

TEHRAN SHRINERS BULLETIN

December 2021



Mark Dawson
Potentate

Tehran Shrine Center
5407 East Olive Avenue, Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93727-2500
Phone: 559.251.1991
Website: TehranShriners.org



A Message from Potentate Mark

Merry Christmas to the Nobles, Ladies, and friends of Tehran Shrine!



I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, and were blessed to enjoy time with family and loved ones. November was a great month for First Lady Sandy and I as we traveled to Italy for a week, visiting our eldest daughter Vanessa, her husband, and two of our grandchildren. It made us feel like things were almost starting to get back to normal!

Reviewing the December calendar I am awestruck by the large number of Shrine holiday parties from which we can all choose. Among the core tenants of the Shrine are fun and fellowship. This time of year, spending time with our many Shrine friends, underscores the true value of belonging.

One holiday gathering of particular interest is the "Tehran Shrine Christmas and Thank You Party." It will occur on Sunday afternoon, December 5th, at the Shrine Center (see the enclosed flyer for details.) Many thanks go out to the Hillbillies, for managing the menu, and to the Novkeys for staffing the Oasis Bar.

On that same afternoon we'll play host to a very special guest from our Sacramento Hospital - Alan Anderson. We've invited him to attend so he can receive the joint First Lady's project check (currently north of \$17,000) as well as a \$100,000 donation from Tehran Shrine's Hospital Transportation Fund. The great thing about these donations is they go directly to unfunded hospital needs without impacting the Sacramento hospital's budget. Let's hope Alan doesn't pass out from all the excitement!

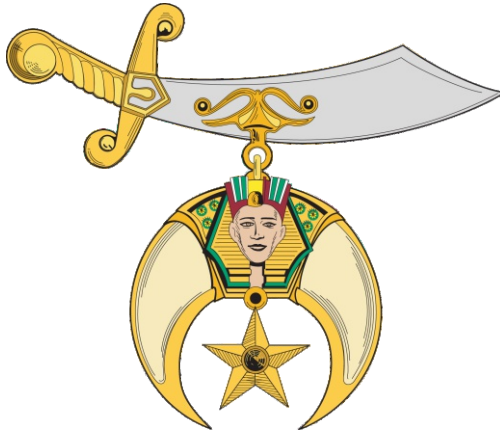
Just a quick reminder - we have a Stated Meeting on Monday, December 6th. Nobles, your participation is crucial as our agenda includes the election of next year's Divan. Come out and show your support for those willing to lead us into the future.

Since the January bulletin article will (hopefully) be written by our new Potentate-Elect, let me end simply by saying "Thank you for all of your love and support!" It has been an honor for Lady Sandra and I to fill-in for Potentate John Denton and First Lady Jean Denton. We can only hope we helped finish their year as strongly as it began...

To you, your family and your loved ones - May 2022 bring you Joy, Love, Health, and Happiness!

Happy New Year!

TEHRAN SHRINE STATED MEETING NOTICE



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

**Tehran Shrine Center
5407 East Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA**

Tehran Shrine Bylaws

§3.6 Notice of Meetings. At least one week's notice must be given of the time and place of all meetings and ceremonial sessions. The notice may be given in the official temple publication or by letter.

From the Desk of Assistant Rabban Wayne Schwartz



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Here we are, December, the end of another year. If you haven't gotten your Christmas shopping done, well, I've been counting it down for you. We have several things happening at the Shrine center this month. On December 5 at our Shrine Christmas party we will be presenting a couple of checks (huge amounts) to Alan Anderson (Sacramento Hospital). Come on down and be a part of the festivities. Our annual meeting (elections) will be at the Shrine center on the 6th.

Why did the Grinch rob the liquor store? He was desperate for some holiday spirit.

What do we know about December? Its name came from the Latin word decem (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus c. 750 BC. It is National Fruit Cake Month. The 4th is National cookie day, 7th remember Pearl Harbor day, 11th have a bagel day, 15th Cat herders day (What?) also cupcake day, 21st date nut cake day, 21st hamburger day, 27th fruitcake day (I know a few), and of course Christmas eve, Christmas and New Years eve. See all those eat something days? No wonder we gain so much weight this month! Has 3 birthstones, all blue, Tanzanite, zircon and turquoise. Winter solstice in northern hemisphere.

Christmas, Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term Christmas ("mass on Christ's day") is of fairly recent origin. The earlier term Yule may have derived from the Germanic jöl or the Anglo-Saxon geōl, which referred to the feast of the winter solstice. Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been a secular family holiday, observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. In this secular Christmas celebration, a mythical figure named Santa Claus plays the pivotal role

How do you know when Santa's around? You can always sense his presents.

