



If you know of a child Shriners Hospital might be able to help. Please Call our toll-free patient referral line: 1-800-237-5055



Shriners are an International Fraternity of Masons. There are approximately 170,000 members from 201 Chapters.



We welcomed our new Potentate III Sir Brian Domian and our 2025 Divan at the Open Installation on Sunday January 5th Noble Brian to a brass fanfare of Ruffles and Flourishes and the playing of the Air Force March.

Noble Brian Domian began his journey in Masonry over 40 years ago at Hunsruck Lodge #839 while stationed at Hahn Air Base in Germany. Although that lodge closed when the base did, he continues to maintain membership in the unified German-American Lodge. He has also been a member of Scottish Rite for almost 35 years entering in Dallas, TX. He entered the Shrine at Syria Temple in Pittsburgh, PA almost 25 years ago and transferred to Bahia 20 years ago when he and his family moved back to Oviedo.

At Bahia he has served 2 years as an aide, President of the West Volusia Shrine Club, President of the RV Club, 1st and 2nd CM and several other officer and committee positions.

Noble Brian was born into a USAF family in Massachusetts while his father was stationed there. Brian is retired from the US Government with almost 50 years of Leadership and Management positions both in military and as a civilian. He is most proud of his proven ability to make timely life or death decisions under extreme pressure while flying the F-4 Phantom II. He has been decorated and recognized, both in the military and civilian world, for leadership success during war and peace, internationally and in the US.

Noble Brian has been married to Lady Joy Domian who has accompanied and supported him for almost 46 years through his entire Masonic journey and around the world, including living in Germany and Saudi Arabia.

They have two children; their son proudly serves as a MSgt in the USAF at Patrick AFB and is a Master Mason.



Event & Parade Opportunities				
Day	Date	Parade	Location	Lineup
February				
15	Sat	Mardi-Gras	Sanford	3pm
22	Sat	GeorgeFest	Eustis	9am
March				
1	Sat	St Patrick's Day	Winter Park	7am
17	Mon	St Patrick's Day	Spanish Springs	2pm
29	Sat	Fruitland Park Day	Fruitland Park	9am
April				
5	Sat	Bahia 5k	Apopka	7am
May				
2	Fri	FASMC	Sanford	7am
3	Sat	Make'm Smile	Lake Eola	7am
26	Mon	Memorial Day	Sanford, FL	9am
June				
28	Sat	Imp Competitions	Atlanta, GA	8am
29	Sun	Imperial Parade	Atlanta, GA	5pm

Reserve NOW for your unit to participate

Imperial Session **2025**

Only a 7-hour drive away!

June 28 - July 3, 2025

EVENTS:

- Saturday, June 28th - Unit Competitions
- Sunday, June 29th - Imperial Parade
- Monday, June 30th - Brewfest
- Monday, June 30th - Bahia Dinner at Hard Rock

Hilton Atlanta
255 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA. 30303

Room Cost: \$169 + taxes

Instructions on reserving a room:
Contact Gregg Robinson at 321-217-8705

Scan for reservations

2025 Elected Divan



III Sir Brian Domian



**Bob Leighton
Chief Rabban**



**Greg Robinson
Asst. Rabban**



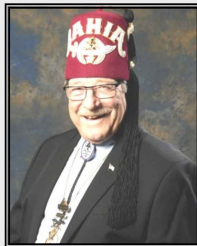
**Ryan Harris
High Priest &
Prophet**



**David Higgins
Oriental
Guide**



**Mike Hindley
Treasurer**



**Bob Feustel
Recorder**

Potentates Message



It is my honor and privilege to have been elected as Potentate for Bahia especially as we begin to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Bahia Shrine. My Lady Joy and I are excited about the coming year and will do our best to make 2025 a successful, productive and fun year, celebrating the last 70 years and beginning to ensure a solid future for Bahia. Reflecting on Bahia's past and the many changes we have gone through, we have all watched our numbers decrease over time despite everyone's best efforts. It is obvious that our future is filled with challenges. Assisted by a great Divan and having some clear goals for the future I sincerely hope that together we can begin the process of once again making Bahia stronger. The goals of Bahia Shriners, as well as Shriners around the world have not changed but the world we live in certainly has. We need to find more ways to attract not only younger Mason's but to be welcoming to young families.

We want to make Bahia a place that is a gathering place for Shriners and their families from across our large Oasis which covers all or parts of six counties to gather and build stronger bonds of friendship and to foster ideas for events that are fun for all and support our fundraising efforts. It's impossible to know what motivated each of us to become involved in Shrinedom but I think it's pretty safe to say that helping our Shrine kids and fellowship was part of the reason for all of us. Although I recognize that Bahia Shrine Center is a long drive for many of us, especially considering the seemingly ever worsening central Florida traffic, it's an important part of being a Shriner that we gather and share ideas for the future. Our system of Shrine Clubs helps to achieve this goal but it would be great if every member of Bahia could make it to the Shrine Center at least a few times a year to meet new members and catchup with old friends. There will be a number of events in the coming year that will hopefully make the trip well worth it.

Highlights of the year include:

February 15th we will host a Humanitarian Valentines Gala where the yearly scholarships and humanitarian award will be announced. An evening of fun with your Valentine.

6th Annual 5K walk/run will be held April 5th . This annual event is Bahia's primary fundraiser for the year and has been extremely successful and fun for all.

The 70th Anniversary Potentates Ball and associated events will be held on the 9th & 10th of May. We are honored to be able to host current Imperial Potentate Richard Burke and Lady Judy as our guests.

The 2025 Imperial Session will be held in Atlanta from the 29th of June to July 3rd . Since this years Imperial Session is so close to home, we hope that many of our units and Nobles will be able to attend making it a tremendous success.

September 13th is the departure of the 70th Anniversary Cruise and Potentate's Getaway. A 6-day cruise sailing from Port Canaveral on Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Details are already available and cabins are filling up fast!

Several years ago the Motorcycle Ride was successfully brought back. This year the date will be October 12th and promises to be a fantastic day.

There will lots more details of the events above and many others throughout the year. There are also many events which occur on a regular basis. For example, Burgers and Brats are available every Saturday

at the Red Fez and it's a great time to just relax. Speaking of the Red Fez, every Friday this year there will be a drink special (including a free keg of beer once a month) and some kind of food available.

Additionally, there will be some kind of activity available either sponsored by Bahia, a club, unit, BSC or vendor.

Lady Joy and I hope to get to know each of you better in the coming year and hope that we can all work together in some way to keep Bahia strong, productive and fun all with the goal of helping children and Shriner's Children's.

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Bahia Shriners Game Day Party February 9th 6pm

3101 East Semoran Blvd Apopka FL 32703



\$30

ALL YOU CAN EAT
CHICKEN WINGS/FRIES
 BONELESS AND TRADITIONAL
KEG OF BEER



Ticket Price includes sales tax
All sales are for the benefit of Bahia Tin Lize Unit
and are not tax deductible

<https://square.link/u/eLJBbMg3>

SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL, BAHIA SHRINERS ARE DULY REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA AS REQUIRED BY ITS SOLITITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. THEIR REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH 962. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR (850) 410-3800) OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.





