



Minaret

January 1 2024

Official Publication of El Kalah Shrine

From the Potentate



Nobles and Friends,

Nearly all of the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season is in the rear-view mirror as 2023 fades away in our memories.

It was, indeed, an honor for me to be elected to serve El Kalah as Potentate in 2023! We started the year at the Cottonwood Club with the Installation of Officers by a Past Imperial Potentate who traveled from the East Coast to help us start off, followed by a fine reception. As we conclude the year, my Lady and I are certainly honored to be recognized by the Utah Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star with their significant contribution in our name to the El Kalah Hospital Patients Transportation Fund! Thank you, Star Brothers and Sisters for your thoughtfulness, charity and kindness!

Our Pavilion at Hobble Creek has awakened as a financial contributor

once again. Primary responsibility for this renewed activity is Brother Paul Wordelman who is an active, Eastern Star Mason and Past Master of Bonneville Lodge. My thank you to Brother Paul for his vigorous support!

Let us not forget the mission of what we advertise as the world's largest philanthropy, Shriners Childrens, as we continue our travels through the deserts of Shrinedom. There are many opportunities throughout the year where we can show our support by wearing our Fezzes and being present. Our "Kids" and their Parents/Guardians love to see us at events such as the Walk for Love which has been held at Hogle Zoo the past couple of years and at the Clinic/Hospital building where events such as Reindeer Games are held in December.

My Lady, Sylvia, and I wish you Godspeed as you continue your journey. Our wish for each of you is that you have been able to find some personal time to celebrate this special Holiday Season - making time and taking time to really enjoy the very unique sights, sounds, fragrances, events and friends which are always special memories during our Holiday Season.

Al Hokins, Potentate
noblealhokins@outlook.com

From the Chief Rabban

Corrected article.

Dear Nobles and Ladies of El Kalah



I come to you the start of 2024, a humbled man. As Potentate elect for 2024, I am humbled by your faith in me! I am humbled by the enormous tasks we have before use.

2024 El Kalah is going to be a lot of fun. Here are just a few of the things planned: Every Business Meeting will be a catered table lodge, so please RSVP with our temple Recorder, so we can plan to have enough food. Every 4th Friday (except June, July, and August) we will be hosting a movie night. We will meet in the conference room until we grow to large for it. Movie nights are open to all Freemasons and their families in Utah. Please bring this up at your Lodge Business meetings. The Divans yearly planning meeting will be following our ceremony on January 2nd. More exciting changes and plans to be announced. I wish you all a Happy and Fruitful New Year.

Sincerely Sincerely and Fraternally

Daniel Drew, Chief Rabban
nobledannydrew@gmail.com

From the Assistant Rabban



Nobles & Ladies,

We have traveled once more around the sun, and past the longest day of the year. During that time we managed to work hard and play hard. Thanks to all those that made it out to events and business meetings. Your support helps keep this temple alive. Hope you and your family had a Merry

Christmas and see you out to the business meetings and events in the upcoming year.

Cheers,

Blake Hansen, Assistant Raban
brotherblke7@gmail.com

From the Oriental Guide



Dear Fellow Nobles, Ladies, and Friends:

I trust all of you have had a joyous Holiday season, and for those of you celebrating Christmas, that Santa found you on his nice list, and not the naughty list. I must have been on the nice list, because my Christmas was very joyous and warm. I received a big bucket of coal, and it kept my home nice and toasty.

I cruised the internet to see if there were any Shriners on the naughty list in current and previous years, and was surprised to find PETA was not happy with some Shrine 'chapters'. Now I was a bit confused because I thought PETA was an acronym for 'people eating tasty animals,' and thought of myself as one of them. What a surprise when I read, they are 'people for the ethical treatment of animals,' and I certainly do not oppose the ethical treatment of animals, but they are very unhappy with the treatment of the animals in circuses, and specifically mention Shrine circuses. A Jay Pratte, a claimed expert on animal behavior, wrote a book claiming in his visits to Shrine circuses that, 'environmental and physiological neglect, psychological abuse,

and coercion of animals to behave through dominance and fear-based techniques,' standard procedures. Animals in Shrine circuses are leased from outside exhibitors.

