Votaw, Chief Rabban

As of this afternoon, Governor Little has moved the State of Idaho back into Stage 3 of its reopening plan. As many of you have seen/heard, the number of COVID-19 cases have been extremely high in Idaho recently. While most hospitals/health care centers in Southwest Idaho have not reached capacity, several areas of Idaho and neighboring states are seeing hospitals/health care centers at 90% or higher, of their capacity. Nobles and Ladies, we need to keep our Brothers and Sisters in our thoughts and prayers.

Our Junior Past Grand Master issued Edicts that did not allow Masonic Meetings. These Edicts were necessary to ensure the safety of our Members. Our current Grand Master instituted a reopening plan when he was installed in September. We have been able to hold meetings and degrees, with certain protocols being met.

Our Shrine Temple is in the City of Boise, in Ada County. Our local Health Department/City of Boise have had our city/county in a Modified Stage 3 for some time. There is a mask mandate in place in Ada County.

I have heard several comments in our Masonic circles over the last few weeks about protocols, wearing masks, procedures at the Oasis, etc. The Board of El Korah is committed to keeping El Korah as open as we can. Within the protocols/mandates/edicts issues by the State/County/City government/health departments, the Grand Master of Idaho and the Imperial Potentate.

This letter is to serve as a reminder of El Korah's protocols:

- Unless sitting at a table eating, or having a beverage, masks SHOULD be worn most of the time while in the building. The office staff may have theirs off during the day but will put one on if someone comes into the office.
- We have a limit of 50 people for indoor gatherings. This includes staff.
- We ask that you use hand sanitizer when entering the building. Several dispensers have been installed in the building.
- There is no sitting allowed at the Bar. You can order a drink at the Bar but are not allowed to sit along the rail at the Bar. The stools have/will be removed.
- We ask that you practice social distancing, when feasibly possible. Wearing a mask helps when social distancing is not able to be easily accomplished.

The plexiglass installed in the Oasis was done as it is requirement with local food/health departments.

We have the ability to hold digital/video meetings. All clubs/units are encouraged to hold digital meetings as much as possible, so members who do not feel safe coming out can still be active.

All Shrine Stated Meetings are broadcasted to Members. Members who do not live close to the Shrine, do not feel safe coming out, are not feeling well, or who are currently (or are in the future) test positive for COVID 19 are encouraged to utilize, as much as possible, our digital communication opportunities.

Members wishing to attend meetings through Zoom, please contact the office the day of/before the meeting for a code. As a reminder, only current dues paying members can attend Stated meetings, which includes the video meetings.

The current pandemic has affected us all, in many different ways, some worse than others. Our Potentate is the Administrator of the State Veterans Homes. He must be tested weekly and change his clothes daily when he enters/leaves his building. I have a 4th grader at home. Her education is challenging, to say the least. Those who know me, know I am the greet a person with a handshake type of person. It has been extremely difficult for me to social distance. I still find myself extending my hand when meeting people.

To my knowledge, we have had no positive COVID cases reported with anyone that has recently been in our building. We are hoping to keep it that way. Our members have a large age range and sit on opposite sides to the fence, both politically and on COVID. We are not trying to be too extreme or too lax on COVID. We are trying to stay open and follow local rules/regulations.

I ask our Nobles and Ladies to be safe. We all have different views on life, politics and COVID. I get the protocols are a pain and inconvenient. But we must make responsible and informed decisions. To not have any protocols/safeguards in place would simply be irresponsible.

The Board of El Korah is working diligently to keep our building open, our Fraternity moving forward and stay financially solvent during this pandemic. We have been unable to hold fundraisers. We are not unique. Many groups/organizations, not just Masonic, are struggling. We still have bills to pay. While we have cut or eliminated spending where we can, we have seen increases in some cost, especially janitorial. Clean and sanitation now takes longer and must be done at a more frequent rate.