Ill Sir Mark Charlton presented Noble Alan Harvey the 2024 Bahia Shriener of the Year Award at the January Stated Meeting.

His Lady also received a matching reward at the Lady's meeting in the Red Fez presented by Lady Dawn.

Congratulate them both when you see them!

From the Editor

By Ill Sir Jim Gillespie, PP



Hello my Fellow Nobles all!

Ill Sir Brian Domian has asked that we bring back a newsletter/newspaper that can be mailed to the nobility and our supporters in the community.

Many of you remember that I used to be the editor and publisher the "Caravan" which was published 10 times a year in a 48 page format, and once a year as a summer bulletin.

The current plans are to publish at least bi-monthly in 2025, and it will be named the "Bahia Camel Flyer" to distinguish it from the old "monthly "Caravan".

We will print @ 1200 copies to start and will make it available online as a .pdf document. If you want to opt out of the mailed copy, we will setup an opt out process, but consider giving your copy to a prospective member or sponsor!

Below this article are the Ad rates for the Camel Flyer. I encourage you to ask those businesses you patronize to place an ad in the Camel Flyer. **We need Ads!** The Nobility can be the strongest sales force ever. All we need to do is one thing, **ASK!**

One last thing. To make your life easier to recruit New Shriners, we have placed a petition for Membership in the Camel Flyer. You will find it on Page

2025 CAMEL FLYER AD RATES!

You can advertise your Business, Unit, and Club Fundraisers, Parties and Special Events in the Camel Flyer

Inside Cover (In Color) \$1,000 per issue or \$5,600 per year.

Back Cover (1/2 pg Color) \$500 per issue or \$2800 per year.

Full Page (B&W) - \$400 per issue or \$2,400 per year.

Half Page (B&W) - \$200 per issue or \$1,200 per year

Third Page (B&W) - \$150 per issue or \$900 per year

Quarter Page (B&W) - \$100 per issue or \$600 per year

Business Card (B&W) - \$50 per issue or \$300 per year

Shrine Unit, Clubs, and Masonic Appendant Bodies are offered a 20% Discount on above Prices for Fraternal and Charitable Fundraising Events

We need a minimum of 3 pages of color ads to start printing in color and have. Color Ads will be on the Inside Covers and on the back cover area not used for the mailing address

For more information contact:
 Jim Gillespie 407-579-0213
 Email Ads or changes to
 admijim@gmail.com

6TH ANNUAL

BAHIA SHRINERS

5K Camel Run



EVENTS

- ★ 5K
- ★ One Mile
- ★ Challenge
- ★ Fun Race
- ★ Virtual

Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall and age groups!!



5K Entry Fee:
\$35 per person
 (includes official medal and t-shirt)

Packet Pick-up Days/Times:
 Friday, April 4 @ 3-5pm
 or
 Saturday, April 5 @ 7-8am

Northwest Recreational Complex
 3170 Jason Dweley Pkwy Apopka, FL. 32712

Scan for more info and Registration:



A copy of the official registration and financial information for Bahia Shriners (12-952) may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (415-7352) within state or (407) 410-3810 outside of Florida. Registration cannot begin until endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. All proceeds from this event are for the benefit of Bahia Shriners. Members are not tax deductible charitable contributors.

Drum & Bugle Corps Good Friday



5 pm – 7pm
Bahia Dining Room
 English Style Fish, and Chips!
\$15 at the door
 Tax included.

CAMEL FLYER (USPS 040-160) is published bi-monthly by Bahia Shriners: 3101 E. Semoran Blvd, Apopka, FL 32703. Periodical postage paid at Orlando, FL. Each member of Bahia Shrine is mailed a copy of this publication as part of his membership dues. Subscription price is \$10 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Camel Flyer Editor.

Meet our newly Elected Chief Rabban Noble Bob Leighton

Born on December 4, 1956 in Lewiston Maine.

Graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn, Maine in 1975 and Washington County Technical College in Calais, Maine in 1977 with an Electrical Degree.



In 1977, went to work for the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, as an Electrician on the Frigate class ships that were being built for the United States Navy. I Later worked on the Cruiser Class and Destroyer Class ships and just before retiring worked as controls engineer on the USS Zumwalt a prototype Destroyer for the United States Navy.

I retired from Bath Iron Works in August 2016 after 39 years of service. I now reside in Summerfield, Fl. I presently own RML properties LLC with investment properties in Maine and Florida. I started investing in apartment buildings at the age 18 years.

I served on the Lewiston/Auburn landlord association board of Directors for 6 years. When I joined the board, they had 75 members and when I stepped down from the board there were over 600 members.

Raised as a Master Mason in Tranquil No.29 in 1989. Member of York Rite, was commander of Lewiston Commandery No.6 for 2 years and a member of Scottish Rite

Immediately after becoming a Shriner, I joined the Cycle Corps and was a member for 18 years and the last 7 years as the Director, from 2000 to 2006. I joined the Second Section in 2007

1999 was President of the Androscoggin Shrine Club.
1999 worked on the Northeast Shrine Association for the Potentate.

Coordinator for the Champion Bass Masters over 5 years, which raised over \$200,000.00, for the hospitals and transportation fund for Kora Shriners.
2008-2014 I Served on the Circus committee.

I was a DeMolay Dad and for over 10 years, President of the Kora DeMolay Council for Kora Temple. The main function was to raise money to support all DeMolay Chapter's in Maine and in 2014 I was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor award.

I worked on the Kora family fun day committee for several years.

I joined Bahia Shrine in 2019. I was approached to be on the Leadership team in 2020, Chief Aide in 2021, member of the Bingo Committee, member of the Motorcycle Unit and Chairman of the Membership committee for Bahia. I will be President of the Villages Shrine Club 2024

Bahia Shriner of the Month for the month of February 2021 and Shriner of the year for the Villages Shrine Club 2021

For 7 years, my wife Claire and I have attended the PGA Shrine Golf Tournament in Las Vegas as a Shrine Volunteer.

In 1979 I married my wife Claire where we built their home in Minot, Maine and raised 2 wonderful children a daughter Heather who resides in Dyer Brook, Maine with her husband Jonathan. Heather is a middle school math teacher in Aroostook County, Maine. Jonathan is a Shriner of Anah Temple in Bangor, Maine. A son Robie who resides in Jacksonville, Florida with his wife Jessica. Robie is a Shriner here at Bahia. Robie works for Transocean as a 1st class engineer on a drilling ship presently in the Gulf of Mexico and was the first Shriner to play in the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Football Classic in 2005.

We have two wonderful Grandchildren, Leigha and Parker Swallow

Meet our newly Elected Assistant Rabban Noble Greg Robinson

I was born in Port Barrel, Alaska, and my father served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, allowing me to travel widely during my childhood. This diverse upbringing instilled in me a strong sense of discipline and adaptability.

I later enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and proudly served during Operation Desert Storm, gaining valuable lessons in teamwork and resilience. After my military service, I attended the University of Memphis, where I played college football until an injury ended my athletic career.

With over 25 years of experience in maintenance, I have developed a deep understanding of the industry, and the dedication required to succeed. In 2015, I became involved in Masonry, achieving the rank of Master Mason in 2017 and serving as Junior Steward for a year.