The early Christian community distinguished between the identification of the date of Jesus' birth and the liturgical celebration of that event. The actual observance of the day of Jesus' birth was long in coming. In particular, during the first two centuries of Christianity there was strong



opposition to recognizing birthdays of martyrs or, for that matter, of Jesus. Numerous Church Fathers offered sarcastic comments about the pagan custom of celebrating birthdays when, in fact, saints and martyrs should be honoured on the days of their martyrdom—their true “birthdays,” from the church's perspective.

The precise origin of assigning December 25 as the birth date of Jesus is unclear. The New Testament provides no clues in this regard. December 25 was first identified as the date of Jesus' birth by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 and later became the universally accepted date. After December 25 had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus' birth, Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of the Son. One of the difficulties with this view is that it suggests a nonchalant willingness on the part of the Christian church to appropriate a pagan festival when the early church was so intent on distinguishing itself categorically from pagan beliefs and practices.

A gingerbread man went to the doctor's complaining of a sore knee.
“A sore knee?” the doctor said. “Have you tried icing it?”

A second view suggests that December 25 became the date of Jesus' birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation, when the light was created, as the day of Jesus' conception (i.e., March 25). December 25, nine months later, then became the date of Jesus' birth. For a long time the celebration of Jesus' birth was observed in conjunction with his baptism, celebrated January 6.

Christmas began to be widely celebrated with a specific liturgy in the 9th century but did not attain the liturgical importance of either Good Friday or Easter, the other two major Christian holidays.

None of the contemporary Christmas customs have their origin in theological or liturgical affirmations, and most are of fairly recent date. The Renaissance humanist Sebastian Brant recorded, in *Das Narrenschiff* (1494; *The Ship of Fools*), the custom of placing branches of fir trees in houses. Even though there is some uncertainty about the precise date and origin of the tradition of the Christmas tree, it appears that fir trees decorated with apples were first known in Strasbourg in 1605. The first use of candles on such trees is recorded by a Silesian duchess in 1611.

Toward the end of the 18th century the practice of giving gifts to family members became well established. Theologically, the feast day reminded Christians of God's gift of Jesus to humankind even as the coming of the Wise Men, or Magi, to Bethlehem suggested that Christmas was somehow related to giving gifts. The practice of giving gifts, which goes back to the 15th century, contributed to the view that Christmas was a secular holiday focused on family and friends. This was one reason why Puritans in Old and New England opposed the celebration of Christmas and in both England and America succeeded in banning its observance.

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

The tradition of celebrating Christmas as a secular family holiday is splendidly illustrated by a number of English "Christmas" carols such as "Here We Come A-Wassailing" or "Deck the Halls." It can also be seen in the practice of sending Christmas cards, which began in England in the 19th century. Moreover, in countries such as Austria and Germany, the connection between the Christian festival and the family holiday is made by identifying the Christ Child as the giver of gifts to the family. In some European countries, St. Nicholas appears on his feast day (December 6) bringing modest gifts of candy and other gifts to children. In North America the pre-Christmas role of the Christian saint Nicholas was transformed, under the influence of the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (or "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"), into the increasingly central role of Santa Claus as the source of Christmas gifts for the family. While both name and attire—a version of the traditional dress of bishop—of Santa Claus reveal his Christian roots, and his role of querying children about their past behaviour replicates that of St. Nicholas, he is seen as a secular figure

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? Stick with me and we'll go places!



Save the Date

2022 Installation of Officers

Saturday, January 8, 2022

Tehran Shrine Center

Masonic Assistance

HOME FOR HEROES

A planned veterans' memorial at the Masonic Homes' Union City Campus pays tribute to a legacy of military service.



By Ian A. Stewart

If the walls of the Masonic Homes could talk, they'd surely have some stories to tell. And it's a safe bet a lot of them would be war stories.

On November 11, the Union City campus will commemorate that legacy, with the grand master presiding over a groundbreaking for a new veterans memorial there. The monument will include the names of every current and former Masonic Homes resident who has served in the U.S. military. In preparation for the unveiling, longtime MHC volunteer JoAnne Wright and her son, Lyle, researched and documented the military credentials of 246 current and former occupants.

