

TURBAN TIMES

MT SINAI #3

February 2026

Issue #2

Potentate: Gary Luman

Recorder: Warren Whitney

Treasurer: Alton Willard

address: 2 Academy St, Barre, VT 05641



What's New

Hospital Happenings

Community News

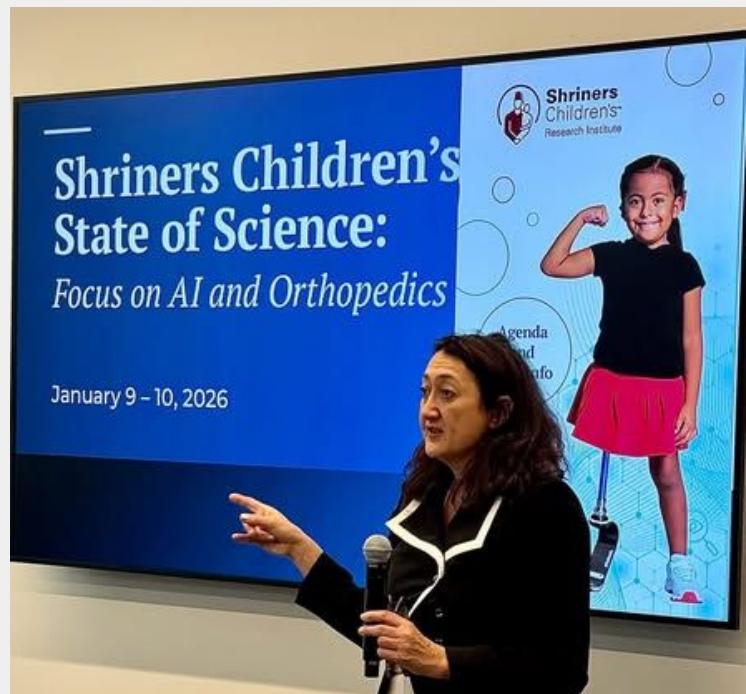
What's coming Up?

Sick Call

Black Camel

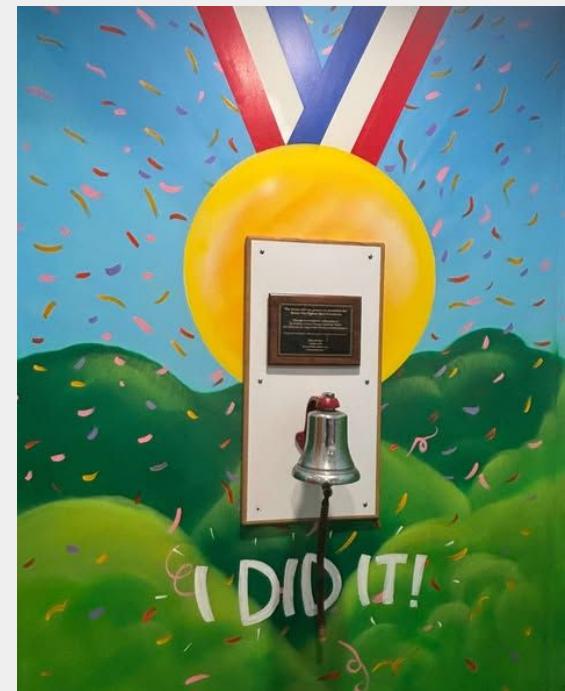


Shriners Childrens



Innovation happens when passionate minds come together! Clinicians, data scientists, engineers and researchers from Shriners Children's, Georgia Tech and other universities gathered at the Shriners Children's Research Institute in Atlanta for our State of Research: Focus on AI and Orthopedics conference, where they shared information and ideas and explored new ways to collaborate.

Shriners Children - Boston



Shriners Children's Boston is celebrating another beautiful art installation by H.E. Jamaal Rolle, also known as "The Celebrity Artist." The newest mural celebrates the special bond between Shriners Children's Boston and the Boston Firefighters Burn Foundation. A gold medal surrounds the Boston Fire Department bell, which was donated to the hospital for patients to mark a major milestone in their treatment. Thank you, Jamaal, for transforming a special place where our patients celebrate and can say with pride, "I did it."

