THE CAMELHA

The Irish Edition

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MELHA SHRINERS On the Web at www.melhashriners.com

Volume 4, Issue 3 Springfield, Massachusetts **March 2017**

INSIDE

UNIT HEAD INSTALLATION ISSUE
P1, P14

REMEMBERING JEAN LACROIX
P1, P15

POTENTATES WEEKEND
P5

UNIT INSTALLATIONS
CLOWNS & HIGHLANDERS
P12, P13

SPRINGFIELD RV SHOW BOOTH
P140

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE
P2, P15

FROM THE RECORDER, SHRINE LIFE CYCLES
P3, P4

MELHA UNITS & CLUBS
P6 - P10

MELHA FAMILY
P11

EVENT CALENDAR
BACK PAGE



Photo by Carla Wessels. Dave Duncan, Organizer of Melha Booth at the RV Show

Meet 2017 Melha Shrine Unit Heads



Photo by Bert Krasner. 2017 Melha Shrine Unit and Club Presidents taking their Oaths of office.



Photo by Bert Krasner. Melha Divan congratulating the newly installed unit heads.

By Michael Robinson

The Annual Unit Head Installation took place on Saturday January 28 where the officers of the various Melha Shrine units and clubs took their oaths of office and donned the mantle of leadership. They were installed by Ill. Ray Turrini, Potentate, under the watchful eye of the Divan, in the Butterfield Auditorium. The year

Continued on page 14

Remembering Illustrious Jean LaCroix



Photo of Ill. Jean LaCroix (1972) receiving a Hospital Board Emeritus plaque from Ill. Sir Ralph Semb

By Michael Robinson

Past Potentate Jean LaCroix was an indelible part of our Shrine as well as to our Shriners Hospital. Just ask anyone who was fortunate to know or work with him. Jean served as a member of the Hospital's Board of Governors for 9 years. During his tenure, he had been instrumental in the development of the Hospital itself and was involved in buying the Ellis Estate that contributed to the expansion of the medical campus that we see today.

While serving as a board member, Jean and his wife

Continued on page 15

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE



Raymond A. Turrini - Potentate

February will have brought a lot of great events by the time this article comes out. I will have attended the first of many visitations. Aleppo Shriners had theirs and the next ones will be for the Cairo and Mt. Sinai Shriners. The NSA Winter meetings are also coming up and I will report on them soon after. And I know my fellow Nobles remembered their ladies this Valentines Day. Our own Supergirl, Amber Ryel, had a LuLaRoe show on the 19th (hopefully, I pronounced it right - don't want Supergirl mad at me).

Thank you to everyone who showed up at the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey game on the 24th. It was a great night to show the public what we are all about. This year will be full of awareness events like this and we should participate in as many as possible.

And let's not forget the Annual Tradition of attending the Game Supper on the 25th. Great job to all who helped make this year's dinner a success.

Congratulations goes out to Ill. Arthur Hastings Sr., P.P. for getting his 50 year pin at Elm Belcher lodge; what an outstanding accomplishment. When you see Ill. Sir, don't forget to congratulate him.

We had an interesting start to the first month of this year, but Nobles, let's try to remember why you became a Shriner. You wanted to make a difference in a child's life and be a part of a brotherhood. There is no better way than to work together as Shriners to make our world a better place. I want this year to be filled with fun events and camaraderie.

Speaking of working together, remember our ladies who support our activities all year. March will be busy with a few installations. First, the LOSNA installation of Pat Semb as High Priestess of Helma Court on the 11th (same day as Leprechaun Plunge - you'll want to change from your wet-suit to attend). Then, right after that, Sandy Dodson comes in as Queen of the D of N on the 18th. Congratulations to these two hard working young ladies who have devoted so much time to their organizations and to ours. Please support both of these ladies' groups; they are always there for us.

March also brings our first two parades - Worcester and Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parades. These are two huge parades for public awareness; we need a big showing for them. Unit Presidents: PLEASE GET YOUR COUNTS IN TO RANDY EARLY so we can plan for transportation and refreshments properly. Remember too, that Daylight Savings Time begins the day of the Worcester parade. You don't want to be late! And don't miss the Rainbow Girls Pancake Breakfast on the morning of the Holyoke parade!

Don't forget the Hospital fund-raisers coming up: for the Leprechaun Plunge on the 11th - get your sponsorship forms done early.

Continued on page 15

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MELHA SHRINERS, SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL

CAMELHA

Available on the Web at
www.melhashriners.com

EDITOR

Michael Robinson

editor@melhashriners.com

860 748-8128 (C) - 413 567-2138 (Hm)

CAMELHA DEADLINE 12TH OF THE MONTH

Forward UNIT EVENT information for advance publication and public news releases. 'NEWSPAPER ENTERTAINMENT CALENDARS' need info submitted 2 weeks prior to event.

ALL CONTENT [Articles, Event Notices, Event Photos] for the CAMELHA must be submitted by E-MAIL OR HARD COPY on or before the 12th of the month preceding publication.

All Classified and Billboard Ads must be submitted by the 1st of the month.

NOTE: EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL COPY.

MELHA SHRINE BUILDING

133 Longhill Street Springfield, MA 01108

Tel.: ..... (413) 736-3647
Fax ..... (413) 731-9572

Philip E. Thomas, P.P. - Recorder

e-mail: .... recorder@melhashriners.com

Debra Collins..... Secretary

Office E-mail: recorder1@melhashriners.com

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

MELHA WEB SITE

www.melhashriners.com

PAY WITH CREDIT CARD

Melha honors Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards. Minimum amount charged must be $20.00. You may also pay online at our web site.

Use it for:

Dues, Melha Events, Fezzes, Melha Trips, etc.

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

516 Carew Street - 413-787-2000

Springfield, MA 01104

Imp Ralph W. Semb P.P. ....Chair. Bd. of Trustees Emeritus.

MELHA BD. OF GOVERNOR MEMBERS

George Sachs, Joseph Surprenant, Edward Geoffrion, Craig Kazin, Gary Surprenant

William Faust P.P., *Associate Member*

Emeritus Members: Robert W. Clarke, Raymond Kalita, Edward B. Briggs, Edward Shore Jr. P.P.

Chairmen Emeritus: Allen Zippin, P.P, Charles Weaver, P.P., Philip E. Thomas P.P., David Burstein, Esq.

SHRINERS BURNS HOSPITAL-BOSTON

51 Blossom St. Boston, MA 02114-2699

617-722-3000

MELHA BD. OF GOVERNORS MEMBERS

Dean Whalen, Russel Mitchell, PP

Emeritus Members: Saul Michaelson, Robert Spaulding P.P.