In 2018, I was sworn in as a Shriner. I am an active member of Tin Lizzie's, Director Staff, and the Crash Team. I have also held leadership positions as President and Vice President of the Tin Lizzie's Unit. My journey reflects a commitment to service, leadership, and personal growth.



Meet our newly Elected Oriental Guide Noble David Higgins

Noble David Higgins began his Masonic journey with Orange Lodge #36 in Apopka and was raised to the MM degree in 2015. David served as an officer in many positions, which included Worshipful Master in 2020, and Secretary in 2022. David has received all qualifications set forth by the Florida Masonic Digest such as ME/MLT, and was awarded Mason of the Year in 2018. Noble David has since joined the Scottish Rite of the Orlando Valley (32°) and is a member of the Knights of St Andrews.

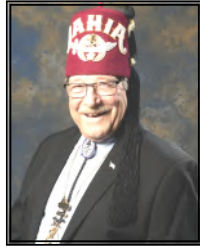
At Bahia he served as an executive aid, second and first ceremonial master, and is currently the secretary for the Director's Staff. David was elected to serve as Oriental Guide for the year 2025.

Noble David grew up in Northeast Ohio, where he began working simultaneously in factories and IT companies, before ultimately committing to the IT field. David also received a Master's Degree in Information Systems, a Graduate in Cyber Security, multiple awards and achievements, and was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success.



**Meet our newly
Elected
Recorder**

**Noble
Bob Feustel**



Noble Bob Feustel was born in Chicago IL. He attended St Patrick's HS, graduating and then gained BSBA Degrees at Lewis University in Business Mgmt., Marketing, and a Minor in Music. He later studied Solar Engineering at Red Rocks Community College in Golden, Colorado.

After graduation, Noble Bob worked in the Chicago area for Frigidaire GM . and then moved to Colorado where he developed his career in the interior home design profession for over 35 years, specializing in Kitchen and Bath design, Marketing and Sales.

He is married to his wife Lady Gail, who gives him inspiration and support. They have a blended family with 7 children, 9 grandchildren, and 2 Great grandchildren.

Community Involvement

Denver Business Owner, Colorado Kitchen Distributors, Served as Distinguished President in Kiwanis Club of Arvada. During his 23 yrs in the club, he spent many hours in community service, providing over 500 Food Bank boxes monthly in the Denver suburban area 30 Yr Music/Choir Director at Spirit Of Christ Catholic Community in Arvada Has 2 sons that served honorably in the US MARINE CORP

Masonic History

Raised to Master Mason at Garden Lodge #366 in Palm Beach Gardens, FL in 2008 by my son, Noble John Feustel. Served as Worshipful Master for 2 yrs 2012 and 2013.

32nd Degree, Scottish Rite. Noble Bob entered Amara Shrine Palm Beach Gardens, in 2009. Served as a Hospital Driver for 5 Yrs.

He served as Recorder fall of 2013 thru summer of 2016; transferred to Bahia in July of 2016 when he and his wife, Lady Gail, moved to Tavares, FL.

He became a member of Lake County Shrine Club in 2016.

Seeing a growth opportunity for the club, to have more exposure to the community, Bob resurrected the Bar area, which was being used as a storage space. Bob served twice as President in 2020 and 2021

Bob is currently a member of the Police Unit, The Bingo Committee, and the Mariners.

Noble Bob served as Commodore of the International Shrine Yacht Club Association 2014-2015, after being Commodore of the Amara Mariners 2012; served as Commodore of the Florida State Mariners Association 2017-18, an was Lake County Shrine Mariners Commodore in 2022.

Noble Bob has recently been elected to the Recorder position of Bahia for 2025.

It is my honor to serve in this position to which I feel is the heart beat of Bahia Shriners.

**BAHIA SHRINERS
OFFICE**

All Mail Must be Addressed To:
Bahia Shrine Center
3101 East Semoran
Apopka, FL 32703

Office Hours Are:
8:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Tuesday thru Friday, Except:

- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving & Friday
- Christmas
- New Year's Day

Office Telephone
407-660-8811
Office Fax
407-660-9028
Red Fez Lounge
407-660-8822

Camel Flyer E-Mail
admijim@gmail.com

Bahia Web Site
www.bahiaashriners.org

Stated Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month except July & August unless otherwise announced in advance.



Feb-25		
1	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
2	Sun	Cabiri Meeting 1 pm
3	Mon	Directors Staff 6 pm
3	Mon	Keystone Kops 8 pm
6	Thu	Cabiri Meeting 6 pm
6	Thu	Stated Meeting 7:30 pm
8	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
8	Sat	Osceola Shrine Club 8 am
9	Sun	Super Bowl Party in the Fez 6 pm
10	Mon	West Volusia Shrine Club 5:30 pm
11	Tue	The Villages Shrine Club 5:30 pm
12	Wed	Bahia Drum Corps 6:30 pm
12	Wed	Lake Co Shrine Club 6:30 pm
12	Wed	Cigar Club 7 pm
12	Wed	Tin Lizzie & Roadrunner 8 pm
14	Fri	Golf Unit
15	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
15	Sat	RV Club 10:30 am
16	Sun	Lake Co SC Breakfast 8 am
18	Tue	Greater Daytona SC 5:30
19	Wed	Crash Team 7 pm
20	Thu	Motorcycle Unit 6 pm
21	Fri	Legion of Honor 4 pm
21	Fri	Jazz Band Jamb in the Fez 6 pm
22	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
22	Sat	Past Masters 8 am
24	Mon	Yacht Club 6 pm
26	Wed	Drum Corps 6:30 pm
27	Thu	Ritual Unit 7 pm
27	Thu	Widows Club 11:30 am
27	Thu	Yellow Jackets 5 pm
28	Fri	Fun Friday in the Fez 6 pm
Mar-25		
1	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
3	Mon	Directors Staff 6 pm
3	Mon	Keystone Kops 8 pm
4	Tues	Trustees Meeting
4	Tues	Divan Meeting
6	Thu	Cabiri Meeting 6 pm
6	Thu	Stated Meeting & 5k Planning 7:30 pm
8	Sat	Winter Park St Pats Parade 8 am
8	Sat	Osceola Shrine Club 8 am
8	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
10	Mon	West Volusia Shrine Club 5:30 pm
11	Tue	The Villages Shrine Club 5:30 pm
12	Wed	Amateur Radion 6:30 pm
12	Wed	Bahia Drum Corps 6:30 pm
12	Wed	Lake Co Shrine Club 6:30 pm
12	Wed	Cigar Club 7 pm
12	Wed	Tin Lizzie & Roadrunner 8 pm
14	Fri	Golf Unit
15	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
15	Sat	RV Club 10:30 am
16	Sun	1st Ladies Tea Noon - 2 pm
18	Tue	Greater Daytona SC 5:30
19	Wed	Crash Team 7 pm
20	Thu	Motorcycle Unit 6 pm
21	Fri	Legion of Honor 4 pm
21	Fri	Jazz Band Jamb in the Fez 6 pm
22	Sat	Past Masters 8 am
22	Sat	Car Club 10:45 am
22	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
23	Sun	Kismet Court Installation 2 pm
24	Mon	Yacht Club 6 pm
26	Wed	Drum Corps 6:30 pm
27	Thu	Widows Club 11:30 am
27	Thu	Yellow Jackets 5 pm
27	Thu	Trustee Meeting 6 pm
27	Thu	Divan Meeting
28	Fri	Fun Friday in the Fez 6 pm
29	Sat	Burgers & Brats 11 am
29	Sat	Morocco Ball - Jacksonville
30	Sun	Athaliah DON Installation 2 pm

**Welcome our
new
High Priest &
Prophet
Noble Ryan
Harris**



Ryan was born and raised in the St. Louis, Missouri area, he is an alumnus of the University of Missouri – St. Louis where he majored in Accounting, Management & Organizational Behavior, and Sociology with minor studies in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Professional Writing. He is a member of the Delta-Zeta Chapter Sigma Pi Fraternity International where he served as Chapter Herald, Chapter Education Chairman, and International Ritual Committee Co-Chairman.