Shriners International

Shriners' Biggest Event Comes to Tampa

An Insider's Preview



TAMPA TAKES CENTER STAGE AS IMPERIAL SESSION DROPS ANCHOR

THE 152ND IMPERIAL SESSION of Shriners International is headed to Tampa, and nobody is more excited than local James Lich, Egypt Shriners Past Potentate and one of the key organizers for this year's event.

For James, who's been part of the fraternity for decades and has attended more than a dozen Imperial Sessions across North America, this year is special — not just because it's happening in his own city, but because of what Imperial Session means for Shriners everywhere.

"It's kind of like the Super Bowl, honestly. For Shriners, this is the one time a year we really get to celebrate both the fraternity and the philanthropy. It's our chance to bring everyone together, remember what matters, and just have a great time," James said.

"It's kind of like the Super Bowl, honestly."

In 2026, Session will be held in a city known for its colorful history — including legends that it was founded by the pirate

José Gaspar — at the Tampa Convention Center, with the Marriott Water Street, Embassy Suites Downtown and Hilton Downtown Tampa as official hotels. James is quick to point out the perks of the location: "You're steps from the Riverwalk, the Florida Aquarium and Ybor City. The city's changed a lot in the last decade — the waterfront is booming, there's world-class dining, and neighborhoods are connected by new, modern transportation."

James, a longtime Tampa Bay resident, says the support from his temple is huge. "We're even organizing transportation between downtown and the Shrine Center, and hosting both formal and informal events."

Looking back on past Sessions, James says each city brings something unique — Daytona, Toronto, Charlotte, San Antonio — but he's learned a few universal lessons.

"You always figure out what works and what doesn't. In Atlanta, we saw the importance of great hospitality and smooth logistics. In Tampa, we have an experienced events team, and the city itself is set up to make people feel welcome."

James' role this year is all about communication and creating a memorable experience: He'll be working closely on social media, the event website and the program book, making sure everyone is in the loop and that Imperial Session has that extra spark. "It's an honor to help put this hallmark event together. I want people to see not just Tampa's fun side, but also that the Shriners have been woven into this city's fabric for over a hundred years."

For James, Imperial Session is about more than ceremonies or legislation. "It's a celebration. It's about the fraternity, the philanthropy and — most importantly — the kids we serve. We get to reconnect, honor our patient ambassadors and remind ourselves why we wear the fez."

With the city ready and the Shriners eager to gather, James sums it up: "We're working on all cylinders to make this the best party we can. I hope everyone sticks around after Imperial Session and really experiences what Tampa Bay has to offer. There's a lot more here than you think."

SAVE THE DATE

July 12-16, 2026

Learn more at
imperialsession.com



Meet the Imperial Officers

Dale Vrsalovich (Imperial Captain of the Guard)



Dale Vrsalovich, of Ridgefield, Washington, is serving his second year as a member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Children's™. He was elected Imperial Captain of the Guard, part of the 12-member body that helps govern the Shriners fraternity, during the Shriners 2025 Imperial Session held June 29-July 3 in Atlanta, Georgia.

<https://www.shrinersinternational.org/en/who-we-are/leadership/imperial-divan/dale-vrsalovich>