Those efforts, Wright says, serve as a reminder of how close history is to the circa-1898 Homes. For more than 100 years, residents have provided a link to the defining events of the 20th century: Gus Anastole, a current resident and member of Mt. Moriah No. 292, was present when the U.S. flag was raised at Iwo Jima. John Dahle Jr. of Nevada No. 13 was aboard the USS *Turner Joy* in Da Nang Harbor at the close of the Vietnam War. Chuck Grech, of Burlingame No. 400, served on the USS *Sablefish* submarine during the Cuban Missile Crisis. "I would sit there mesmerized, thinking about these stories," Wright says.

The tales go on: Clara Shurtz and Beatrice Gloeckler were among several women residents who were Navy yeomanettes during the First and Second World Wars. Jesse Domingo Gomez, formerly of **Norwalk No. 315** (now Golden Trowel Norwalk No. 273), served alongside his brother on a U.S. Marine flamethrower-tank crew during WWII. Corwin Hayes of the former **Covina No. 334** was one of five veterans of the Spanish–American War to live at the Homes. "It's amazing to think about," says Gary Charland, president of MHC. "I'm so glad we are able to honor their memory."

December Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*Your birthday is special, This much you should know,
It's the birth of another year, Another chance to grow.*

*Your birthday is special, A time to pause and reflect,
Look back without sorrow, And look forward unchecked.*

*Your birthday is special, A day to start anew,
Break the rules you live by, And make your dreams come true.*

Lawrence H. Smith
George M. Pavlovich
Manuel M. Kouklis
David N. Price
Ronald W. Weiner P.P.
Melvin A. Gilliam
Rudolph C. Riley
Don J. Blosser P.P.
Joe L. Reyna
Nicholas C. Pavelich

Elvin M. Sherwood
Daniel L. Pearce P.P.
Glen H. Barber Jr.
William E. Clark DDS
Elmer C. Schott Jr.
Michael D. Nella P.P.
Robert W. Roberts
Daniel D. Richardson
Francisco Valenzuela
Adan Bautista

SHRINERS LIGHT THE WAY
Because We Care!

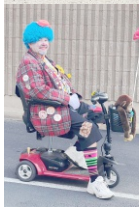
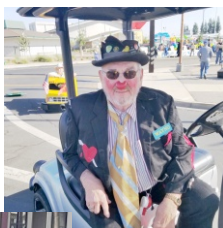
Good Food, Good Friends & Lots of Fun!

Chief Rabban Lunch/Event



The Days of Wine & Roses

I love a parade... "bring in the clowns..."





FRESNO SHRINE CLUB



Sometimes you wanna go
Where everybody knows your name
And they're always glad you came
You wanna be where you can see
Our troubles are all the same
You wanna be where everybody knows your name

WHEN: Wednesday, December 8th
12 Noon Social (No Host)
12:30 Lunch

WHERE: Yosemite Falls Cafe in Granite Park
4020 N. Cedar Av
Halfway between Dakota and Ashlan -
Behind Me and Ed's Pizza Restaurant

\$20.00 per person

Please call Judy Hershey at 916-717-0458
to make your reservation
or respond via email to
jhershey01@comcast.net



CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!

MERCED-MARIPOSA SHRINE CLUB



WHEN: THURSDAY DECEMBER 16, 2021
WINTON VFW POST, 7093 W. WALNUT AVE.
WINTON, CA

TIME: SOCIAL 6:00 PM; PRIME RIB OR CHICKEN DINNER-6:30 PM

COST: \$25 Per Person (Dues Paying Shrine Club Member Free)

NO HOST BAR

DRESS: Casual-(Nobles-No Fez)

**PARTICIPATE IN THE FUN EACH PERSON BRING A WRAPPED GIFT
APPROXIMATELY \$15 IN VALUE, TO BE CHOSEN OR STOLEN! COME
SEE WHAT HAPPENS!**

**SHRINE CLUB 2022 DUES OF \$10 AND DINNER TICKETS MAY BE PAID
IN ADVANCE**

**PLEASE! PLEASE! Send in reservations to Larry Smith, BEFORE
DECEMBER 9, 2021**

NO STATED MEETING IN DECEMBER

SPECIFY NUMBER OF CHICKEN AND/OR PRIME RIB DINNERS

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN SOME CHRISTMAS FUN!