2017 DIVAN

Potentate..... Raymond Turrini
413-297-8111 ..... raturrini@hotmail.com
Chief Rabban ..... Robert Wogatske
..... 413-575-7788
..... roysdecorating@yahoo.com
Asst. Rabban..... Glenn Surprenant
413-583-8991.....gsoup2@aol.com
High Prst & Prophet ..... Daniel Smith
413-531-3542.....dsmith@pvcrete.com
Oriental Guide ..... Leo Plourde
413-348-3889..... leop08@charter.net
Treasurer.....Ronald Gagnon P.P.
413-568-4402 melha2009@comcast.net
Recorder .....Philip E. Thomas P.P.
1st Cerem. Master.....Jeffrey Hastings
413-896-7548.....jeffhas@belmorie.com
Chief Director .....Alan Stratton
413-323-0268
2nd Cerem. Master ..... Garth Parker
413-265-9996. garthparker@yahoo.com
Marshal .....Randy Wessels
..... 508-344-4472
.....randy.wessels@comcast.net
Capt. of the Guard.....Michael Cote
413-262-5105.bakdraft88@outlook.com

FROM THE RECORDER

PAST POTENTATES OF MELHA SHRINE

Name	Year
Charles Miller *	1897-1902
William H. Titus *	1903-1904
H. Leroy Woodward *	1905
Charles L. Young *	1906-1907
Robert P. Cunningham *	1908-1909
Fred R. Brown *	1910
Frank E. Ladd *	1911 - 1912
Albert E. Taylor *	1913
Hugh J. Buckley *	1914
Fred A. Eldred *	1915
Albert E. Lerche *	1916-1917
Franklin A. Latimer *	1918-1919
Walter H. Damon *	1920-1921
Fred C. Smith *	1922
Harry H. Caswell *	1923
Charles F. Watson *	1924
Charles A. Frazer *	1925
John A. Webster *	1926-1927
Walter S. Pease *	1928
George M. Hendee *	1929
Harry A. Spaight *	1930
Carl P. Reilly *	1931
Edward S. Chase *	1932
Arlan M. Spencer *	1933
Paul H. Hosmer *	1934
Henry K. Fruch *	1935
Walter E. Perry *	1936-1937
John G. Rose *	1938
Norman P. Dempsey *	1939
Alfred J. Bird *	1940
George W. Streeter *	1941
William L. McCleary *	1942
George G. Carr *	1943
William E. Grobe *	1944
Earl C. Daniels *	1945
Dr. George W. Gray *	1946
Donald H. Mudd *	1947
Wesley G. Stephens *	1948
Otto C. Kuhrt *	1949
Theodore A. Wiel *	1950
Donald A Bartlett *	1951
James Matthew *	1952
Chester W. Haynes *	1953
V. Frank Greis *	1954
Fred S. Conkey *	1955
Ralph F. Beaudry *	1956
Wayne H. Latham *	1957
Bennett W. Benson *	1958
Norman R. Vestor *	1959
Jule Kaufman *	1960
Robert E. Samble *	1961
Richard C. Zoller *	1962
Elliot Anderson *	1963
John Baird *	1964
Carl B. Martin Jr. *	1965
H. Edward Baker *	1966
Harold E. Kjoller *	1967
George Aronson *	1968
Maurice M. Chaffin *	1969
Dr. Kenneth E. Nicholson *	1970
Robert W. Nothacker *	1971
Jean R. LaCroix *	1972
Phillip E. Taylor *	1973
John M. Samson *	1974
Maurice H. Baitler *	1975
William G. Kavaney *	1976
Edward W. Bock *	1977
John R. Lundgren *	1978
Robert D. Davis *	1979
Kenneth E. Emery *	1980
Robert A. Meffen	1981
Jack A. Butterfield *	1982
Allen G. Zippin	1983
John E. Bethel*	1984
Joseph A. Harrison*	1985
Donald J. Lohnes *	1986
Imp. Ralph W. Semb	1987
Gordon J. Smith *	1988
Clyde O. Hooper Jr. *	1989
David Skolnick *	1990
W. Douglas Spingler	*1991
Richard C. Bewsee	1992
Norman T. Maagero	1993
Arthur E. Hastings	1994
Edward W. Shore Jr.	1995
Sheldon M. Titcomb	1996
Charles H. Weaver	1997
Philip E. Thomas	1998
Robert G. Spaulding Jr.	1999
David J. Gates	2000
Edgar W. Gelinas	2001
Edwin A. Os *	2002
Robert H. Marshall	2003
Anton E. Koss	2004
James W. Marceau	2005
Tom D. Fielding	2006
Kirk E. Burkins	2007
James H. Blevins	2008
Ronald R. Gagnon	2009
Jeffrey S. Goodless	2010
Russell D. Mitchell	2012
Edward F Griffin	2013
William Faust	2014
David F. Butterfield	2015
E. Brian Connor	2016
Raymond A. Turrini	2017

**deceased*

MELHA SHRINE

Beverage Manager.....Dick Marceau
Banquet Manager.....Debra Collins

TRUSTEES

Alan Couture(Chr.) 413-537-1657
Jack Greaves 413-527-7355
Michael Santos..... 413-246-2804
Richard MacGreggor..... 413-896-5447
John Scribner..... 413-323-7729
Anthony Langone..... 413-205-9953

ADMINISTRATORS

Nick Creanza (Chr.)..... 413-596-2577
Cary Miller..... 413-567-0514
Jeffrey Gopin.....774-452-2110
Ron Gagnon..... 413-568-4402
Edward W. Shore III 413-746-6442



Phil Thomas, PP - Recorder

Two great fun events occurred and I hope you attended. The Chili Cook Off and the Oriental Band Valentine Dance. Now, get your uniform and vehicle ready for the parade season. Also, you registered parade car insurance certificates into the office. March 12 will be the Worcester Parade, followed by the Holyoke parade on the 19th.

Need a Melha calendar? Stop in at the Recorders office.

Shriners International is planning to print the Inaugural Member Directory and will be gathering information and photos from Nobles, temples, clubs, and units. You may have received a post card from Publishing Concepts (PCI). Please respond. They encourage clubs and units to capture their activities in images that can be used in the directory. Any Shriner can exclude himself from this directory. Hope to see you at the events and don't forget we need new members, just say would you like to be a Shriner?



STATED MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, March 22, 2016 at 7:30 PM for the purpose of conducting the business of Melha Shriners, as well as, balloting on individuals for initiation, obligating candidates, and for the dissemination of information to the membership on matters relating to current Shrine events.

All nobles invited to attend, current dues card is required. Units and Clubs leaders are required to attend.

Proper attire is required and please wear your fez.

