

THE  
**WORD**  
OF EL KATIF SHRINERS



DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 88 Issue 10

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



May your holiday season be merry and bright, and the  
New Year bring you happiness and success.



INSIDE: HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOUR FAMILY | TENTATIVE 2025 CALENDAR



## NOTE FROM THE POTE - *Il. Sir Michael Castelan* *Year-End Message of Gratitude*

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the year and yet, here we are. **Jana** and I would like to thank all of you for the fantastic support during this year. We hope we have brought a little joy and happiness to each and every one of you.

As I look back over the past twelve months, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Together, we created memorable moments and accomplished meaningful milestones. One highlight was welcoming our Silent Messenger statue. With your generous support, especially through the purchase of commemorative tiles, and generous donations, we are now preparing for the final stage: placing the statue in its new home. Soon, it will stand as a beacon on the hill, greeting all who visit our Event Center.

To my Divan, I extend my deepest thanks for your dedication and hard work throughout the year. Your commitment to the fraternity has been inspiring. This year allowed us the privilege to travel to other temples and represent El Katif Shriners at their balls. Additionally, attending the Grand Lodge of Washington was a special honor, as we witnessed our own **Past Potentate, Roger B. Nelson, Jr.**, become the **Most Worshipful Grand Master of Washington**. Representing El Katif at the 151st Imperial Session in Atlanta was another highlight—an honor and privilege we do not take lightly.

To our Legion of Honor, thank you for allowing me to participate in the ceremonies at the Veterans cemetery. I am deeply moved by the honor of being made an honorary member of the Legion—an accolade I cherish and do not take lightly.

**Jana** and I, together with our **1st Ceremonial Master Stacy Roark and his lady Shannon**, were honored to participate in the Veterans Day parade in Walla Walla. The **Blue Mountain and Columbian Basin Shrine Clubs** made us feel truly special, and we thank you deeply. Special thanks to **Noble Mick McCoy** for graciously allowing us to ride in your cherished vehicle, 2008 Chrysler Seabring hard top convertible.

Thank you to the Clubs and Units that hosted official visits. It was truly a humble experience. It was a special privilege to have the Grand Lodge line here, performing a cornerstone ceremony for our Silent Messenger statue. This event marks an important step for our organization and is a testament to our shared commitment and unity. I am confident that next year will be innovative and enjoyable, with exciting events already planned. My goal has always been to introduce new experiences for Nobility and their families, creating opportunities for connection, celebration, and growth.

Thank you once again for all your love and support. Our fraternity is thriving because of your dedication, generosity, and spirit. Together, we will continue to uphold our values and make a positive impact for years to come.

May God bless us all as we embark on a new year filled with hope, friendship, and accomplishment. Fraternally yours, **Michael A. Castelan, Potentate** El Katif Shriners

## NOTES FROM THE RECORDERS DESK - *Il. Sir John Robertson, P.P.*

We just finished one of the busiest Novembers that I can remember. We had our Salute to Veterans, and we must say Thank you to **Ill Sir Don Lane and Noble Stacy Roark** for their help in making it a success. Our Fall Ceremonial on November 14th, 15th where we had 9 new Nobles go through the Ceremony. Thank you to the Actors and the NEWSO for their efforts in putting on the First and Second Sections. I am grateful for **Nobles Karl Hill and Dave Swannack** for helping set the Ceremonial stage. The Cornerstone Laying Ceremony on November 21st was conferred by **MW Roger B Nelson Jr** and several of the **Grand Lodge Team**. What a great ceremony and how special it is to have them put the program together for us. It was also a special treat to have our **Past Grand Master Dean Hiennemann** here as he was the Grand Master that conferred the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the building in March of 2013.

Our Fraternity is blessed to have such good Noble men of our Craft to assist us in these great ceremonies and functions. It is through these events and projects that bring us together to enjoy fellowship and fun along with celebrating the ancient ceremonies and a lasting memory. These are the footnotes for the future to look back upon and see the foundation that was laid before them.

We are all caregivers to what our forefathers left us, and it is up to all of us to help leave it better than when we started our journey as Shrine Masons. Through all of these events we were able to refinance our loan, lower our payment and we changed banking programs through this process. I am very grateful for our office staff. **Holly**, who has helped in making this transition smoother with her insight on the moving parts as well transitioning accounts from one bank to another. **McKenna**, who has helped in making sure the events were properly staged. I am grateful for **Ill Sir Justin** as he has helped navigate through all of the loan transition. I know we have made significant changes that will help us accomplish the goal of leaving it better than we found it. I would also like to welcome **Megan Smith**, our new **Business Manager** to our Team. She brings a vast knowledge of accounting and Non-profit experience to El Katif which will help us move forward





to become more successful than we are today. Please make sure to welcome her when you come by the office.

