



# SALADIN NEWS

Issue 1, 2017 - Kick-Off Edition - Saladin Shriners - Grand Rapids, MI

## Valentines Day Party Set for February 11th



### Our Menu for the Evening

**Aperitivo:** Prosecco, Olives, Nuts, Cheeses, Pickles, Grissini, etc.

**Antipasti:** Charcuterie (Salame, Prosciutto, Burrata, Breads, etc.)

**Primi Piatti:** Wild Mushroom Agnolotti with Tomato Alfredo Sauce

**Secondi Piatti:** Seared Lamb Chop Lollipops, served rare with Mint Pesto

**Formaggio e Frutta e Vino:** Italian Cheeses and Complimenting Fruits

**Dolce:** Tiramisu and Cannolis

**Digestivo:** Amaro

This year's ticket price is \$40 and reservations must be made by February 1st. Please purchase your tickets soon as this event will sell out early at 70 people!

Please call us at the Saladin office to purchase your tickets.  
(616) 942-1570 - [skopec@saladinshrine.com](mailto:skopec@saladinshrine.com)

Questo è Amore!



This year, Saladin Shriners and Blue Lodge Masons are joining again for a night to remember on Saturday, February 11th on the 4th floor of Grand Rapids' Masonic Temple. This Valentine's dinner will prove to be the most intricate and complex yet. As in the last several years, I will be bringing together some of the area's best servers, Grand Rapids' only certified sommelier, and the freshest local ingredients our area has to offer. However, this year will be a little different... This year's Valentine's dinner will be a 7 course traditional Italian dinner, mostly served family-style, paired with some amazing wines, prosecco, espresso, and amaro. Each course will feature foods from the best Italian restaurants and suppliers from the greater Grand Rapids area. For example, the Wild Mushroom Agnolotti will come from Chef Chris Perkey of Osteria Rossa. The Burrata will be made by none other than Chef Jenna from Amore. Of course, we can't give away all the surprises, but the evening promises to be an array of amazing Italian dishes all in one spot! No-where else will you be able to experience Grand Rapids' best Italian food all in one sitting!

Fraternally,

Jonathan Duley  
Chief Rabban Elect

# From the Potentate Elect...

Greetings Nobles! It is truly a honor to be elected to serve as your 2017 Potentate for Saladin Temple. These past four years have gone by extremely quickly. There has been no shortage of change since I was first elected to serve on the Divan. However, what has not changed is our fundamental focus on having fun, enjoying fellowship with one another and supporting our philanthropy as Shriners. These fundamentals will continue to be the focus for the Divan during 2017.

Our membership continues to dwindle in numbers but not in spirit. The membership trends for the Shrine mirror that of Masonic Lodges across our jurisdiction. There are men joining Freemasonry but not nearly fast enough to replace Brothers that move on to the celestial lodge above. We can lament our shrinking size but it will not change the trend. What we can do is make the best of what we have and engage new Masons and demonstrate the passion we have for being Shriners. To our long standing Shriners – keep an eye out for possible leaders in your blue lodge and make sure they know what the Shrine means to you. To our newer Shriners – listen to the experiences of our long standing members and take to heart the knowledge and wisdom they have to offer. We will inevitably decline in numbers in the coming years but we can strengthen our organization by uniting behind what we have in common.

Your 2017 Divan will be working hard to incorporate fun, fellowship and philanthropy into all our events this year.

We will continue to host our monthly Friday Fellowship get together. These events are meant to foster fellowship of existing Nobles and provide an opportunity for potential candidates to get to meet our membership. All Nobles, ladies, Masons and possible members are welcome to enjoy Saladin's hospitality.

We will be working to make the experience of attending Saladin stated meetings worthwhile of your time and travel. While the perfunctory duties of holding a business meeting are required, we realize your time is valuable. In order add to value of attending we will be providing a lunch offering before the meeting and fellowship following. During the stated meetings peace and harmony will be maintained. Nobles are encouraged to bring forth their ideas and thoughts on how to improve our organization. Our philanthropy will also be a focus in various ways in order to remind us of the impact we can and do make when we come together as Shriners.

Ceremonials will continue to be held separate from



*Jonathan Clifford - Potentate Elect*

stated meetings. The ceremonial teams work hard to make sure the day is dedicated to the candidates and make it a memorable experience. We realize that sometimes it is just not possible for a candidate to make it to a ceremonial due to other obligations. Rather than make him wait, the Divan is open to mini-ceremonials. Please let us know if you have candidates that would benefit from this and we will make every effort to accommodate the situation.