Raymond A. Turrini, Potentate

Attest, Philip E. Thomas, P.P. Recorder

Life Cycles

BLACK CAMEL

Walter C. Goodspeed Dec 30, 2016
Noble Ernest W. Brunault Jr.
Ill. Jean R. LaCroix Feb 17

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Richard Henry Jr	3-2
John Douthwright	3-3
Thomas Cooke	3-3
Leonard Abbey	3-5
Real Theroux	3-5
Richard Parenteau	3-5
Harry Chandler	3-6
Harry Bennett	3-6
Raymond Huber	3-6
Mark Hare	3-6
Andrew Tieman	3-6
John Ellis	3-7
Henry Rand	3-7
Scott Bergman	3-7
Richard Smart Sr	3-8
James Zajac	3-8
Glenn Surprenant	3-8
Anthony Montemagni	3-8
Brewster Sturtevant	3-9
Robert Powers	3-9
Raymond McCarthy Jr	3-9
Ronald Hastie	3-11
John Borowski	3-11
Lawrence Lucas	3-12
Bruce Martin Sr	3-13
Menas Kalagian	3-13

Continued on page 4

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

continued from page 3

John Nekitopoulos 3-13
Thomas Andrea 3-13
George Frechette.....3-14
Nicholas Thomo.....3-14
Eric Stevens.....3-14
George Johnson 3-15
Carlo Cressotti 3-15
Thomas Wehr 3-15
Brennan Roy.....3-15
Harvard Isakson.....3-16
William Faulkner Jr 3-16
Gregory Burt.....3-16
John O'Donnell 3-16
Frank Sacco.....3-16
Michael Sands Sr.....3-17
Ugo Ronghi 3-17
Kurt Brazeau 3-17
James Boyle.....3-18
Mark Hoffman 3-18
Craig Pedercini.....3-18
Thiago Primo.....3-18
Ronald Poirier 3-19
Joseph Phaneuf.....3-19
William Spring 3-20
David Harrod.....3-20
Charles Morgan 3-21
Thomas Gouvan 3-21
David Shaw.....3-21
Charles Gervickas.....3-22
Roland Outhuse.....3-22
Ronald Mongeon.....3-22
Norman Ashline 3-22
Kurt Haswell.....3-22
Mark Stewart.....3-22
Richard Carter.....3-22
Mark Parry.....3-22
William Dupre.....3-23
Theodore Knee 3-25
Bruce Wylie.....3-25
John Jackson 3-25
Raymond Turrini 3-25
Charles Myers Sr 3-26
Leon Parent Jr.....3-26
Albert Hersh Sr.....3-26
Robert Oostveen.....3-26
Raymond Redfern.....3-26
Edgar Darling 3-27
Stephen LaFever 3-27
John Fila.....3-28
Edward Koziol 3-28
Dale McComber.....3-29
Robert Leslie 3-30
Thomas Heinig.....3-30
Robert Simmons Jr 3-30
Paul Boria.....3-30
Nizar Dassouki.....3-30
Edward Seder 3-31

Melha Shriners Raise Money to Support Hospital 'Volunteers Appreciation Day' Program



Photo by Carla Wessels. Shows Bd. of Gov. Chair Steve Behe, HR & Volunteer Serv. Mgr. Kris Hamel receiving a check from Nobles Mike Knuerr and Tim Cheeks

By Michael Robinson

The Melha Shrine Riders, Highlanders & Sportsman Club, represented by Tim Cheeks and Mike Knuerr, presented a check for $650 to HR & Volunteer Services Manager Kris Hamel and Steve Behe Chair of the Board of Governors, at Board Day last month. Mike Knuerr (Sportsman Club, Riders) wanted to find a way to help offset the expenses of the hospital with respect to the volunteers. He contacted Kris Hamel who mentioned that they have a 'Volunteer Appreciation Day Brunch' every year and she could always use some financial help. Mike along with Tim Cheeks went to the Nobles and so far, have come up with $650. And there is more to come.

Kris said, "Over the past 3 years, the paid staff of the hospital has grown to 190 with the volunteers reaching 150." Kris continued, "That it is a huge workforce and the volunteers are an integral part of the hospital and fill the rolls of every department. So many of them have been here for years and have donated over 8,000 hours of service. They do it because they want to help the kids of Shriners Hospitals for Children."

Kris also oversees the volunteer van drivers program If any other Melha Noble would like to contribute to the volunteer program, contact Mike Knuerr at the Sportsman Club.





Melha Shrine - Italian Style!



Come be our guest at the Potentate's weekend celebration. Ray and I have planned lots of fun! Starting off on Friday night with a trip down memory lane. A Night with the "Rat Pack". Frank and the boys will entertain you with songs and antics from the days of 'Camelot.' The early 60's thin ties, cool cats and the big band sound. Don't forget the Italian food buffet. Abbondanza!

Saturday night is a sumptuous dinner and formal reception at the renowned Log Cabin restaurant.

No Cannoli until April, so we can fit into our ball gowns. Never mind those cummerbunds. We picked a great place to stay with our awesome hospitality room. To die for!

Italians are known for their hospitality so join us in celebration on April 7 and 8. Cent'anni

Love,

Ray and Denise Turrini

Potentate's Weekend Accommodations
Homewood Inn & Suites



375 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA 01040
Tel. (413) 532-3100

Melha Shrine Special Guest Pricing:

$149.00 Queen Sized Bed - Studio
$159.00 King Sized Bed - One Bedroom

Log on to http://melhashriners.com/events/poteweekendhotel/ to pay by credit card.

*Price includes Room, taxes, fees and free use of Melha Hospitality Room



A Night With The RAT PACK



Friday April 7, 2017
at the Butterfield Auditorium

Melha Shriners Building • 133 Longhill St., Springfield, MA 01108

6:00 PM Cocktail Hour - 7:00 PM Italian Buffet Dinner

$40 per person for dinner and show

to pay by credit card log on to **http://melhashriners.com/events/nightwithratpack/** or call the Melha office **413-736-3647** or **potentate@melhashriners.org. *Dress is Shrine casual.**

Melha's Divan
Cordially invites you and all visiting dignitaries to join them as they honor
Potentate Raymond A. Turrini
and His First Lady Denise
at Melha Shrine's

Potentate's Reception

Saturday April 8, 2017
6:00 p.m - 6:30 Social Hour / 7:30 p.m. Dinner

The Log Cabin Banquet House
500 Easthampton Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040

Diner Entree Choices:
St. Arthur's Sirloin, Tuscan Chicken, Verdicchio Scrod & Eggplant Roulade

$55.00 per person
Reservations must be in by April 1, 2017

to pay by credit card log on to **http://melhashriners.com/events/potereception/** or call the Melha office **413-736-3647** or **potentate@melhashriners.org**

*Formal dress with Fez for Nobles, and jacket and tie for guests.

SHRINE UNITS

CLOWNS

By Jerry " Fix-It" Ducharme, Chief

Welcome to your monthly installment of fun and laughter courtesy of your favorite Melha Shrine Clowns. What can be said about March? Well we have so many things in the works for you to get out and see the clowns at. Parades are starting plus we will be at the Leprechaun Plunge with some of us braving the frigid Connecticut River.

The RV Camping and Outdoor show last month was a big success as always. From walk-a rounds and balloons to scheduled skit shows your clowns were a hit again this year. This is one of our favorite gigs because we really get to interact with the people up close.

Lets talk about the Pool Tournament that Ivory Billiards put on for us. This month we will meet with Justin who heads up the tournament and he has great ideas for us on how to make it even better. This event benefits the clown unit to help us keep up the work we do plus is a great awareness event for us. Do you play pool? Keep an eye out for the flyers and come on down and have some fun.