I am grateful for my family as they are always there for support and assistance. I am most grateful for my Lady **Bridget**. She has helped me to stay focused, calm and help me stay grounded through these transitions and events. I am also grateful to all of you Nobles for what you do each day in Making Shrine Masonry stronger through your quiet actions and encouraging words. I truly am blessed to be a member of this great Fraternity and honored to serve as your Recorder.

Thank you, **Ill Sir Michael and Lady Jana**, for your guidance this year. "Keep the Dream Alive in 2025" has truly been a motto to live up to. All of the things we have accomplished this year have helped us build a stronger foundation for the future. May you enjoy your brief vacation in mid-January but remember to stay active in the Units and Clubs.

I hope to see all of you at any number of Christmas functions over the next few weeks. Merry Christmas to all of you and your families. May this holiday season bring you great joy, laughter, happiness and peace to you and yours.

Yours in True Faith, **John Robertson PP** Recorder

## \*\*\*Attention\*\*\*

\*\*\* As a reminder, we will no longer be sending out the Word by US Postal Service. You will need to go to [elkatif.org](http://elkatif.org) to see future editions of the "Word". We would also like for all of you to download the El Katif App as it has a copy of the Word and an archive to previous editions of the Word. If you need help with this please call your Divan Liaison \*\*\*

\*\*\* Our Stated meeting, December 3rd, is our annual meeting in which we elect our 2026 Divan officers and representatives for the 2026 Imperial Session. We are also introduced to the appointed officers for next year. We will be presenting and voting on the proposed budget for 2026. \*\*\*

\*\*\* Remember the proposed 2026 Budget is posted outside the Recorders office for your preview before the December meeting. \*\*\*



## IN MEMORIAM

*The following Nobles were summoned to mount the Black Camel and across that sublime desert since our last publication:*

### David J Thompson

September 22, 1928 to September 28, 2025

*Created a Shriner: June 01, 1962*

### Don K Grim

July 14, 1946 to October 24, 2025

*Created a Shriner: June 10, 1984*

### Jack M McCaw

March 31, 1927 to November 15, 2025

*Created a Shriner: May 07, 1971*

Please take a moment to look in your copy of the directory and make sure we have not missed anyone.

Please email [OfficeAdmin@elkatif.org](mailto:OfficeAdmin@elkatif.org) or call 509-624-2762 if you know of any Noble who has passed!



**We regret when Nobles pass away without proper acknowledgement.**

**As Brothers, they are worthy of our recognition.**

**When you learn of a Nobles passing, please contact us:  
(509) 624-2762  
[OfficeAdmin@elkatif.org](mailto:OfficeAdmin@elkatif.org)**

## December Birthdays

December 1: James A Kirkpatrick  
Ryan K Leonard  
December 2: Frank K Grunert  
James R Tourtillotte  
James S Archer  
Nathan McNickle  
December 3: Don R Glaser  
Scott P West  
Robert W Baker  
December 4: Darrin M Merritt  
Ronald A Sykes  
December 5: George R Banning Jr  
Darrell W LaMastus  
December 6: Keith E Deaton  
Jerry Logan  
Todd A Fletcher  
December 7: Brian E Krumm  
December 9: Eugene L Johnson  
Tom Anderson  
Monte W Judd  
December 10: Dick A Kynett  
Barry B Newmann  
December 11: Duane M Meier  
December 12: James D Stewart P.P.  
Robert G Proctor  
Eric D Leslie  
Thomas J Newton

December 13: Jesse D Johnson  
December 14: George J Maestretti  
December 15: Wm E Hennessey  
David R Tellesen  
December 16: Doug Fulton  
December 17: Jennell E Branson  
William D Lemaster  
December 18: Clark Mankin  
Roger B Nelson Jr, P.P.  
December 19: William Breakey  
December 20: John H Beach II  
Richard E Cummings  
December 21: Bobby G Gilbert  
December 21: Charles E Groom  
Dee Jay Askey  
Alan K McFarling  
December 22: Jerry O Carlson  
Bradley A Sweet  
December 23: David J Mangis  
Timothy D Dalby  
December 24: Max R Fairchild  
David M Wetmore  
December 25: Matthew W Daley  
Jeffrey R Galpin  
December 27: David L Hutchinson  
December 28: Randy H Kromm  
Michael A Castelan  
Phineas Haglin



December 29: Herbert G Valley  
Jonas E Parshall  
December 30: Dainon S Setzer  
Kenneth H Brueggeman  
December 31: Richard Meyer

### EL KATIF SHRINE

### EASTERN WASHINGTON TEMPLE FOR THE SHRINERS

#### DIVAN

Michael Castelan . . . . . Potentate  
Chris Wirts . . . . . Chief Rabban  
Erik Haynes . . . . . Assistant Rabban  
Shawn Biggs . . . . . High Priest & Prophet  
Ron Cockle . . . . . Oriental Guide  
Justin Hughes, PP . . . . . Treasurer  
John Robertson, PP . . . . . Recorder  
Stacy Roark . . . . . 1st Ceremonial Master  
Jeremy Thomas . . . . . 2nd Ceremonial Master  
Don Lane . . . . . Ceremonial Director  
John Patterson IV . . . . . Marshal  
Barry "Bubba" Baker . . . . . Captain of the Guard  
Cory Starr . . . . . Outer Guard  
Andrew Hasler . . . . . Chaplain