In the absence of a formal First Lady during 2017, I have appointed a committee of very capable Shrine Ladies to coordinate the Ladies Program. My direction was clear – our goal is to have fun. There will be a ladies program offering during all of our stated meetings and ceremonials during the year. No doubt they will come up with some very creative and fun events.

The Valentines Dinner will be featured again and put on by your talented Chief Rabban, Jonathan Duley. He is quite gifted at putting on a fine meal and a wonderful experience for all who attend. This will be a don't miss event

**See Potentate Page 3**

# High Priest Elect Sends Greetings to All Saladin Nobles

Greetings Nobles,

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since you placed your trust in me by electing me to serve on the Divan. I sincerely hope that I have done a good job for you, serving this past year has been great.

For those who were at our last ceremonial thank you for your participation. For those who don't know my Shrine history, I was made a Shriner in 2008 at the Potentates ball. Kind of unusual but I was getting ready to deploy to Iraq and this was the only opportunity that was available. I remember a Noble said that we would finish my initiation at a later date. Flash forward - It wasn't until a ceremonial in 2016 where we had a longtime Shriner go through the

second section that I learned it wasn't too late to go through. What fun and camaraderie! Thank you to all those who participated.

This next year promises to be another great year, the key to that is participation of the Nobility. Support your clubs and units; we have special dinners, ceremonials, social nights and other events planned. Our annual Circuses will be here soon, try and plan to volunteer and show the fez in your community. Working the circus seems to re-charge my Shrine batteries helping to carry on a tradition that brings smiles to so many children who don't always have a lot to smile about.

Lady Carol and I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year.



*Our High Priest Elect, Noble Dale Kramer, and his lady Carol*

## POTENTATE *from page 2*

and likely to sell out so make sure to get your ticket early so you and your lady will be secured a romantic evening with Saladin.

I would like to say I am truly humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve as your Potentate for 2017. Thank you for your support, your love of the Shrine and involvement in our philanthropy.

Fraternal Regards,

Jonathan Clifford  
Potentate Elect  
Saladin Shriners

*Installation of Jonathan Clifford and his Divan  
will occur following the annual meeting.*

**January 7, 2016  
1:00 pm  
Grand Rapids Masonic Center  
5th Floor Ampitheater**

## 2017 Calendar of Potentate Elect Clifford

**January 7th – Annual Meeting and Officer Installation**  
**February 11th – Valentine's Dinner and Party**  
**March 9th -12th – Grand Rapids Circus**  
**March 25th – Stated Meeting - 1 pm**  
**April 29th – Spring Ceremonial - 1 pm**  
**May 13th – Stated Meeting - 1 pm**  
**July 9th – July 13th – Imperial Session – Daytona**  
**September 23rd – Stated Meeting - 1 pm**  
**October 21st – Fall Ceremonial\***  
**November 11th – Potentate's Ball**  
**December 2nd – Temple Elections - 1 pm**

**Held at the Grand Rapids Masonic Temple**  
**Annual Meeting, Stated Meetings, Valentine's Party, Spring Ceremonial, Potentate's Ball, Temple Elections.**

\* - Fall Ceremonial will be held offsite  
 Location and Time - TBA



William Martindale, President  
Jonathan Clifford, Vice-President  
Ryan Powers, Treasurer  
Rick Williams, Secretary

# Saladin Childcare Report

From the Saladin Shriners Children's Trust

Jonathan Duley, Trustee  
Harry Jones, Trustee  
Dale Kramer, Trustee  
Gerry Kerbis, Childcare Chairman

