



Minaret

February 2024

Official Publication of El Kalah Shrine

From the Potentate



Dear Nobles and Ladies,

We are off to a great start for 2024. We had an awesome first business meeting for the year. We did a table lodge style meeting, which includes a wonderful Catered meal by moonstruck, and while we ate had a special guest speak, an educational speaker, and a past potentate talk about an El Kalah book he made. Then, we called back on and finished the “business part” in about 10 minutes. Much brotherly love and friendship occurred.

In February our Educational will be on George Washington and will be the last free catered meal. Make sure to RSVP.

One of the goals this year is to make sure our meeting is relaxing and fun. So, we are wearing El Kalah polo's and Khaki's to meeting.

We had a special polo made for you, that you can order and buy here:
<https://masoniclodge.myshopify.com/products/el-kalah-port-authority-silk-touch-performance-polo?variant=47850904977719>

On January 26th in the Conference Room at the Salt Lake Temple El Kalah held its first Movie Night of the year. We watched Star Wars:

Episode 1 The Phantom menace. We had many people come and Enjoy! Please remind your blue lodge of our movie nights that families are invited and it's a perfect night to invite those investigating Freemasonry. On Friday February 23rd we will be holding our second movie: Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the clones at 7:00pm in the conference center!

We lost 20% of our membership in 2023, it is my goal to counter our losses. One thing I would like to start is "Sponsor a Young Mason into El Kalah". What this initiative is, if you are 50 or older, find a member of your lodge that is 35 or younger and sponsor them (pay their initiation and first year's dues \$315) to become members of El Kalah. Once members they have to pay their yearly dues every year after their first year as a member of El Kalah.

Also, I want to start the "sponsor a past member" initiative. If you know anyone who used to be a member and demitted, invite them back and offer to pay for some or all of their dues. Tell them what we are doing this year and invite them to all our meetings.

On January 21st at the Salt Lake Masonic Temple El Kalah held its Ceremony where we celebrated the lives of those Shriners and ladies who passed in 2023. It was a wonderful event.

Please remember to RSVP for our business meeting, so we can make sure we have the appropriate amount of food.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely

Daniel Drew, Potentate
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From the Chief Rabban



Nobles,

Welcome to a new year. First I would like to remind you of our creed: The Shiner's Creed

Shiners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling disease, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family. We respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relationships will be trustworthy and our spirits forgiving of each other.

As brothers we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together we will support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we and our communities will be the better because of our fraternity and its principles.

As Shiners we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shiner's Hospitals to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.

Let us continue to be true Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and have a fun year.

Blake Hansen, Chief Rabban
 brotherblake7@gmail.com

From the Assistant Rabban



Travis McGuire, Assistant Rabban
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From the Oriental Guide



Well, as I sit here writing this missive, it is 60° outside, sunny with no haze. As we approach and pass Imbolc or St. Brigid's Day (February 1st) we enter my favorite month. In my personal view, Imbolc marks the beginning of Spring. Yes, we have 2 more months of skiing and snow, but things have changed. We are having more BlueBird days in the Mountains. We are seeing a few more days in the 40s and maybe even the 50s and the snow in the valley is melting. Spring is definitely building, and I am looking forward to being part of the Divan and Shrine in general. I'm sure we will be having a few nice BBQs and a baseball game or two. We have already had one evening of the Phantom Menace and at least 8 more movies ahead of us. It looks to be a productive and enjoyable year. We also have a new Deputy Chief of the El Kalah Fire Brigade, our own Noble Aaron Gaudin. Without him, our Engine would simply be a nice display piece.

Mont Anderson, Oriental Guide
danesailingeast@gmail.com

From the High Priest & Profet



I am thrilled and deeply honored to introduce myself as the newly elected High Priest & Prophet of El Kalah Shrine. The trust and confidence that you have placed in me fills my heart with gratitude, and I am excited about the journey that lies ahead.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere thanks to the Nobels of our Temple for their support.

As High Priest & Prophet, I am committed to fostering unity and collaboration among us. Together, we can build on our traditions while adapting to meet the evolving needs of our members and the community.

My primary goal is to lead our Temple into a year of growth. I envision us maintaining our strong traditions but also evolving to make a greater impact. I am eager to help implement the new initiatives set by our Potentate that will help attract new members and ensure the continued success of El Kalah.