#### SHRINE UNIT REPORTERS

Ryan Leonard . . . . . Actors  
Reporter TBD . . . . . Animals  
Ken Massender . . . . . Chanters  
Reporter TBD . . . . . Klowns  
Kim Berg . . . . . Directors Staff  
Bob Valentine . . . . . Greeters  
John Robertson PP . . . . . Mobile Unit  
Von Chimienti PP . . . . . Oriental Band  
Ken Massender . . . . . Provost Guard

#### INTERNATIONAL

#### SHRINE CLUB REPORTERS

Dave Campanella, P.P. . . . . 1st Responders  
Jerry Schieche, PP. . . . . 1899 Club  
Doug Warnock . . . . . Blue Mountain  
Richard Redick . . . . . Columbia Basin  
Billy Eberly . . . . . Legion of Honor  
Reporter TBD . . . . . Columbia Basin LOH  
Jamie Bockstruck . . . . . Moonshriners  
Darren Butler . . . . . Northeast Washington  
Ed Booker . . . . . Okanogan County  
Jim Kirkpatrick . . . . . Pomeroy  
Reporter TBD . . . . . Shurtah Club  
John Robertson, PP . . . . . South Spokane  
Jeff Pietila . . . . . Whitman County  
Gary Newton . . . . . Sportsman's Club  
Stephen Sykora . . . . . TAPS Club  
Jamie Bockstruck . . . . . Giggles & Smiles

#### THE WORD STAFF

John Robertson, PP . . . . . Managing Editor  
Holly Cockle & McKenna Benson...Design and Layout

### SHRINERS CHILDREN'S SPOKANE

911 W. 5th Ave.  
P.O. Box 2472  
Spokane, WA 99204  
**(509) 455-7844**

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# THE WORD

of El Katif Shriners

Show your support for **The Word** by joining our list of **Very Important Publication Supporters** with your annual donation of just \$25 (*larger amounts gratefully accepted*).  
*See your name in every issue!*

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO EL KATIF AND  
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(*Very Important Publication Supporters!*)

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Delby Rodgers  
Charles & Lady Cathy Hix  
Ernie Roberson

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Mike & Lady Bonnie Boggs  
Tom Carter, Jr.  
David Easley & Lady Donna Vance  
Lady Luanne Gehrig  
Ill Sir Jim Stewart & Lady Michele  
Ill Sir Andy Anderson  
Don & Lady Barbie Barton  
Ill Sir Ben Kruse & Lady Colleen  
Don & Lady Pat Richard  
Lady Lorna Schieche  
Ill Sir Jerry Schieche & Lady Patty  
David & Lady Leslie Swannack  
Herb & Lady Diana Postlewait  
Landry & Lady Candace Smallfoot  
Ill Sir John Robertson & Lady Bridget

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Ken & Lady June Lee	Henry Etue, Jr
Job's Daughters Bethel No. 3	Lady Donna Fisher
Dan & Lady Debbie Morse	Lady Josie Patten
Bob & Lady Barbara Valentine	Jim W. Babb

**SHRINEDOM PROVIDES  
FOR A RICHER, FULLER  
and HAPPIER LIFE!**

**NORTH HILL LODGE NO. 210**

COME VISIT OUR LODGE, RUSTY NAILS WELCOME

*Ritual Meetings the 2nd Friday at 7:30pm*  
*Casual Fraternal Gatherings the 4th Friday at 7pm*  
*We meet at the Spokane Masonic Center*  
**506 W 2nd Ave**

CONTACT ERIC THOMPSON | (509) 714-6169  
PROSPEC IS WELCOME ON THE 4TH FRIDAY

## **HAS YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGED?**

**We are getting ready to publish the New El Katif Roster!**

**We have had several bounced emails, wrong phone numbers, return mail.**

**Please check WebFz or Current Roster to verify if you info is correct!**



**Have any updates?**

**Email:**

**[Officeadmin@elkatif.org](mailto:Officeadmin@elkatif.org)**

**Call:**

**509-624-2762**

**Thank You!**

EL KATIF PRESENTS  
A SPECIAL THEATRICAL SHOW OF

*It's a Wonderful Life* Abridged

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

TIME: 4:00PM

EL KATIF SHRINE CENTER

\$35 / person  
(1 drink ticket  
included)

Meal: Turkey, Ham, Mashed  
Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing,  
Salad, Roll & Dessert

Festive  
Holiday Attire

Hotel accommodation available

Shriner  
Annual Awards

\*\*No need to bring a  
White Elephant gift\*\*

Nobles & Ladies please invite your  
friends and family!