There are also claims of misogyny. Shriners do not allow women to join them, including transgender women. Women who want to participate are relegated to 'ladies' organizations and typically require being related to Shriner, or a Mason by birth, marriage, or adoption. Racism is also an epithet hurled our way, since Shrine 'chapters' have names rooted in racist tropes, such as Arabia, Mohammed, Mecca, and Oriental. All this negativity in this internet article appears the author is not clear on our fraternity and its' origins or history, and the leap to racism boggles my mind. Such a claim appears to me to better describe the author than Shriners. <https://www.peta.org/blog/shriners-exposed/>.

only compose this message to back up my argument that we have many outside of our fraternity who are not our fans because of misunderstanding, and misinformation. It is difficult to overcome those convinced their opinions are based in truth, and do not want to be confused by facts when their mind is made up. We as a fraternal philanthropy need to keep the faith in our mission and defeat adversity.

Have a Great New Year, Live Long, and Prosper.

Sincerely,

Mike Katsonis, Oriental Guide

mgkatsonis@yahoo.com

From the High Priest & Profet



Don Forbes, High Priest and Prophet
dforbes66@comcast.net

From the Recorder



Hello Nobles,

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and an enjoyable New Year celebration. To start the new year the Divan members have been asked to write our Masonic History, so here goes.

I was raised a Master Mason in Mount Moriah Lodge No.6, Green River Wyoming in January 2001, gave my Proficiency in June 2001 and was Master from 2004 through 2006. I joined the Wyoming Scottish Rite and Korein Shrine in 2001 and have demitted from both and now belong to AASR the Valley of Salt Lake City and the El Kalah Shriners. Joined the York Rite in Wyoming in 2002 and was inducted into Wyoming Priory No. 44 KYCH in 2008. I am a Charter Member of the Knight Preceptor in Wyoming and was inducted into the YRSCNA Equality College No. 92 of Wyoming in 2009. I have maintained my memberships in the Wyoming bodies.

In 2017 I affiliated with Golden Spike Lodge No. 6 and became the Secretary until 2023. In late 2022 I also affiliated with Unity Lodge No.

18. In 2017 I affiliated with the Ogden York Rite Bodies becoming Secretary/Recorder in 2019. I was Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Utah from 2020 to 2022. I am a member of Utah Priory No.47 KYCH, Camp Floyd College No.190, William A. Powell Chapter of the National Sojourners, Behle-Simons Council No.544 of the AMD, the Ogden Shrine Club and Ogden Scottish Rite Club. I hold the following offices in the Utah Grand York Rite: Chapter, Sentinel; Council, Master 2nd Veil and Commandery, Standard Bearer. I joined El Kalah Shriners in 2018 holding several Divan positions and am the current Recorder.

So much for that, I am looking forward to a great year for El Kalah. You will see us try many new things to build membership and involve our families. We will have movie nights, dinner meetings and the Pinewood Derby again. Come and get involved and let's build El Kalah.

Dave Hutchinson, Recorder
elkalahrecorder02@gmail.com

From the Chaplain



Dear Brother Nobles and Ladies;

Due to a lot of misinformation about my health floating around, I wish to clear all misunderstandings. I recently allowed myself to get quite “run-down” and subsequently contracted pneumonia. Since I had heart bypass surgery last year, and there is no cardio unit here near my home, I was