## Saladin Transpo: 3,166 hours and \$56K so far in 2016

### January 1st to December 6th - Driver's Trip Summary

Driver	No. of Trips	Mileage	Hours	Club	Driver	No. of Trips	Mileage	Hours	Club
Babbitt, James	1	394	11.25	Scarab	Lentz, Dale	2	1,181	18.25	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan
Barnette, John	2	1131	26.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Meyer, August	3	1,078	36.75	Berrien
Bihlmeyer, Thomas	2	1229	30.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Moeller, Jack	1	341	10.00	Allegan/Ottawa
Boughner, Robert	2	682	22.50	Kalamazoo	Mundy, Ian	2	507	19.00	Cass
Bouth, Michael	1	467	13.00	Muskegon	Murr, Douglas	6	2,067	63.25	Allegan/Ottawa
Bruinsma, William	3	1160	27.75	Caravan	Nelson, Raymond	2	1,433	29.00	Muskegon
Burns, Gene	3	980	25.50	Eaton	Nostrant, Floy	1	573	14.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan
Culp, Douglas	1	275	9.00	Cass	Nostrant, Gary	12	6,700	168.25	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan
Dawson, Michael	12	4,605	139.00	Battle Creek	Padilla, Sonforoso	2	686	21.75	Allegan/Ottawa
DeHaan, Robert	8	2,904	95.50	Kalamazoo	Peek, James	4	1,432	44.00	Kalamazoo
DeJonge, John	1	591	13.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Perry, Neil	9	3,725	98.75	Eaton
Dorn, Roger	2	694	20.00	Allegan/Ottawa	Perry, Lana	1	444	10.50	Eaton
Fenrich, Arnold	19	7,459	229.00	Battle Creek	Peterson, Don	3	1,812	44.00	Muskegon
Flannery, Raymond	17	8,613	223.00	Muskegon	Portinga, Richard	1	464	14.00	Battle Creek
Frost, Mert	9	3,191	108.25	Kalamazoo	Reahm, Robert	4	1,417	45.00	Kalamazoo
George, Thomas	7	2,866	101.00	Muskegon	Roose, Larry	1	575	15.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan
Gondzar, Don	2	1,237	33.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Rooze, Michael	6	3,510	100.75	Caravan
Grandy, Keith	4	2,424	60.25	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Ruble, David	7	2,750	82.00	Battle Creek
Hartmann, Richard	1	354	9.00	Allegan/Ottawa	Russell, Rodney	2	922	26.00	Eaton
Hively, Mary	2	580	16.50	Niles	Schultz, Janice	3	1,414	56.00	Muskegon
Hively, Stanley	8	2,472	84.25	Niles	Schultz, Thomas	33	17,448	479.50	Muskegon
Hunt, Walter	2	1,332	30.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Siewert, Thomas	2	531	22.00	Berrien
Hutch, George	2	1,038	32.50	Muskegon	VanFossen, Richard	1	505	14.00	Eaton
Jones, Harry	1	391	10.00	Caravan	VanSlyke, Raymond	2	919	24.75	Muskegon
Kiefer, Jim	7	2,738	80.50	Scarab	Volkema, Nate	1	360	10.00	Allegan/Ottawa
Keyser, John	6	1,902	66.25	Berrien	Walker, Bill	3	1,722	39.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan
King, Billy	2	1,241	30.25	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan	Ward, Mark	1	391	9.25	Caravan
Kramer, Carol	1	391	8.50	Scarab	Waterman, Mark	7	2,648	76.00	Battle Creek
Kramer, Dale	1	391	8.50	Scarab	Williams, James	1	610	12.00	Lakeland/Paul Bunyan

### Totals

# of Trips: 126  
Total Miles: 111,897  
Total Hours: 3,166.00

### Driver Supported Trips

Fuel: \$ 6,162.46  
Tolls: \$ 1217.60  
Lodging: \$ 380.47  
Cab Fare: \$ 119.00  
Food: \$ 6,220.99  
Total: \$14,100.52

### Self Drive Trips

Fuel: \$11,230.74  
Tolls: \$1,675.17  
Food: \$4,858.07  
Lodging: \$1,893.37  
Total: \$19,657.35

### Additional Expenses

Vehicle Maint: \$5,937.49  
Van Rentals: \$ 489.90  
Mileage-Club Van \$1,133.00  
Van Insurance: \$14,854.21  
Total: \$22,414.08

Drivers completed trips to Chicago and Cincinnati

Self Drives to Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Salt Lake City

Shriners Hospitals for Children provides specialty care for children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay. All care and services are delivered in a family-centered environment.

## Saladin Children's Trust Gives \$80,000 to Chicago Hospital

The Trustees of Saladin Shriners Children's Trust voted in October to make a gift of \$80,000 to the Chicago Shrine Hospital for two separate projects. \$50,000 will be used to digitize the research archive of Dr. Edward Miller. Dr. Miller served nearly his entire career as staff physician at the Chicago Hospital. His research and efforts continue to have a lasting effect on pediatric orthopaedic surgery throughout the Shrine system.

The remaining \$30,000 will be used to construct a lead-lined room for lower extremity fluoroscopy within the existing hospital motion analysis lab.

Dr. Pernendu Gupta, Chicago Shriners Hospital's new Chief of Staff, was present at our October Ceremonial to speak about orthopedic care at the hospital and to accept the \$80,000 gift from Saladin's newest four nobles.



Saladin's new nobles present an \$80,000 gift to Shriners Hospital for Children - Chicago's Chief of Staff, Dr. Pernendu Gupta, at our recent Fall Ceremonial in October. The funds will be used to support two programs at the hospital. Josh Brockway's beard approves this message.

