

# Introducing Our 2015-2016 National Patient Ambassadors

Every year, Shriners Hospitals for Children® selects two national patient ambassadors to represent the patients cared for by the health care system. The ambassadors spend the year sharing their stories, including the importance of Shriners Hospitals for Children.

## Meet this year's National Patient Ambassadors:

### Katharine Koonce, 11, of Huffman, Texas

In 2008, the Koonce family sought refuge from Hurricane Ike at the restaurant in Houston where Katharine's father, James, worked.

Suddenly, while 4-and-a-half-year-old Katharine slept, a fire broke out that quickly engulfed her room in smoke and flames. Katharine's father dove into the room and emerged with Katharine in his arms.

Both father and daughter sustained serious burns. Fifty percent of James' body had been burned and Katharine had burns covering 70 percent of her body. The two were airlifted to a hospital in San Antonio for emergency care.

Once stable, Katherine was taken to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Northern California, via a Medevac flight. After three long months of treatment there, Katharine returned to Texas and continued her rehabilitation at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Houston, and later, at the Shriners Hospital in Galveston.

Katharine is now 11 years old and is a happy, vivacious and busy child. She practices gymnastics, sings, plays piano and loves to dance. She also enjoys fishing with her father.

Katharine has dealt with this painful situation with grace and bravery. She has been an ambassador for her local Shriners Hospital in Galveston and is happy to now have the opportunity to share her story with others around the country.

"I love God, my parents and the Shriners because they have helped me a lot and they are like family," said Katharine.

### Clint Crain, 15, of Huffman, Texas

The Crain family was out on their boat enjoying the 4th of July weekend in 2014, when tragedy struck.

While standing on the back of the boat, Clint lost his balance and fell right into the propeller.

Once the boat was stopped and Clint was able to swim to the surface, his mother jumped into the water and held Clint while she waited for Clint's father, who was in the water wakesurfing when Clint fell, to come help her.

Weather and the holiday weekend combined to cause delays in getting Clint to a hospital. Still, a surgeon was onsite and able to treat Clint, who was



in critical condition, when he arrived. After seven days in the hospital, including three in intensive care, and an above-the-knee amputation, Clint was sent to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Houston, where he received physical therapy weekly and was fitted with a prosthesis.

The Crain family believes that everything has worked out so well for Clint — possibly even miraculously — for a reason, and that perhaps Clint has a new purpose.

It has only been a year since the accident and Clint is doing remarkably well. He is a very positive and personable teenager and is a great speaker, and hopes to be able to give back to Shriners Hospitals for Children through the ambassadorship.

"It's the climb I'm taking to be who I was, and be even better than I was, because without them [Shriners Hospitals] I wouldn't be where I am, I wouldn't have the things I have, the confidence that I have," said Clint.

Clint and Katherine's stories of grace and confidence can be seen on YouTube at [youtube.com/ShrinersHospitals](http://youtube.com/ShrinersHospitals), and are available on DVD from the public relations department. Call 813-281-8162 or send an e-mail to [shrinepr@shrinenet.org](mailto:shrinepr@shrinenet.org).



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Daniel Soullier  
Potentate 2014, 2015

# SALADIN NEWS

Issue 3, 2015

## Pig Roast and concert planned for Oct 3

*Please join Saladin on October 3rd for a Stated Meeting, Pig Roast, and Concert featuring David Molinari. Ladies and family welcome. Please RSVP.*

Please plan to join us for the Saladin Stated Meeting on Saturday, October 3rd, at the Grand Rapids Masonic Temple.

The High Priest and Prophet, John Duley will be roasting a pig in a charcoal roaster starting around midnight the night before the meeting. Along with the pork barbecue, Saladin will be providing classic macaroni and cheese, corn bread, baked beans, and cole slaw.

We would love it if you, your lady, and your entire family joined us for what's guaranteed to be an amazing afternoon of fun and fellowship. Please RSVP to Sara Kopec in the Temple office at [skopec@saladinshrine.com](mailto:skopec@saladinshrine.com) or call (616) 942-1570.

As an added treat, David Molinari, will be performing at the BBQ. Molinari, a Grand Rapids-based songwriter and musician, switching between lap steel, guitar, keyboard, harmonica, accordion, and percussion. A Chicago native, Molinari writes songs in a broad range of styles with a keen sense of narrative in his lyrics. His songs are known for their strong emotive quality, lyrical detail, and infectious pop melodies. He is the founder and leader of the Zydeco-influenced band, Creolization. He has 3 recordings of original songs and has performed as a guest instrumentalist on the stage and in the studio for numerous artists including: Pat Woods (of Ireland), Susan Enan, Anna Egge, Ken Bierschbach, Ralston Bowles, Drew Nelson, Lucy Webster, and Michigan Mark.



**What:** BBQ and concert following the October Stated Meeting

**When:** Saturday, October 3rd.

**Time:** 12:00 noon Stated Meeting, food and fun to follow

**Cost:** None

**Where:** Grand Rapids Masonic Temple  
233 East Fulton St.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



# Potentate highlights the successes of Summer

Hello Nobles and Ladies,

I'm sitting in my front room on Labor Day reviewing 2015. First, I hope everyone had a great summer and you all had a lot of fun and fraternity under The Fez. Let's reminisce. We moved into our new rented spaces downtown after we sold the temple; for those of you who haven't been there, it's really nice. The Circus Committee took over, officially, as caretaker of the circus; good job Nobles. Noble Bob DeHaan started working with the National Drag Racers Association for Shrine Hospital Fundraising; Shriners Hospitals for Children is their charity of choice.