Ryan petitioned and was elected to membership by Algabill-Freedom Lodge 636 of the Missouri AF&AM as an Entered Apprentice and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 9, 1999. He remains a member at Algabill-Freedom, as well as a 32nd degree member of the Scottish Rite Valley of St. Louis and the Scottish Rite Research Society. As a Noble Shriner of the Bahia Shriners in Orlando, Florida since 2021 he was appointed Assistant Treasurer in 2021 and elected to the 2022 Divan as Treasurer where he served three terms. He is a Past Secretary and two-time President of the Bahia Directors Staff Unit and Past Parliamentarian of the Lake County Shrine Club. Ryan also serves as the 3rd Vice President and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Shrine Treasurers Association of Shriners International. He was elected to the progressive Bahia Divan line in 2025 as High Priest & Prophet.

In addition to his Masonic service, Ryan is a Past Senior Vice President of the Florida VFW Auxiliary District 18, four-term President of VFW Auxiliary 4305 in Winter Garden, Director of the Bahia Sunshine Fund, Secretary/Treasurer of Paisley Hope, Inc. and Secretary/Treasurer of his Homeowners Association. He is also an ordained Minister of the Universal Life Church, which named him a Cardinal of the Church and awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 2020.

Ryan and his wife, Silvia Nijhoff, met at the University of Missouri – St. Louis where she was a foreign exchange student from Inholland University in Amsterdam, Netherlands where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Languages. Together they own Red Panda Enterprises in Apopka, Florida. They have been married since 2015 and moved to the Orlando area in 2016 where they enjoy killing plants because it's much easier than growing them. He has two adult sons, Collin (Kylie Tull) and Tyler, and a granddaughter, Frankie Jane Harris, all of whom live in the St. Louis area.

**Welcome our
new
Treasurer-
Noble Michael
Hindley**



Mike grew up in the Northern California city of Chico, the birthplace of former Green Bay Packers Quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, as well as the home of the world's largest wooden yo-yo. Mike stayed long enough to earn his B.S. in Business Administration, with an Option in Accounting, from California State University, Chico (aka Chico State), intending to become a CPA. However, he got side tracked and found himself in the northwest, where he earned a J.D. from Willamette University, College of Law in Salem, OR, passed the bar exam in Oregon, and then earned an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Washington, School of Law in Seattle.

Not particularly liking the northwest either, Mike returned home to Chico just long enough to pass another bar exam, and then headed to the east coast. For more than a decade, Mike's concentration was on tax resolution work, negotiating with the IRS on behalf of taxpayers to pay or reduce their outstanding tax balances. In 2013, Mike settled in Central Florida. Since 2016, Mike has been working for a small tax and accounting firm in Winter Garden. After finally acquiring that long neglected CPA license in 2021, Mike purchased the firm in 2023.

Since 2016, Mike has been married to his wife, Jennifer, a 7th generation Floridian (Her family has been here since before there was a Florida). They enjoy reading and spending time with family. They don't enjoy yard work or cleaning up after their cats, but seem to spend a lot of free time doing just that.

Mike petitioned Sanford Lodge No. 62 in Sanford, FL in 2013 and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason later that year. In addition to going through the chairs and in 2019 becoming Worshipful Master of Sanford Lodge, Mike became Treasurer of that lodge in 2020. The position of Treasurer was not new to him, as he was already serving as Treasurer of the Master Mason Association of the 13th Masonic District, Seminole Forest No. 193 Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and the three Sanford York Rite Bodies. He continues to serve in those positions. It's kind of



**Calling all Hillbillies!
Come on down and be with us
at the Lake County Shrine Club
Saturday May 17th
Fixin's at Noon
Meet'n at 1pm
Degree at 2 pm**



Jr Past Potentates' Final Message III Sir Mark Charlton

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who gave of their time and energy as well as those who donated to the annual Christmas charity event in Paisley yesterday. Thanks to your hard work and generosity, a total of 440 children received toys, clothes and a hot meal.

Their smiling faces and the gratitude expressed by their families said everything and made this whole venture worth the effort. While we don't do this for recognition, people know and respect who we are and what we stand for.

Lady Dawn and I sincerely wish you a very Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings. We feel very blessed to be part of Bahia Shrine and to count you among our friends and extended family.

It is with mixed emotions that I say good-bye as the sitting Potentate for Bahia Shrine.

In all honesty, it was a great experience and an honor to have served all of you Nobles and Ladies to the best of my ability. It was equal parts rewarding, stressful and even at times frustrating, but all worth it in the end.

I owe a lot of thanks to many of you for what I have been told has been a successful year. First and foremost, to my Lady Dawn, who has worked so very hard on my behalf on all of the events and helped me with many of the needed improvements at Bahia through her First Lady's project.

I'd also like to thank our office staff and our bartenders who helped organize and manage the day-to-day operations of our Shrine center. You all did a terrific job!

I'd also like to thank all our Bingo volunteers who work tirelessly every week without much fanfare or enough recognition to raise tens of thousands of dollars to fund our building costs and keep our doors open.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you Nobles and Ladies because without you, there is no Bahia Shrine. Your participation, enthusiasm and kind words helped keep me going when the going got tough.

We had a lot of fun this year. There is a video published in the Camel Express that gives a recap of 2024.

Thank you all for a year of great fun, success and a lifetime of memories.



First Lady's' Dawn's Final Message



Thank you to all who made generous contributions to the First Lady's project for 2024, which helped fund "The Little Things" needed at Bahia. With your help, we were able to purchase the following items.

- 2 Conference Tablecloths for officers' tables at Stated meetings
- 4 high top round tablecloths
- 2 easel stands
- Additional steps for the stage
- 15 Kaftan robes & turbans along with 2 guard uniforms for Ceremonial Rituals
- Ceremonial robes repaired, altered and re-jeweled
- Candidates' ceremonial headdresses
- Dining set (dinner plates, side plates, salad dishes and bowls)
- Etching for 5 glass doors
- Replacement of all four tires and on Camel Herders bus
- New BBQ unit with quick-release gas hook-up
- Donation to the Transportation Fund

Bahia Shriners Paper Crusade Plaque Program

In 1998, Bahia started the Plaque Program which is an integral part of our annual Paper Crusade.