# Greenville Hospital Patient Competes at Paralympics

Brian Bell is on a roll...one that has earned him a gold medal in wheelchair basketball at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 27-year-old Alabama native and father of three calls the games the biggest challenge of his career.

Bell lost his right leg in a train accident when he was just 10-years-old. Between the ages of 10 and 18, he came to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Greenville for treatment and prosthetic limb fittings and fabrication. At Shriners Hospitals for Children, the doctors and staff helped Bell to not only recover, but also try new activities. These activities included sports, such as football, which he played until he discovered wheelchair basketball at a training facility he frequented.

Bell fell in love with basketball and went on to win a gold medal in the World Championship in Birmingham, England, when he was just 16. He now plays professionally in Italy.

Bell is also studying kinesiology and hopes to become a personal trainer and basketball coach. He wants to give back to other young people who suddenly find themselves facing adversity, just like he did after his accident.



*Scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone or tablet to watch an excellent CBS news story about Brian Bell and adaptive sports at Shriners Hospitals for Children.*



“I want to show others that you can still go on to do great things even if you have a disability,” said Bell. “It can make you stronger and Shriners Hospitals for Children helped me see that.”

# Finding His Voice: Chicago Hospital Patient Cody Conroy

When Cody Conroy was born with a bilateral cleft lip and cleft palate, his mother wasn't sure where to turn for help. The hospital near their Rapid City, South Dakota, home did not have the specialists onsite to perform the surgeries or offer the follow-up care Cody needed. So, until age 9, Cody's speech was extremely delayed.

“I did not like talking to or being around people. I was very shy and aware of my speech condition, and it was hard,” said Cody.

Working as a hairdresser, Cody's mother had a client who asked about her son's condition. She went on to say that she knew Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago had an excellent cleft lip and palate and plastic surgery team, and the Conroys soon booked an appointment.

Cody underwent several surgeries at the hospital, including a bone graft

surgery to repair his cleft palate; and reconstructive surgery on his nose, teeth and mouth. He followed up with speech therapy at home and school and was soon speaking very clearly – for the first time in his life. “I never thought I would speak normally or that my condition would get better,” said Cody. “And wow, it sure did.”

The multidisciplinary plastics team at the Chicago Shriners Hospital includes speech language pathologists, audiologists, plastic surgeons, orthodontists, nurses and nurse practitioners, care coordinators, ENT surgeons and more. The goal is to look at the needs of the child in their entirety and offer a treatment plan that is individualized for each patient, which is what Cody says he is grateful for.

“My advice to any child in my situation is for them to know that it will get better, and the people at Shriners



Hospitals for Children can help. They do excellent, excellent work, and I'm thankful for how they've changed my life.”



# Shriners Patient Wows Professional Golfers in Vegas

*Patient showing the world that his limb difference makes no difference in his life or in the game of the Golf.*

Five-year-old Tommy Morrissey is inspiring millions with his “no limits” attitude.

The golf prodigy and young patient of Shriners Hospitals for Children is the first child with a limb difference to qualify for the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship. Now in its 17th year, the championship is the largest and most prestigious event for competitive golfers ages 12 and under, drawing competitors from 50 countries. The event took place Aug. 4–6 in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Tommy was born without a right forearm. His parents, Joe and Marcia Morrissey, both enjoy playing golf, and Tommy showed his affinity for the sport at a very young age, preferring videos of the PGA TOUR's finest to animated children's programs. He received his first set of clubs when he was only 18 months old. Since age 3, Tommy's enthusiasm for both life and golf has led to opportunities to interact with and receive lessons from some of golf's greatest players and attend numerous PGA TOUR events, including the 2015 PGA Championship. Through media events, like being on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Tommy has demonstrated his skills and determination, while his parents emphasize their focus on what he can do, not what he can't. Concerned about the potential for Tommy, and other children, to be bullied, Tommy's parents also hope that his example of resilience will change attitudes toward children with disabilities and inspire all children to chase their dreams.

The Morrissey family has relied on the expert specialty care of Shriners Hospitals for Children since Tommy was 4 months old, especially the leadership of Scott Kozin, M.D., chief of staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia, a renowned expert in pediatric upper extremity conditions.