Did you miss out on the Melha Shrine Clown Challenge Coin? Guess what? We have them again. This is our second order and if you missed out the first time don't let it happen again this time. Seek out our 1st assistant Rob Cote' to get one of these amazing coins for yourself or why not buy extras for friends.

Do you know or have an event you would like to have us at? Have you ever been to our web site www.melhaclowns.com ? Quick get out your electronic device or onto your computer and check it out. Lots of info as well as ways to connect with all of us and request our appearance at your function.

We have a business meeting on the first Friday of the month normally. Then we try to have some fun nights if there is an interest or request. I know that there are some guys really working on balloons and other stuff so look out for upcoming e-mail on fun nights. I will also be inviting the LOSNA Ladies to our fun night this month which will be on balloons. If you want to learn a new balloon or have one you can teach come on out and share and learn.

Well that's all I have for you this month. We hope to see you out and about but until next time "Bump-A-Nose".

DRUM CORPS

By Jim Marceau,PP

Well, it's official. The Drum Corps room is now dry. We are closing our bar and will serve only coffee and soft drinks. I think the last time we sold a beer was four years ago, and the can was three years beyond expiration. None of us drink, you see, and we need the extra space under the bar for equipment storage. So take due notice and govern yourself accordingly.

Plans for our Legends of Rock and Roll Show on May 27 are coming along. We will begin advertising soon. There will be no more Buglers Hall of Fame Regional at Melha--we were losing money on it. Instead we will be presenting a show similar to the one done at 'Chez Josef' for the U.S.O. Keep an eye out for the lineup of entertainers to be appearing. Rumor has it that the Bedouin Belles and the Ahlem Patrol as well as the Melha Drum Corps Percussion Ensemble will also perform that night! Might be worth the $15.00 admission price right there!

Nice to see Lou Redfern walking and driving again. He was telling us that he had another visit with the plastic surgeon scheduled, but President Ron said it wouldn't help. He would still be ugly! Harsh, Ron. Very harsh. We were also glad to hear that Nancy recovered from her ailment while on vacation in Arizona. Avi says she feels much better now. Glad to hear it.

As I was proof reading this article I realized that it is as dry as donkey dust. Can't be helped. Sometimes you just have to report the news. But cheer up. The parade season is upon us! Come to rehearsal and we'll see what we can whip up to amuse the crowds on St. Patrick's Day. Sell Circus ads, and don't forget to Rock (and Roll) the Fez!

Continued on page 7

1307 Park Street (Route 20), Palmer, MA
JACKSON'S Auto Sales & Service
413-289-1016 • 800-662-1016
Monday - Friday: 7:30AM to 5:00PM
SATURDAY: 7:30AM - 12:00PM
We Accept Most Major Credit Cards
Check out our money saving coupons at www.jjacksons.com
• ASE Certified Mechanics
• Automatic Transmission Repair
• Quality Pre-Owned Vehicles
• Weekly Tire Specials
ENHANCED EMISSIONS & SAFETY TEST
5 Star Authorized Registered State Emissions Repair Facility #RP008269

LANGONET AUTO BODY AND FRAME
Over 30 Years Experience
Lifetime Guarantee on All Collision Repairs
FREE Estimates
We accept all insurances and can arrange rental transportation
Complete Detailing
Paintless Dent Removal
Quality Used Vehicles
Gift Certificates
Mass Reg #RS609
61 Ramah Circle South
Agawam MA 01001
413-786-3574
www.langonet.com

Greater Springfield's Oldest Family-Owned Funeral Home
Dickinson-Streeter Funeral Service, Inc.
Alfred J. Gay
Valerie Gay Dulude
James C. Gay
(413) 733-2129
305 State St Springfield, MA 01105

WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE & HOME SERVICES
New England's Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company
MORE THAN 30,000 LISTINGS IN NEW ENGLAND

Anne L. Gelinas
ANNE L. GELINAS
REALTOR®
THE INTEGRITY SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE YOU EXPECT
CALL OR TEXT MY CELL AT 413-374-6461
36 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028
Office: (413) 565-2111
Cell: (413) 374-6461
Website
annegelinas.raveis.com
Email: anne.gelinas@raveis.com

UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 6

FLYERS

By Lance Whitcomb

On February 1st I went to Brotherhood Lodge to see a first degree done by three DeMolay Chapters. They are starting a new DeMolay Chapter in the Spring Hill area. The Master Counceler did a great job on the ritual and another member filled 2 or 3 offices. Later this month they will a 2nd degree and installation of officers for the new Chapter. It was rewarding to see young men interested in becoming DeMolay members. Plus, the Brotherhood Lodge for supporting this activity for them. Way to go!!

I have gone to two Blue Lodge meetings and four different Lodge meetings I have met old friends and new brothers. Remember to visit your local Lodges and help them as they continue operating. If you know a degree is coming up, go and help, even sitting on the sidelines is encouragement to the members.

As I write this, I'm sitting out in 85 deg. weather, with a slight wind. Watched the Patriots parade in Boston, did not look warm! Now we are hearing about a Nor'easter.

PS – On the way to a Shrine meeting, I stopped at WalMart to pickup Valentines for my family (5). Hey guys, it took me an hour or longer looking at a million or more cards to find the right ones (I hope). As I checked out and left the store, I was still wondering, did I get the right ones?? I'm sure none of you fellows have that problem, of course I'm heading to the last deadline!

HADJI

By Don Sacco, Jr

I would like to thank everyone for trust in electing me Hadji President, and I'll do my best to help lead the unit this year. Unfortunately we had to start the year by canceling our Feb. meeting with our ladies, due to inclement weather. It's a shame, because it's always a good time, but we have to consider the safety of our Nobles and their ladies first. We have a couple parades coming up this month with St. Patrick's day, and as the parade season starts I would like to ask all Hadji members to do what they can to make as many parades as possible. Ill. Turrini needs our help in getting Fez's on the street, that way we make Melha look better. Remember if we constantly have parades with low turnout, it's possible that they'll stop having us in these parades. We joined the Shriners to help the kids, so let's get out to the parades and spread the word. We ride so children can walk!!!

We will be taking the unit picture for this years circus ad book at the Worcester parade, so we need everyone there.

Also there were some errors in the calendar book, so here is the updated contact info for the Hadji officers: Don Sacco Jr 413-883-2305, Ed Lyons is correct - Vice President, Rob Pierce 617-470-9375 - Secretary, and Jason Corey 413-530-8464 - Tillerman

LEGION OF HONOR

By Michelle Greaves

'ATTEN-HUT!

Dick Marceau is very busy planning and organizing this year's Melha Shrine Veterans Day Washington Trip as part of the Shriners International Legion of Honor Veterans Memorial event. Because he will be away from Jan. to Apr. he has asked me to keep you informed on his plans. Those who wish to join us can make their reservations and not have to wait until May, when Dick returns. I will not be taking any deposits but only reservations. Dick will handle the finances when he returns.