transported by ambulance down to the cardio unit at Utah Valley Hospital in Provo and began a period of observation. Other than monitoring my vital signs, adjustments to some of my medications, improving my diet, and beginning a long overdue exercise program, THAT IS ALL. Believe me, (to paraphrase an old adage), "Messages regarding my impending demise are grossly overstated." I also want to wish each and every one of you and your loved ones a Happy and Prosperous 2024 New Year. I hope you enjoyed the holidays and had lots of fun family time. Since I suspect all of us (or at least most of us) overindulged over the holidays, it is time to get busy and work off some of the excess. What better way than to get involved more with El Kalah Shriners? It is quite rewarding, and a lot of fun. Speaking of our El Kalah Shriners, Hearty Congratulations to our soon to be Junior Past Potentate, Al Hokins and his officers, for providing us with strong leadership throughout this past year. It ain't easy herding cats (or mules)! Congratulations are also in order to our new Illustrious Potentate-elect, Danny Drew, and his line of Officers, as follows: Chief Rabban, Blake Hansen - 1st Ceremonial Master, Lonnie McCulloch - Assistant Rabban, Travis McGuire - 2nd Ceremonial Master, David Newsom - High Priest & Prophet, Matthew Benevidez - Director, Rudy Zamora - Oriental Guide, Monte Andersen - Marshal, Aaron Gaudin - Treasurer, William Voorhees - Captain of the Guard, Cody Webb - Recorder, David Hutchinson - Outer Guard, Brad Harmon - Representative, Danny Drew - Chaplain, Charles Warren - Trustee (3 year), John Limb - Lawyer, Brian Knox

Please support all of our elected and appointed Nobles as we progress into what I pray will be a fun and productive year. Also, since it is close to tax time and you may wish to take advantage of tax breaks this year, please remember that donations you wish to make to assist in the

transportation of our kids to the various hospital facilities throughout the U.S. MUST be designated for the Transportation Fund.

Now, here's some giggles to lighten up your day (hopefully).

Blake greeted his boss the other morning, and boss told him to have a nice day. Who was Blake to argue? He turned around and went home.

What do you call a wandering caveman? A meandethal. (Don't hurt me, please!)

Danny and his wife were discussing a fellow parent they knew. "Isn't it surprising that she can never see any faults in her children?" his wife asked. "Mothers never can," Danny replied. "His wife then said: "What a silly thing to say. I'm sure I could see faults in our children if they had any."

My pastor was famous for his sermons lasting exactly 22 minutes. Then, one unfortunate Sunday, the sermon went on for 45 minutes. At dinner, his wife asked what had gone wrong. "It was just one of those things," the pastor replied moodily. "my trick is to slide a cough drop under my tongue just before I start the sermon. It always melts in exactly 22 minutes, and that way I know when to stop. This morning I was 40 minutes in before I realized my cough drop was a suspender button." (drum roll)

A baby sardine saw its first submarine and went swimming in terror to its mother. "Don't be frightened," she reassured him. "it's only a can of people."

An irate visitor stalked up to a beekeeper and said, "One of your bees stung me, and I want you to do something about it." "Certainly," the beekeeper replied soothingly. "Just show me which bee it was, and I'll have it punished."

Late one night, a preacher was driving on a country road and had a

wreck. A farmer stopped and said, "Sir, are you OK?" The preacher said, "Yes, I'm fine. I had the Lord riding with me." The farmer then said, "Well, you better let Him ride with me, because you're gonna kill Him."

Keep in mind: Forgiveness is Divine!

See ya at the Temple.

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 2023 annual letter to the staff of Shriners Children's, Salt Lake City from Dr. Carroll, Chief of Staff.

As you will see 2023 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.

An excerpt from Dr. Carroll's 2023 Christmas letter to the staff:

Happy Holidays Everyone! As this is probably the last end of year summary I will write, I decided to do something a little different this year. I'm writing a letter of gratitude to all of you, department by department. I've worked at Shriners Salt Lake City for twenty-seven years; I have lots of memories of the wonderful people, and the wonderful things they have accomplished, over this time. I know I will leave some things out - if I trigger a memory for you, then please send it on to me. We can collect them and place them in the Remarkable, month by month in 2024. Before I start, let me just touch on the folks we lost during the transition. There is not an operative day that goes by at PCH [Primary Children's Hospital] when I don't miss our incredible OR nurses,

techs and anesthesia staff. I didn't realize how amazing it was to work with a small group of people who truly knew you, and how to help you. Our radiology staff, when in the OR, were the same. All these folks knew what the surgeon needed, and when and how to help the patient the most. Our inpatient nurses were so empathetic and communicated well, and I miss them too. And our pediatricians and Susana, how I miss their help with the care of our patients, our car seat kids and our OI [Ostiogenesis Imperfecta] kids. They might never see this, but if they do---I want them to know that part of our soul was lost when they left. So let me begin...