Throughout the year for a donation of \$100 or more a plaque is engraved with a donor's name, and there are ten update bars to denote the donor's subsequent additional donations.

Nobles who make or obtain Plaque donations receive credit for their Unit/Club or BSC for our Annual Paper Crusade competition between the various Uniformed Units, Social Clubs and Bahia Shrine Clubs.

You can make donations for any years you might have missed, just enter the years you are missing on the form.

Fill out and forward the application below to:

Bahia Shriners, 3101 East Semoran Blvd, Apopka, FL 32810

BAHIA SHRINERS PAPER CRUSADE

New Plaque \$100 \$100/Year # _____ years

Name for Plaque _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Club/Unit _____

Amount \$ _____ Cash Check Credit Card

Visa/MC# _____

Exp Date _____ Sec Code _____

Signature _____

PAST MASTERS

By R.:W.:Ryan Kilmartin



Our unit is open for any Shriner who has served or is currently serving as a Worshipful Master of any Masonic Lodge recognized by this jurisdiction.

We meet during District 16 open books, which is typically held on the 4th Saturday of every month held at Winter Park Lodge. While open books starts at 8 am, we meet at 11am to give the members time to look over parts and study before we meet.

Our main goal is the conferring of the 2nd section of the Master Mason degree. We offer this service to any Masonic Lodge in the Bahia territory, which includes Districts 13, 15 and 16. We typically provide all officer positions, as well as provide the Lecture and the Charge. We enjoy the opportunities to assist the Lodges and maintain the strong relationships between our Lodges and the Shrine.

Any Lodge who needs assistance with the 2nd section of the Master Mason degree, can reach out to our Secretary, Ryan Kilmartin, who can get your information and start the process. Please let us know the date, 1st and 2nd section start times, meal time if being served, and how many Brothers will be raised. If you are flexible on the dates, that is even better so we can find a day where we can make sure we have enough Brothers to fill all the chairs.

Additionally, the Past Masters Unit holds practices once a quarter open to all Master Masons, so if you would like to learn a part, please let us know and we can assist you.

We also hold socials periodically and a Christmas party for our members once a year. We try to participate in many different Shrine and Lodge functions, and are always ready to assist Lodges and help new Masons learn about the Shrine and the great work they do. If you are interested in joining the unit, please reach out to us and we can get you a petition!



Winter Garden Shrine Club

A group of Winter Garden Shriners started meeting at local restaurants back in 2015 and have continued to meet several times a year ever since.

The last club meeting was held on October 6th at the Azteca in the Winter Garden Village area.

Like a lot of our other clubs and units, Covid brought social meetings to a halt in 2020 and our meetings have not been as well attended since.

The original goal of the group was to just meet socially with little or no organization. A set of minimal by-laws has been created and a request for a charter, to help make the group a little more visible in the Winter Garden community so that we can encourage Shriners from other Temples that have moved to the area to meet with us socially, and maybe participate in some Bahia Shriners activities and events.

There will still be no annual dues for the group.

Gregg Robinson has agreed to be the 1st President of the group, with Billy Kennedy as VP and Ill Sir Jim Gillespie, PP as the Secretary/Treasurer and will be Chartered as a Bahia Social Club, which only requires 10 Shriners to petition, and only the officers need to be Bahia Members.

We are going to plan some more meetings at local restaurants. Plans are in process for one at Pilar's Loft where the Jazz Band might play in May. Watch Facebook and the Camel Express for announcements about our next meeting.

BAHIA SHRINE

Public is welcome

Bingo starts at 6pm



Bring your friends!!

Doors open at 4pm



The Villages Shrine Club

At the Villages Shrine Club December business meeting, the Al Kora Shrine Ladies presented a check to our Ill Potentate-Elect Brian Domian that they received from SMASH Productions for their production of "The Honeymooners" at their Annual Christmas Party for the Al Kora Shrine Ladies.



SMASH Productions of The Villages is one of the leading theatre companies in The Villages Area and has earned a reputation for high energy musicals, comedies, and events in just seven short years. SMASH Productions brings together the best talent in The Villages including singers, dancers, musicians, and comedians to create top notch productions of original scripts and popular favorites.

Lady Jackie Tanner headed up the fund raiser at a table that the Al Kora Shrine Ladies had at the Savannah Center. Jewelry boxes, made and donated by Noble Bill Tanner, were also for sale at this table. All monies were sent to Shriners Children's Florida.

The club, as always, is seeking new membership and welcomes all newcomers.

Club monthly Stated Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month, with the exception of July and August, in the Orchid room of the Hibiscus Village Recreation Center located on Bailey Trail next to Cane Gardens Country Club, The Villages, Florida. Meetings start at 6:30 pm and last about 1 hour. They are preceded by either a social hour or dinner, which starts at 5:30 pm. Entertainment starts at 7:15 and ends at 8:00 pm. All Shriners and their Ladies are cordially invited to attend. For further information contact Robert Leighton president@thevillagesshrineclub.org

Please RSVP to Noble Secretary Larry Lace so that we can know how many Nobles and Ladies will be attending. We're doing this so we can have the correct number of tables set up and the correct amount of food so no one goes away hungry. Our Room will hold about 100 people so we're sure we'll have plenty of room for whomever wants to attend.

Publicity Chairman, Scribe & Newsletter Editor
The Villages Shrine Club

Summary of Proposed Bylaw Changes

Bahia's Bylaw Committee Report

Bahia By-laws have not been revised or updated for numerous years. Time has come for this issue to be addressed.

The By-laws committee, chaired by Noble Ryan Harris, has been working on the necessary changes for several months, and as of this date has compiled the attached information for your review.

These by-law changes will be brought to the floor on the January 2nd Stated meeting for notification and discussion.

They will then be brought to the Floor at the February 6th Stated meeting for a vote of the Nobility for approval.

Please take time to review the documents emailed to you so that you will be fully informed for voting at the February 6th Stated Meeting.

Call Items

Proposed En-bloc Vote Items

The Bylaw Committee submits the following call item groups which may be called for en-bloc vote pending review and approval of the Bahia Parliamentarian.