Fraternities and Philanthropy

- Recipient, Grand Master's Achievement honor, 2023, Grand Lodge of Washington
- Member, Afifi Shriners, 2012
- Potentate, Afifi Shriners, 2019
- President, Gateway Shrine Club, 2015, 2017
- Membership Chair, Afifi Shriners, 2017-2018
- Regional Membership Director-Region 1, 2018-2022
- Pacific Northwest Commodore, Yacht Club, 2019
- Imperial Fun and Fellowship Committee, 2020-2022
- Member, Al Kader Oriental Band
- Imperial Potentate's Aide, 2021-22
- Volunteer tour guide, clown, Shriners Children's Portland, 2014–present
- Excelsior DeMolay, 1974-1982
- Recipient, Past Master Councilor Meritorious Service Award
- Representative DeMolay Award (RD), Leadership Correspondence Course in DeMolay (LCC), Knight, Chevalier
- Legion of Honor, 2005
- Excelsior Chapter Advisor, 1999-2010
- Chairman, Excelsior DeMolay Advisory Council, 2005-2010
- Rainbow Advisor, 1996-2005
- Oregon State DeMolay Advisor, 2012-2013
- Vancouver DeMolay Adviser, 2011-2015
- Worthy Patron, Order of the Eastern Star, 1994
- Life Member, Ridgefield Daylight Masonic Lodge No. 237, Washougal, Washington
- Master, Artesia Lodge 377, California, 1989
- Master, Gateway Lodge 339, California, 2008
- Recipient, Hiram Award, 2009
- Officers Coach, Gateway Lodge #339, 2009-2010
- District 19 Mason of the Year, Washington Grand Lodge, 2016
- Planning Committee, Washington Grand Lodge Conference of Grand Masters, 2021
- Grand Musician, Washington Grand Lodge, 2020-2021
- Grand Tyler, Washington Grand Lodge, 2022-2023
- Scottish Rite Secretary, Vancouver Valley, 2016

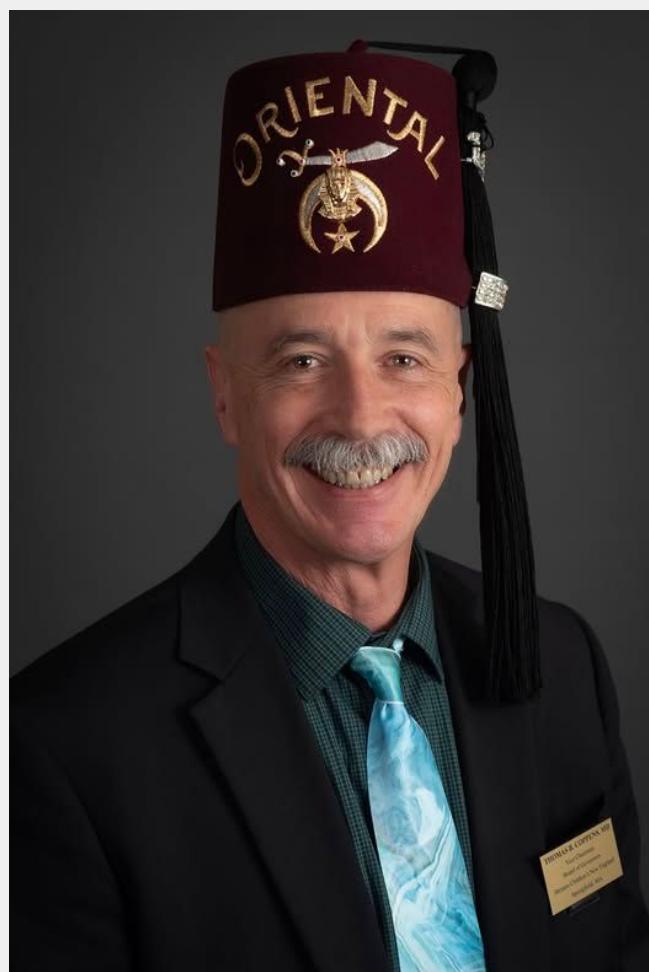
Shriners Children's - New England

Meet Thomas B. Coppens, M.D., the new Shriners Children's New England Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Coppens became a Shriner soon after becoming a Mason in 2019. However, his first introduction to the fraternity and the Shriners Children's healthcare system came much earlier.

"Shriners Children's first touched my life when I brought my son to Shriners Children's New England for clubfoot treatment in 1993," he said.

First joining the fraternity to give back, Dr. Coppens is grateful for the relationships he has gained along the way. "I offered my services, hoping my background as a family physician would benefit the organization. The social opportunities and support found within the fraternity are tremendous, as we help children and each other."



2026 Divan Profile



Greeting to all,
I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those who are not familiar.

Lady Angie and I have been married for 27 years this May. I have two children, Alana is my oldest and Nathan the youngest.