In-Kind giving is always welcome at Shriners Children's, Salt Lake City. Here is the link to the giving guidelines: **Giving Gelines**.

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

Are you a skeptic Mason?



Ancient philosophers like Timon of Phlius, Arcesilaus, Pyrrho, Eratosthenes, and **Sextus Empiricus** hoped to attain quietude, just like us moderns. They were perturbed by the contradictions in things; they doubted which of alternative "facts" they ought to accept. The dilemma led them to inquire what is true in things and what is false, hoping by the settlement of this question to attain peace of mind.

"The main basic principle of the skeptic system is that of opposing to every proposition an equal proposition; for we believe that as a consequence of this we end by ceasing to dogmatize. Accepting dogmas as truths, skepticism claimed, locked one into an established mindset which one then felt compelled to defend instead of question. By remaining skeptical of all dogma, one was free to explore the

*subject matter on one's own through reason. By pursuing this course, one might still not come to know what one did not know, but would at least know that what one knew could be considered accurate.”***[1]**

In this age of “false news,” “alternative facts,” and hyper-partisanship, we would do well to fall back on our ancient pillars of Strength, Wisdom, and Balance between them. It would be a BEAUTYful thing to do as we travel East, respectful of others’ dogmas. All of them possess a portion of truth we cannot afford to dismiss without civil consideration.

[1] Historical Introduction to Philosophy/The Challenge of Skepticism - Wikiversity

Hugo Rodier, MD
hugorodier@gmail.com

From the Daughters of the Nile



Friends,

2023 is behind us and we’re on to new adventures as 2024 begins. Coming up on January 19th is our Food Hall Friday get together at 6:30 at **Woodbine Food Hall** which is located in The Granary District in Downtown Salt Lake City (545 West 700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101).

The Granary District is one of the oldest districts in Salt Lake and was the heart of manufacturing, processing and storage. Today, it is an up and coming center of creativity, gastronomy, brewing and local business.

If you haven't joined us for our Food Hall Fridays please consider doing so this month. This is not your mall foodcourt food; you're not going to find a hot dog on a stick, but you will find extremely good food from a variety of restaurants.

This event each month is for fun and I'd like to invite anyone who's interested to come by and join us. You don't have to be in Daughters of the Nile, just have an interest in good food and conversation.

Make a New Year's resolution (one you won't break) to become more involved with old friends and new friends and make helping the kids at Shriner's Children's Salt Lake your priority.

Candice Sweet, Queen, Lybia Temple No. 32
 cswt12@cs.com

From the Ladies Oriental Shrine



Hello nobles, ladies, and friends,

Thank you to all who went to our Christmas party last month! It was one of our best ones yet! Happy new year to each and everyone one of you! I hope that this new year will bring love, prosperity, and wealth to all in the shrine and friends of the shrine!

January we are dark, so we don't really have any plans for this month, but February we have another fundraiser which I will make sure that gets to you before the event so you all can join us and we have our election of officers! So excited to see what that shows for the future of

LOS!

Jessica Norton, High Priestess

jessimono26488@gmail.com

Shrine Family Calendar of Events for January

1st New Year

2nd Private Installation of Divan (Nobles only) 6:30 pm SLMT

15th Martin Luther King Day

17th Divan Meeting 6:30 pm SLCMT

17th Regular Shrine Meeting 7:30 pm SLCMT

18th Daughters of the Nile Stated Session 7:00 pm SLCMT

19th Food Hall Friday The Granary District 6:30 pm

28th Minibikes Club Meeting American Legion 4:00 pm

Shrine Family Photo Album



Potentate gets hug from Salt Lake Bees mascot at Shriners Childrens Reindeer Games on Dec 12th.

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

[Unsubscribe mr.billv@icloud.com](mailto:mr.billv@icloud.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jsweetinogden2@yahoo.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!