“Tommy has been a patient of Shriners Hospitals for Chil-

dren since he was an infant. His family is loving and supportive with regard to his aspirations and goals. Tommy has worked hard to become a phenomenon in golf and the first child with a limb deficiency to qualify and compete for the championship,” said Dr. Kozin. “The team at Shriners Hospitals for Children has worked with Tommy and his family to optimize his strength and balance to maximize his golf swing. Strengthening his shortened right upper extremity and maximizing his core strength have been the major emphasis to ensure balance and power. Tommy has become a mentor for other children with limb differences. His determination and drive is an example of the accomplishments possible for children with these conditions, provided they have the backbone of a supportive family and Shriners Hospitals for Children.”

Whether a child's limb deficiency is present at birth (congenital) or the result of an accident or disease (acquired), it is important to get the right care as soon as possible. Shriners Hospitals for Children offers innovative and advanced treatment options combined with the expertise of multidisciplinary teams. The health care system, which has 22 locations in three countries, has provided care to thousands of children with limb differences.

Tommy was featured this year at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was held Oct. 31 – Nov. 6 at TPC Summerlin. Tommy and his parents shared lessons in life and golf with children from the community, other Shriners Hospitals for Children patients and several of the PGA TOUR professionals participating in the event.

“Tommy epitomizes much of what we see in so many patients of Shriners Hospitals for Children: strength, determination, and perseverance,” said Adam Sperling, executive director of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. Showcasing those positive traits through the game of golf makes his presence at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open the perfect opportunity to raise awareness for our system and for those that it serves.”



***Shriners Hospitals for Children Patient Tommy Morrissey lines up the opening tee shot at the 2016 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in Las Vegas, NV on October 31st. Scan the QR code below to watch the video of Tommy teeing off.***



# Elections and Ceremonial Completed December 10th

We had an excellent Stated Meeting and Divan election on December 10, 2016 at the Grand Rapids Masonic Center. Our officers were advanced up their respective chairs and Noble Jeff Gooder of Grand Rapids, MI was elected to the open Oriental Guide Chair. Jonathan Clifford, Jonathan Duley, and Harry Jones were elected as the Temple's representatives to the 2017 Imperial Session.

Noble Josh Brockway was elected

to fill the remaining one-year term of Jeff Gooder's elected tenure on the Finance Committee. Noble Dick Hartmann was re-elected to a two-year term on the committee. Noble Dick Haven was elected to a two-year term.

The officers of the Saladin Shriners Children's Trust and Saladin Shrine Temple Holding Corporation were elected per the bylaws of both entities.

Minutes of the December 10th meeting as well as several past meetings are available by following the QR code below.



*Left: Potentate Elect Jonathan Clifford (L) and High Priest and Prophet Elect Dale Kramer (R) look on as outgoing Potentate Bill Martindale conducts the mini-ceremonial that followed our Stated Meeting and Elections. Right: Ill. Sir Martindale with two of our newest Shriners: Rick Stange and Kevin Perry. Welcome to Saladin Shriners Nobles!*

## Plan Now to Attend the 2017 Daytona Imperial Session

The 2017 Imperial Session of Shriners International is scheduled for Sunday, July 9 through Thursday, July 13 in Daytona Beach, Fla. Located on the beautiful east coast of Florida, the city is home to the "World's Most Famous Beach;" a mecca for motor-sports, the Daytona International Speedway; and a wide variety of family-friendly attractions.

The 2017 Imperial Session of Shriners International will be held at Daytona Beach's Ocean Center, a state-of-the-art convention center and entertainment complex that fea-

tures more than 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibit and meeting space. With its extraordinary design and features and recent \$82 million expansion, the Ocean Center is a favorite among meeting planners.

Shriners International invites all nobles, ladies and their families to join us for the 143rd Imperial Session in Daytona Beach. With spectacular beaches, great weather, the famed Daytona International Speedway, and so much more, it's easy to see why the city is one of America's favorite destinations. Imperial Sirs Chris L. Smith

and Gary J. Bergenske and the 2017 Imperial Session Committee members look forward to welcoming you to sunny Daytona Beach. For more information visit [imperial2017.com](http://imperial2017.com)

Please contact a Divan officer if you are interested in attending the session.

[QR Code for 2016 Imperial Website](#)







## INTRODUCING

# Our 2016-2017 National Patient Ambassadors

Every year, Shriners Hospitals for Children selects two National Patient Ambassadors to represent the health care system's patients. The ambassadors spend the year telling their stories of perseverance in the face of adversity and the ways Shriners Hospitals for Children has made a dramatic, life-changing difference in their lives. Here are our two new ambassadors:



Marius Woodward

### *Marius Woodward*

Marius Woodward was born in a small village in Romania. The youngest of three children, he was a happy boy who loved playing soccer and running around his family's farm.