Free Parking & Free childcare provided

RSVP by November 28th

[officeadmin@elkatif.org](mailto:officeadmin@elkatif.org) | 509-624-2762



# EL KATIF CLUB & UNIT REPORTS

Welcome to all, and thank you for your support here! Have an article to submit? Email your article to OfficeAdmin@elkatif.org no later than the 10th of every month!

## Actors

**Ryan Leonard - Reporter**

Greetings Nobles!

I hope this message finds you doing well. It's hard to believe, but as I write this we're already halfway through November, the Fall Ceremonial was a success, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far behind where has the year gone.

For the November edition of The Word, I posed the following trivia question. *A portion of Sprague Ave in downtown Spokane was recently renamed (a ceremonial renaming only) after a certain actor who got his start here in Spokane. Who is that Actor?*

**The answer is....** Bing Crosby.

And now, December's trivia question. *In the 1994 film "The Santa Clause," how did Scott Calvin (played by Tim Allen) end up becoming Santa Claus?* The answer will be revealed in January.

As I write this, the Actors prepared for the Hot Sands Ceremonial on Saturday, November 15. I want to take this opportunity to thank **Nobles Shawn Biggs, Rob Proctor, Merle Iverson, Karl Hill, Paul Allen and Illustrious Sirs Dale Hearn, John Robertson and Jon Lind** for their participation. Without your help, these Hot Sands Ceremonials could never happen. If I have forgotten anyone, please accept my humble apologies.

To the new Nobles initiated in the Hot Sands congratulations and welcome to El Katif! To all of our new Nobles, just a little reminder. Somewhere along your Masonic journey, you have undoubtedly heard that you will get out of Masonry what you put into Masonry. The same holds true for the Shrine, so I encourage you to check out the different Clubs and Units that the Shrine has to offer and then get involved in the fun! I will admit some bias, though, when I say the Actors, Unit is the best.

To all of our new Nobles, you might be wondering what the difference is between the Hot Sands ceremonial and the Cold Sands ceremonial? In the Cold Sands, you are initiated by an average of four Nobles in jacket and tie. In the Hot Sands, you are initiated by several Nobles in full costume and performing on an elaborate stage. Even if you were initiated during a Cold Sands, you are highly encouraged to attend the Hot Sands.

Finally, the Actors are always looking to add to their ranks (a subtle hint for you new Nobles). If you enjoy dressing up in costume and performing on stage, or if you enjoy working with stage lighting as well as set up and take down, then we want

to hear from you! Please contact our **president, Illustrious Sir John Robertson, at (509) 590-5441** or via email at **jbrobertson8@gmail.com**.

That is it for now, Nobles! I look forward to seeing all of you at the November stated meeting.

Fraternally, **Ryan Leonard**

## 1899 Club

**Jerry Schieche, PP - Reporter**

Hard to believe that December is almost here and we are starting to plan for Winter. It has been a great year for El Katif and we are beginning to think about new leadership. **Illustrious Sir Michael and Lady Jana** have truly put El Katif as their priority for 2025 and more. They have accomplished things that will live with El Katif forever and we truly thank them for all of their efforts.

We want to welcome all the New Nobles that were created during the year and at the Fall Ceremonial. I have some good advice for all of you. **Read the Word.** There is a lot of great information in it and the only way you can know what is going on is to read. Ask questions whenever you need to. All of the Shriners and the office staff are here for you and look forward to answering questions. Do not be embarrassed to ask. The only dumb question is the one you already know the answer to. Lastly, get involved as soon as possible and if you do, you will get more out of this great organization. Start out by attending the Stated Meeting on December 3 which is closely followed by the Shrine Christmas Party on December 6. I can assure you that the Christmas Party will be a great time. We want you to show up and enjoy the fun and fellowship that is always part of any Shrine Activity. **Noble Ron Cockle and Lady Marcy** have spent numerous hours working on this event along with **Illustrious Sir Kim Berg and Lady Jill**. Having said that, we all know it will be something special to experience.

December is always a wonderful time for family with Christmas and everything that comes along with it. For the New Shriners, you now have a much larger family to enjoy. It is so special to get together with people that love what they do and care so much about others. We can only hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season and spend a little time thinking about those that are not as fortunate as we are. Think about the kids that we are helping in our Hospital and also the devoted people that work so hard to make everything perfect inside the walls of our facility. We sincerely wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope to see you at many of the Shrine events in the future.

**-Jerry Schieche, PP**



# Honor and Fellowship



**Receipts of 2025 Quilts of Valor;  
Nobles,  
Bruce E. Keyser, Sr.,  
Thomas D Upchurch,  
Ken Massender**





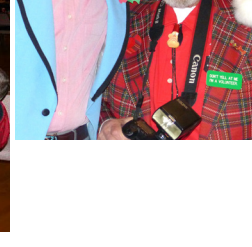
**Museum Committee**  
***The Museum Curators - Reporters***

The year has come and it's almost gone. The museum has had a lot of donations; some are on display ready for your viewing.

We thank you for all of your support, donations, help with history and more.

We want to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Joyous New Year.