October 26, 2020 El Korah COVID-19 Update (cont.)

by Will Votaw, Chief Rabban

We became Shriners to have fun and help kids. Our Fraternity and Hospitals have seen many changes over the last 100+ years. The current pandemic has affected us in ways we could not have imagined. I thank the Nobles and their Ladies for their continued support of our Fraternity and its purposes. We have not been able to Parade or have large gatherings this year. Its not in our nature to not be out in public.

But this is the hand we were dealt this year. I have no idea what next year will be like. Whether I'm elected Potentate or not, El Korah will continue on. Will it be the same as before? No. If we have learned anything over the past few months, it's that our Fraternity can survive change. Our numbers may be lower, but we are still here, and will be, for many years to come.

Players Playbill

by Wayne White, President

We will be doing a Cold Sands at the November 11th Stated meeting.

Nothing has changed yet for the 2021 Melodrama as we are still on hold because of COVID-19. But we are ready to go if we get the word in time.

On a positive note, our 2021 officers are:

- Wayne White - President
- Bruce Drewes - Vice President
- Jack Gardner - Secretary
- Gary Betts - Treasurer
- Rodney Horn - Ceremonial Master
- Dick Swift, III. Sir Rick Holloway,
and Brandon Martwick - Members at Large



Players
"Just for the Fun of It"

Black Light Patrol

by Ric Bobier, President

The Elite Black Light Patrol has elected the Officers for the Continuing Pandemic Year 2021.

- President Ric Bobier
- Vice President. Mischa Brady
- Secretary/Treasurer. . . . Jim Leichliter
- Captain PP Bob Stevenson

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the family of PP and Honorary BLP member Dick McFarland. His loss is going to greatly be missed by us all. Dick was a First Class Man, Mason, Scottish Rite Member, Shriner and most of all our very close Friend.

We also would like to extend our sincere condolences to the family of our Black Light Patrol Lieutenant Bud McDonald. Bud has been battling many things recently and was able to return home before passing. Bud will be severally missed by us all, his quick wit, never ending smile and tremendous character was second to none.

*The dust has returned to the earth as it was,
and the spirit has returned to God who gave it.
Rest Easy my Brothers, Rest Easy.*

Another very long time member of the Black Light Patrol, Past President and Interim Captain Ben Montaney suffered a brain aneurism and underwent surgery. Ben is doing very well, but will likely be a little while until we see him around the Shrine. Please keep Ben in your thoughts and prayers and drop him a get well card if you have time.

In other Black Light news, based on the current Covid-19 restrictions and parameters we elected to not hold our Annual BLP Christmas Party.

We have also cancelled the Annual Crab Feed for 2021. We are very sorry, but just do not feel that it is in the best interest at this time.

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy. We hope to see you all very soon again.



Raymond Schild, Esq.



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Portland Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Rick Holloway, Board of Governors



Your Portland Hospital with many things happening concurrently.

The number of inpatient admissions dipped slightly in September, primarily due to the forest fires in the area causing unhealthy air conditions preventing

procedures from occurring. Year to date outpatient procedures and inpatient admissions are below 2019 due to the four months of the shutdown due to COVID. On the positive side, our draw on the endowment has decreased 35% from last year. Net patient revenue continues to climb despite the shutdown and remains second only to Northern California.

We are listed as a "Best Children's Hospitals for Orthopedics" by the US News and World Report, a Four Star Charity through the Charity Navigator, as well as receiving the Press Ganey Award for Outstanding Nursing Quality. Dr. Ellen Raney recently received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Congratulations to Dr. Raney and all of the staff at the Portland Hospital for these well-deserved awards and recognition!

The Board of Governors continues to meet electronically with hospital leadership providing up to date information to us the week before the meeting. We expect our meetings to be held via Microsoft Teams for the rest of the year.

This is a summary of only a portion of what is happening at the Portland Shrine Hospital. All Nobles can be proud of what is happening every day for kids who continue to need help despite the pandemic.

