



Minaret

May 2023

Official Publication of El Kalah Shrine

From the Potentate



Greetings Nobles and Friends,

I hope everyone is doing well and holding their own against our “never-ending Winter!” We had two inches of snow (again) this past Tuesday at our house.

The week prior to Easter, a short notice opportunity presented itself with the announcement of the Shriners Childrens clinic SpringFest. You may know that the event is held for Shriners Childrens patients quite close to Easter each year. A group of Employees from Target donated their time to hide thousands of plastic Easter eggs which had been filled with candy. There were several stations around the play area where parents and caregivers could learn about the many resources available in the community for special needs children. There were a couple of very popular face-painter stations. Hundreds of patient-children and parents were there to participate in all the activities planned for them. Many went downstairs in front of the building to see and pet the animals in the makeshift corral. There was a costumed

Easter bunny upstairs for photo ops with the kids. When the signal was given, there was a huge rush to the rear of the hospital to search for and find all the eggs. Everyone came away with smiles and plenty of candy in their baskets and bags. The event was a huge success for Shriners Childrens, Salt Lake City! My hope is for another success next year and for more Shriners to be present in their Fezzes.

El Kalah continues to work on recruiting as do all Shrine Centers worldwide. Notice was received from Shriners International today that Shriners is in its best position in decades to post a net-positive membership growth for the first 6 months of the year (Jan. 1 - June 30, 2023). That's great news!

The Divan is planning to continue to reach out to Masons all around the state. Our emphasis throughout the year MUST continue to be on recruiting! New members are the life blood of our fraternity. We need your help and participation to make El Kalah grow!

Have a wonderful Spring season (despite the snow – the water is so necessary)!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Al Hokins, Potentate
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From the Chief Rabban

Dear Nobles and Ladies.



“Leadership communication is a type of communication most commonly used by leaders to relay information about an organization's culture, core values, mission, and crucial messages to build trust and encourage members. In practice, it involves delivering a shared vision and inspiring others to buy into that vision.” (Knowledge Hub)

The last 5 years El Kalah has tried to install these principles of communication through leadership by installing a 5-year plan, and ensuring we wouldn't have top down leadership, where we build trust among our members.

That five-year plan starts with good communication which improves engagement. I have been involved with communicating with each of you through emails, texts or in person. This is extremely important for leadership as it leads to growth and better outcomes. One of the reasons for the five-year plan and through communication was that we believed that “If they are open and honest about what is going on, positive or negative, and do not silo information, [members] will then buy into that vision, putting their energy into making it a reality.”

(<https://www.valamis.com/hub/leadership-communication#:~:text=Leadership%20communication%20is%20a%20type,to%20buy%20into%20that%20vision%20.>)

The key for communication for the 5-year plan is that it helps to create a collaborative accessible organizational culture. When the Divan communication is effective, it leads to better communication throughout the entire organization. The five-year plan that was implemented by John Limb, Jeremy Estes, Danny Drew, Dave Hutchison, and Blake Hansen we believed that it would demonstrate what good communication looked like, which is leading by example, which would

have members more likely to adopt a positive outlook and also use positive communication techniques. We understood that top down “My way or the high way” or “Only communicate when and how I tell you” type of leadership tactics does not work in a volunteer organization. The team just mentioned, understood that a vibrant 5-year plan could be a simple yet robust way to answer, train and communicate with the nobles of El Kalah.

In the book Intercultural Communication by John Child he states “When they realize that they do not understand another person, they tend to blame their confusion on the other’s “stupidity, deceit, or craziness”. The five-year plan that was instituted by Limb, Estes, Drew, Hutchison, and Hansen was to avoid that scenario, if you have ever felt like you have been treated by and member of the divan as “stupid” or “deceitful” or “crazy” this year or before this year we apologize and know that this is a goal of communication leadership we are working on.

