

Saladin



News

February 2010 Issue

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From the Potentate's Desk

In an effort to keep all Nobles informed as to happenings within Saladin I have, with the help of my Lady Nancy put together this newsletter. Although not the format that I foresee for the future, I believe that getting information to the Nobles is more important than the format and I hope that you agree.

First I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve the Nobility of Saladin Temple as Potentate for the year of 2010. For the past four years, as I have progressed through the Divan, I have joked about how each year the Fez has seemed progressively heavier. This year, as the Potentate's Fez was placed on my head, I indeed realized that this Fez had a weight I had not felt before as it not only represented the great honor which had been bestowed but it symbolized the great responsibility which was now, along with my EXCELLENT Divan, mine to fulfill.

Like every Potentate before me, I spent hours upon hours thinking how I could do the Shrine and our kids the most good in the 12 months I have in this position. I decided that there were two things which cried out to be addressed. The first is that we as a group must continue to work hard to see that the children **now in our care** continue to benefit by receiving the care that only the Shrine is able or willing to give. The second is that the children **of the future** needing like help will still be able to look to us for the care they need. The theme for 2010 is simply, "We're About Kids!" If we keep that phrase, as well as Imperial Sir Jack's theme of how we need to remain unified, in mind we will reach both needs.

In the next few months we as a Temple must, at long last, address the financial state of Saladin Temple. Only by doing this can we be assured that ten to fifteen years down the road we as a fraternity will still be able to accomplish the mission which our founders gave us.

The process will begin at the Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 13th. We will begin by sharing information with the Nobility which the Divan has put together regarding the options available to us at this point. Each option is viable but the task before us is not to do something because we can but rather choose the one which shows that we used the logic of the facts presented to do what we should be doing. We can not think only of which option would make us financially comfortable in the present but rather which option will provide for financial stability for the next ten years. In a nut shell, sometimes there is a big difference between doing what we **Want** to do and doing what we **Need** to do.

Please attend this meeting. Let us discuss our options in light of the facts presented and let logic prevail.

YITF

Ill. Sir Jim Lentz



At the 2010 election and installation of officers the combined 2010 Potentate's and Lady's pin was distributed. As you can see the theme of 2010 "We're About Kids" is clearly represented. The caduceus not only represents my profession as a Registered Nurse but more importantly represents the medical care the Shriners and Shrine Hospitals for Children provide to our children. Lady Nancy selected the dragon fly not only because she has always admired their beauty and agility but because of the Native American legends surrounding the transformation from water beetle into a beautiful dragon fly with wondrous wings for flying allowing them to reach previously unimagined expectations. Shriners and Shrine Hospitals for Children help give kids their wings allowing them to reach their previously unimagined expectations.

Elected and appointed Divan members will be distributing the 2010 pin as they visit Shrine Clubs throughout the year.

From the Chief Rabban Dale Lentz

Welcome to 2010 ---As we enter the new year, I would like to thank all the hard working Nobles, Shrine Clubs and Units for the support given to Saladin Temple this past year. Without your help, our fund raising programs would not be successful. The continuation of this support is very apparent so far this year. The Cash Calendar program is going well, work on the Circuses is progressing and the Vidalia Onion program is just around the corner. I will be handling the Vidalia Onion program again this year and look forward to another great year of onion sales.

Along with keeping our Shrine Organization afloat financially, we are faced with declining membership and decisions to be made regarding the future location of our Shrine Temple.

Lets all continue to work together in solving these very important issues.

From the High Priest and Prophet Scott Sanford

Greeting Nobles! As we enter a new year there are always new things to get done. As membership chairman, I will be in contact with all of the clubs designated membership chairman's and providing them with ideas and suggestions to increase membership at the local level. Imperial has provided me with DVDs promoting Shrine memberships and I will have them available at the February Advisory Board meeting to provide to all of the club presidents for distribution to their local membership chairman's. It is imperative that we begin to make strides to counter our membership losses. There are a number of Masonic programs that address membership that I will make available upon request. I look forward to seeing all of you in my travels this year!

From the Assistant Rabban Jeff Higley Sr.

