



Minaret

December 2023

Official Publication of El Kalah Shrine

From the Potentate



Greetings Shriners and Friends,

My hope for each of you is that you have a marvelous month of December, as we move through what can be a very hectic and busy time! Just be on the lookout for Happiness. It will come our respective ways in many forms this month, although it is not always immediately

visible.

Here's some seasonal related trivia:

“Jingle Bells” became the first song played by US Astronauts in space when, on 16 December 1965, it was broadcast during NASA’s Gemini 6A space flight. The song, written by James Lord Pierpont (USA) in 1857, was originally titled “One-Horse Open Sleigh” per Guinness Book of records (The first ever song that was performed in space was a Ukrainian song “I look up at the sky” [“Дивлюсь я на небо”] sang on 12 August 1962 by Pavlo Popovych, cosmonaut from Ukraine at a special

request of Serhiy Korolyov, rocket engineer and spacecraft designer who was also from Ukraine).

In 1939, the Montgomery Ward department store created Rudolph, the Red-Nosed as a promotion. In 1949, singing cowboy, Gene Autry, cemented Rudolph's place with the now-famous song.

Did you know that Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer and his crew have also had lots of other names. Rudolph was almost named Rollo or Reginald. The original eight have previously been called Racer, Pacer, Flossie, Glossie, Scratcher, Feckless, Ready, Steady and/or Fireball according to Christmas trivia sources.

Have a wonderful December Holiday Season! Merry Christmas to All!

Al Hokins, Potentate
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From the Chief Rabban



Dear Noble and Ladies

For the past many months I have been sharing with you the job of each position of the elected Divan stated by the imperial By Laws. This month I am going to share with you the job of the Potentate:

The potentate shall open and preside at all meetings and sessions of the temple.

El Kalah By Laws define more specifically, that the Potentate will appoint members to the divan, work with the elected and appointed to make sure the temple runs and that peace and harmony prevail.

This year Potentate Hokins has ushered in a year of change in El Kalah. I would compare it to the scripture that talks about Separating the wheat from the chaff.

Metaphorically, El Kalah is like a Phoenix. We must first go to dust to be reborn. What that means, is that as we start as a new Phoenix next year, we must start with new ideas, new agendas, and change as the Phoenix would.

I am so excited, if elected, for the coming year, with all the new plans and changes that are coming. Next year, can bring in table lodge style business meetings; can bring movie nights; can bring baseball games, soccer games, hockey games; Ball(dance) and so much more. The new born Phoenix that will be El Kalah will usher in a new day for El Kalah, its members and could even help our brothers grow our blue lodges. Here is to Utah Freemasonry, El Kalah, and the future.

Happy Holidays, Marry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Daniel Drew, Chief Rabban
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From the Assistant Rabban

Nobles & Ladies,



Thanks to all that came to the Grizzlies hockey game.

The holidays are here. Time with family to gather, eat food and enjoy the festivities together. I hope you take plenty of time to do so and enjoy your families. If you find some children to help, or a way to help them. Please remember to take the time to see how you can help.

Finally Nobles remember this month is our yearly election and I hope to see you there.

Happy Holidays,

Blake Hansen, Assistant Raban
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From the Oriental Guide



Greetings Fellow Nobles, Ladies, and Friends:

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The stores are all decked out in Christmas decor and full of hard to resist, especially to children, toys, candy, and merchandise. Last month I mentioned some famous Shriners. The first was John Wayne, then Harry Houdini, Count Basie, and Thurgood Marshall.

According to listings on the internet, we also can include, Buzz Aldrin, Gene Autry, Mel Blanc, Ernest Borgnine, Nat King Cole, Johnny Cash, Cecil B DeMille, Duke Ellington, Glen Ford, Clark Gable, Barry Goldwater, Gus Grissom, Jack Kemp, Douglas MacArthur, Sugar Ray

Robinson, Roy Rogers, Will Rogers, and Earl Warren. I have not researched this list to see if it is accurate, so there may be some errors.

I want to wish all of you Happy Holidays and Season Greetings.

Sincerely,

Mike Katsonis, Oriental Guide

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From the High Priest & Profet



Don Forbes, High Priest and Prophet

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From the Recorder



Hello Nobles,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours. I hope everyone has had a good year. Enjoy the holidays and take care when you travel, accidents are higher now and the snow is supposed to start this week.

The Salt Lake City Shriners Clinic (Hospital) is holding its Reindeer Games on December 12th, 12:30 pm at the Hospital. It is a series of games the patients will compete in and win prizes. Everyone is

welcome to attend and cheer the kids on, they would love to have the support. If you can make it remember to wear your Fez.