Here is the itinerary as of now:

11-2 Thurs., meet at Melha at 7:30 am, dinner at the D.C. Hotel at 7 pm,

11-3 Fri., White House and Capital Tours (trying to arrange), 5 pm dinner (restaurant T.B.D.), 8 pm "Sheer Madness" show at Kennedy Center

11-4 Sat., 9am Memorial Service in hotel banquet hall, then a bus trip to Arlington National Cemetery to place wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, back to hotel for full course turkey meal, 2pm bus tour of FDR, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials. Return to hotel for a pizza party in our hospitality room

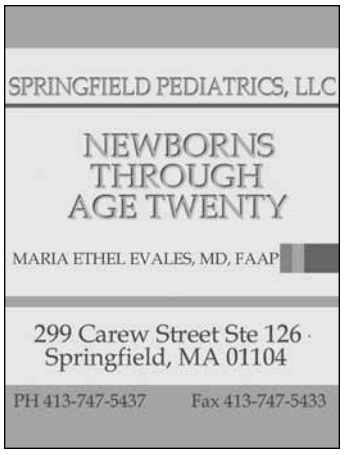
11-5 Sun. 8:30 am load the buses to head home, mid trip home we stop at an awesome restaurant for a meal

As you can see it is a fun filled weekend but also patriotic and sobering; if you have ever attended this event previously you will agree. If you have never been it is an awesome weekend that you will never stop talking about.

Seating is limited so don't

Continued on page 8









UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 7

hesitate to reserve your spot now. This weekend is a time when we honor our fallen heroes and is truly a memorable event.

UPDATE: I have been in contact with Rep. Richard Neil's D.C. office. The White House and Congressional Building Tours will be confirmed for Friday's schedule as soon as all this information is sent to his office. Because these buildings are "high security areas" more information is required by all those planning on going: Full name including middle name, Social Security Number, date of birth, Country of birth, 5. Current residence city and state, gender, proof of citizenship (passport or copy of birth certificate)

If you are planning on going on this trip get your reservations in (with the additional security info) so we can confirm these two tours, thank you.

If you have any further questions and or to make reservations please contact Michelle Greaves at c 413-427-9178 or mich-greaves@hotmail.com.

MILITARY BAND

By Michael Robinson

The Military Band welcomes back to the percussion section its new unit president, Ill. Ed Griffin. Band Shrine unit members have to make sure their belt buckles are sparkling, their shoes are polished to a mirror finish and inspection is every Tuesday night at 19:15 at the Butterfield Auditorium. Our first 2 parades are coming up for Holyoke and Worcester so make sure let Ed know you are coming for the Marshall.

Corrections for the calendar book: Edward Griffin - President, Ron Archer - Treasurer, Mike Robinson 413-567-2138 - Secretary

PAST MASTERS

By Richard A. Poudrier

I'm going to pass on information regarding upcoming items you need to be aware of. First item is that our unit's Quarterly meeting has been changed to THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH at 7:00 pm. AT 7:30 PM SHARP Chuck Bacon will be taking our unit's JEWEL PAGE PICTURE. Should you which to be included in the picture. Come to the meeting in tux and bring your fez.

Second, George Sachs wants me to remind you to be sure to send in your jewel page names donation and that all circus program book ad sales should be done by mid-March.

Third, president Ken White would like our members to notify him if they can help staff a raffle table at for our Circus Box Seat tickets. His e-mail address is: knwht13@gmail.com . Also, members can purchase a UNIT NAME BADGE for $10 by contacting his as well.

We are also going to include "President" and the year to the left and right of the Fez. The Secretary will send an e-blast containing a picture of the badge. Check your dues card and if it doesn't have 2017 on it....you're card is out of date and you need to pay this year's dues.

Check the Camelha for upcoming events. Also support your Blue Loge and Shrine and get involved.

VINTAGE AUTOS

By Ken Taylor

We had a good meeting in February. Andrew Clough, chair of the Membership Committee, spoke about the various programs the membership committee has formulated for the year. All of the programs were geared toward increasing the public's awareness of the Masonic/Shriner's charitable activities both here and around the region. He is hoping to increase membership by his efforts. By informing the community about what we do, it might interest people to join our organization and increase Melha's membership roles. More information will be announced.

The Shrine Clown's 'Dazzle' suit was found in storage and is now over twenty years old and in dire need of repair. The suit is being sent out to be cleaned, free of charge. The suit needs four batteries and two chargers. We voted to buy a battery and a charger. Other units are buying the other batteries and chargers too. We also voted to donate funds to help replace the beer cooler in the Butterfield Auditorium kitchen. The cost of repairing the present cooler was more than the cost for a new one.

Keep June 11 open for the Pioneer Valley GTO Club meet. This show is open to all cars.

Continued on page 9

Toscana Caterers



Food is not just for survival
it's a passion indulge us!

Serving delicous food to Melha Shrine Center
and it Nobles for over 15 years.

Now accepting 2017 event dates

For all Parties and Events over 50 persons
Receive A Free Appeitizer on US

Book Your Event by April 1st
and receive one extra Entree (Chicken or Pork)

Your Hosts
Pete and Mary Silvano

Vist our web site for all of our printable menus

138 Falley Dr Westfield MA 01085
413.642.5141
www.toscanacaterers.com
Email: sales@toscanacaterers.com

UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 8

We also learned that C.A. Ingram and his wife, and Jim Mayrand and his wife, are not in good health. We wish both couples well and hope that their health improves. Give them a call, it will boost their spirits.

SHRINE CLUBS

BERKSHIRE SHRINE CLUB

By Rita Gardner

Due to the Nor'Easter that hit the east coast early on Thursday morning, February 9, most of Berkshire County was shut down and our scheduled meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017. If you are not aware of it, the BSC meeting night has been changed to the second Thursday of the month and all meetings will be held at the Bass Water Grill in Cheshire, MA, members and guests should arrive anytime after 6 PM and dinner will be served at 7 PM. We look forward to having a great year, it will be parade season before you know it!

CENTRAL MASS SHRINE CLUB

By Mike Robinson

Monthly meeting on March 16th Publik House, Sturbridge, MA. 6 pm Social and Dinner 7 pm. Yankee Pot Roast or Butter crumb-crusted Scrod $20.00. Contact President Ray Ronander for a head count if you are planning to attend. PS Awesome food!

PIONEER VALLEY SHRINE CLUB

by Michelle Greaves

Sawasdeeka (hello) I hope everyone had a special Valentines Day. Now we are getting ready for Saint Patrick's Day. Parades, green beer, green milk shakes, leprechauns, Irish music and a huge weekend of fun and freezing at the parades, oh me, oh my.

February 11th we had the lasagna get together, many came. We all had a great time, the food was delicious, the fellowship was awesome, the feedback from the floor on the suggested events for this coming year was very favorable. It will be a good year to look forward too.

The events that are definitely set at this time are;

1. April 30th at Exit 7, Ludlow 2:00 pm show "The Producers", dinner to follow at Brigham Lodge. Show $15.00, dinner $10.00. Reservation can be made by calling Michelle Greaves 1-413-427-9178, checks made out to PVSC and mailed to Michelle Greaves 23 Droy Circle, Easthampton, MA. 01027
2. July 22nd at Buttery Brook in South Hadley, we will have a Family Picnic. Bring your children, grandchildren and have a family fun day. Games, prizes, food, fun and Fellowship.

