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### **DESERT DUST**

#### May 2023

# 2023 Divan

## Elected Officers

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

#### **Appointed Divan**

1 <sup>st</sup> Ceremonial Master Dave Bennett
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ceremonial Master Bob Martin
Marshal Mischa Brady
Capt of the Guard Anthony Patterson
Outer Guard Rodney Baldwin
Co-Directors Mike Mastropaolo, PP
Bert Miller, PP
Joe Randall, PP
Dave Thomas, PP
Ray Westmoreland, PP
Assistant Director Skylor Lenz
Parade Director Mike Keas
Chaplain David Triplett
Assistant Recorder Tom Eason

#### **Potentate's Aides**

Chief Aide	Mischa Brady
Aides	KC Farrar
	Adam Vietti
Chief Aide Emeritus	Dick Swift

## **Hospital Board Members**

Salt Lake City	Ray Westmoreland
Salt Lake City	Dave Brannan
Portland	Rick Holloway
Portland	. Mike Mastropaolo
Portland	Joe Randall

#### **Phone Numbers**

Recorder	(208) 343-0571
Oasis	. (208) 343-1341
Events: Circus/Football.	. (208) 333-8350

#### **Desert Dust**

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



Lawrence G Ridenour . . . . . 4/9/2023

# 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 by El Korah Shriners.

#### All Submissions are Due by the 20th of the Month

Submissions received after the 25th of the month will be held for the next month's newsletter, if appropriate

Please be prompt. Your <u>Volunteer</u> <u>Editors</u> require time to format the Dust! Pictures should include a caption, if appropriate.

Email your submission to: gsbetts@msn.com

Be sure to double check your submission for grammar and spelling.

Your **2023 Shrine Dues** were due by 12/31/22. If you do not have a current 2023 dues card, you are delinquent. Avoid the dreaded NPD list and contact the Recorder's Office today (343-0571).

Did you know that El Korah's budget relies on its members keeping their membership current? Paying your dues on time helps pay our bills and keeps our doors open.



Visit one of the Common Cents stores soon! 6 in Pocatello, 3 in Idaho Falls, Others in Logan and Brigham City, Utah.

Common Cents is a Significant Contributor To the El Korah Patient Travel Fund

www.commoncentsstores.com

## **May Stated Meeting**

## Wednesday May 10th, 7:30 pm Masonic Temple in Jerome

#### Potentate's Message by Ill Sir Ray Schild



The closing on the building went off without incident and the proceeds are being invested in short term bond funds for safety and cash flow, as advised by Ill. Sir Garland Risner.

The May stated meeting will be at the Masonic Temple in Jerome to build

relationships and in appreciation for the hard work and energy of the Twin Falls area Shiners in their parades, membership, philanthropy and brotherhood. Those attending can do so in person or by zoom thanks to Wayne Foster and Dave Bennett. Contact the Recorder's Office if you are interested in ride sharing to attend in person.

Our temporary home will soon be at the Westgate Masonic Temple building. We are currently in the process of moving the Recorder's Office. Moving some of our other Temple items to storage units is being arranged by Ray Breshears. Ric Bobier, Dave Brannan, Bruce Drews, Wayne Foster and Ill. Sir Will Votaw, have been working very hard to get it done in a timely manner. Of course, opportunities abound for other Nobles to pitch in a little of their time on this project. Any help would be greatly appreciated! Please contact the Recorder's Office or any of the Elected Divan if you can help.

Clubs and units should be working on moving their belongings as well.

Mitch Davis and the Ambassadors are putting on a Cinco de Mayo at the temple on May 5th.

Ill. Sir Dave Thomas is working on the Honored Ladies luncheon in May.

Several Divan members attended the Daughters of the Nile Installation on April 1st. It was a beautiful and inspiring blend of beauty and ritual.

Mike Keas must resign as our Parade Director. We extend our

heartfelt appreciation for the fabulous job he has done. Please contact me if you are able to fill that position for the remainder of the year.

The move to the MTA building will give us access to plenty of space for events, Ceremonial, Installation, Club and Unit meetings, and will also allow us to keep our liquor



license intact. We are actively working with our legal counsel to ensure that is what happens.

Ric Bobier and I will be representing El Korah at the Imperial Session in July.

We're planning on a Fall Ceremonial that will be held in Twin Falls.