**Ill Sir. Jim Stewart and Lady Michele, PP**  
**Lady Diana Postlewait**





**Fraternal Relations**  
**Ryan Leonard - Reporter**

Greetings Nobles!

I hope this note finds you well. It's hard to believe that as I write this, we are halfway through November, the Fall Ceremonial has passed, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are not far behind.

On the youth group front, **Noble Doug Schroeder** reports that **Job's Daughters Bethel 44** Installation of Officers will take place on Saturday, December 20 at 2 PM at Concordia Lodge, located at 3219 N Argonne Rd in Millwood.

**Empire Chapter DeMolay** wishes each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Rainbow Girls Lilac Assembly** will be wrapping Christmas presents again this year at NorthTown Mall.

Come and visit our youth groups. They love to have Masons on the sidelines!

**Audubon Park Youth meetings:** 2821 W Northwest Blvd.

- **Empire Chapter DeMolay** 2nd (business night) and 4th (family fun night) Tuesday at 7PM.
- **Rainbow** 1st and 3rd Monday at 7PM.

**Concordia Lodge youth meeting:**

- **Job's Daughters Bethel 44** meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7PM. located at 3219 N Argonne Rd in Millwood.

That's all for now, Nobles! I look forward to seeing you soon!

Faternally, **Ryan Leonard**

**Columbia Basin Shrine Club**  
**Richard Redick - Reporter**

Nobles and Ladies, Columbia Basin Shrine Club has its annual fund-raising raffle coming to a close. We will sell tickets up to some point the week of December 5th. **There are 2 prizes:** Cash drawings of \$500 and \$1000. Tickets are priced at \$50 for a book of 10 tickets. You do not have to be present on December 5th to win. This is how CBSC stays afloat, and keeps the lights on. Contact a member of the Club, NOW, to purchase your tickets.

**Calendar:**

- **December 5, 2025** – Our final club activity for 2025: Club dinner, Annual Installation of Officers, Club Raffle & Basket Auction.

The **Rainbow Girls** will be providing dinner. The main course will be ham. Since it is Rainbow Girls, you know that the rest of the meal accompanying the ham will be GREAT. Unfortunately, Elvis cannot make it this year, but we will still have holiday fun without him. We will have great food, great reports, lots of fun, and we will have great fellowship as we wish each other well in the holiday season!

- **Noble Richard Redick**, Reporter

**Mobile Unit**  
**John Robertson, PP - Reporter**

We hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that the Christmas season brings you great happiness with family and friends.

We say 'Thank you to **Ill Sir Michael and Lady Jana** for all their hard work this past year. We enjoyed being out at the parades and many of the other functions having fun and celebrating being Shrine-Masons with them. We hope you enjoy a little rest and now you get to relax.

We had our election of officers, and it is great to have our newly elected **President DeeJay** back with us and giving us the inspiration to get the 1960 Red Cadillac and Red Fez back out on the road to more parades. We all look forward to what next year's parade season and schedule will look like. If you are looking for fun and exciting road trips this is a great Unit to belong to. It is always great to see the Red Fez on the road at parades and when you are participating in these parades, we hear the great responses from the crowds reminding us of why we became Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The Mobileers are usually around behind the scene working to help improve our Temple and making sure the rest of us have refreshments at our meetings. If you see **Nobles Ken Massender or Doug Baker** at a meeting, make sure to say "Thank you" for all they do. If you get a chance, please make sure to send a message to **Noble Jim Heebink** as he is the one that comes in early and sets up the refreshments and then comes back after the meeting and puts everything back. Remember- it is the small things that make a difference. Being involved is the best way to help make the Fraternity stronger. Giving a ride to a fellow Noble who can't drive, Calling and saying "Hello- I haven't seen you in a while, are you doing ok." "Can I help you with anything?" Together we are much stronger as a family and it makes you proud to know someone is thinking of you. Keep up the tradition of making lives better around us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**John Robertson PP** – Reporting on behalf of the Mobileers

**Chaplain Corner**  
**Andrew Hasler - Reporter**

The Gospel of Mary says, "Where the mind is, there is the treasure" -Mary 8:10.

It is written that gratitude works exactly that way. When our attention settles on the small, good things in our lives and in our Shrine family, the heart follows. The treasure reveals itself.

May your mind rest on what is good, and may your treasure be peace.  
Amen



# December Stated Meeting

## Wednesday, December 3rd

*Must be  
present to  
vote!*

**Nobles Only**

**Social- 5:00 pm  
Meeting- 7:00 pm**

Reach out to a  
fellow noble if  
you need a ride!