Everything changed in 2007, when the family's house caught on fire. After spending the night in the hospital, 8-year-old Marius learned that both of his parents had perished in the accident. Luckily, his siblings had not been home at the time and were fine. Marius also quickly discovered that the fire had taken all of his fingers and nose and left him with severe burns on more than 75 percent of his body.

Two months into his eight-month hospital stay, Ashley Ludlow and Jessica Free, two students from Brigham Young University who were participating in a special program, visited the hospital and met Marius. After hearing his story, the students, who understood that in Romania, Marius would be unable to get all the care he needed for an adequate recovery, asked their parents to help find a way to bring Marius to the U.S.

The first order of business was to find an organization that would commit to performing Marius' needed surgeries and taking care of the burn injuries and resultant scarring. Once the families found Shriners Hospitals for Children and knew Marius would be taken care of medically, they felt much better about bringing the boy to this country.

Ultimately, all the complicated pieces came together and Marius, together with his brother, Ionut, who was acting as Marius' legal guardian, arrived in Los Angeles in August 2008.

### **WORKING TOWARD INDEPENDENCE**

After recuperating at Jessica's family home in Arizona for about a year, Marius moved in with Ashley's family in California to begin his treatment at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Los Angeles. The team that operated on Marius included Katherine Au, M.D., and Neil Jones, M.D., both pediatric plastic surgeons and hand surgeons at the hospital.



Karolina  
Nogues



After Marius had surgery on his eyelids to prevent him from losing his sight, and additional surgery to reduce and improve the effects of residual scarring, he began a lengthy and revolutionary procedure to reconstruct his nose. The process, which was ultimately successful, took approximately three months and involved transferring cartilage from his ribs and skin from his scalp.

Because Marius had lost all of his fingers, he was unable to feed himself. He felt that this was one of the most important daily living skills that he needed to regain. The Shriners Hospitals for Children — Los Angeles surgical team suggested toe-to-hand transfer surgery. Determined to live as independently as possible, Marius agreed to the surgery, and Dr. Jones transferred six toes to his hands, which gave Marius the opportunity to become more independent. That ground-breaking surgery is believed to be the only one of that magnitude ever done.

In 2011, after three years in the U.S., Marius was legally adopted by the Woodward family.

#### GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY

Today, Marius is an active 17-year-old high school student who, despite having only two toes and six fingers, plays football and soccer. His goal is to become a motivational speaker and a model, to demonstrate acceptance of his appearance and of who he is. "You don't need to see yourself as a different person but as a new person," Marius said. Marius is grateful for the role Shriners Hospitals for Children has had in his life. He is looking forward to the opportunities that being a National Patient Ambassador will provide to help raise awareness of the state-of-the-art medical care offered throughout our health care system.

#### Karolina Nogues

Karolina Nogues of Louisiana is the youngest of three siblings, and while oftentimes quiet, her caring personality does not go unnoticed.

#### UNEXPECTED NEWS

An ultrasound during pregnancy revealed that Karolina would be born with some abnormalities. The situation seemed grave enough that her parents, Chris and Cheryl Nogues, were given the option of terminating the pregnancy. The Nogues' made it clear that this would be something they would work through, no matter the situation.

Karolina was born in May 2000. The abnormality turned out to be a significant length discrepancy on one leg. After numerous visits to physicians, the Nogues family was advised to either amputate or lengthen Karolina's limb. The family decided they wanted to undergo a lengthening process but wanted it done in a place that had expertise in this field and would be able to provide all the necessary treatment, care and support.

Until age 5, Karolina wore a lift that helped compensate for the difference. The family was still searching for the right solution for Karolina's long-term treatment. One day, they heard about a Shriners Hospitals for Children — Shreveport Outreach Clinic and decided to attend. Physicians evaluated Karolina and took down some information. Later the family received a phone call, and the appointment for Karolina's first visit was scheduled.

#### WORKING THROUGH ROADBLOCKS

Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina hit the area and caused tremendous upheaval for the Nogues family. Karolina missed her appointment, the family lost their house and belongings, and Karolina's mother lost her job. Finally, nine months later, they were ready and able to reschedule that appointment.

"Once we got there, everything felt right," Cheryl said. "We knew we were in the right place and where we needed to be, and we have been there ever since."

Karolina proved to be an excellent candidate for limb lengthening, which involves surgeries and the use of an external fixator that is attached to the leg and lengthens the bone incrementally. It is a slow, tedious and painful process. Karolina had her first surgery, followed by her first external fixator attached, when she was 7 years old. The repetitive treatment continued over the next nine years, eventually resulting in a 7-inch gain in length.