I hope everyone's New Year is going well so far. I thank you all for your support to the recent election. After a successful 2009, we are looking forward to a better 2010. Please attend as many Club, Unit and Temple functions as you can to help us make the Shrine Hospitals a continued better place for the treatment of our kids.

Please mark your calendars for the Feb. 13th meeting at Saladin. We will be voting on the future of your Shrine Temple, as to selling/moving, selling part of the property or selling and building. It is in all of our interests to be at this meeting to express your opinion and make a rational decision that will help the temple grow again. We all know of Masons that are not Shriners and would be great assets to the Shrine. So please get the petitions out to them so they can assist us in providing the best health care for the kids. We need everyone to pull together to make this Temple grow. Please get as many of your Clubs/Units membership to attend this meeting as possible so a few do not make the decisions of the many and your voice can be heard. Look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting Feb. 13th with your Fez on.

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From the Oriental Guide Dan Soullier

When I was asked to write an article for this edition, I thought, "write about what?" Well for all of the nobility that know me, know I always have something to say.

Many years ago, while I was working in construction, my crew and I were complaining about the tools we were using. My boss approached us and said, "If I gave you a screwdriver and said use it as a hammer, by God you'd better learn it use as a hammer."

Now why I told this story...we all know about the decreasing numbers of nobles, so I will not reiterate, but I will mention a reality as when I was an accountant. The average lifespan of a Michigan male is 77 years. The average age of a Saladin Noble is 67-70 years of age. This means that, potentially, we could lose 40-50% of the present Nobility in the next 10 years.

I know many feel that the answer is to go to your lodges and ask your brothers to join the Shrine and hope that they have the same calling that we are

Continued on page 3

Oriental Guide – continued

experiencing...this is a "Noble Idea." My boss would tell you that what we have is a bag full of screwdrivers, a box of nails and a house to build. We have to learn to use the tool we have to accomplish our mission, at this time.

The 18 clubs in Saladin have done an outstanding job, in the past, expressing the Noble Ideal unto our own clubs and thus the temple. Now with our decreasing numbers, we must expand the Noble Ideal beyond the identity of the club and into the identity of our mission, for the sake of our hospital and our children.

Each club has its own fund-raising projects that it operates within the parameters and capabilities of the health and time-constraints of our aging Nobility. I know this to be true from my talks with other clubs and even within my own. Some have even considered lessening or stopping some events due to these limitations. Well, as I tell my kids, "Don't complain to me about a problem unless you have an answer of your own first," I have an answer.

First part of my answer starts with, not giving up. Next, communicate with other clubs. Call the presidents of the clubs around and beyond your area; ask for assistance. I personally called and offered the help of my club to nearby Elf Khurafeh clubs, for their fund-raising events. Third, put aside the ego of the club or the individual and know that the funds earned eventually go to our mission...OUR HOSPITALS and OUR KIDS. Who care how or who raised it; the end result is all that matters. Lastly, be aware that there are people in Northwest, Paul Bunyan, or Lakeland Shrine clubs who may come and help in a Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, or Sturgis Shrine club event; just ask.

With each visit from the Black Camel and "The Calling" of our new Masonic brothers going fettered due to various reasons, I cannot see how my answer is moot. The house we live in was built long ago, by those before us. Our hammers are gone and now it is up to us to maintain it with the tools that are left. Reach out, communicate, cooperate, and keep the Noble Ideal alive.

Thank you all for your confidence in electing me and Peace be with your endeavors and works.

231-547-6114

From the Recorder Dick Higgins

I wish to thank you for reelecting me as your recorder. I can only hope that I will be worthy of your trust. I would like to thank Past Potentate, Tom Russell for his cooperation this last year. His Lady Marie was very helpful, especially her cookies.

We are in a very precarious position this year. Our Assistant Rabban, Jeff Higley Sr. is heading up a very important position as head of the committee on long-range planning. He is working, along with our Potentate Jim Lentz, on the options that face Saladin Temple. The state meeting on February 13th will tell us more. I urge you to attend this crucial meeting. I am very confident that your Divan is working hard for you. If you have a concern that needs our discussion, call me or better yet see me. My Lady Shirley and I will be traveling to Rockford, Illinois the following week. See you soon.

VIDALIA ONIONS

The Vidalia Onion Program is being handled by Dale Lentz again this year. The program has seen steady improvement over the last three years, with 50,000# sold last year.