**Cost \$25**

**Meal: Italian Pasta Bar and Caesar salad**

**The election of Officers & Voting**

**Please call to RSVP (509)624-2762**



### NOTES FROM OUR CHIEF RABBAN

*-Chris Wirts*

Nobles, as we are preparing to begin the month of December, I hope you have had an opportunity to visit the office and review the proposed budgets for 2026. Historically, we have had two budgets – one for our beloved fraternity and the other for Shrine Park Association (aka. Sans Souci West) mobile home park. This year we have added a budget for our very successful Event Center. Over the last several years, our Event Center staff has really raised the bar, bringing in many public events that not only generate revenue, but increase our exposure to the public. Your Divan felt it was now time to have a standalone budget for the Event Center to further understand its associated costs and assess its profitability as this portion of our business continues to grow. I greatly appreciate the time and effort the entire Divan put into developing the proposed 2026 budget.

Nobles and Ladies, all good things start with a plan. After elections conclude at the December meeting, save the date information for 2026 will be available for you to take away and put on your calendars. A few near-term items I would like to draw your attention to.

- The first is the **installation of officers on Wednesday, 07 January at 6PM**. Installation will be a public event so bring your Lady's, kids and any guests who might be interested in seeing what the Shrine is all about. The installation will be officiated by our very own **MWGM Roger B. Nelson Jr. P.P.** and **Illustrious Sir Jerry W. Schieche P.P.** following the installation of officers, my **Lady Peggy** and I will be providing food and dessert, so please join us if you can.
- The second is our cocktail styled **birthday party on Saturday, 07 February at 5:30PM** at the Event Center. We will kick off the year with a Patriotic Celebration of the Semi quincentennial, or 250th anniversary of the birth of our great Nation on July 4th, 1776. Period costumes are encouraged to show our Patriotism. More details will follow on the official invitation.

**Peggy and I** wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Chris Wirts, Chief Rabban

"Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude." - **Denis Waitley**

**South Spokane Shrine Club**  
**John Robertson, PP - Reporter**

Here we are with December upon us. Thanksgiving is but a glimpse in the rearview mirror. We hope everyone had a moment at Thanksgiving to reflect upon what they were "Grateful" for. We hope that the Christmas Spirit is alive and well with you and guides you through a season filled with laughter and happiness.

We would like to say Thank you to our **President George and his Lady Chris** for leading us this past year. We hope they enjoy the next chapter in their journey. We also, say Thank you to **Ill Sir Michael and Lady Jana** for attending a majority of our meetings. You are always welcome, and we hope you continue to attend. Thank you for your efforts in putting together a great fundraiser in the "Silent Messenger" statue. We still have work to do in getting it placed for the public to see it outside when they drive down the freeway or pull into our parking lot, but what a great job you have done. The Silent Messenger statue helps confirm that we as Nobles of the Mystic Shrine are here to stay and we are as strong as ever. Everyone that has helped and those that continue to help with the fundraising have a lot to be proud of. It sure feels good to be a Shrine Mason.

We had our election of officers at our November meeting. We look forward to their leadership and guidance next year. This year we will be skipping our December meeting as there was a conflict with the location where we generally have our meetings. It is strongly suggested that we celebrate our Christmas meeting at the El Katif Christmas Party on December 6th at the Event Center. What better way to have fun earlier in the month and together with all of the Nobels of El Katif, their Lady's and families. This also gives us one extra day just before Christmas to get the last holiday shopping done.

This next year we will be celebrating our 75th year as partners with the Spokane Interstate Fair. El Katif has been partners from the day they moved to the current fairgrounds location. We will be working on some plans to update a little more in the booth and we will continue to have fun making cotton candy and laughing with each other as we raise funds for the Club and so that we can donate to the hospital. We hope that you will all join us in being Shrine Masons participating in the 2026 Interstate Fair. This is a time of year that we need to reflect upon what we are grateful for. Our health, family, friends, co-workers and the opportunities we have in making lives better for others. May you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**John Robertson PP**—Reporting

**Greeters**

**Bob Valentine, - Reporter**

**GREETERS** -- Our November 6th Meeting was well attended by **Lind, Babb, Schroeder, Neil, Cooper, Swannack, Stewart, Morgensen, Allen, Eberly, Tourtillotte, and Valentine**. The Meeting was conducted by **Jim Tourtillotte** filling in for **Ken Massender**. We are down three Greeters this year due to the passing of three of our members: **Don Richard, Chris Petersen, and Herb Postlewait**.

All present agreed that **Bob Valentine** should fill the vacancy of shift manager / scheduler, with the passing of **Don Richard**. **Illus. Sir Jim Stewart, PP** gave the Treasurer's Report and then he delivered the NEW GREETER'S neckties and ALL were stunned by the CREATIVE BEAUTY. The Design Artwork was provided by **Diana Postlewait** using creations from the Spokane Hospital patient's Artwork. Greeter **Billy Eberly and his Lady Judi** paid for the ties for ALL the Greeters, that were dedicated to **Herb Postlewait**. The Greeters Ties will be available to ALL other Nobles to purchase, the price is \$25 each, quite a reasonable cost.