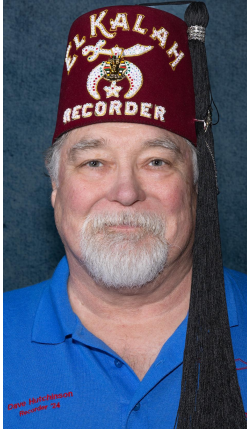
The opportunities that lie ahead of us are exciting, and I am ready to work closely with all Nobels to leverage our diverse skills and talents. I invite all members of our Temple to join me on this journey. Together, we can embrace the future with open arms and continue making a meaningful impact. Here's to a year of growth, unity, and service for the fraternity!

Respectfully & Fraternaly,

Matthew Benavides, High Priest & Prophet

mpbenavidez@icloud.com

From the Recorder



Hi everyone,

We've started the new Shrine year with some changes in our meetings. We will be having dinner before our business meetings and the 4th Friday of most months will be Family Movie Friday. The dinners will be catered and in January we had generous portions of lasagna, salad, veggies and cheesecake. We'll see what February brings. The movies will be the Star Wars series, starting at Episode 1 and going to Episode 9. On January 26th we had 21 folks including about a half dozen young kids. So, if you like Star Wars movies, bring the family and enjoy Family Movie Friday. The movie starts at 7:00 pm at the SLCMT. The year promises more family activities, watch the calendar for upcoming events.

El Kalah will also restart the Shriner jewelry / bling sales after each meeting. We have a lot of Shrine pins, tassel holders, belt buckles, etc. so hang around for a few minutes and see what we have, it will be very reasonably priced. Also before the meeting stop by the Shrine office to see the display.

Last thing is don't forget the Grand Lodge of Utah's Annual Communication on February 2nd and 3rd at the SLCMT. There will be some legislation proposed along with regular business. Friday's lunch is sponsored by El Kalah and we will have a speaker from the SLC Children's Clinic, it's free to all Masons.

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."

C.S. Lewis

Dave Hutchinson, Recorder
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From the Chaplain



Happy February to all my Brother Nobles and Ladies;

We will have survived the treacherous weather of January by the time you read this message. I know we all have heard the plaintive “*but we need the water*” ad nauseum, but REALLY?? Maybe things will level out a bit this month. Let’s hope.

I was a bit disappointed with the attendance at our Annual El Kalah Memorial Service Sunday, 21 January. Unfortunately, the number of names of those in attendance was only about equal to the number of names of our beloved departed. Thank the Lord a nice number of our Past Potentates were there as well as the Ladies from their respective organizations or we would have been shamed, once again. We can’t continue to blame “communications” or “advertising” as has been the popular mode in the past. This event was repeatedly posted on all the media utilized by our El Kalah Nobles – email, Facebook, website, etc. I hope I am wrong, but it seems there is a lack of caring and respect, or maybe we have our priorities misaligned. May it not be so. We’ll try to do better next year. Mark your calendars *NOW* for an El Kalah Memorial event in January of 2025. On a positive note, many thanks to the Past Potentates, our Illustrious Potentate, the Divan (which includes our sitting Most Worshipful Grand Master), Nobles, and all the Ladies. Everyone who attended participated so beautifully in this somber event and I thank each and every one of you.

Now, here’s some foollishness:

Three years ago my doctor told me I was going deaf. I haven't heard from him since.

Danny, seeing one of his students making faces at others on the playground, stopped to gently reprimand the boy. Smiling, he said, "When I was a boy, I was told that if I kept making ugly faces, it would freeze like that." The little boy looked up and replied, "Well, Sir, you can't say you weren't warned. (ZING!)"

Blake says he wanted to be a biologist, but all the coursework on hearts and lungs and kidneys made it seem like one long organ recital. Hutch's wife says he is gaining weight. In his defense, there has been a lot on his plate lately. (BOING!!)

Hey, Matt! What do you call a line of men waiting to get haircuts? A BARBERQUEUE!

People always say that hard work never killed anybody. But really, have you ever heard of anybody resting themselves to death?

Did you hear the one about the painter who was hired to whitewash a church? Unfortunately, he thinned the paint too much, causing it to wash away during the first rain. The minister called the painter to complain. "What do you want me to do about it?" the painter asked. (wait for it) "Repaint", said the minister firmly, "and thin no more."

Don't forget – I don't create these jewels. I just plagiarize (a popular word nowadays).

*Chuck Warren, Chaplain
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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:

Wheelchair and Seating: Wow - what a group of dedicated, caring, innovative and fun people! Working on the Halloween clinic (shout out to Laura), Unlimbited camp (shout out to EVERYONE!), wheelchairs, strollers, baby bugs and car seats - these folks are amazing. I will never think of this group without smiling, thinking of the extra mile that was taken for so many for so long. We are renown in the Intermountain West as the best at seating. Period.