The Vidalia Onion farmer in Georgia that has furnished the great onions to us the last two years will be our supplier again this year.

Please address the Vidalia Onion Program in your Clubs, Units and Organizations in the near future and get your orders to me on or before the first week in April.

Orders, Questions or Comments should be directed to: Dale Lentz, 604 W. Franklin Ave., Reed City, MI 49677-1023

Phone: 231-832-5411 or Cell: 231-250-8445 or e-mail: dalelentz@yahoo.com

Beanies for Shriners Hospital for Children - Chicago

Donald and Margaret Kline, Montague, MI, have been hosting a Christmas Open House for friends and neighbors for twenty years. The "admission" for this event is beanie babies. The benefactor of all these little stuffed critters for at least the last fifteen years has been Shriners Hospital for Children, Chicago (SHC-C). Over 100 of the animals or three "banana boxes" full were delivered to the hospital on January 19, 2010 by Thomas George, associate member of the Board of Governors for SHC-C and longtime friend and classmate of the Kline's. George, a member of the Saladin Shrine Center in Grand Rapids has promised to take the Kline's for a tour of the hospital when the weather is a little nicer.

Calendar of Events

February 13, Advisory Board & Stated Meeting
10:00 Advisory Board
12:00 Lunch (Nobles and Ladies will eat separately)
1:00 Stated Meeting & Ladies Activities

February 18 – 20, GLSA Rockford, IL

March 3, Battle Creek Circus

March 5 & 6, Muskegon Circus

March 11-14, Saladin Circus Grand Rapids

March 15, Kalamazoo Circus

March 20, 2010 Circus Wrap-up & 2011 Circus Kick Off Meeting
11:00 Brunch at the Temple

March 24, Newsletter Deadline

April 10, Mini Ceremonial Charlevoix
Further information will be distributed to Northern Shrine Club Secretaries for distribution

April 24, Advisory Board and Stated Meeting
10:00 Advisory Board
12:00 Lunch (Nobles and Ladies will eat separately)
1:00 Stated Meeting & Ladies Activities

2010 Communications to the Nobility

In an effort to save costs related to the printing and mailing of correspondence to the Nobility in 2010, correspondence, including Newsletters, will be distributed electronically to all Nobles who have an e-mail address on file with the Temple. If you received a hardcopy of this Newsletter and have an e-mail address, please contact Donna Baldwin at Donna.Baldwin@saladinshrine.com to have your e-mail information added to the Temple database. Your cooperation is appreciated. Ill. Sir Jim Lentz

As we go forth...

in the process of providing financial stability for our Temple please consider this: The definition of insanity is continuing to do what you have always done and believe that the outcome will be different! Please join us at the Feb 13 Stated Meeting as we begin the process of making decisions that will be critical to the future of OUR Temple.

Imperial 2010 – Toronto, Canada – July 3-8

If you have never been to Toronto or have not been there for awhile, consider joining us as we travel to Imperial in July. Toronto is a fun multicultural city that has it all! Theater, culturally diverse markets, fine and casual dining, literally miles of underground shopping, the CN Tower and the Roger City Sky Dome (home to the Blue Jays), if you want it you can find it in Toronto! Imperial is setting a bus tour to visit Niagara Falls and the casinos. They are also looking into an opportunity to attend a baseball game. Information will be provided as it is made available.

Hotel accommodations will be at the Sheraton Center, 123 Queen Street West. The Convention Center, where Imperial sessions will be held is a 15 minute stroll from the hotel or you can catch the subway a block from the Hotel. Cost \$199.00 per room per night for 5 nights = \$995.00, plus parking (\$38.00/day and any room incidentals). All rooms are double-double rooms so doubling up is an option for \$30.00 per night for each extra person.

Transportation to Toronto, I would encourage you to consider carpooling, this will cut down on parking expenses and although not costly to drive to Toronto it would save you money. Toronto is a VERY congested city with very little parking, do not plan on driving around the city proper to shop, sightsee etc as you will find it difficult to find a place to park your car and will pay for it if you do find parking! Imperial is negotiating special rates and/or transportation packages for Imperial attendees. I will keep you posted as more information becomes available. Toronto has extensive tour buses, a subway and the underground makes it easy to walk to many destinations regardless of weather. Bring comfortable shoes.