Please know that the Divan loves you! Understand that the Divan cares about you! I hope you know you can reach out to any of us, and we would be happy to answer any of your concerns or with you on anything you need help with

Daniel Drew, Chief Rabban
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From the Assistant Rabban

Nobles and Ladies,



Thanks for your help in selling the onions and sweet potatoes, your rewards will be paying off at the end of the month. The pickup spot will be the parking lot at the Salt Lake Masonic temple, pick up details will be sent out when they arrive. Like last summer we will be going to the BEES baseball game. Details will be in a flyer in the minaret and through WebFez.

Blake Hansen, Assistant Raban
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From the Oriental Guide



Greetings Nobles, Ladies, and Friends.

Males in our society are seeing a crisis in their health with the consequence of a shorter life span. I will not claim credit for the research in this article, as I read it on the internet from an article in the Washington Post and will shorten it to mention the parts I felt are most serious. Men are at a greater risk of dying from covid-19 than woman. 140 deaths per 100,000 for males and 87.7 deaths per 100.000 for females.

Diabetes; 31.2 deaths per 100,000 for males, 19.5 deaths per 100,000 for females. Cancer mortality; 189.5 deaths per 100,000 for males, 135.7 deaths per 100,000 for females. Suicide: CDC reports nearly four times more males die from suicide than females, with the highest rate with middle-aged white men, and teen boys also face a high risk.

Many of you are also aware that men are more likely to suffer from

heart disease than woman, as woman are less likely to develop heart disease until they experience menopause. Then female heart disease becomes more likely. The article did point out that men treated with estrogen actually experienced double the rate of heart attacks than those treated with placebo. Interesting, but I do not know where the study was conducted or how.

We being a male organization need to do what we can to live a healthy lifestyle and help those in our organization to do the same. This may slow the drop in membership, but the best reason to promote a healthy lifestyle is because it is the right thing to do. I also want to thank those members who have helped me in having my cataract surgery that has greatly improved my eyesight for driving at night. In 2020, 72 percent of motor vehicle crash death victims were male.

Sincerely

Mike Katsonis, Oriental Guide
mgkatsonis@yahoo.com

From the Recorder



Merry Spring to everyone!

Looks like winter is finally going to end, just hope it doesn't flood too much. At least we got a lot of water, but please keep on conserving, the drought isn't over yet. I've sent snail mail to all the Nobles who don't have email. If you haven't gotten a letter from El Kalah in the past month, please send me a note or call and let me know what your correct

mailing address is. My phone number is 385-214-5268 or use the Temple's mailing address. Another of the recorder's duties is to remind Nobles to pay their dues. If you've forgotten to pay your 2023 or 2022 dues, I'll be sending out reminders. Way back when, when the Shriners were formed it was to have fun and we need to have more fun. We have a Grizzly's ballgame coming up, the pinewood derby race, picnics, and parades. If you have suggestions on activities we could do, please let me know. I'll bring them up to the Divan and we'll see what happens, no promises but we need more ideas. Also, come to the next regular meeting on May 17th, 7:30 pm, we will be discussing the sale of Kelly Grove and probably voting whether to sell it.

*"If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing." **Will Rogers***

Dave Hutchinson, Recorder
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From the Chaplain



Greetings once again, Brother Nobles and Ladies.

We had a pretty good turnout at our April El Kalah Business Meeting. If you were not there, we missed you! A question that I brought up was "How many of you have recently checked out our El Kalah website?" The response was quite disappointing. As near as I could tell, only about

20% of those in attendance had done so. Nobles, this media is there for your use. We try to keep the contents up to date and informative for your benefit. If you have something you would like added to the website, all that is required is the approval of our Illustrious Potentate. Calendar information is already included so you can keep up with the activities of our Temple. Since some of you don't come around as often as I would like, at least this way you can be informed about what is happening and you can see what you have missed! Remember the principle of "garbage in – garbage out"? It also applies to website content. If you see something that is out of date or missing, let us know so we can remedy the problem. It is YOUR website.

In closing, a reminder – remember to contact Noble Blake Hanson for your onions and sweet potatoes. The clock is ticking.

Now to lighten up: I was walking out to the parking lot after the meeting and I noticed Danny was on his knees under the streetlight, obviously looking for something. "What is it you've lost?" I asked. "My watch," Danny replied. "It fell off when I tripped over the curb." I joined in the search, but after 15 minutes we hadn't found anything. "Where exactly did you trip?" I asked him. "At the other end of the parking lot." he replied. "So why are we looking for it here?" I asked. "Because the light's better here." Danny replied.