Change of name to Bahia Shriners, Shriners International, and/or Shriners Children's
Bahia Shriners Bylaws: Call items 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 14
Bahia Holding Corporation: Call items 20, 21, 22, 25

Removal of Caravan as only notice method

Bahia Shriners Bylaws: Call items 6, 19
Bahia Holding Corporation: Call items 24, 29

Conformity to Imperial Bylaw, General Order #1, and/or Temple Accounting

Bahia Shriners Bylaws: Call Items 4, 11, 17
Bahia Holding Corporation: Call Items 23, 26, 27

Bahia Bylaws—Proposed Changes

Call Item #1 – Amend. of Title
Call Item #2 – Amend. of 101.1, Name
Call Item #3 – Amend. of 101.2, Seal
Call Item #4 – Amend. of 102.1.1, Board of Directors
Call Item #5 – Amend. of 104.1 - Meetings (frequency)
Call Item #6 – Amend. of 104.1.1 Meetings (Caravan)
Call Item #7—Amend. of 104.2 Meetings (Annual Meeting Date)
Call Item #8—New Section to Article 7, Employees
Call Item #9 – Amend. of 111.5, Discipline
Call Item #10 – Amend. of 111.6, Formal Complaints
Call Item #11 – Amend. of 112.2, Life Membership (by age)
Call Item #12 – New Section in Article 12, Memberships
Call Item #13 – Amend. of Section 113.1, Dues
Call Item #14 – Amend. of Section 113.2, Dues
Call Item #15 – Amend. of Section 113.5, Dues
Call Item #16 – New Sect. Art. 13, Dues and Assessments
Call Item #17 – Amend. of Section 114.1, Finances
Call Item #18 – New Sections of Article 14, Finances
Call Item #19 – Amendment process

Bahia Holding Corporation Bylaws

Call Item #20 – Amend. of 101.1, Update of Address
Call Item #21 – Amend. of Section 102.1, Name
Call Item #22 – Amend. of Section 103.2, Update of Names, addition of 103.2.1, Tax and accounting
Call Item #23 – Update of Article 4 - Meetings (frequency)
Call Item #24 – Update of 105.1, Name
Call Item #25 – Amend. of Section 107.3, Chairman
Call Item #26 – Deletion of 108.3, Interest Income Retention
Call Item #27 – Amend. of 109.1, Sale of Property
Call Item #28 – Amend. of 110.1, Amendment process

West Volusia Shrine Club

272 W. State Road 15A, Deland
Dinner Meeting - 2nd Monday - 6 pm
All Nobles are Welcome to Join US!

President - Ill Sir Bill Cianciola

315-430-3558 bubbe78@icloud.com

Secretary - Keith Yocuum

407-947-2439 Keith.Yocuum747@gmail.com

Gator Trucking - Gene DeVilbiss*

Jan-2025

Garth & Molly Phillips

Mar-2024

Tom & Nevina Schaeffer I.M.O. Bill and Don Hirsch Mar-2025



Bahia Drum & Bugle

By Ill Sir Jim Gillespie

The Bahia Shrine Drum & Bugle Corps is looking forward to another exciting year in 2025!

This year we will repeat most of the 18 performances we did in 2024, including playing the National Anthem at the Mecum Auto Auction in Kissimmee, several golf tournaments, the Winter Park Art Festival and the Night of Destruction in Bitho. We also performed for the Open Installation, the 5k Camel Walk, and the Service of Remembrance at Bahia. In addition, we also performed at South Atlantic Shrine Association Convention events in Myrtle Beach and in Orlando at the Fusion Festival in front of the Dr. Phillips Auditorium.

One difference this year, is that we will be traveling to Atlanta for the Imperial Session and it looks like we will be performing four times over Saturday and Sunday.

We are currently planning on being in the Immerser Festival in Downtown Orlando February 21st, the Winter Park St Patrick's Day Parade on March 1st and for Christmas, the Winter Garden, Apopka and Mineola parades this year.

We are always looking for more members, and you don't need to be able to play an instrument to join. We need members who can fill supporting roles as well. Many times we perform and do not end up with video or photos, and also don't have anyone to carry our banners

Now if you play an instrument, we will teach woodwind

Bahia Jazz Band

By Ill Sir Jim Gillespie



For 2025, the Bahia Jazz Band is going on the Road and are planning a trip to the South Atlantic Shrine Association to participate in the SASBA (Band Association) at the annual September Convention in Myrtle Beach.

Immerse 2025 from Creative City in Orlando, has invited us to perform on Feb 21, 2025 in their street performance event and we are currently in negotiations with them.

The 1st Saturday of May we plan on playing at Make'm Smile in the Lake Eola Park and represent the Shrine Hospitals as a Children's services provider.

We currently have a Pianist, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Trombone and Drummer, but are looking for full time Harmonica, Rhythm Guitar, Trumpet, Clarinet and Sax players to join our group.

We play almost every 3rd Friday at 7 pm in the Red Fez after our dinner meeting at 6 pm.

Guests are welcome to join us, for a dinner.

Each month we theme our music choices to the season, with Classic 20's—50's music in January, New Orleans Jazz in February, Celtic Music in March, Blues in April, Latin in May, Jimmy Buffett in June and Patriotic Music in July.

We are available for performances or to entertain at banquets and other events. Our most recent event was the Homecoming Ball Worthy Grand Matron for Eastern Star in Leesburg, this past May.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD As of December 31, 2024

Total Regular Membership		1/1/2024	
	Gains	Losses	
Creations	16	Demits	9
Affiliated	8	Suspensions	32
Associated	10	Expires	47
Restorations	1	Resignations	2
		Associates Dropped	7
Total Year to Date	35	Total Year to Date	97
Total Members Change	-62	12/31/2024	984

SUNSHINE FUND ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



The Annual Meeting of the Bahia Sunshine Fund will be held at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 5, 2024, in the Red Fez at the Bahia Shrine Center. Meeting is open to all Sunshine Fund members



Ceremonials
 The 7 Sons of the Desert,
 the Journey Continues

Join our two
 Temples on a
 Pilgrimage to
 Daytona
 Beach



70th Anniversary
Ceremonial Getaway Weekend
Holiday Inn & Suites Daytona Beach

Group Rate \$235.00 includes parking
 Phone: 386-289-0315 Fax: 386-255-5495
 Hotel Contact: Efrain Vargas,
 Area Director of Sales & Marketing
 Email: evargas@prmhotels.com
Friday June 20th
Orientation / Meet-N-Greet 7pm
Saturday June 21st
 Ritual on the Beach 9am
 Hot Sands 11am
 Muslim Feast 1pm
 Fezzing Banquet 6pm
 Call Gregg Robinson at 321-217-8705

Sailing Itinerary

Date	Port Location	Arrive	Depart
13-Sep	ORLANDO (PORT CANAVERAL), FL		4:00 PM
14-Sep	PERFECT DAY COCOCAY, BAHAMAS	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
15-Sep	CRUISING		
16-Sep	FALMOUTH, JAMAICA	7:00 AM	4:00 PM
17-Sep	LABADEE, HAITI (TBD)	9:30 AM	5:00 PM
18-Sep	CRUISING		
19-Sep	ORLANDO (PORT CANAVERAL), FL	7:00 AM	


Prices are based on Double Occupancy (2 guest per cabin)
 Balcony \$2390.52 or \$2656.52 per cabin based on cabin category selected
 (includes all taxes & fees)
 Deposit \$250 per person due at booking, FINAL payment June 8th, 2025

Deposits are refundable up to final payment. Solo cruisers pay Double Occupancy
 Other Cabin categories may be available with a non-refundable deposit.
 Prices are subject to change and are capacity controlled.