I have lived in Vermont 30 years (well this time around) the majority of the time was spent in the southern part of the state, first Ludlow and than after getting married in Chester. About 4 years ago we decided to make a change and moved to South Burlington where we live now. I enjoy the availability of fishing, kayaking and hiking with the puppy.

I am a retired member of the 9th Regiment in the Army, and a retired accountant at the Castle Inn and Resort.

I am a life member of the Masonic Lodge for St. John's #41 in Springfield as well as a member of Northstar Lodge #12 where I currently hold the chair of Junior Warden. I feel both have made me a better man, friend, brother, husband and father.

I previously served as Potentate in 2020 and am thankful to have been given a chance to do it again.

Fraternally
Gary Luman, Potentate 2026

Installation 2026





Membership & Marketing

6th Annual Virtual Event Series - Dates

(Attendance required at all four (4) to achieve Apprentice Certificate.)

- Virtual Event #1: **Thursday, February 19, 2026**
- Virtual Event #2: **Thursday, May 21, 2026**
- Virtual Event #3: **Thursday, August 20, 2026**
- Virtual Event #4: **Thursday, January 21, 2027**

The virtual events series will be held from 1–3 p.m., Eastern Time, and will be recorded. For learners who cannot attend the virtual sessions live, the recordings will be available [on this page](#) following the final session. Credit toward certificate completion will be granted if archived videos are viewed within two weeks of being posted. **The deadline to receive credit is TBD.**

<https://nobleacademyeducation.org/>

Shriners Children's - Boston

Meet Your Representative



Jim is married to Lady Laura. Between them they share 5 kiddos. Year 2 of being on the Boston Board of Governors, this year as a voting member. Currently he sits as the North Star #12 Lodge secretary. In his “spare” time he teaches Pediatric software and clinical workflows to Pediatric Offices all over the United States. He is an Army Veteran, obtained his Eagle Scout and is currently a youth mentor at a local school.

In his “free” time, he enjoys reading about Vermont history, tinkering in the garage and going on car ride adventures.

Potentate Message

Hi all,

Just a quick message to thank everyone who came to Annual Meeting such a great turnout. So excited to work with the Divan this year to try and expand our membership, enjoy some wonderful fellowship opportunities and working for you all to make our organization stronger than ever. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions I would love to hear from you.

Fraternally,

Gary Luman, Potentate 2026



Hospital Board News

Greetings from Shriners Children's Boston,

January started my second year in Boston but this year I am at the big table when it comes to the Board Meeting and I can vote. This day was top heavy with visitors, Imperial Potentate Brad, Imperial CR Larry and Doc Stewart were present for the day attending sub-committee meetings before the Board Meeting. Picked a great day to wear the Imperial Sir's Lady's tie (Thanks Ill Gary!).