Ric Bobier is diligently setting up the Circus for the Summer. A special thank you goes to Dave Brannan, Ill. Sir Will Votaw and Wayne for leading our band of El Korah volunteers in making Treefort come off without incident and being financially beneficial.

Bruce Drewes is setting up the Sportsman's raffle and shooting event for this fall. Dave Brannan is arranging the upcoming Cornhole event. Ill. Sir Ray Westmoreland and the Cameleers are pushing ahead with their 2nd Annual Bike Ride that benefits the Adaptive Bike Program at the Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake.

I can't say enough about our Divan, both elected and appointed, and the guidance and contributions of our Past Potentates who serve as Directors. And of course Gary Betts for all he does. They all contribute their energy, intelligence and passion for bettering the Shrine, and flat out hard work. El Korah is thankful and lucky to have them.

#### Shine the Light You Were Given!

Yours in Faith, Brothers! RayRay

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## Shriners Children's Clinic in Salt Lake City Report

by Dave Brannan, High Priest & Prophet



- >>> Restructuring from a Hospital to a Clinic has not been without complications: employee turnovers; losing the administrator, replaced by Natalie Raleigh the new Clinical Director who has done an excellent job of managing the restructuring, reorganizing the facility to make better use of the space, etc. They are projecting higher revenue, lower expenses, and more patient visits for 2023.
- >> Through all of the changes, the Clinic has continued to provide the services that their patients have needed "the most amazing care anywhere" as they say. Here are a few of the numbers for the first half of 2022: the facility has existed for 97 years in Salt Lake City; for the first half of 2022 they had 4,703 patient visits from 17 countries and 30 states; of which 2,619 were Therapy Visits, 3,035 visits for Specialized Prosthetics and Orthotics, and 188 Gait Lab Patients seen; 130 telehealth visits (a growing area of

practice); they provided care for over 1,000 patients per month; they ran 8 specialty clinics; they had 10 orthopedic surgeons that performed 330 surgeries; they built 184 new wheel chairs, and repaired 595 wheel chairs (they also adjust car seats to fit their patients). They are one of the top 40 ranked orthopedic hospitals in the country, and one of 14 accredited gait labs in the country.

- Some of the upcoming events at the SCC in SLC are: the Walk for Love (I will be getting a team together to caravan down to support this activity), the UnLimbited Camp (an opportunity for children with orthopedic issues to get together in the great outdoors), and the Halloween wheel chair parade (they decorate the children's wheel chairs and have a parade for Halloween, this is catching on at other facilities).
- When Shriners Hospitals for Children was getting started, they received 80% of their funding from the Shriners and 20% from other sources, those numbers have flipped, they now receive 20% of their funding from the Shriners and 80% from other sources. From what I understand Shriners Children's needs roughly 1.5 million dollars per day to support our medical system. We Shriners are still an important supporter of our hospital system; we need to embrace and support our philanthropy.

Legacy Giving by Dave Brannan, High Priest & Prophet

Have you considered including the El Korah Shriners in your estate plans?



Help the El Korah Shriners mission of "Fun and Philanthropy" to continue, as we work to support our hospitals and our children, by remembering El Korah Shriners in your will.

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## **Portland Shrine Hospital Report**

by Ill Sir Rick Holloway



Shriners Children's Portland had a record setting first quarter. Net patient revenue has increased more than \$3 million over last year for the first quarter with \$2 million of that being inpatient revenue. Expenses have increased over budget due primarily to staffing challenges and the need to cover shifts with agency staff. This is a widespread issue throughout the health care sector. Inpatient discharges are 16 percent over last year and outpatient surgeries are up nearly 38 percent from last year.

Surveyors from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (TJC) were in the hospital last week. There were a few minor findings but they were very impressed by the processes in place in Portland to improve quality and adhere to regulatory requirements. We should get our final survey results in the next 10 days. Congratulations, Portland Team, on a very successful survey! This survey is part of continuing our Medicare/Medicaid certification. We will now be focusing on getting accredited by the American College of Surgeons.

On Sunday, April 23, 2023, a Volunteer Appreciation dinner and award reception was held at Al Kader Shrine in Wilsonville. This was a remarkable event attended by many hospital staff, most Board members, and our treasured volunteers who give of themselves without receiving anything in return for their thousands of hours of service to the hospital and our patients.

On October 21, 2023, Portland will be hosting its annual Walk for Love in a "Boo at the Zoo" event at the Oregon Zoo. More information on how to sign up and participate in this event will be coming soon.