Our last regular meeting of 2023 will be on December 21st and we will have elections. Come and support El Kalah by voting.
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

“Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale.” Hans Christian Andersen

Dave Hutchinson, Recorder
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From the Chaplain



My Dear Brother Nobles and Ladies;

Well, we survived Thanksgiving and now it's time to tighten up the belts for the remainder of the hoilidays. Relax, guys and gals – I was referring to the seatbelts on the auto. We already lost that other battle! We might just as well accept it and revel in the debauchery of all that celebrating. Obviously, all that delicious food was meant for us to savor and enjoy. Maybe next year?

Unfortunately, there is another bell that tolls this time of year – our El Kalah Shriner Annual Dues. Sadly, again this year we have quite a few delinquent Nobles who will be declared NPD (Non Paymen of Dues) on 1 January. Some are delinquent for more than one year. Nobles, please contact the EKS Office/Recorder and make arrangements to take care of this matter. There are several options you can utilize and

Noble Dave can share them with you.

Are ya ready for some goofiness?

Glen was cautioning a witness, "Do you understand that you have sworn to tell the truth?" "I do," the witness replied. "Do you understand what will happen if you are not truthful?" Glen asked. "Sure," the witness replied. "My side wins."

Al was at the gym and asked his trainer, "I want to impress that beautiful girl over there. Which machine should I use?" The trainer replied, "I suggest the ATM outside."

Mr. Bill threw a ball for his dog. He said, "I know it's a bit extravagant but it's his birthday and he looks great in a dinner jacket."

Blake was brought before the judge who said, "Haven't I seen you in here several times before? And didn't I tell you I never wanted to see you in here again?" Blake replied, "Yes, your Honor, that's exactly what I told the officer, but he insisted I come anyway."

A truck driver saw a sign ahead of him that read "Low bridge ahead." Before he knew it, the bridge was right in front of him and he got stuck. Cars were backed up for miles. Finally, a police car arrived. The officer got out of his car, walked around to the truck driver, put his hands on his hips and said, "Got stuck, huh?" "No," the truck driver replied. "I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas."

Did you hear that exaggerations went up by a million percent last year?

Hold your applause until next month, please!

Happy Holidays to one and all!

Chuck Warren, Chaplain
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From the Board of Governors



Greetings All!

As we wind up 2023 I would like to share with you Natalie Raleigh's, End of Year Review. Natalie is the Clinic Director for Shriners Children's, Salt Lake City. As a first year Board member I have had the opportunity to work with Nat as well as observe her interact with patients and staff. Not only is she an excellent administrator she is also a wonderful, caring, compassionate and approachable person. I hope you will visit the clinic soon and meet Nat. Here is her message:

The End of Year in Review

As 2023 comes to a close, Shriners Children's Salt Lake City celebrates accomplishments made this year to change and improve the lives of pediatric patients. From patient success stories to medical advancements, Shriners Children's SLC is committed to providing compassionate, innovative care, research, and educational opportunities.

Shriners Children's Open

Every October, Shriners Children's hosts the Shriners Children's Open, an official PGA TOUR event in Las Vegas, giving our organization unparalleled recognition on a national stage.

This year, local patient ambassador Sara Jane was chosen as one of the patient ambassadors throughout the country to represent the pediatric care network at the tournament. Sara Jane served as a Standard Bearer throughout the weekend, carrying the scores of professional golfers as they competed in the tournament. During her time at the tournament, Sara Jane was able to share how Shriners Children's Salt Lake City has helped transform her life.

Innovative Care

There is no question that the staff members go above and beyond at Shriners Children's Salt Lake City, but one shining example of their dedication is our annual Halloween Costume Clinic.

During the Halloween Costume Clinic, staff members and volunteers create incredible costumes for patients who use wheelchairs. Incorporating the patient's wheelchairs into their costume makes them feel more included in Halloween festivities.

"In the past, parents have mentioned that things like well-fitting costumes and door-to-door trick-or-treating can be hard for differently-abled kids," explained Raegan Holbrook, Director of Marketing and Communications for Shriners. "This helps bring Halloween to them."

This year, 28 patients got their wheelchairs transformed into larger-than-life costumes in just two days. The clinic was made possible by Spirit Halloween's program "Spirit of Children," which has raised over \$1 million for Shriners Children's Salt Lake City through donations made at their stores. This incredible support ensures that every child, regardless of ability, can be included in Halloween and trick-or-treating fun!

New Technology

Thanks to a generous grant offered by the Ray & Tye Noorda Foundation, Shriners Children's Salt Lake City will soon be home to an amazing Lokomat machine. This robotic-assisted walking device will provide walking therapy and interventions to more than 1,000 children each year!