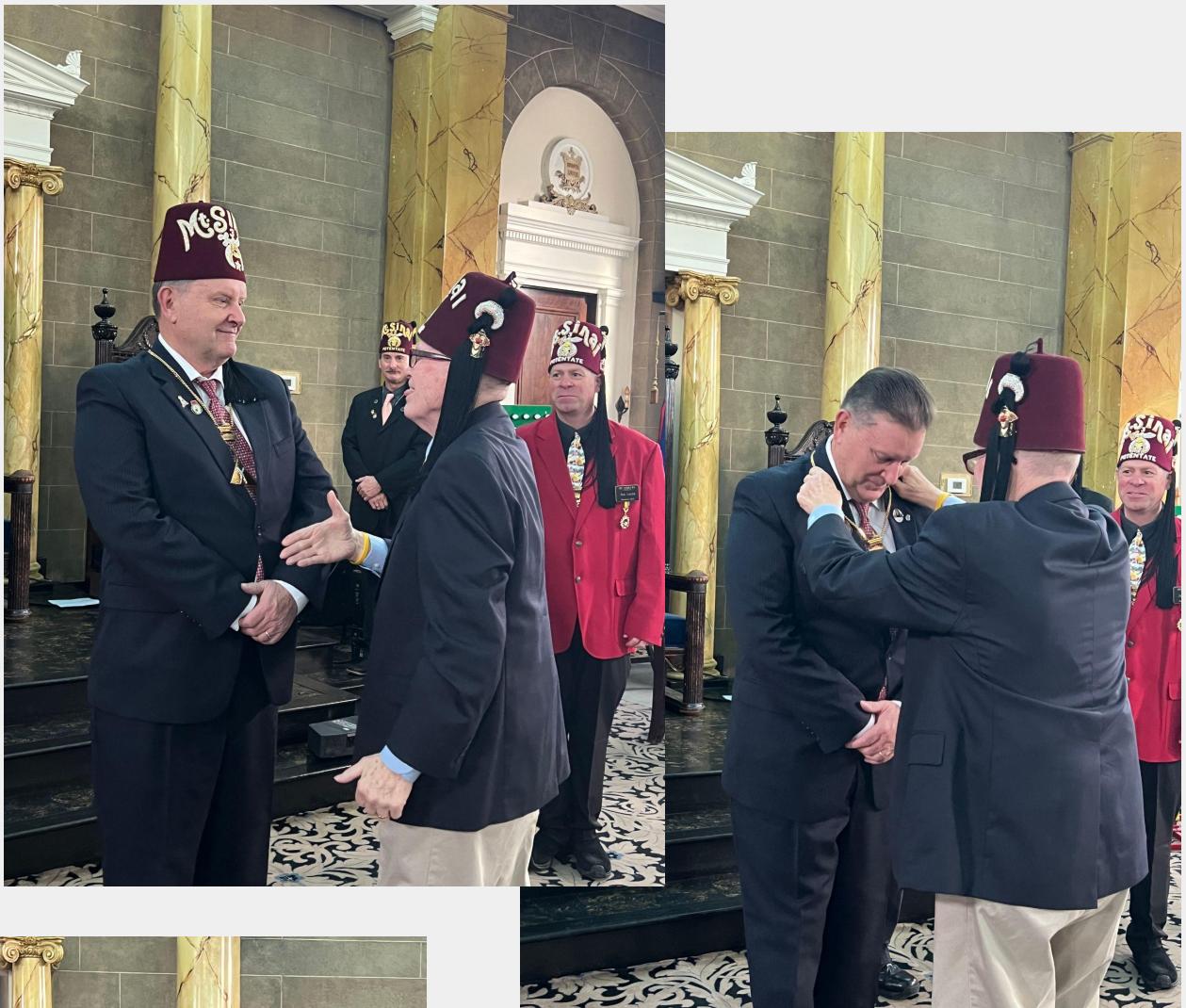
I sit on 2 of the same sub-committees as last year, Audit and Compliance and Medical and was added to Research and Grants.

Still getting ready for Joint Commission to make their surprise visit. I learned about using AI for bringing better faster care for a Patient, this of course is one of the Grants under active Research at Shriners in Boston. It is mind-blowing that we are heading this way more and more each day. But as we all know time and money savings are key nowadays. It can also bring resolution and healing faster to Patients when you and the Doctors know what is going on.

Enjoyed the 49 degrees and sunny in Boston.

Jim, PP 2021

Passing of the torch



After many years of dedicated service Noble Mike Gunn passed the Recorder torch onto Noble Warren Whitney (Recorder).

Presenting him with a token of gratitude is Potentate Gary and Lady Angie

Celebrating our Members

Granite Lodge
presents Noble Bruce
Strachan his 55 year
golden lapel pin on
Jan 29, 2026



Important Dates to Remember

Aleppo Visitation Burlington Mass.
February 6-7 2026

NESA Mid-Winter March 12-14

Mt. Sinai/Cairo Joint Visitation May 15-16,
2026 - Jay Peak Resort

2026 Imperial Session: July 12-16; Tampa
Fla.

NESA Hyannis Ma. Aug. 20-24 2026



Next Bingo: 1-March

Next scheduled unit: **Motor Corp/Motor Cycle**

Volunteers are always needed

NOTE: unit assignments took parade season into consideration

Lost and Found -

Travel mug - left behind by one of the Shrine volunteers at the December Bingo

2026 Divan

Potentate - Gary Luman

Chief Rabban - Michael Bergeron

Assistant Rabban - James Walsh

High Priest and Prophet - Scott Boyer

Oriental Guide - Ross Schacher

Recorder - Warren Whitney

Treasurer - Alton Willard



Editorial

Reminder: All Nobles and their ladies are invited to participate in any of the posted visitations - these are a great way to get to know nobles from other temples

Membership is the life blood of the Temple. Any ideas to improve membership please share!