If anyone has any questions about the Portland Hospital, please reach out to me, Mike Mastropaolo, or Joe Randall. We are always willing to provide any additional information you may have regarding the Portland Hospital.



A great time was had at the first 2023 outing of the El Korah Shrine Nomads. We arrived at the Mountain Home RV Resort on Monday, April 24 for three days and three nights of great fellowship! In addition to the eight "coaches" that attended, we had visits for parts of the activities by several

## The Nomads

by Jim Voyles, Trail Boss

other members that were unable to stay and "camp" with us as well as others who dropped by as guests of the Nomads. Several took in a round of golf while others took in some of the sights and activities in the area.

Our next outing will see us arriving at the Hagerman Village RV Park on Thursday, May 25 with most of us staying three nights, and some staying a little longer to enjoy the Memorial Holiday weekend. If you would like to enjoy a good time with the Nomads, the park may still have a space or two available, particularly as last minute changes sometimes happen. Come on out and enjoy some fun and relaxing time with the Nomads!



## Chaplain's Corner

by David Triplett, Chaplain



Flowers - In the Bible, flowers often symbolize various virtues, such as love, faith, and hope, as well as significant events in the lives of biblical figures. For example, the lily represents purity, innocence, and resurrection, while the rose symbolizes love, beauty, and hope.

Can you recall the first flowers you picked for your Mother? I think mine was Dandelions. Ann and I usually use our Iris flowers to decorate a cross as a memorial to her Mother and Father. Right now we have daffodils in full bloom which reminds us that it is **spring.** 

**The first mother** - "Adam named his wife Eve because she would become the **mother** of all the living." Her disobedience shows the very nature of our God. In our mistakes, He is merciful. Amid our ashes, He brings us beauty. That X chromosome from our original Mother brings that beauty (as an old Biology teacher I had to do x's and y's). The next old testament mother that God bestowed the title of Mother of Nations was Sarah, Abrahams's Wife. We also note from her mistake of faith and the story of Hagar and Ishmael, but she was blessed to bear Isaac.

Although I have trouble thinking that no Mother is perfect, our Biblical stories are rich with special love of Mothers. Biblical characters like Eve and Sarah reveal to us a certain truth: no mother is perfect, yet God loves them anyway. Some moms truly excel at the role, while others falter. But this is where we can choose to respond like He does — with words of honor and also with grace and forgiveness.

A Mother's Love continues with the story of Moses in the basket and how he was God's instrument to bring the chosen people to the Promised Land. Now that it is after Easter, we need to reflect on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Let's award her with Best Mother of all time!! These are great stories of the special women chosen to be mothers in the Bible. As a verb, "mother" means *to care for or protect*. In thinking upon this, let each of us contemplate not just our own mother and grandmother, but all of the special women God has brought into our lives over the years — those who deeply cared for us such as dear friends, spiritual mentors, school teachers, colleagues, and more. Some of these women never had children, yet they mothered. And for that, we should truly be grateful.

With the arrival of Mother's Day, let's give honor and reverence to all moms and the maternal influences in our lives. And may we all have an earnest desire to lovingly care for and protect those children of God that we are destined to help through our Hospital systems.

## **Daughters of the Nile**

by Sidonia Miller, Princess Badoura

On April 1, 2023 we celebrated the installation of our newly elected officers. Debbi deBoer became Queen and will reign over our Temple for the coming year. Assisting her is Princess Royal GerriAnne Erwin, Princess Tirzah Terri Brannan and Princess Badoura Sidonia Miller.

We were honored by the presence of Illustrious Sir Ray Schild and Nobles from El Korah Shrine. Also attending were the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho, H. Sherman Berger III and many Masonic Brothers, as well as family and friends. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed performances by the Iras Guards and the Nile Dancers.

Many fund raising activities are planned including the Golf Tournament, Fun Run, Fashion Show and other events. The Silver Tea to honor our Queen Debbi is scheduled for May 13. This will be an exciting year so stay tuned and plan to join us as we continue to assist in our charitable work.

On a sad note; we will gather to honor our Past Queen Linda Gray on Saturday, April 29.

#### **Greeters** by Ed Hulme, Secretary

Our April meeting was held at the Scottish Rite Temple. There were several of our membership attending the Black Light Crab Feed so our numbers were not up to the usual. Those who attended enjoyed a great meal provided by Ike the Jr. Warden from Capital City Lodge #93.