It is Highly Recommended to include Travel Insurance
 (average cost \$109 per person based on prices listed above)

Required ID & Travel Documents: Passports are not required, but HIGHLY recommended. Guest without
 passports, will be required to show proof of citizenship such as an original or certified copy of a birth certificate, and
 government issued photo ID and should have the REAL ID -Star in upper right of FL DL ★

For additional information or to make your reservation contact:



Ron Hoedebeck
 Seas Away Travel & Cruises
 Mobile: 813-610-7254
RonsTravelWithSeasAway@gmail.com
 FST# T1108522

Bahia Camel Flyer Booster

Donation Form

**Become a Camel Flyer Booster
 for only \$10 a year.
 Remember a friend or family
 member with an In Memory of**

Name or Organization: _____

Address: _____

City State, Zip _____

Booster Name (s) or Text to print on Booster Page: _____

And help offset the cost of our publication.

Donations are only \$10 per year. You may prepay for multiple years. Your name will be listed each month in the Camel Flyer for the period you are supporting. For example, for a \$10 donation in January of 2025, you will be listed through January of 2026.

Bahia Shriners, A.A.O.N.M.S is a non-profit organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information about Bahia Shriners, Registration #CH962, may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352

BURN FIRST AID

Shriners Children’s research could reduce likelihood of hospitalization

While most Americans know running cool water over a burn as first aid, not many know the optimal time is at least 20 minutes.

Shriners Children’s burn surgeon Tina Palmieri, M.D., recently provided evidence that this is the case in an emergency medicine journal article published together with Australian authors. Dr. Palmieri, the newly named chief of burns at Shriners Children’s Northern California, was the only American on the paper. According to the article, evidence shows cool running water not only appears to stop the progress of the damage occurring from a burn wound but also lessens the chance that the person burned will need surgery or skin grafting or be admitted to the hospital.

In addition, according to the article, you can use cool running water at any time for up to three hours after the burn and still get benefit.

Dr. Palmieri said that any water from a house faucet or a garden hose should be cool enough to provide the adequate amount of cooling, as the pipes come from underground. She also said that using cool running water as first aid for any burn less than or equal to five palm prints in size should be safe and is recommended. For bigger burns, however, she advises heading immediately to the hospital.

According to research, 20 minutes of cool running water decreases the likelihood of a full thickness burn by 63%, decreases the need for skin grafting by 46% and decreases the need for surgical treatment at all by 36%. Time to heal skin is improved by one day, which can be very important for scarring.

If you’ve ever tried it, you also know cool running water can



Shriners Children’s Northern California burn surgeons David Greenhalgh, MD; Tina Palmieri, MD; and Saman Sen, MD

ease the pain of a burn.

The challenge with this recommendation is, that when a person has been burned, 20 minutes is a very long time to stand still and keep the injury under the water.

“Twenty minutes can seem an eternity when you need to stay under the water and not move. Twenty minutes is hard to do,” Dr. Palmieri said. “You almost have to actually time it.”

Dr. Palmieri, who is a past president of the American Burn Association, noted that, while the “20 minutes” part of this advice is not especially well known here in the United States, it tends to be common knowledge in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

The difference may be because physicians and public health officials in the U.S. tend to be more conservative than those in other countries, and they haven’t felt the evidence was strong enough to warrant the recommendation. Until now, perhaps.

Some of the reluctance to share “20 minutes” also may stem from the fact that people tend to think about big burns.

Therefore, some experts worry that a person might delay going to the hospital immediately for a larger burn that needs medical attention, Dr. Palmieri said. But only 10% of burns cover more than 10% of the body, she noted.

Past Potentates of Bahia Shrine Temple

*A.J. Thomas, Sr.....1955-1956	*Melvin L. Duncan (Helen).....1978	*V. Albert Janoska, Jr.....2001
*J.D. Hill1957	*DeFarest A. Long, Jr.(Martha).....1979	*Max R. Jones (Esther).....2002
*A.J. Thomason1958	*Jesse W. Walker1980	Douglas S. Tomlinson (Sherrie).....2003
*Glenn R. Ashmore1958	*Kenneth E. Thomas.....1981	*Jerry Higginson (Debbie).....2004
*George H. Cochrane1959	*T. Bruce Ballinger (Roberta).....1982	Gary J. Bergenske, PP (Anne).....2005
*Vernon M. Scott1960	*Gordon H. “Stumpy” Harris (Dottie).....1983	William Dennis (Jean).....2006
*Charles V. Snapp, Jr. (Renee).....1961	*Gordon P. Magyar (Deceased 2/01/07).....1984	Sid Massey (Elle).....2007
*J.M. (Jack) Fogg1962	Cecil D. Moore (Carol).....1985	*Butch Carpenter (Pat).....2008
*Russell Guy Carr1963	*Bruce D. Thomas, (Deceased 5/23/06)(Alice).....1986	Robert “Bob” Amico (Bev).....2009
*Harold H. Kastner1964	*George H. Mason (Deceased 1/03/00)(Betty).....1987	*John Seay (Jan).....2010
*Fred B. Turner1965	*Myron D. Christensen (Roma).....1988	Happy Schuur (Glenda).....2011
*Floyd N. Shaver1966	*Donald W. Grable.....1989	Ken Harrelson (Sam).....2012-15
*Leonard K. Wright, Jr.1967	*John O. Riels (Deceased 7/11/07) (Beth).....1990	Michael T. Rudd (Cyndi).....2013
*Joe Wickham.....1968	*Jack B. Kittinger.....1991	Jim Gillespie (Candy).....2014
*Lloyd A. Castle1969	Robert H. “Bobby” Gentry, III (Jan).....1992	Michael T. Rudd (Cyndi).....2016
*L.L. “Linc” Jacobs.....1970	*Robt F. Kidder (Deceased 4/18/2009) (Donna)..1993	Michael T. Rudd (Cyndi).....2017
*Fred W. Guentert (Joyce)1971	*Thomas E. Embree.....1994	Michael T. Rudd (Cyndi).....2018
*Robert A. Voegle (Mary Lee)1972	*Harold H. Coulson1995	Ed Sexton (Susan).....2019-20
*J.J. “Jeff” Jordan.....1973	*Robt L. Cramer (Phylis).....1996	Steve Brick (Brandie).....2021
*T.R. “Tommy” Tomlinson1974	*John B. Pierson, Sr. (Ruby).....1997	Mark Zickefoose (Terri).....2022
*Sam H. Walkup, Jr.1975	*Lewis W. Cotterill.....1998	Brian Johns (Tracey).....2023
*William C. Journigan1976	Michael G. Juett (Sherry).....1999	Mark Charlton (Dawn).....2024
Mervin D. Henning1977	*George E. Goodboe (Carol).....2000	

BERGENSKE CHARITABLE FUND

As most of you are aware, an award for Humanitarian of the Year is presented annually at Bahia Shrine to an outstanding individual who has made great contributions to the community usually in the Central Florida area.

This award is not limited to Masons or Shriners but rather someone who has made a positive difference in the lives of our local citizens and especially children. Also presented are grants that provide educational assistance to deserving young people

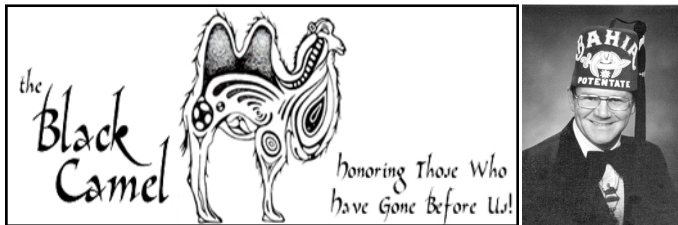


Imperial Sir Gary Bergenske has taken the lead in heading up this foundation but would like your help.