YES! We could use more help



February

1 - Bingo

3 - Divan meeting

6-7 - Aleppo Visitation

22- Cairo Chili Cook Off - Rutland

March

1 - Bingo Motor Corp/Motor Cycle

3 - Divan Meeting

12-14 - NSA Mid-Winter

25 - Oriental Visitation - Saratoga NY



2026 Bingo Schedule

Note: There will be no Bingo in April or June

Please watch the announcements for any changes that might be needed

1 - March - Motor Corp/Motor Cycle

31 - May - Fire Brigade/Motor Corp

5 - July - Cabari/Provost Guard

9 - August - Clown Unit/Fire Brigade

Parade seasons have been taken into consideration where possible.





Motor Cycle Unit presents a plaque and custom jacket to Lady Alix Schacher for their gratitude on all she does to help support their adventures.
Congrats Lady Alix!

pictured: Lady Alix, OG Ross, Potentate Gary, Chief Rabban Mike and Lady Liz



January 10, 2026

Letter from a Past Potentate

Nobles,

The biggest problem facing the Shrine and the Masons is declining membership. We are not taking in new members, and our current members are not staying with us. I can understand our members thinking, i.e., "I don't attend meetings, I don't participate with a unit. Why should I pay dues when I'm not involved?" Of course, the secret is: GET INVOLVED.

Did you join this great organization because a friend encouraged you to, or did you join because you heard great things about the Shrine and wanted to be part of the brotherhood? We have to keep in mind the important mission of this body; the support of our Shriners Hospitals for Children (Or as they are now called, simply Shriners Children's.). If you have visited one of these great institutions, you can't help but to feel the pride in what we are able to do. Just read the comments from a parent whose child has been given a new walk in life because of the treatment they received at one of our great hospitals or the testimony of one of our Patient Ambassadors.

However, if our membership continues the current downward path, will we be able to support these "Temples of Mercy". Wherever I have traveled in this world, I have met brother Masons and Shriners. They never fail to greet you warmly and, if you have a problem, they are quick to offer help and hospitality. Just recently, a family from out of state had a child that required treatment at the Vermont Medical Center. They didn't know anyone in the area and were stretched to afford lodging. He was a Mason. He contacted the lodge in Burlington. A Brother Mason stepped up. Took the family into his home and provided help as long as they needed it. That is what we do. I don't know about you, but I'm proud to be a member of this great fraternity and what it stands for.

Gerald Morong, PP



Aleppo Potentate's Ball Weekend

Friday - Feb. 6

Almost Valentine's Day
Celebration



6:00 pm - Social Hour

7:00 pm - Dessert Buffet, Battle of the Sexes!

Music by: "The NAYS Band"

10:00 pm - Hospitality Suite Open



FROM NORTH
I-95 S RT-128 S toward Woburn.
Take the RT-1A N exit, EXIT 11B, toward Burlington.
Keep left to take the Burlington Mall Rd. ramp.
Turn right onto Burlington Mall Rd.
Swanson Water Restaurant is on the corner.
Make a U-turn onto Burlington Mall Rd.
If you reach Newpark Rd you've gone about 0.2 miles too far.
I-95 S
15 MILES

FROM SOUTH
I-95 N RT-128 N toward Bedford/Peabody/NH.
Merge onto RT-1A N Cambridge St. via EXIT 11B toward Burlington.
Turn left onto Burlington Mall Rd.
Swanson Water Restaurant is on the corner.
If you're on RT-1A N and reach RT-1A 5 you've gone a little too far.
Make a U-turn onto Burlington Mall Rd.
15 MILES
If you reach Newpark Rd you've gone about 0.2 miles too far.