Karolina, now 16, is committed to making the most of her abilities. She rides horses and surfs, loves art and is passionate about the French culture and language. She plans to apply to a Disney program for animation.

Karolina and the entire Nogues family is especially grateful for the staff at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Shreveport and cannot emphasize enough how appreciative they are of every visit, every surgery, every phone call and all the countless efforts — large and small — that have made Shriners Hospitals for Children so special to them.



Jonathan Clifford  
Potentate-Elect 2017

## PETITION FOR INITIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

# SALADIN SHRINERS

233 East Fulton St, Suite 102, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

www.saladinshrine.com - (616) 942-1570

TO THE POTENTATE, OFFICERS AND NOBLES OF SALADIN SHRINERS, SITUATED  
IN THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, STATE OF MICHIGAN.

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am a Master Mason in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ Located at \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state)  
which meets the recognition standards of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America, Interamerican Masonic Confederation or the  
World Conference of Grand Lodges. Furthermore, I have resided at my current address for not less than 6 months, as required by the Bylaws  
of Shriners International. I hereby make application to become a Noble of the Order and a member of your temple. If granted membership, I  
promise to conform to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Shriners International and the Bylaws and Ceremonies of your temple.

Have you previously applied for admission to any temple of the Order? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what temple? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever a DeMolay? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what Chapter? (name and location) \_\_\_\_\_

Profession / Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number and Street County City State Zip*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_  
*Number and Street County City State Zip*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address - Please use ☐ Residence ☐ Business

Name of Spouse / Lady \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED BY:

NOBLE \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NOBLE \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

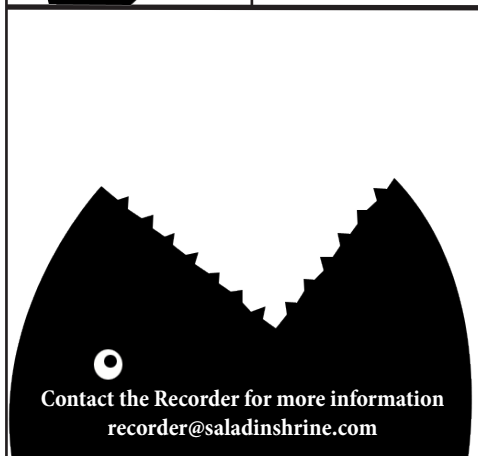
Fez Size \_\_\_\_\_ Method of payment \_\_\_\_\_

Creation Fee With Fez - \$265 / Creation Fee with Candidate or Club providing Fez - \$125



## THE SALADIN FISHING UNIT...

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Contact the Recorder for more information  
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## SALADIN NEWS

Grand Rapids, MI

4 ISSUES A YEAR PUBLISHED IN THE  
INTEREST OF SALADIN SHRINERS

233 East Fulton St, Suite 102

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

PH:(616) 942-1570 FAX:(616) 942-6374

Hours: 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Mon-Friday

[www.saladinshrine.com](http://www.saladinshrine.com)

For Information concerning Shriners  
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or

**(616) 942-1570 (ask for Judy)**

All articles or comments should be directed  
to the Editor - [Recorder@saladinshrine.com](mailto:Recorder@saladinshrine.com)

If you would like to provide a photo for our  
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## News From Around the Temple...

### *Past Potentate running for Grand Lodge of MI*

Past Potentate Daniel Soullier (2014 & 2015) has formally announced his candidacy for the open chair of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. The Temple wishes him the very best in his next endeavor. Check out the next issue of the Saladin News for an interview with Dan.

### *End of Year packets out to all Clubs and Units*

Packets were sent out to the Secretary of every club and unit. Please complete all of the required forms as soon as possible and return them to Saladin office. Late reports delay the publishing of the calendar.

### *Imperial issues stickers for 2017 dues payments*

Shriners International is issuing 2017 dues stickers for the membership hard card that was issued last year with the payment of 2016 dues. If you have mailed in your dues to the office, Shriners International will send you your sticker. We do have a small supply of stickers in the Temple office for individuals who come in to pay in person. Despite a few initial hiccups, the process of Imperial taking over the issuance of dues notices and cards from all of the temples in the country has gone relatively smoothly this year. If you ever have a question or concern about the process, please feel free to contact the temple office and we will work to answer or resolve it.