Blake had spent all afternoon watching football on TV and fell asleep. The next morning, his wife woke him up in his chair. "It's 10 to 7," she said. "Who's winning?" Blake asked.

Mike got himself a dachshund. We all told him to "Get a long, little doggie."

Lynn came home from a day of golf and was greeted by Robyn. “Did you win?” she asked. “Well,” he replied, “in golf it doesn’t matter so much who wins. But I got to hit the ball more times than anybody else out there!”

Jeremy was taking a grandfather clock to the shop for repairs. On a crowded street, he bumped into Al and accidentally knocked several bundles from his arms. “Darn hippsters?” Al yelled. “Why can’t you be like other people and wear a watch?”

So, you thought they couldn’t get any worse, huh? Just wait!!

Chuck Warren, Chaplain
chuckwarrensr@aol.com

From the Board of Governors



Greetings All!

Over the next several months I will be highlighting portions of the 2022 annual letter to the staff of Shriners Children’s, Salt Lake City from Dr. Carroll, Chief of Staff. As you will see 2022 was a year of challenge, change and success. I hope you keep the staff, their patients and families in your thoughts and prayers throughout this year.

With the help of our departmental leaders, here is a synopsis of our accomplishments in 2022 as an outpatient facility:

From Scott and Matt: Seating and Mobility

2022 was a year of many changes but also a year of many new records and accomplishments in our seating and mobility department! We reorganized following Jen's move to the NICU and Claire's return to therapy services and welcomed our new Technician Brandon to the team. We have added technician/ATP Gary Carvey to our clinical appointments to help maximize our patient access and Jesus has stepped up and is helping manage fabrication and preparing to begin his training to certify as an Assistive Technology Professional elevating further the quality of the care we can provide. Alejandra has returned from her maternity to continue to keep the many aspects of our programs, staff and patients coordinated and working in harmony. She has many beautiful pictures of her little baby Ciana be sure to check them out! We realized our mission to deliver more medical equipment to more children as we issued **290 wheelchairs funded by Shriners Children's and another 132 funded by insurance**. Thanks to the great support from manufacturers, Shriners Children's, donors, staff and their support of the mission we **provided almost \$2,000,000 worth of durable medical equipment for under \$500, 000**. We assessed, checked, fit **and issued 161 car seats** and successfully ran our second community car seat check point this fall. **Utah Highway Safety and AAA recognized our car seat program on a state and national level and we received grants from multiple organizations**. Scott Jerome, recognizing that suppliers were not providing medical car seats due to inadequate reimbursement, educated and renegotiated pricing with Medicaid to allow all suppliers to provide this life saving equipment. Scott is finalizing the Baby Bug study and is preparing to submit to the international seating symposium when complete for presentation in 2024. **Scotty presented on 'time mobility' – a 23 year perspective at this year's International Seating Symposium with great feedback and support for our**

mission. In addition, we had two presentations accepted for 2023: Halloween Wheelchair Costume Clinic – a Need in Disguise for our Young Clients and “Unique Equipment for Unique Individuals”- and “Shriners Children’s Journey with Conjoined Twins”! Scott has done a great job working with Dora to integrate more community support and has presented at project echo and to the Weber County School District as well as representing our program and clinic at the Children’s Charity Classic Fundraiser. **The wheelchair Halloween costume clinic was another record-breaking event this year as we helped 43 kiddos embrace their alter egos and revel in inclusive trick or treating! We ran two highly successful ‘Unlimbeted’ summer river trips (thanks to Ladies of the Nile contributions) and brought 26 young amputees on the journey of a lifetime down the Green River.** We are currently preparing to hold our first winter ‘Unlimbited’ camp since 2020 and it goes without saying it will be a special moment when we once again are sliding down the slopes!

Stay tuned folks for more from the amazing staff of Shriners Children’s.