Documentation needed – remember you will need a passport, passport card or enhanced driver’s license to cross the US/Canadian border.

If you are interested in attending Imperial **contact Jim Lentz by February `15, 231-357-8915 or jlentz47@gmail.com**. A deposit of \$500.00, payable to the Temple, is **required** by March 1, to hold your reservation. Consider this deposit non-refundable unless there is an extreme or unexpected family emergency. Contact Jim Lentz, should such a situation arise. The remainder of room charges will be billed to you from the Temple, due within 30 days of receipt. Parking fees and incidental room charges will be billed to the credit card you provide at check-in.

Hope to see you in Toronto!

From The Potentate's Lady

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in Installation Day activities. If you helped by assisting in the set of the Past Potentates room or ball room, bringing appetizers, working the bar and/or with clean-up, or keeping me calm during this important event in our lives, know that your efforts were appreciated by all and that Jim and I could not have done it without your help. I look forward to the upcoming year and working with all of you to increase awareness throughout our communities that Shriners are "About Kids." Lady Nancy

Ladies Activities on February 13

Following the Ladies lunch in the Past Potentates room, the Ladies will be working on putting together Circus refrigerator magnets, designed by Lady Denise Higley, to be sold during the Saladin Shrine Circus March 11-14. Our goal is to make 500 magnets which will be sold for \$2.00 each. Denise and Dea Clup have been working on the magnets but need help putting everything together. Please feel free to dress casually as we will be working with glue etc and remember to bring your craft talents with you. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 13th!

Shrine Ladies

Those who have been a "Shrine Lady" for a while know that although Shrine is a men's organization Shrine Ladies play an important role in the *work* of the Shrine and our Nobles know it too. During 2010 I challenge Shrine Ladies to expand their involvement in the work of the Shrine. Shrine Imperial knows that their fraternity and Shrine Hospitals are one of the "best kept secrets" around and that this needs to change. You can be a part of that change. Let those around you know that you are a Shrine Lady and be proud of it! Educate yourself as to the medical conditions treated by Shrine Hospitals for Children and if you become aware of children within your community that could benefit from Shrine Hospital care, encourage your Nobles to contact these families! Participate in fund-raising activities that will help to keep your Nobles Club/Unit and Saladin Temple viable in the year's to come. Most important, if you have questions about how you can help please contact me and I would be happy to brainstorm with you. Lady Nancy jnlentz47@gmail.com or 231-357-8743

Lady Nancy's Program for 2010

I spent hours thinking about an appropriate program for 2010, searching for something that would benefit our Nobles, their Ladies and the Temple in general. During a casual conversation, just weeks before the scheduled installation of officers, a comment was made and immediately the proverbial light bulb came on! During 2010 I will be fund-raising for the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator (ADE) and associated training of office staff and interested Nobles and Ladies. The ADE, once purchased, will be housed in the Temple office area. I have researched this and believe that \$3000.00 will cover the purchase of the ADE device and all required training.

I want to thank Noble John DeJonge from Lakeland Shrine Club for his generous donation of a handmade clock that will be raffled during the upcoming Feb 13 Stated Meeting. I also want to thank the Saladin Color Guard for their donation of \$500 toward this project.

I am asking Shrine Clubs and Units to consider supporting this effort by having a special fund-raising event i.e: sharing the proceeds of a 50/50 raffle, holding a bake sale during your communities summer event, having a Club/Unit yard sale, or donating items (as John has) to be raffled during future events at the Temple.

Thank you for your support, I look forward to sharing updates regarding this project as the year progresses.

Circus Sweatshirts

Circus sweatshirts (yellow with a tiger) are available to order. Adult sizes S-4X, cost \$20.00, \$5.00 additional to have your name on the sweatshirt. Orders will be placed on Feb 15 and should arrive in time for the Battle Creek Circus. All sweatshirts will be delivered **to the Temple** and can be picked up there. If you are interested in ordering a sweatshirt please contact Sharon Colon at the Temple 616-942-1570 or Sharon.Colon@saladinshrine.com Payment expected either with your order or at the time of pick-up.

See you at the circus!!! Nancy