If you have any questions about the Portland Shrine Hospital, please contact Dave Triplett, Mike Mastropaolo, or myself. It is an honor to serve the hospital in this capacity.

All Masonic Christmas Party

by Dale Rutter, Assistant Rabban

El Korah's 2020 All Masonic Christmas Party and Dinner that was scheduled for December 6th has become yet another victim of COVID-19. Regretfully, we must cancel this treasured annual event due to circumstances beyond our control.

Twin Falls Shrine Club News

by Bob Cannon, Ambassador Emeritus

Our new officers for 2021 are:

- Bob Nelson President
- Laird Stone Vice President
- Rick Rowe Treasurer
- Bob Cannon Secretary

Join us for our Nov. 9th Shrine Club meeting at Idaho Joe's.

The elections will be over so you can come to the meeting and tell all of your Brothers how you really feel. Laugh, joke and tease each other. Fun for all!



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Duners Doings

by Santa Bob Albert, President

Greeting from the Duners,

This is my last message as President of the El Korah Sand Duners, its been great to be your President for the last two years. With that said the New Officers for 2021 are:

President: Past Potentate Illustrious Sir Garland A. Risner

Vice President : Doug Blandford

Treasurer: Ray Breshears

Drill Master: Jake Matthews

Secretary: Dave Bennett

I want to wish the new team the best and we are all looking forward to a normal 2021 and a great parade season.

Thank You and good bye.

Membership Committee

by Ron Bishop, Chairman

Nobles, does anyone read this column? Membership needs your ideas. 2020 has been a strange year. El Korah has been shut down for most of the year. All of the clubs have not been meeting all year. We are losing members and a lot of Nobles are not ready to come back to El Korah at this point. Who knows how many Nobles will come back after there is a vaccine for the Covid-19 virus. It gets very easy to sit on the sofa and stay home every evening.

All Nobles should be a part of the membership committee. If you don't want to attend out meetings, call any of us and give us your ideas about retaining members and getting new ones during this Pandemic.

You can reach me at 208-870-6075. Please give us your ideas and let's make El Korah better than ever.

Black Light Patrol 24th Annual Crab Feed



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The History of the American Flag *Part 5 by David Bennett, Oriental Guide*



The first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1777, was celebrated in Philadelphia, with demonstrations of joy and festivity. About noon, all the armed ships and galleys in the river were drawn up before the city, with the colors of the United States and streamers flying. At one o'clock they celebrated the day by a discharge of thirteen cannon from each ship and one from each of the thirteen galleys, in honor of the thirteen United States. In the afternoon, Congress provided an elegant

dinner, when toasts were drank and guns were fired. Congress and the General Officers reviewed the troops and the day closed with the ringing of bells and exhibition of fireworks, which began and ended with thirteen rockets. At Charleston, South Carolina, at sunrise the same day, American colors were displayed from all the forts, batteries and vessels in the harbor and at one o'clock the forts discharged seventy-six pieces, celebrating the glorious year of 1776.

The thirteen stars and thirteen stripes were unfurled at the battle of Brandywine, September 11, 1777, eight days after the official announcement of them at Philadelphia, and at Germantown on the 4th of October; they witnessed the operations against and the surrender of Burgoyne, after the battle of Saratoga, October 17, 1777. The sight of this new flag helped to cheer the patriots of the army amid their sufferings around the camp fires at Valley Forge the ensuing winter. The Stars and stripes waived triumphant at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown September 19, 1781; looked down upon the evacuations of New York, November 25, 1783; and shared in all the glories of the latter days of the Revolution.

Salt Lake Shrine Hospital Report

by Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland, P.P.



Check out the new wheelchairs!



Oasis Happenings

Boise State Football Season is Here!

Tailgate parties will be held at El Korah each day BSU plays a football game this fall!

Watch your email for announcements of upcoming parties!