In-Kind giving is always welcome at Shriners Children’s, Salt Lake City. Here is the link to the giving guidelines: **[Giving Guidelines.](#)**

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jim Sweet, PP, Board of Governors
Jsweetinogden2@yahoo.com



Changing our Minds



Do we see the need to change our beliefs from time to time? Probably not if we feel we have arrived at THE TRUTH.

Fortunately, Masonry encourages us to examine our beliefs by proclaiming that “*we are travelling East for More Light.*” The operative word is “*travelling.*” We are not there, yet “*nor do we know that you will ever be.*”

Changing our beliefs can be extremely difficult, particularly when they are cast in stone, and encouraged by the need to be accepted by a group, a tribe if you will. It seems that acceptance is often more important than being right. This is only human—we are social animals. To be ostracized by our tribe is worse than physical death.

Fortunately, our tribe, Masonry, urges us to leave our ego at the door as we pursue tolerance for our brothers' beliefs. *"No man has a right to dictate to another in matters of belief and faith. No man has possession of the truth as he does of a chattel. There is no merit in him who entertains a belief or opinion without examination or investigation of the evidence upon which that belief is based."* If you wish to augment the Light of Tolerance, I recommend you read HOW MINDS CHANGE by David McRaney. Here is a particularly enlightening quote from his book: *"Conclusions based on evidence are the only conclusions worth considering. Being open to the fact that our current models could be wrong, that the current interpretation is just that, an interpretation, leaves people open to changing their minds when new evidence calls our current understanding into question."*

Hugo Rodier, MD
 hugorodier@gmail.com

From the Daughters of the Nile



Friends,

Last month I met with the line officers of Lybia Temple to brainstorm some fun activities for our members and friends. We'll continue the discussion, we want to plan activities that will broaden our friendships, both old and

new.

Our next meeting is May 18th at the Salt Lake Masonic Temple. I will be out of town but leave Lybia in the very capable hands of Princess

Royal Robin Tomassetti.

Have a lovely May,

Candice Sweet, Queen, Lybia Temple No. 32

cswt12@cs.com

From the Ladies Oriental Shrine



Hello Nobles, ladies, and friends,

I just want to thank you all again for coming to our installation last month! It was amazing to see many red fezzes coming out to support us!

This month we are going to be going to San Diego for our yearly conference! It's going to be so much fun to catch up with some of our counterparts in other states!

We also will be having our yard sale in June, which will be the 2 and 3 of June, which is going to be so exciting, so please keep your eyes peeled for more details coming soon!

There will be lots of fun things happening this summer, which also includes membership parties, fundraisers, and our Grand High Priestess visit in July and August!

Thank you again for all of the support and please let me know if you have any need for us, or any questions regarding our activities and I can answer the questions or point you in the right direction!

Jessica Norton, High Priestess
jessimono26488@gmail.com

Shrine Family Calendar of Events for May

- 4th Ogden LOS Club, University Broiler, 6:30 pm
 11th Ogden Nile Club, University Broiler, 6:30 pm
 14th **Mothers' Day**
 14th –19th LOS Grand Council, San Diego, CA
 17th El Kalah Divan Meeting, SLCMT, 6:30 pm
 17th EL Kalah Regular Meeting, SLCMT, 7:30 pm
 18th Daughters of the Nile Stated Session, SLCMT, 7:00 pm
 19th Potentates visit to Ogden Shrine Club, Grey Cliff, 6:30 pm
 24th Bee's Baseball Game RSVP to Blake Hansen
 25th Ladies Oriental Shrine Regular Meeting, SLCMT, 7:00 pm
 28th Minibikes Club Meeting, American Legion, 4:00 pm
 29th **Memorial Day**



vs.



LET'S GO TO A BASEBALL GAME
AS NOBLES WITH OUR FAMILIES.
WE'RE GOING JUNE 24 @ 1 PM \$20 A TICKET
LET BLAKE HANSEN KNOW BY JUNE 23rd
(801) 850-2434, or brotherblake7@gmail.com
FIREWORKS AT THE END OF THE GAME
NOBLES WEAR YOUR SUMMER FEZ BALLCAP

Utah Shriners | 650 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1189

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