Continued on page 10





UNITS AND CLUBS

Continued from page 9

Other events that are being considered are:

1. Dinner Night at Tokyo House
2. Salem Bus Trip
3. Casino Trip
4. Brewery Tour in CT.
5. New Years Eve Party

PVSC is a club of husbands, wives, widows, who get together for fun and fellowship. You do not have to be a Shriner to join in on the fun. So invite your friends to join in our various events, the more the merrier. La Kxn (good bye)

MELHA GOLF LEAGUE

By Ed Batchelder



The Melha Golf League is starting up Friday March 24th at East Mountain Country Club - Westfield MA. We are having 2 weeks of warm ups (03/24 & 03/31) followed by the official kickoff on 04/07. Tee times start promptly at 3 pm with a cost of $19/round/week. Come out and join your other friendly Nobles for some fun on the links. All Shriners and Masonic Golfers are welcomed regardless of ability. For details or to sign up, call Ed Batchelder @ 413 531-6261 or email ed@batchelderassociates.com

Big 'E' RV Show, A Melha Shrine Family Affair



Photo by Carla Wessels. Dave Duncan and the Melha Shriners manning the RV show booth



Photo by Carla Wessels. Membership Chair, Andy Clough at the Melha Shrine Membership display



Photo by Carla Wessels. Estelle Seder looking for new members at the LOSNA table.



Photo by Carla Wessels. Nile's Judy Davis and Eleanor Green



Photo by Carla Wessels. Melha Shrine Clowns performing skits for the crowds at the RV Show.



Photo by Carla Wessels Dave Duncan with Dave from Hadji Go Carts entertaining the patrons of the RV Show.

AHLEM TEMPLE 84

By Audrey Millgate

Ahlem's Wish List committee is continuing on with Ahlem's work of assisting in the management of the toy supplies at Springfield Shriners Hospital by taking up a collection to purchase storage bins. Our ladies did a noble job in sorting and storing toys in January.

Plans are underway for Queen Faye's Retirement Party at Storrowton Tavern, West Springfield on April 23. Save the date and make your reservations with Junior Past Queen Tracy, who is making this beautiful, fun event happen.

The circus is coming to town May 4-7! And Ahlem ladies (in their green shirts) will be selling t-shirts at the Shriners Booth every day. We need a few good women to sign up for shifts at the performances.

FORGET-ME-NOTS

By Edith Sweeney



Our next meeting will be on Fri., Mar. 17, at 12pm, at Center Square Grill, 84 Center Square, East Longmeadow. Tel #413-525-0055. (At rotary, near Rocky's/Walgreens). Please make reservations by March 15th with Corinne Pierson 413-789-8148, Claire Patruno 413-596-3251, or Edith Sweeney on email esweeney12@cox.net. REMEMBER: everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, so try to wear green!!! Hope to see you there.

HELMA COURT 64

By Anita Tetreault

Lady Estelle has requested that all officers wear their Court Uniforms to the Thursday, March 9, 2017 meeting at MT. Moriah at 7:30 pm.

The public Installation of Officers for Helma Court will take place at 2:00 pm on March 11, 2017 at Melha Shrine Center. The week following Installation, our new High Priestess, Lady Pat Semb, will be attending the dedication of the Motion Analysis Laboratory in Canada that has been donated by LOSNA and which cost over $500,000.00. We should all be very proud of this accomplishment.

TEKOA CHAPTER

By Dad Giguere Jr.

Please take note that the Tekoa Chapter voted to change their meeting night in December and are now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, with business meetings opening at 7 pm.

WEST SPRINGFIELD ASSEMBLY 79

By Mom Jacobs

Upcoming Schedule:

Sat. Mar. 4 - Mr. Rainbow @ Westfield Lodge 5-9pm

Sun. Mar. 5 - Mt Moriah Breakfast 8am

Sun. Mar. 5 - Special Ceremonies and GWA Tryouts, Natick, 12pm

Sun. Mar. 19 - Annual St. Patricks Breakfast @ Melha 7:00 am-3:00 pm After breakfast we will march in Parade (dress warm)

Sat. Apr. 1 - Tekoa Demolay April fools dance - Westfield Masonic Lodge 5 - 10 pm $7.00 entry fee.

Nile's B-Fit Pizza Party at SHC



Photo by Michelle Greaves. Several ladies of the Daughters of the Nile give a pizza party for the 'B Fit' children at Shriners Hospital Springfield. Everyone had a great time; face painting, coloring, word puzzles and making little animals from towels. Pictured with the ladies is Administrator Lee Kirk.



Rainbow Girls enjoying the Oriental Band's A Country Western Valentines Day Dance



Gerry "Fix-It" Ducharme Installed as 2017 Chief of Melha Clowns



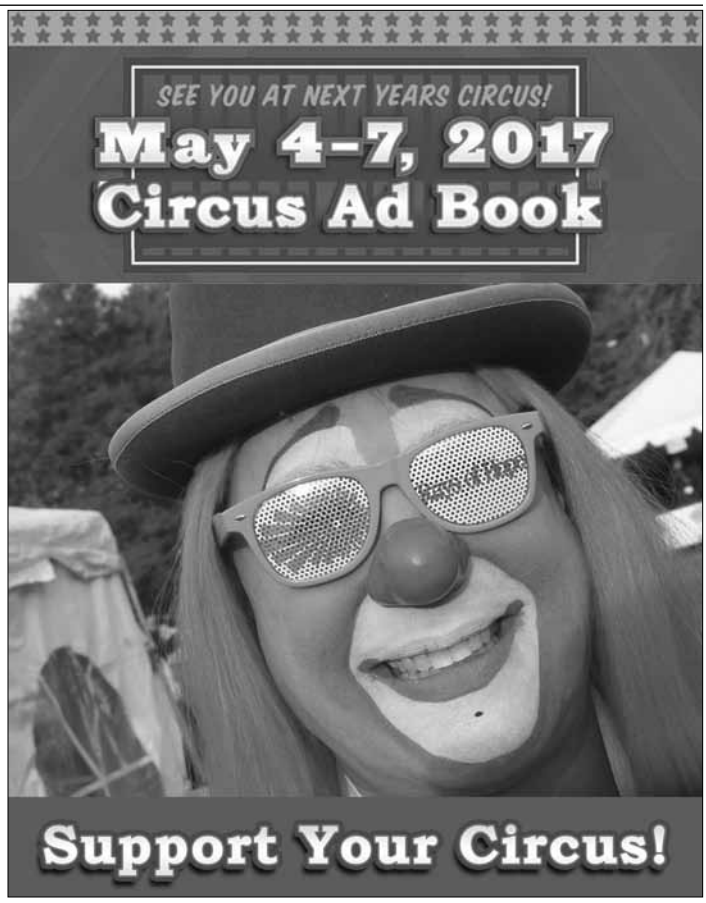
Photo by Bert Krasner. 2017 Clown Officers L to R Craig Kazin, Rob Cote, Gerry Ducharme, Bill MacKinnon, Jr, Dave Mereschuk.