**Detach Section Below & Return to Larry Smith, 526 Redwing Ct., Merced, CA 95340-8351 or
call 209-658-0335 or call Rudy Perez, (209) 769-3962 or bring to November 18, 2021, Mtg.**

Number of Prime Rib Dinners () Rare () Med () Well Done-Number of Chicken Breast Dinners ()

Name: _____

\$10 Nobles, only, 2022 Dues included: yes/no

Cost \$25 per person. (Dues Paying Club Member Free) Check enclosed in amount of _____

SHRINE CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 16, 2021-Family & Friends, Welcome! \$25 per prsn

Make checks payable to: Merced-Mariposa Shrine Club

Tehran Temple Guard

In December we will support the Shrine at the Christmas Party.
Sunday, December 5th, at the Tehran Shrine Center. 3:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.

In January we will go back to Michaelangelo's in Downtown Clovis. A clean and well lighted place where we can get Stromboli. Fun to say and fun to eat. As always, call Bill Pfister at 323-8061.

In February everyone will be having corned beef so we should go for Mexican Food. Casa Maria at 180 Shaw Ave. in Clovis comes well recommended. That is at the SE corner of Shaw and Minnewawa. Fun to say and hard to spell. Social at 6:00PM, dinner soon after. Call Bill.

In March we will be back at Andiamo's in Clovis. They always treat us well. 6:00PM. Call Bill.

For April, we are considering the possibility of a joint lunch event with the Taco Tuesday group for the purpose of discussing items of mutual interest and concern.



Gary Campbell

2022 Potentate's Trip with Larry & Jeanne Goeringer





American Heritage Paddle Wheeler
New Orleans to Memphis - 8 Days
April 8th to April 16th

Pricing (Different Decks)
\$4255.00 - \$6095.00

Reservations/Questions - Call Georgia
559-226-1166

Pre-Cruise
3-Days in New Orleans

Covid-19 Vaccination Required

DECEMBER 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Lemoore Christmas Parade
5 Tehran Shrine Christmas Party*	6 Tehran Shrine Stated Meeting & Elections*, Pageantry Practice Temple Belles Christmas Luncheon	7	8 Fresno Shrine Club Daughters of the Nile	9 Legion of Honor Unit/ Flying Shriners Club	10	11
12 Nile Queen's Open House	13 Merced/Mariposa Shrine Club Christmas Social	14 Temple Guard Unit/ Patrol Unit	15 Nile Sewing Bulletin Deadline	16 Roustabouts Club	17 Novkeps Unit Dinner	18
19	20	21 Clowns Unit (DARK)	22	23 Merced/Mariposa Shrine Club (DARK)	24	25 Christmas 
26	27 Temple Belles (DARK)	28 BOD Mtg "Board of Directors"	29	30	31	January 1, 2022 

Notes:
 BOD - Board of Directors; open to all Nobles
 PNA - Potentate Not Available
 * Denotes Temple/Shrine Event

Dec 4 Lemoore Christmas Parade
 Dec 5 **Tehran Shrine Christmas Party - 3:00 p.m. - 6 :00 p.m.**
 Dec 6 Temple Belles Christmas Luncheon- 11:00 a.m.
Dec 6 Tehran Shrine Stated Meeting & Elections - 6:30 p.m.
 Dec 8 Fresno Shrine Club Mtg
 Dec 8 Daughters of the Nile Mtg
 Dec 9 Legion of Honor/Flying Shriners Mtg
 Dec 12 Nile Queen's Open House
 Dec 13 Merced/Mariposa Shrine Club Christmas Party
 Dec 14 Temple Guard/Patrol Mtg
 Dec 15 Nile Sewing
 Dec 15 Bulletin Submission Deadline
 Dec 16 Roustabouts Mtg
 Dec 17 Novkeps Mtg
 Dec 28 BOD Mtg "Board of Directors" - 6:30 p.m.



SHRINERS LIGHT THE WAY
While Having Fun in 2021!



Pageantry's Fabuloso Mimosa Brunch



*Sunday
January 16, 2022
11:00AM to 1:00PM
at
Tehran Shrine Center
5407 E. Olive
Fresno, CA 93727*



*Join us for Mimosas, Quiche and
Good Company*

Tickets \$10.00 per person

*To order by mail, send to N. Campbell,
4575 E. Pico Ave, Fresno CA 93726-1209*

Name: _____

Address: _____

No. of Tickets: _____

All Proceeds to Pageantry General Fund



You are invited...

Tehran Shrine Christmas Party

Sunday, December 5th, 2021
Tehran Shrine Center
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Open House
Potato Bar & Heavy Appetizers
Holiday Beverages

5:00 p.m. Special Presentation To
Shriners Hospital Northern California
Alan Anderson - Director of Development

Please RSVP

Recorder@Tehranshriners.org

559-251-1991