Greeters not present at the meeting -- Please contact **Illus. Sir Jim Stewart, PP** for your FREE Tie (compliments of the **Eberly's**). **Vice President Tourtillotte** acquainted all present with the Publication, "*Children of the Sun*", which serves as volunteer information about our Shriner's system. **Jim** also told the attendees about another program called "*Caught in the ACT*", which exists so we may give recognition to our follow Employees and Volunteers.

There was a general discussion about water and coffee being available for visitors in the Foyer during their waiting time while attending the Hospital for the Fracture Clinic. The **Vice President, Jim Tourtillotte**, will follow through with the administration to see what can be done to help in this regard.

**Nobles** -- Please keep the Greeters Blanket Project in mind if you want to make any donations to our cause, we would greatly appreciate any cash you can spare!

We hope that all the NEW Candidates that just went through the Ceremonial will consider getting involved with a UNIT or CLUB very soon.

Greeters -- Don't forget to call or text, BOB VALENTINE at (559) 740-6014 or email him at robertvln44@yahoo.com, with your desired date to get on the Greeter DUTY Calendar.

We have had great coverage at the Greeters Station the last couple months. Especially **Phin Haglin**, who put in 6 days in November \*\*\* LET'S KEEP it UP!!  
**WISHING ALL A VERY MERRY Christmas & a happy new year too!**

The next Greeters Meeting is on DECEMBER 4th in the Board Room of the Hospital -- 4th Floor. Why not become a volunteer and join the Greeters, who help all the Staff members at the SHRINERS CHILDREN'S SPOKANE hospital -- It only requires committing to 1 day per month!

**COME JOIN US & HAVE SOME FUN MEETING OUR PATIENTS & PARENTS!**



# Pote's Lady Corner



Nobles and Ladies,

I cannot believe that it is December already. Where did the year go? As we close out another remarkable year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the Nobles and Ladies who have supported us throughout the past year.

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to represent El Katif Shriners this past year. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support have made every moment special and meaningful. I am especially grateful to everyone who supported my project this year, "**The El Katif Silent Messenger Statue.**" Your involvement and encouragement have been instrumental in making this project a success.

Thank you also to those of you who attended our events throughout the year. Your presence and participation brought the temple together and strengthened the bonds that make El Katif Shriners such a wonderful organization.

As we look ahead, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected 2026 leaders of El Katif Shriners. May your leadership bring continued growth, prosperity, and unity to your noble organization.

Thank You for a Memorable Year with El Katif Shriners. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

With Appreciation, **Jana Castelan**, Potentate's Lady of El Katif Shriners



## *First Lady's Project for 2025*

Be a part of this history making project. A Silent Messenger statue, will greet all visitors to the El Katif Shrine Center. Donor names will be on tiles surrounding the statue pedestal.

**See sample below.**

**For the Love of  
Children  
Your Name  
Here**

*El Katif Silent Messenger Tile*

*A Maximum of 4 lines for  
your personalized message*

Tile size 4 X 6

Your personalized tile will be made right here in Spokane and is only \$150 per tile.

A total of \$20,000 is needed to make this project a reality.

**To order your personalized tile,  
Scan our QR Code or  
Visit <http://www.elkatif.org>**





**Chief Rabban Chris Wirts and Lady Peggy**

Invite you to a 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

**For the United States of America**

February 7, 2026

Cocktails at 530PM with food and festivities to follow

A delectable offering of food and treats with a patriotic flair

Adult - \$50.00    Child over 12 - \$20.00

Catering by "The Fresh Plate"