Imperial Session then came along. Houston was wonderfully hot and humid with 87 degree temperature at 7 am, each day. The word at Imperial was Saladin, Saladin, Saladin. Saladin received a Gold Award for Membership. All of our bylaw changes were approved. After introducing our legislation, which was the last piece on the call, I was approached by a group of Nobles and sitting Potentates to run for the Imperial Line.....sorry guys, I love Lady Tabitha too much. One sad note, our new Imperial Marshall stepped

down on day 3 of the session; he was a friend and supporter of Saladin. The main message during Imperial is the same as it has been since July 2012, Membership and Public Relations; fortunately Saladin is one of Tampa's poster children and we are going in the right direction.

A new incentive in 2015 is the cash-back for new members. If a noble is the topline signer for 3 new Nobles coming in for 2015, his temple dues will be paid for 2016. Each Noble coming in generates back \$25 to the club; all new, active Nobles are the gift that keeps on giving. Our new ceremonial team is committed to mini-ceremonials anywhere in Saladin to help new candidates become part of our great fraternity. We are also having a slew of Friday mini-ceremonials at the downtown location to work with new candidates schedules. Remember, if your club is not attempting to gain new Nobles, you are on a slow self-destructive path that will never end well.

We are still giving matching funds for hospital donations, as long as they are processed through the Saladin Trust; Saladin is still the largest donator to our Chicago Hospital, and we will



Daniel Soullier & Lady Tabitha Potentate 2014, 2015

continue to be generous for the great care of our children. On a personal note, in March of this year, I re-entered school for my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and Lady Tabitha received her Bachelor's in Business. Busy, busy, busy. Peace Be with you all.



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# Chief Rabban discusses several important issues

From Lady Connie and myself we would hope that one and all have had a great summer for which some saw it early and some are just seeing it. We had a great time at the recent Imperial Session in Houston got to see some old friends and got to make many new ones as well. Next year's session will be in Tampa and the following two will be in Daytona, then Nashville and Kansas City exciting time are coming. Those divan members in attendance we able to witness the establishing of a new Temple in Brazil, we got to her from the DeMolay dad that Europe is a fast growing area for not only DeMolay which will mean growth for Masonry and hopefully all the other Masonic bodies but more especially that of the Shriners.

We were able to witness the passing of our bylaw changes and as the last order of business our request to have our voting changed so that it can be by a majority present this joins us with several other Temples around the country. This also means we will now be having election of officers in December with installation being the first weekend in January.

With our bylaw changes being approved and basically Saladin doing our housecleaning it is now time to turn our attention to cleaning house on a local level and this will be a great time for the clubs and units because now you can review, and see do I need to change a meeting night or time or something else, what we are also looking at is getting rid of old language that is no longer allowed by Shriners International, so I will personally be reviewing with jurisprudence what we have on file and if we don't have a set of bylaws on hand will be requesting them so we can review. Once again as I said this is not a nitpick job I am looking at it is house

cleaning and a chance to review and update and with any business we have to do this I myself am getting ready to do this with my business and you know it doesn't make me real happy basically because I am going to have to spend money and remodel to be like the rest of the PostNets but I am part of a franchise and I have to abide by rules and regulations so that we are all on the same page and that is all we are looking at here.

Lady Connie and I have been busy with our jobs, my business is up about 15% so far this year and she has accepted another position with a women's shelter in Branch county counseling young women. I myself was hoping to find more time to get out and travel I recently hired a new person for full time status and sorrowfully to say it started out great guns but as of right now things have rather ground to a halt due to her fiancé being killed in a motorcycle accident, so that has logged me behind we are trying to assist her in whatever to help her through this but only time will tell.

Another point that was stressed at Imperial is membership how we need to get out to all the blue lodges in your areas to speak to the great things we as Shriners are doing not only in our communities but also across the country. We are all membership chairmen it is all our responsibility to be in the Blue Lodges we will be looking at responsibility next year Saladin as a Temple can only do so much we must do this as a team and my one thought is that we need to set each club up with goals for membership how many new members can you bring in, Illustrious Sir Dan has a program for those members who sign up 3 new members that their next year's dues are taken care of. Yes it's a



Bill Martindale & Lady Connie Chief Rabban 2015

biscuit we really should not have to do that but we are looking at whatever it takes to get new members and not just new but active members we have to show them the work that goes into being a shriner its not a cake walk but the benefit the one benefit that we get is the smile on a child's face.

We are also going to be assisting The Rainbow Girls their fund raising this year is for Shriners Chicago Children's Hospital and that they were trying to raise \$3000 for the hospital through pop tops, as a Divan we decided to assist them this year and will match up to \$4000 or whatever amount below that, that they raise they have different fund raisers every year and I found out about this during the Grand Lodge Session. So if you know a rainbow girl or a chapter nearby if you would to help them give whatever tops you can find to them to assist in this great undertaking. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the next stated meeting.

Lady Connie and William Martindale, Chief Rabban Saladin Shriners

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