Ill Sir Rick Holloway, Past Chairman of the Board at the Portland Hospital, spoke about all the accomplishments at the hospital and throughout the hospital system. This was the most informative presentation most had ever heard.

The May meeting coincides with the Cinco de Mayo nobility night. It was decided that we would attend that function and help Ambassador Mitch and the other ambassadors where needed. This will be our gathering for May. Please plan to attend.

Our summer picnic is planned for August 13th in Tully Park. The park is located in Meridian. There is a great shade cover and so far the heat of August has not bothered us at all. The function will begin around 11:00 AM with a social gathering and the food should be served at noon.

## Membership

#### by Dave Brannan, Chairman

- >>> We are continuing to work on the Sojourners list and have picked up 2 new affiliations in recent weeks. I will be contacting other individuals on the list in the next few weeks.
- >> We have 5 active prospects with one who is working on his degrees in the Meridian 47 Masonic Lodge.
- >>> There are currently 82 members that have not paid their 2023 dues and 31 members that are two years in arrears. We depend on the dues to support the operation of the Temple. If you are behind on dues, please contact the

Recorder to make a payment. Your 2023 dues were due at the end of December.

We are planning to host a Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser sometime in May or early June. Noble Mitch Davis and I recently built 6 sets of Corn Hole Boards that still need to be painted. I have purchased corn hole bags for each board set and we have acquired 3 other sets from other Nobles. I am hoping that we can have a team from each Unit and Club participate in the fundraiser, the entrance fee is \$100, for 4 participants from the Unit or Club, which will include food, drink, and prizes. Your Divan Reps will be discussing this with you at your Unit and Club meetings.

# 2023 EL KORAH SHRINE CIRCUS Come One! Come All!



Idaho Falls Tuesday, June 20th 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Rupert Wednesday, June 21st 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm Gooding

Thursday, June 22nd 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Nampa (Idaho Center) Friday, June 23rd 7:00 pm

Saturday, June 24th 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Sunday, June 25th 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm

## CQ El Korah

by Dave Bennett, 1st Ceremonial Master



A couple of us were talking and was wondering how many Amateur Radio Operators are members of El Korah. Strictly curiosity and fun! Maybe we can get together sometime for a ragchew and indulge in an 807 or two. Please QSL <u>K8YZ@arrl.net.</u> 73

K8YZ

So far, I have received the following stations;

Jim K7JV
Gary K7GBA
Clyde K7ROJ
Warren W4WHH

Ron . . . . W7IM Mike . . . . KK7JZI Dave . . . . K8YZ

We are not an official club, just several guys who like to dabble with electronic gadgets and two way communication with like minded folks around the world via radio waves. If you would like to add your name to the list, please let me know. If you're interested in learning more about amateur radio or becoming a "ham", get ahold of any "Ham" and we'll do what we can to answer your questions and help you get started.

73 Dave

# **46TH ANNUAL DISTRICT FOUR**





North – South All Star



**Twin Falls High School** 

## Monday 🖤 May 29, 2023

8-Man Game: Kickoff – 3:30 p.m. 11-Man Game: Kickoff – 6:00 p.m.

*This Game Made Possible by:* District Four Idaho High School Activities Association & Magic Valley District Shrine Council



Shriners Hospitals for Children

"Strong Legs Run that Weak Legs May Walk."



Please bring a can of food to donate to the Shriners Hospital

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## **DESERT DUST**

## **El Korah Shrine Circus**

by Dave Brannan, Co-Chairman

The Circus is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> - June 25<sup>th</sup>, with venues in Idaho Falls, Rupert, Gooding, and 3 days at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa.

We have two online ticketing systems operative: Jordan Circus and the Ford Idaho Center. We have 36 Albertsons stores, 30 DL Evans Bank Branches, and 12 Ridleys stores that will be displaying free children's tickets and selling tickets for us.

We have 4 YMCAs that will be displaying free children's tickets.

We have Radio advertising that will be starting in Southeastern, South Central, and Southwestern Idaho in the middle of May.

## **Gold Rush Shrine Club**

by Dale Rutter and Dave Triplett

Nobles and Ladies,

Gold Rush Shrine Club will be having their first meeting on May 7, 2023, at Idaho City Community Hall. The meal will be Roast Beef, potatoes, salad, etc. Chicken will be the alternate choice, if you do not want the beef. The cost is \$20. This will be Rickey B's first Gold Rush meeting as PRESIDENT. So come out and support him. Please RSVP by May 4th. Also, dues for 2023 can be paid at that meeting.