Currently, at Shriners Children's Salt Lake City, this intensive type of walking therapy is provided by two or more physical therapists who manually move the patient's legs in a walking pattern. This method of therapy is a labor-intensive and strenuous process. With robot-assisted walking therapy, the robotic device does most of the heavy work, and the pattern and pace are consistent throughout the session. The device will also allow our physical therapists to see more patients daily, aligning with our goal of caring for more children in more places. The Lokomat is expected to arrive in mid-November and be fully functional before the end of 2023. [Editor's note: Due to manufacturing issues the date of arrival has been pushed to early 2024.]

As we approach the end of the year, we want to express our gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors and community. Your generosity has been the driving force behind our mission, enabling us to make a real and lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. We look forward to another year of progress and positive impact, providing the most amazing care anywhere!

By Natalie Raleigh, *Clinic Director*

Here's a special opportunity for all: Shriners Children's is celebrating the children on December 12 at 12:45 with Reindeer Games! They have requested as many fezes and spectators as we can get to go

cheer the kids on. There will be a live Reindeer and a train out in front of the building and they are putting up bleachers in the activity room for all the fans. Pompoms and popcorn will be provided to cheer on 36 of our patients. All they ask is that we show up and support them. It should be a lot of fun!

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

I wish all a very happy holiday season!

Jim Sweet, PP, Board of Governors
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The Handshake, a Gripping History



I enjoyed reading Al-Shamani's book. She is a British anthropologist. Her book is comprehensive, yet not "exhaustive," and laced with humor. Here is what reviewers are saying:

"Al-Shamahi's beguiling book has a more general claim to attention than merely being an account of the crisis in manners that Covid has made ... cheerful, witty and well-researched... Friends do it, strangers do it and so do chimpanzees - and it's not just deeply embedded in our history and culture, it may even be written in our DNA. The humble handshake, it turns out, has a rich and surprising history. So let's join palaeoanthropologist Ella Al-Shamahi as she embarks on a funny and fascinating voyage of discovery - from the handshake's origins (at least seven million years ago) all the way to its sudden disappearance in March 2020. Drawing on new research,

anthropological insights and first-hand experience, she'll reveal how this most friendly of gestures has played a role in everything from meetings with uncontacted tribes to political assassinations - and what it tells us about the enduring power of human contact. Because the story of the handshake ... is far from over."

As Masons we use the handshake for many purposes. But perhaps most importantly, the handshake, as we learn in the EA lecture, "is a symbol of Fides, or Fidelity."

Let's ponder the meaning of our own mortal hands, and **relating to other people with them**, as a symbol of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Hugo Rodier, MD
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From the Daughters of the Nile



Friends,

No matter what your faith tradition, December is a time to count your blessings and enjoy family and friends before the long winter sets in. I would encourage you to spread holiday cheer and give a hand to those who are hurting and in need, it will make your December all the more meaningful.

On behalf of Lybia Temple - Happy Holidays!

Candice Sweet, Queen, Lybia Temple No. 32

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From the Ladies Oriental Shrine



Hello nobles, ladies, and friends,

I can't believe that the holiday season is upon us! Snowmen are one of my symbols, and I love that right after thanksgiving it snowed!

Just a reminder that we do have the rada knives going on and these make amazing gifts! The link is below, please consider supporting this fundraiser! There's cookbooks, knives, and so many more different things.

<https://radafundraising.com/?>

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[3-qhuLxUVY2SWlukiDgyGOzRw5wZuE](https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=6559661.cea599&fbclid=IwAR2A6v7uxT6E-)

We have our Christmas party soon that's our annual fundraiser that's always a good time! We will have lots of awesome baskets for our silent and live auction and hope to see you all there!

Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season and a bright new year!

Jessica Norton, High Priestess

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Shrine Family Calendar of Events for December

- 3rd Ogden Shrine Club Toy Party, OMT, 6:00 pm
- 7th Ogden LOS Club University Broiler 6:30 pm
- 9th Ladies Oriental Shrine Regular Meeting, SLCMT, 10:00 am
- 9th LOS Christmas Party, Organ Loft, noon
- 12th SLC Clinic Reindeer Games for Kids, at Hospital, 12:30 pm,
- 14th Ogden Nile Club, 6:30 pm
- 20th El Kalah Divan Meeting, SLCMT, 6:30 pm
- 20th El Kalah Regular Meeting (Elections), SLCMT, 7:30 pm
- 21st Daughters of the Nile Stated Session, SLCMT, 7:00 pm
- 24th Minibikes Club Meeting, American Legion, 4:00 pm
- 25th Christmas Day**
- 31st New Year's Eve**

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