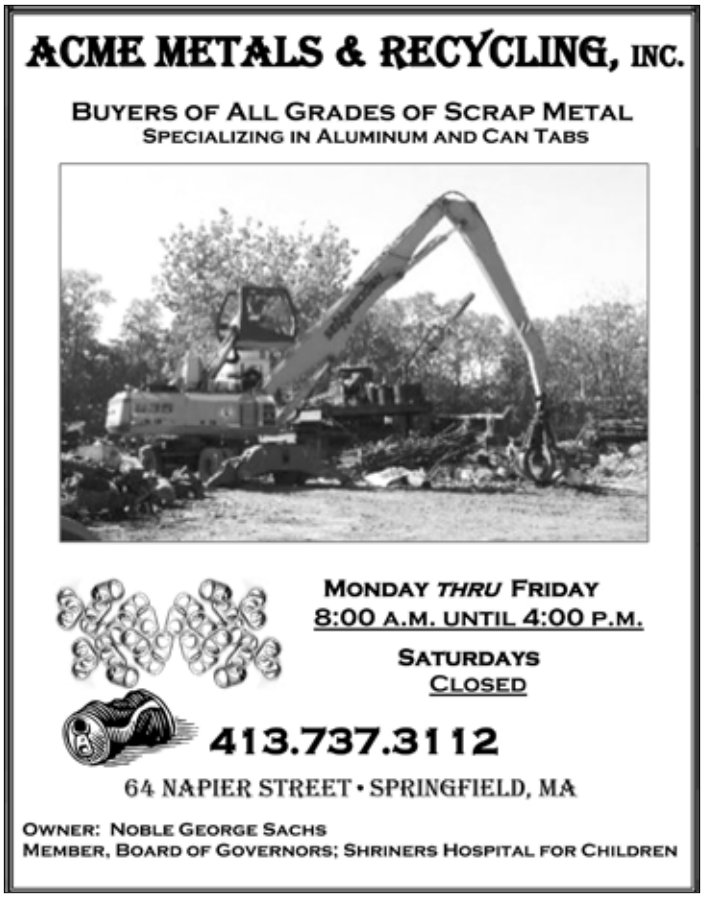


Photo by Bert Krasner. Melha Shrine Clowns at the 2017 installation of officers.



Photo by Bert Krasner. Chief Gerry Ducharme and his Wife and family.





Garth Parker Installed Chief of Melha Highlanders



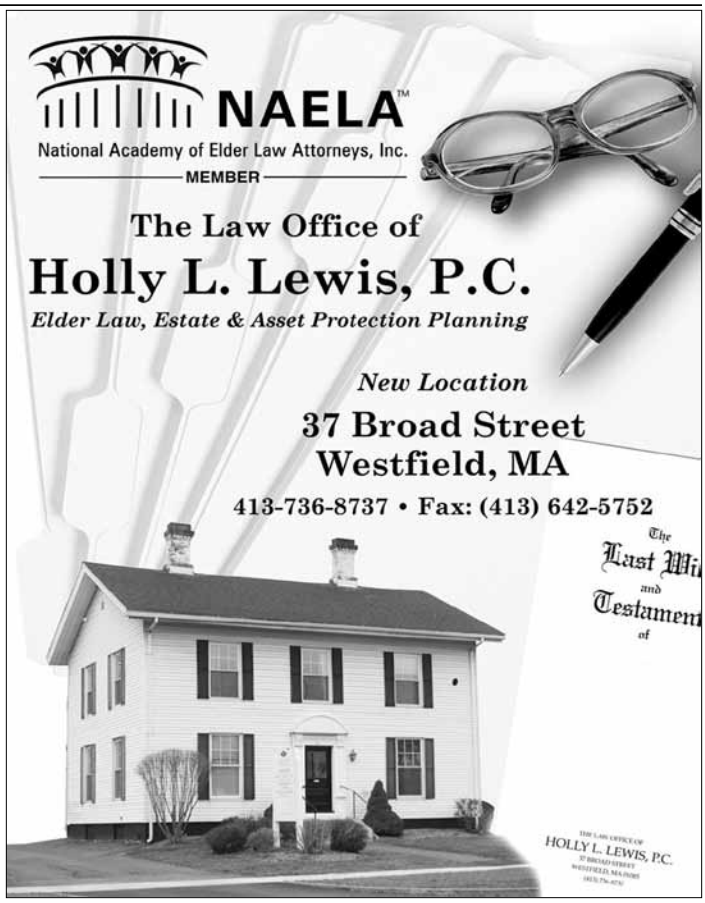
Photo John Dowell. New Officers L to R. Chief Garth Parker, Asst. Chief Dave Butterfield, Chap. Jeff Gopin, Treas John Burns, Sec. Mark Mueller taking their official obligation

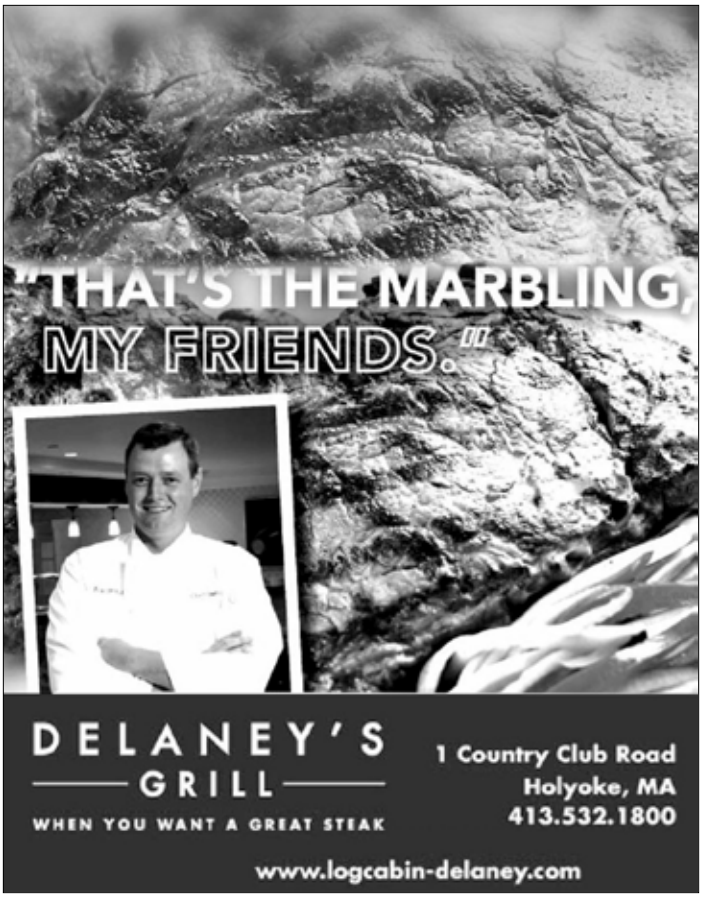


Photo John Dowell. Pipe Major Ed Hastings 'piping in' the officers.