The story of Matt and Scotty returning from a conference at the SLC Airport and helping a physically compromised fellow passenger off the plane, then through baggage claim, then attaining and paying for his UBER, just underscores the type of people they are. The joy on kids' faces with their first electric wheelchair and the joy of independent movement, this is thanks to all of you. I always know that I can count on you to do the right things for the children, come what may. Thank you, thank you for being part of our mission.

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
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View 2023 Recap

Equilibrium and Intellectual Development



Piaget was a Swiss Psychologist best known for studying the stages of child development. And, sure enough, in accordance with the teachings of our MM Lecture, he could not help but discover that people develop in accordance to the same principles of *“Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, which each succeeding age has framed agreeably to its own peculiar cast of thought and which the human imagination may awaken to countless forms of gracious life.”*

To quote from his seminal work: *“Intelligence is the form of Equilibrium —Balance, a Harmonious adjustment [Beauty-Harmony] towards which the successive adaptations and exchanges between the organism and his environment are directed... There is no single and final intelligence, but rather a succession of intellectual stages... a system of living.*

Equilibrium results from regulations that tend toward better forms of knowledge; Piaget describes three forms of Equilibrium: Between a person and an object. Between various cognitive systems. This implies that ALL systems have value. We do best by finding a Balance between them. And Between an overall cognitive system and its component subsystems, that is, between the whole and its parts. Piaget even reminds us that we never stop travelling East in quest of the True Word, or further light and knowledge.

Hugo Rodier, MD
 hugorodier@gmail.com

From the Daughters of the Nile



Greetings friends,

Last month I invited you to our 'Food Hall Friday' dinner at Woodbine and we had a great group that gathered for the evening. We took over a corner of the hall, there was a band playing and the food was delicious (my wood fired pizza was amazing.) Our next food hall event will be Friday March 1st so mark your calendars now. Place to be determined, it might even be a restaurant this time. The point is to be together and have a good time, you don't have to be affiliated with Nile to join us.

There is a Spring Fling/Festival of Tables in the works but details haven't been finalized. Look for an announcement soon when all the logistics are worked out.

The information packets for Supreme in June are out and our performing units are getting ready to go to Boise and showcase their talents. If you're wondering what exactly this means give me a call or ask any Daughter of the Nile to tell you about it. It's a time to make new friends and have fun!

Stay warm, spring is right around the corner.

Candice Sweet, Queen, Lybia Temple No. 32
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From the Ladies Oriental Shrine

Hello Nobles, ladies, and friends,



Wow, it's elections month for our court! This year has gone by so quickly! Thank you all to how much support you've given to the court this year and everything you do for the children.

Congratulations on an installation that I assume was wonderful! Im very excited to see what you all do this term! I hope the court will continue to have your support for our upcoming new year! hope to see you all at our installation in April!

I think that's all for now!

Jessica Norton, High Priestess
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El Kalah Family Movie

Night





Star Wars Episode 2: Attack of the Clones

Friday February 23rd 7:00 pm

SLC Masonic Temple Conference Room

All Masonic Bodies are invited

The whole family is invited, bring a friend too

Popcorn and drinks provided but feel free to bring your own

El Kalah Shriners Movie Night 2024 Schedule



January 26th – Episode 1 The Phantom Menace

February 23rd – Episode 2 Attack of the Clones

March 22nd- Episode 3 Revenge of the Sith

May 4th Double Feature Episodes 4 & 5

A New Hope & The Empire Strikes Back

September 27th – Episode 6 Return of the Jedi

October 25th - Episode 7 The Force Awakens

November 22nd- Episode 8 The Last Jedi

December 27th – Episode 8 The Rise of Skywalker

Grand Lodge of Utah 152nd Annual Communication Friday's Lunch Sponsored by El Kalah Shriners



A sandwich lunch is free to all Masons, with a short talk given by one of the Shriner's kids. Come and learn about the Shriners and the network of care that is provided to children nation wide.

Shrine Family Calendar of Events for February

- 1st – 3rd Grand Lodge of Utah Annual Communication
- 7th Ogden LOS Club University Broiler 6:30 pm
- 15th Daughters of the Nile Stated Session 7:00 pm SLCMT
- 21st El Kalah Divan Meeting, SLCMT 6:30 pm
- 21st EL Kalah Regular Meeting, SLCMT, 7:30 pm
- 23rd Movie Night SLCMT 7:00 pm
- 23rd Ogden Shrine & Scottish Rite Clubs Joint Dinner 6: 30 pm Hug
- Hes
- 25th Minibikes Club Meeting American Legion 4:00 pm
- 22th Ladies Oriental Shrine Regular Meeting SLCMT 7:00 pm

Shrine Family Photo Album

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

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