First, by nominating people who embody the spirit of philanthropy and making the world a better place as well as young, motivated students who represent our future leaders in society.

And secondly, by considering a donation to this charity foundation to allow it to grow and help young people even more get a head start on life's challenges.

These awards will be presented on February 15th at Bahia Shrine at a "Valentine's Humanitarian Gala. Pictured below are students receiving educational grant awards in 2024.



Ill. Sir Ken Thomas, 9/1/1931—1/5/2025

Illustrious Sir Ken was born September 1, 1931, in Baltimore, Maryland. He died on January 5, 2025 in the care of his niece and nephew and will be greatly missed. He attended schools in Baltimore graduating from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1951 and later attended Maryland Institute and Florida Southern College. His service in the U.S. Army 1952-54 included a tour in Korea. Ill. Sir Ken and Lady Jennie arrived in the Orlando area in 1959 with the Martin Company. Ken has been a co-owner of Triangle Reprographics, Inc., in Orlando since 1975. He is a member of Conway United Methodist Church. His Lady Jennie was a member of Mizpah Chapter 190, O.E.S., and Athaliah Temple 114, Daughters of the Nile. They had no children.

Ill. Sir Ken had been a member of Eola Lodge 207 in Orlando since 1965 and was recently presented his 60 year pin. He was a member of the Orlando Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies and became a Shriner November 26, 1965, at Bahia's Fall Ceremonial. He had served as a Bahia DeMolay Dad, and in 1982 he received the Order of DeMolay Legion of Honor (Active) Award. He was a member of the Royal Order of Jesters in which he served 10 years as Impersario. He was President of the Roadrunners Unit in 1974.

Starting with his appointment to Outer Guard in 1973 he progressed in 1974 to Captain of the Guard, Second Ceremonial Master in 1975, First Ceremonial Master in 1976, election to Oriental Guide in 1977, and culminating in election to Potentate in 1981. He was elected Imperial Representative and in 1979, 1980, and 1981 and served as Aide to Imperial Captain of the Guard in 1980-81.

It was also a very innovative year. Having learned that 1961 Potentate Ill. Sir Charlie Snapp held an Open Installation of the Divan, Ken scheduled a similar Open Installation which included the Pageant of Units which previously had been held during Bahia's Potentate's Balls. Ken thought it would bring the public and Bahia closer together, and he considers this one of his fondest memories and is pleased that it has become an annual event every year since 1981.

Ill. Sir Ken started the Bingo Program in 1978 for our Building Fund.

The first Children's Outreach Clinic was held in Orlando in May 1981. Members of the Greenville Hospital came to Orlando and with the help of Orlando Regional Medical Center and facilities of Holiday Hospital, accomplished an outstanding Clinic. It was Ken's pleasure to support a motion presented to establish a new Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa which would open in 1984.

By Ken's quiet but firm leadership, Bahia enjoyed many successful activities in 1981. The Potentate's Banquet was held at the Marriott Inn and the Ball was held at Bahia on February 14th. The Annual Shrine Circus was held in Daytona Beach on March 21st and 22nd, and in Orlando at the Tangerine Bowl on March 28th and 29th and produced \$61,485.52 toward Bahia's 1981 budget of \$301,800.00.

Ceremonials were held in Orlando on May 29th and 30th in honor of 1960 Potentate Vernon M. Scott (71 candidates), September 18th (74 candidates), and November 20th and 21st honoring the Memory of 1975 Potentate Sam H. Walkup, Jr. (40 candidates). By the end of 1981, Bahia's membership stood at 5,520.

The Potentate's Cruise was taken to San Juan and St. Thomas on June 14-21; and on October 7-15, a trip was taken to Munich, St. Moritz, and Innsbruck. The Paper Crusade was held on October 2nd and 3rd with proceeds reaching \$182,790.66.

The popularity of Ill. Sir Ken and Lady Jennie made 1981 an extremely happy year at Bahia. He says that of all the accomplishments of 1981, the ones he considers his greatest were the friendship, brotherhood, and camaraderie of his fellow Nobles. "These I will cherish forever." In addition, Ill. Sir Ken said he will always be grateful to Past Potentate Jeff Jordan for starting him as Outer Guard in 1973 thus allowing him the great experience of working toward becoming Potentate of Bahia.

As outgoing First Lady, Lady Jennie hosted a First Lady's Tea honoring 1982 First Lady Roberta Ballinger which became an annual event each year.

Following his term as Potentate, Ill. Sir Ken continued outstanding service to Bahia and Shrinedom. He was Aide to Imperial Marshal in 1982-83 and served as Assistant Director and Parade Marshal for the 1982, 1992, and 1998 Imperial Sessions held in Orlando and hosted by Bahia. He has served many years as Committee Chairman for Bahia's Annual Elections, Chairman of the Caravan Committee from 200-2005, and Secretary-Treasurer of Bahia's Sunshine Fund until 2014. In addition, he served on the Board of Governors of the Tampa Shrine Hospital for nine years and having served the maximum permitted three three-year terms and having attended at least seven Board meetings each year, he was elected an Emeritus Member of that Board of Governors in 2006.

Information on Services will be posted on the Camel Express.

Bahia Shriners
3101 East Semoran Blvd
Apopka, FL 32703-5943

February is Burn Awareness Month

BURN CARE

Shriners Children's makes significant contributions to pediatric burn care

In the mid-1960s, the Shriners fraternity and the physicians at Shriners Children's hospitals observed a dire need. There were adult burn centers in the United States, and military burn centers, but no centers that specialized in children. So, the decision was made to open the very first pediatric burn center in the United States, on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

According to recent figures, one quarter of all burn injuries occur in children.

Shriners Children's has been at the forefront of burn care, and advancing it, ever since.

For instance:

- A critical staple of burn care is the pressure garment. These elastic sleeves, gloves and masks are worn during healing to prevent some of the heavy scarring that occurs after a severe burn. Customized, pressure garment therapy was pioneered at Shriners Children's Galveston location shortly after it opened.
- Research at Galveston also established the benefits of exercise after a burn injury.
- Large burns cause the body to go into a hypermetabolic state. This state will cause the body to consume its own muscle if the patient does not get proper nutrition and exercise. The loss can be debilitating, as the hypermetabolic state can last a year or more. Shriners Children's researchers in Galveston showed that deliberate exercise helps preserve muscle in burn patients.

- In 1988, Ronald Tompkins, M.D., of the Shriners Children's Boston hospital, showed definitively that surgically removing burnt tissue in large burns improved survival in children. That is now established practice worldwide.
- In 1981, John Burke, M.D., of Shriners Children's Boston, announced that his team had developed the first practical synthetic skin. It was a tremendous advance, because it holds in fluids and keeps out infections where previous wound grafts did not.

When Shriners Children's came to burns, only half of children admitted to a hospital with burns covering 64% of their body survived. These days, due to the advances made, Shriners Children's burn surgeons routinely save children burned over 90% of their bodies.