Photo John Dowell. Junior Past Chief Michaelson giving words of wisdom to incoming Chief Garth Parker.





MEET THE UNIT HEADS

Continued from page 1

2017 also saw the formation of a brand new BBQ club.

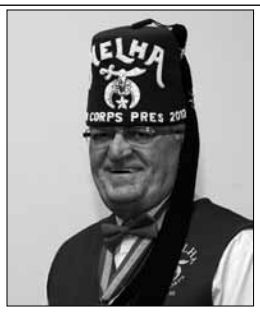
The BBQ Club, the brainchild of Noble Shonn Monday *(also the founder of the Sportsman Club)*, was created for the purpose of participating regionally in BBQ competitions and also allow the non-cooking members to sample large quantities of smoked brisket and other delicacies. (*I added that part because membership has its rewards.)*



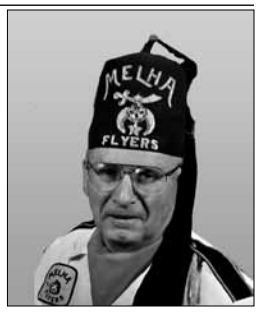
Clowns
Gerry Ducharme



Directors
Charles Gervickas



Drum Corps
Ronald Mongeon



Flyers
Lance Whitcomb



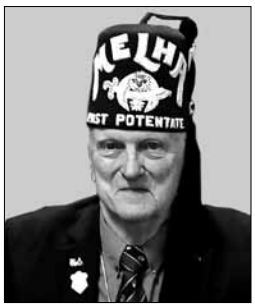
Hadji
Don Sacco, Jr.



Highlanders
Garth Parker



Legion of Honor
Matt Herman



Military Band
Ill. Ed Griffin



Mariners
Robert Hager



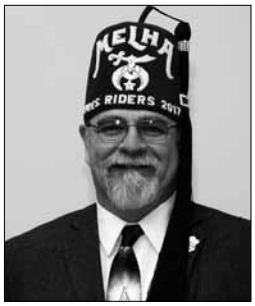
Past Masters
Ken White



Oriental Band
Chris Parker



Ramblin' Campers
George Brooks



Riders
Rick Carter



Sportsman Club
Mike Knuerr



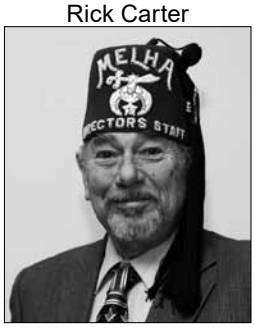
Vintage Auto
Don Salva



BBQ Club
Shonn Monday



Berkshire Shrine Club
VP. Robert Aubin



Central Mass
Shrine Club
Ray Ronander



Franklin County
Shrine Club
Malcolm Corse



Italian American Club
Scott Coleman



Pioneer Valley
Shrine Club
Matt Herman

2017 Melha Shriners Unit & Club Heads

REMEMBERING JEAN LACROIX

Continued from page 1

retired to Florida. But the one thing he lamented was not fulfilling the required 10 years to become an emeritus member.

This situation was recently rectified by Ill. Sir Ralph Semb, who advocated for his ailing friend. The Board of Trustees gladly appointed Jean to the position of Emeritus Member and had a plaque engraved commemorating his many years of service. Jean's recent dire diagnosis made it imperative to get the award to him quickly. Ralph, a longtime flight instructor, was able to fly up from where he was staying to visit Jean and present the award personally. Ralph said that Jean was very animated and grateful to receive such an honor.

Kudos to the Hospital Board and The Imperial Potentate for making this small gesture happen to a Melha Shriner who was bigger than life. Illustrious Jean LaCroix, 1972 passed away February 17, 2017.

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

And for the Directors Paint and Sip event on the 15th from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Clarion in West Springfield, $10 from every sign up goes to support the First Lady's Project. Our goal is to fill the 75 seat room. Meet members of the Springfield Board of Governors; can't wait to see you all there.

Wrapping up the month of March, we have the Stated meeting on the 22nd and the mouth watering pasta dinner on the 25th put on by the talented Oriental Band culinary team.





Melha Highlander's Annual

SPRING FLING

Saturday, April 1, 2017

Social 6:00 p.m. – Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Tickets are $45 Per Person

Dinner Choices – Fish, Chicken or Prime Rib
Dance to the music of the "Blue Skies Big Band"

Attire – Highland Formal or Jacket & Tie
PIPERS AND DRUMMERS PLEASE BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS

THE BUTTERFIELD AUDITORIUM
Melha Shriners Building 133 Longhill St., Springfield MA

Buy tickets from any Melha Highlander or by credit card online at
www.melhashriners.com/events/springfling/

For further information contact Garth Parker at garthparker@yahoo.com or 413-265-9996
Reservations must be made by March 22, 2017



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
N.E. Prime Properties

Proudly serving Western Massachusetts home sellers and buyers with unmatched service and attention to detail.

Experience the Berkshire Hathaway HS, N.E. Prime Properties difference!



Stephen K. Gielda
Realtor®

508-612-4363 cell/text
413-686-9448 direct
sgielda@ownnewengland.com

©2016 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc.® Equal Housing Opportunity.

MELHA SHRINERS
133 Longhill Street
Springfield, MA 01108-1499

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Springfield, MA 01152
Permit No. 211

Melha Calendar of Events

March 2017

Wed, Mar 8 7:00 PM ..... Daughters of the Nile meeting [BA]

Thu, Mar 9 6:00 PM ..... Berkshire Shrine Club - Bass Water Grill Cheshire, MA

Sat, Mar 11 9:15 AM ..... Leprechaun Plunge - Brunelles Marina South Hadley, MA. Parade at 11 am forms / step off 12 pm

Sun, Mar 12 9:00 AM ..... Worcester St. Patrick Day Parade - Bus leaves Melha at 9:15 PM

Mon, Mar 13 6:00 PM ..... Board Of Directors

Mon, Mar 13 6:00 PM ..... Franklin Shrine Club

Thu, Mar 16 6:00 PM ..... Central Mass Shrine Club - Publick House Sturbridge, MA

Wed, Mar 18 2:00 PM ..... Daughters of the Nile Installation of Officers [BA]

Sun, Mar 19 8:00 AM ..... Rainbow Girl Breakfast [BA]

Sun, Mar 19 12:00 PM ..... Holyoke St. Patrick Day Parade - Bus leaves Melha at 12:30 PM

Wed, Mar 22 6:30 PM ..... Board of Directors

Wed, Mar 22 7:30 PM ..... Melha Stated Meeting [BA]

Sat, Mar 25 ..... 6:00 PM Oriental Band Pasta Night [BA]

Mon, Mar 27 ..... 6:30 PM Circus Meeting

BA = Butterfield Auditorium



Photo by Carla Wessels. Directors Ray Ronander and Frank Watson reliving their childhoods at the Springfield RV Show..