1776 Period costume is suggested or just come as you are

Music by DJ Kevin James 6-12PM

Shrine Event Center

7217 West Westbow Blvd.

Spokane WA 99224

RSVP No Later Than 19 January

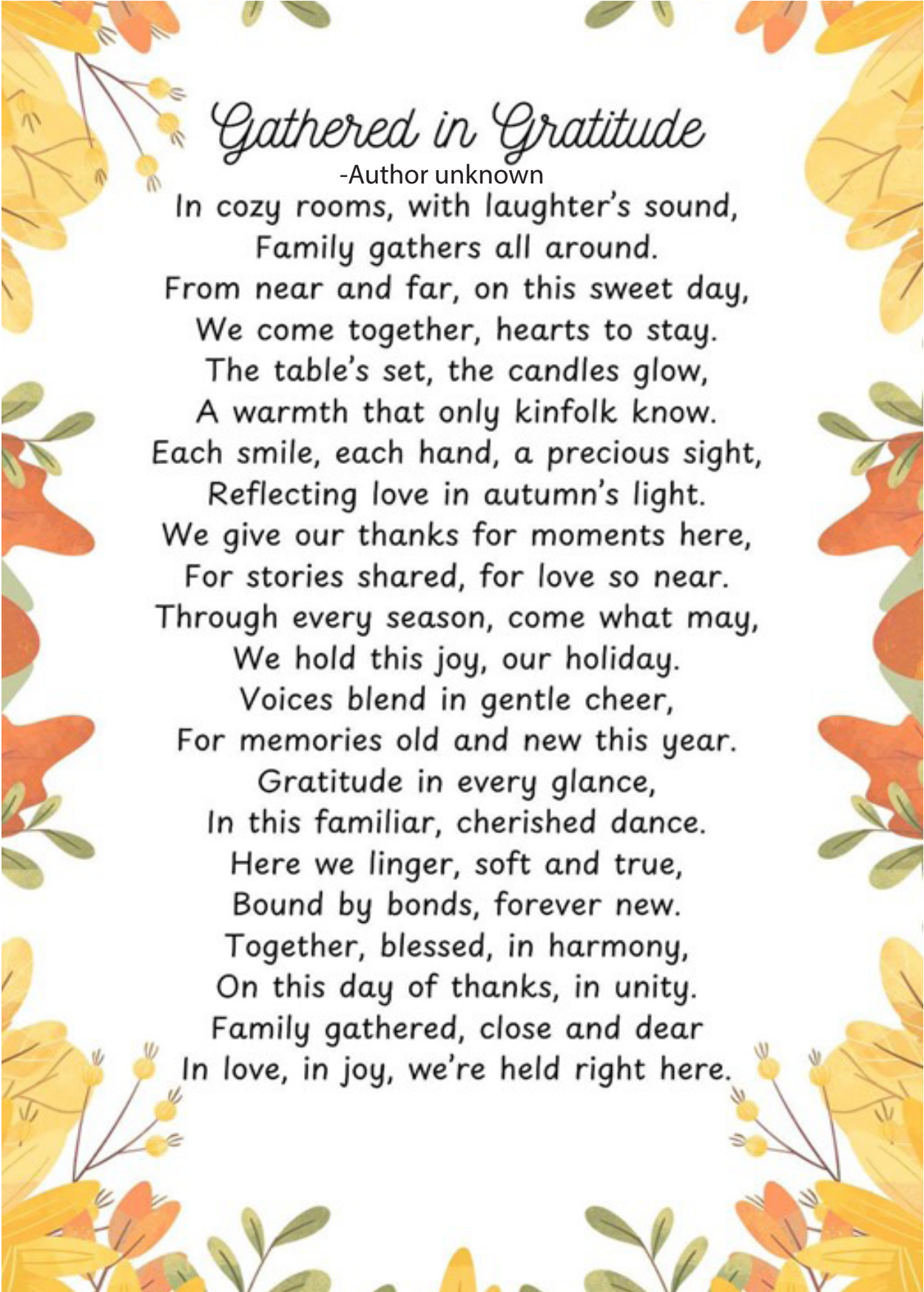
Call the Office 509-624-2762

Just **1** More



A poem about something we might all contemplate while we are in the midst of the holiday season.

I believe it may give us purpose and reason.



## *Gathered in Gratitude*

-Author unknown

In cozy rooms, with laughter's sound,  
Family gathers all around.  
From near and far, on this sweet day,  
We come together, hearts to stay.  
The table's set, the candles glow,  
A warmth that only kinfolk know.  
Each smile, each hand, a precious sight,  
Reflecting love in autumn's light.  
We give our thanks for moments here,  
For stories shared, for love so near.  
Through every season, come what may,  
We hold this joy, our holiday.  
Voices blend in gentle cheer,  
For memories old and new this year.  
Gratitude in every glance,  
In this familiar, cherished dance.  
Here we linger, soft and true,  
Bound by bonds, forever new.  
Together, blessed, in harmony,  
On this day of thanks, in unity.  
Family gathered, close and dear  
In love, in joy, we're held right here.



**El Katif Shriners**  
**7217 W. Westbow Blvd**  
**Spokane WA 99224**

**PERIODICAL  
 POSTAGE  
 PAID**



# December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Divan Meeting Night Rainbow Girls Meeting Manito #246	2 Rosalia #84	3 El Katif Stated Meeting - Elections & Voting Oakesdale #55	4 Greeter meeting Waverly #231 Temple #42	5 CBSC meeting	6 El Katif Christmas Party at 4pm
7	8 LOH & OCSC & Bethel 44 & Job's Daughters meeting	9 WCSC & DeMolay meeting	10 Whitman #49 Audubon Park #272 Spangle #131	11 Concordia #249	12 BMSC & NEWSC meeting North Hill #210	13
14	15 Hospital Board Meeting AM Moonies & Rainbow Girls Meeting Oriental #74	16 Malden #88 Spokane #34	17 Oakesdale #55	18 SSSC meeting Waverly #231	19	20
21	22 Bethel 44 & Job's Daughters meeting	23 DeMolay meeting	24  Christmas Eve	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed	26 North Hill #210	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	Happy New Years		



## Who are the Shriners?

A fraternity built on fun, fellowship, and the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Most importantly, it's a group committed to helping children (and their families) with specialized medical treatments.

Visit  
**BeAShrinerNow.com**  
 and start helping today!



**The El Katif Shrine App** - Please scan and download to stay updated!



**SCAN ME**

**My FezCard Viewer**  
 App - Please scan and download!