### *Divan presented three year plan on Dec. 10th*

The Divan shared a proposal with the nobility at our December 10th stated meeting to remain at the Grand Rapids Masonic Center for the next three years. In that time we will continue to study the future of our Shrine Temple and develop a long term plan for the temple's structure and location. A three year lease proposal will be presented to the nobility at our January 7th Annual Meeting and Installation. Nobles who are interested in providing input towards our long-term strategy development should contact the potentate-elect or the recorder. Watch future issues of the Saladin News for more information about our ongoing planning process.



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## Help Our Kids By Driving!

If you have recently retired or are looking for a great activity to provide Masonic service, please consider becoming a Volunteer Shrine Hospital Driver. We have driving teams throughout our jurisdiction and are always in need of Masons and Shriners who can help. Call Judy at (616) 942-1570 to volunteer.



## Drivers' Shirts Have Arrived!

If you ordered a hospital drivers' shirt through your Shrine club, they have arrived and are ready to be picked up in the Saladin office. Give Sara or Judy a call to arrange your pickup. (616) 942-1570



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social media. **let's  
connect!**



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Revised 08/2016



# From the Recorder...

Everyone recharges their batteries in different ways. Our incoming Chief Rabban goes up North to his cottage in Kalkaska, my friend Jeff enjoys a beer and a soak in his hot tub, and I have known more than a few Shrine friends who cast a fishing lure from time to time to relax. For a guy who lives and breathes the Shrine like I do, my recharge is the opportunity to meet and talk with our patients.

This past September I had the chance to meet both of our National Patient Ambassadors while I was attending the PGA tour event sponsored by Shriners Hospitals for Children in Las Vegas, NV. Both are amazing young people with tremendously moving stories of how Shriners Hospitals for Children has changed their lives. When you learn the story of one of our patients it gives you a moment of pause followed by the realization that our involvement in the Shrine makes these stories possible. We make the change in the their lives possible.

Let's face it, you joined Masonry because you wanted to make a change. You wanted to improve. Maybe that journey was about improving yourself. Maybe it was about making a difference in the world. I hope your Masonic and Shrine involvements give you both. If they aren't doing that, maybe you need a recharge. I can't speak for how you recharge, but consider doing something to make the difference in the lives of one of our patients. Maybe volunteer to drive to a hospital or make a financial gift. You won't regret it. It will recharge you. -Rick Williams



On the 18th green at the close of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open with 2016 National Patient Ambassadors Karolina Nogues and Marius Woodward at TPC Sumerlin in Las Vegas, NV.



Watch their story

## Temple Membership Dashboard

Source: Shrine Membership Development Specialist (MDS) System - This will appear in every newsletter

Year-To-Date		Last Year-To-Date		Last Year		Last 5 Years	
Beginning Count:	920	Beginning Count:	949	Beginning Count:	949	Beginning Count:	1212
Ending Count:	899	Ending Count:	920	Ending Count:	920	Ending Count:	897
Creations:	11	Creations:	11	Creations:	11	Creations (avg):	18
Affiliations:	5	Affiliations:	3	Affiliations:	3	Affiliations (avg):	4
Restorations	0	Restorations	2	Restorations	2	Restorations (avg):	3
Demits:	10	Demits:	6	Demits:	6	Demits (avg):	15
Suspensions:	0	Suspensions:	0	Suspensions:	0	Suspensions (avg):	19
Expired	27	Expired	39	Expired	39	Expired (avg):	43
Resigned:	0	Resigned:	0	Resigned:	0	Resigned (avg):	0
Change:	-21	Change:	-29	Change:	-29	Change:	-315
% Change:	-2.3%	% Change:	-3.06%	% Change:	-3.06%	% Change:	-25.99%
Status:	Bronze	Status:	None	Status:	None	Status:	None

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## One Last Photo...



Our newest unit, the Camel's Milk Purveyors (CMP), recently 'Fezzed' the Founder's Brewery and Headquarters in Grand Rapids at the end of November. The unit's 'Brewmaster' and founder, Ben Wright, has organized several brewery outings for unit members and their ladies. The unit has also produced several brews that we've enjoyed tasting at recent Temple events. The unit is dedicated to enjoying craft brews and craft breweries as well as studying and perfecting the craft of the home brewing. Left to Right: Mitchell DeVries (new shriner!), Tim Willis, Josh Brockway, Luke Sass (Muskegon Mason and Founders Employee - how is he not a Shriner yet guys?), Roger Hekstra (we think trying to do rabbit ears on Luke), Drew Swanson, Jim Kiefer, and Ben Wright (seated). The unit is open to all Saladin Nobles and their ladies. Please contact Brewmaster Ben for more information about future events. He can be reached at [wrightbd@gmail.com](mailto:wrightbd@gmail.com) or (616) 540-9505.