Marriott Burlington, MA
One Burlington Mall Road

Rooms available at the
discounted rate of
\$157 per night.
Call 781-229-6565

Deadline for reservations
is January 5, 2026.

Saturday - Feb. 7

8:00 am - NSA Breakfast

11:30 am - 1:00 pm lunch (Hospitality Room)

1:00 pm - The Gardiner Classic

Mini-Golf Tournament

6:00 pm - Social Hour

7:15 pm - Potentate's Ball "DJ" – Rick DeSanctis

10:00 pm - Hospitality Suite Open



Potentate's Ball Weekend

Dinner Selection for Saturday:

Chicken Piccata Braised Short Rb

Pesto Encrusted Salmon Vegetarian Children's

Nobles and Guest \$199 pp Includes All Events!	Children \$40 pp Includes All Events!
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Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Deadline for tickets is January 28, 2026

Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for ticket return.

Name (please print) _____

Street _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to "Aleppo Shrine" and send to: Maribel DeLoa, 99 Fetherham Rd., Wilmington, MA 01887



NOTE: If you are going to register with the hotel using the Aleppo discount you need to book before January 5, 2026

Cairo Fundraiser



Sun, 22 Feb at 11:00

Chili Cook-Off

Depot Park; 15 Evelyn St, Rutland, VT 05701

 Interested



Potentate's Visitation Ball

A decorative graphic featuring a red fez on top of a crescent moon with a five-pointed star inside, with a sword positioned behind it.

Illustrious Sir
GARY LUMAN
MT. SINAI

Illustrious Sir
BRIAN CHRISTIAN
CAIRO

JAY PEAK RESORT
MAY 15-16 2026

Registration form and Hotel information will be sent to your provided email. (New this year we have a Zeffy account for these occasions!)

Hotel Information
Jay Peak Resort and Conference Center
CALL-IN LODGING GUIDELINES

Jay Peak Resort and Conference Center: For Reservations, please call toll-free 1-800-451-4449.

Lodging - Room Type	Lodging Only Rate Inclusive	Splash & Stay Rate Inclusive (based on 2 adults)
Hotel Jay - Standard King Room	\$135.38	\$207.75
Hotel Jay - Studio Suites	\$172.00	\$244.38
Hotel Jay - One Bedroom Suites	\$233.91	\$306.29
Golf & Mountain Cottage 1 Bedroom	\$206.88	\$279.26
Golf & Mountain Cottage 2 Bedroom	\$280.13	\$352.51

Room rates include a nightly \$29.00 taxable resort fee and 9% VT State Tax.

Above rates reflect a 20% group lodging discount

GROUP NAME: Mount Sinai Shriners

GROUP CODE: 1150224

NOTE: This is a family-friendly resort with a full water park. Rates are good for up to a week before or post-event for those who desire to extend their stay



Vermont Joint Visitation/Ball Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/ZIP: _____
Email: _____
Temple / Position: _____

Event Registration

Event	Cost per Person	Number Attending	Total Due
Friday Night BBQ	\$25	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast	\$20	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Gala	\$65	_____	\$ _____
Beef		_____	—
Chicken		_____	—
Fish		_____	—
Hillbilly Degree (includes Hat, membership, and goodies)	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Dietary Restrictions: _____			—

Total Amount Due (USD): \$ _____

Payment Information

International/credit card payments:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/potentates-visitationball>

Mail Checks registration To:

Gary LumanS

144 Larkin Way #415
South Burlington, VT 05403

Registration Deadline: April 11, 2026

Members wanted

ATTENTION

The Provost Guard of Mt Sinai is looking to increase its membership should those interested wish to learn more about the duties of the Provost Guard prior to becoming a member please contact:

Jim Murphy

Provost Marshal

Phone 802-279-3981

Email Jim@adavt.com



Are you wondering what the Provost Guard does?
In general terms:

Within the Shriners International fraternity, the Provost Guard unit is responsible for the internal security of the Shrine Temple at all functions, escorting the Potentate and First Lady to events, and participating in parades and other public appearances.