If you are not a member yet, come join us and we will fix that issue, but first please send an email confirming your intent to either <u>rutterdr0321@gmail.com</u> or <u>david.triplett93@gmail.com</u>

You can also call Dave at (208) 954-9616.

Our usual gathering starts at 10:00 am with sharing goodies and fellowship followed by a short meeting and then lunch. Bing your Fez. We will be running full page ads in the Idaho Free Press, the Meridian Free Press, and the Caldwell/Kuna Free Press roughly one week before the circus performances get started.

All the tickets have been ordered and are expected by the end of April, we will be packing the tickets and getting them ready to be distributed, we will need help with this process if you are willing to help with this, please send an email to "circus@elkorahshrine.com."

We are in the process of printing and sending out Nobility tickets, thanks for continuing to support the Temple circus fundraiser.

We are looking for volunteers to work the circus events, traveling and or local, if you are interested email "circus@elkorahshrine.com."

#### **Parades Update**

by Mike Keas, Parade Director

There will be two parades for El Korah in May:

- The **Fruitland Spring Fair Parade** is Saturday, May 13th. Line up is 12:00 PM at the corner of SW 3rd & Colorado Ave. Step-off is 2:00 PM
- The **Payette Apple Blossom Parade** is Saturday, May 20th. Line up is 10:45 AM on 3rd Ave North and begins at the sheds at the end of Main Street. Look for AB Members in Pink Shirts to get the line up number. Step-off at Noon.

Also on May 20th, the Tin Lizzies have once again have been invited to participate in the **Jordan Valley Rodeo Parade** in Oregon. If we have enough participants, we could divide up forces and also support the parade in Payette. Otherwise, it'll be just the Jordan Valley parade.

Hope to see everyone on the streets!!



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## From The Recorder's Desk

by Wayne Foster, Recorder

El Korah is in the process of moving out of the El Korah Shrine building. One of our first steps is relocating the Recorder's Office to our new temporary home at the Masonic Temple Association building. This will be completed in the next few weeks.

2023 Cameleers for Kids

A Family Bike Ride Event

Saturday, August 19th

Proceeds go to the

Adaptive Bike Program for Shriner Kids

Our new mailing address will be:

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

The May Stated meeting will be held at the Masonic Temple in Jerome. If you are planning on attending, please contact the Recorder's Office so that you will be included in the head count for dinner and also to help facilitate ride sharing.

Zoom will be set up for those not traveling to the meeting. You can come to El Korah to attend or you can Zoom In from home. The will be NO Dinner served at El Korah.

## Cameleers

#### by Ray Westmoreland, Bike Ride Chairman

The Cameleers have two distinctly different events happening this year. Our Fraternal fundraiser is the Bike Raffle which will raise funds to upgrade our stable (cargo trailer) along with other camel stuff.

Our Charitable fundraiser is our 2nd Annual Bike Ride for Kids. Last year we raised \$5500 for the Salt Lake Shriners Children's Clinic adaptive bike program. This year's goal is \$10,000.

The Cameleers added two new, full-fledged and degreed members. Maybe we can be Unit of the Year again?

Thanks for everyone's help and support for our endeavors!!



**NOTICE** New Address for Recorder's Office 1755 N Westgate Dr, Suite #125, Boise, 83704

	<b>MAY 2023</b>						
	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	<b>3</b> Provost Guard	4	5 Nobility Nite Cinco de Mayo Greeters Players	
7		8 Board/Divan Meeting Twin Falls SC	<b>9</b> Tin Lizzies	10 Stated Mtg in Jerome	11	12	13
14	Mother's Day	15	16	17	<b>18</b> American Legion Post 2	19	20 Scottish Rite Reunion
21	Scottish Rite Reunion	Patrol Snake River SC	23High Country Sidewinders Cameleers Sand Duners	24	25	26	27
28		<b>29</b> Memorial Day N/S Shrine Football Game Twin Falls	30	31			

<b>JUNE 2023</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	<b>3</b> Potentate's Nobility Party
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Gold Rush SC	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>18</b> Father's Day	19	<b>20</b> Shrine Circus Idaho Falls	21 Shrine Circus Rupert	22 Shrine Circus Gooding	23 Shrine Circus Nampa	<b>24</b> Shrine Circus Nampa
25 Shrine Circus Nampa ← →	26	27	28	29	30	