Unit News

Motorcycle Unit - Michael Bergeron (mikes750sf@gmail.com)

Meeting date

meeting location

Fire Brigade - Ken Johnson (kenlocks@comcast.net)

Meeting date

meeting location:

Motor Corp - Dave Baker (drbaker81@comcast.net/moronggerald@comcast.net)

Meeting date

Meeting location:

Sinai Joes - Paul Laflamme (plaflamme@vermontel.net/davegulbrandsen@yahoo.com)

Meeting date

Meeting location:

Bunker Busters - Donald Karlovich PP (donaldkarlovich@yahoo.com)

Meeting date

Meeting location:

Camel - Mike Parent PP (myke57@hotmail.com)

Northern Shrine Club - Gerald Morong PP (moronggerald@comcast.net)

Bingo Units 2026

February 1 - Motor Cycle/Clown unit

March 1 - Motor Corp/Motor Cycle

May 31 - Fire Brigade/Motor Corp

July 5 - Cabiri/Provost Guard

Aug 9 - Clown/Fire Brigade

Past Potentates (Living)

1991 - Homer Selby (Janet)
1992 - Donald Tessier
1994 - Roy Vance (Linda)
1998 - Gerald Morong (Frances)
1999 - Winston Harper (Rachel)
2000 - C.J. Murray (Deborah)
2002 - Gary Centabar
2004- Micheal Parent (Maureen)
2006 - Leo Laflamme (Linda)
2008 - Harry Richard (Mickey)
2010 - Kristi Morris (Sharon)
2012- Shawn Kincaid (Jacqi)
2013 - Alton Willard (Joan)
2014 - Bruce Pelletier (Monica)
2015- Paul Mosher
2016 - Ken Canning (Liz)

2017 - Pierre Letourneau
2018 - Donald Karlovich (Karen)
2019 - Micheal Parent (Maureen)
2020 - Gary Luman Jr. (Angela)
2021 - James Smith (Laura)
2022 - Bruce Pelletier (Monica)
2023 - Scott Boyer (Jennifer)
2024 - David Coffey (Lynne)
2025 - Donald Karlovich (Karen)

Next edition

March 1, 2026

Please have submissions entered by the 28th of the month to ensure time to add. All submissions should be sent to:

galuman2020@gmail.com

Pictures and funnies are also welcome

Sick Call

Past Potentate Leo Laflamme

Mike Bergeron

Black Camel - 2026

Duane C. Cate (reported 01/27/2026)

Deceased, 2025

Monroe, NH

Created : 05/17/1969

Mark Your Calendars Upcoming Imperial Session

**2026
IMPERIAL SESSION
TAMPA**



JULY 12-16

**2029
IMPERIAL SESSION**



OMAHA

JUNE 29 – JULY 5

**2027
IMPERIAL SESSION
PHILAELPHIA**



JUNE 27 – JULY 1

**2028
IMPERIAL SESSION**



JULY 9 – JULY 13

Any Noble can attend. If interested please reach out for estimated costs.

Mark Your Calendars Upcoming NESA Dates

FUTURE NSA SESSIONS

- 2026 - Aleppo -
Massachusetts, USA
- 2027 - Anah - Maine, USA
- 2028 - Karnak - Quebec, CA
- 2029 - Melha -
Massachusetts, USA
- 2030 - Kora - Maine, USA
- 2031 - Luxor - New
Brunswick, CA
- 2032 - Tunis - Ontario, CA
- 2033 - Cairo - Vermont, USA
- 2034 - Pyramid,
Connecticut, USA

2026 NESA will be in Cape Cod August 20-23. More information will be provided after Mid-Winter March 12-14

Any Noble can attend. If interested
please reach out for estimated costs.

Opportunities

Fundraising Committee: Do you or your lady have an interest in fundraising? Have an idea on how to raise money for the Temple and the Hospitals? If so contact any member of the Divan and they will be happy to help.

Divan Positions: Have you ever wondered how one gets selected for the Divan. Contact the office at recorder@mountsinaishriners.org and Mike Gunn will help direct you.

Is there an activity that you enjoy and think others would like to join you. How about forming a club? Wonder how to do that you can contact Gary Luman CR'25 at galuman2020@gmail.com

