



# BEN HUR Shriners

## The Chariot



FEBRUARY 2025

VOL. 93, NO 2



**Charles Maddox**  
Chief Rabban



**Jim McConnell**  
Potentate



**Fred Maynard**  
Assistant Rabban



**Ricky Hayes**  
High Priest & Prophet



**Ben Hur Shrine**  
Austin, TX  
Boars of Directors



**Ron Speaks**  
Oriental Guide



**Bill James**  
Treasurer



**Sam Stimson**  
Recorder

7811 Rockwood Lane  
Austin, Texas 78757

**Articles due NLT 15th of the month**

512-480-0812  
[www.benhurshrine.org](http://www.benhurshrine.org)

**BEN HUR SHRINE**  
 CHARTED AUGUST 16, 1892  
 7811 Rockwood Lane  
 Austin, Texas 78757  
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 www.benhurshrine.org  
 secretary@benhurshrine.org  
 recorder@benhurshrine.org

**BEN HUR OFFICE HOURS**  
 Mon - Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm  
 Closed on Major Holidays

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**CHARIOT EDITOR ..... Sam Stimson, PhD**  
**Webmaster/Designer..... Diane Reid**

**APPOINTED STAFF (Cont)**

**Entertainment Committee**  
 Chef Ernest Owney, Russell Hur, Russell Jones, Dee Davis, Brenda Willis Scholin Lana Stone, Deloris Shaw, Dave Harnden, Mike Sanders, Michele Sanders, Jeff Schlieve, Cristal Schlieve

**Insurance Chairman**  
 Gerald "Jerry" Carruth

**Insurance Committee**  
 Ill Sir Jim Mcconnell, Potentate, Charles Maddox, Chief Rabban, David Caylor, Sam Stimson, PhD , Recorder

**Legal Counsel**  
 Gerald C. "Jerry" Carruth

**Masonic Relations**  
 Open

**\$100 Million Dollar Club**  
 Charles Maddox, Assistant Rabban

**Parade Marshal**  
 Ron Speaks, Oriental Guide

**Parliamentarian**  
 Gerald C. "Jerry" Carruth

**Photographer**  
 James Heineman PP

**Public Relations**  
 Fred Maynard

**Sickness & Distress**  
 Nobility

**Transportation Chairman**  
 Vance Brown

**Social Media**  
 James Heineman PP

**Membership Chairman**  
 Fred Maynard

**APPOINTED STAFF**

**Chief of Staff**  
 Charlie Farnham, PP

**Office Manager**  
 Aliya Spivey

**Building & Grounds Manager**  
 Russell Hur

**Chaplain**  
 Ted Robertson

**Colonel of Units**  
 Charlie Farnham, PP

**Donor Relations**  
 Ricky Hayes, High Priest and Prophet

**Master of Ceremonies**  
 Mike Sanders

**Fund Raising Chairman**  
 Jeff Schlieve

**STATED MEETING**  
 Ben Hur Shrine meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next stated meeting will be Feb 20 2025. **YOUR 2025 DUES CARD IS REQUIRED!**

**APPOINTED DIVAN**

**Temple Director - Chris Garner**  
**Captain of the Guard - David Harnden**  
**Outer Guard - Raul Scully**  
**1st Ceremonial Master—Russell Jones**  
**2nd Ceremonial Master - Ted Robertson**  
**Ceremonial Asst. Rabban—**  
**Marshal - Raul Scully**

**POTENTATE MESSAGES**—jemconnell@gmail.com

Nobles and Ladies

2025 has started off with a bang with installation on January 4, followed by the divan meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Ben Hur. We covered a lot of items and we are all looking forward to having a FUN and interesting year.



We will be working on developing a 5-year plan on how we can best serve and develop membership. This will be something we all must work on, as everyone is a membership member. The best thing everyone can do is get involved in your units of choice or develop a new unit with others. Fun and Fellowship is one of the main reasons to be a Shriner.

One of our first events will be at the Shriner Children's Texas Mardi Gras Parade in Galveston on March 2. The float will be there along with the Divan, and I hope you can join us there.

We have scheduled a Night under the Stars for the Potentates Ball for Saturday April 12, with an Old Time Membership event scheduled for Tuesday September 9, followed by the Fall Ceremonial and New Nobles dance on Saturday September 27.

Remember Shriners come from your lodges, so be sure to support and attend your blue lodges

Fraternally

Jim McConnell

Potentate

**RECORDER**—sstimson70@gmail.com

I have one major item to cover this month. If you look at the picture, you will see the filing cabinet in the Treasurer's office. You will also notice the file on the side of the cabinet is full to overflowing. We kindly sort the mail in the front office and put mail and bank invoices into these Club and Unit folders. Please send someone from the following Club or Unit to collect their stuff and establish a plan to check each month going forward. The Clubs and Units that have old mail gathered are: Carboys (now Motley Brue) Trailblazers, Charioteers, Shotgun, Clowns, Motorcycle.



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**ASSISTANT RABBAN** - fred.maynard@att.net

Nobles & Ladies,

Here we are in February; the year is slipping away so fast and we have so much to do. Lady Traci and I are working on getting our membership team up and running. I want to thank those members who have agreed to act as Shrine Membership Ambassadors this year. We will be working together to implement the plan that we outlined last month. Our goal is to bring in at least 4 new members at every meeting. In this endeavor we need everyone's participation. If you know of a Brother Mason who you think would be good Shriner, please invite them to come out and see what we are about.



We have many events coming up. Invite prospective members to the Crawfish Boil, Texas Stars Hockey Game, Spring Concert & St Patty's day celebration, Casino night, the Kentucky Derby party, or the Round Rock Express game. Please see each of the fliers in the Chariot or [www.benhurshrine.org](http://www.benhurshrine.org) for details. Shrine Night at the Texas Stars is on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available on the website, from our Shrine Membership Ambassadors, or from our Divan members. Let's all do our part to sell this event out.

I cannot emphasize enough how important membership is to our temple, and it is going to take every one of us pitching in and helping to bring new members. If you have any questions about membership or ideas on how we can attract new members, please reach out to me and let's talk about what we can do. No idea is off the table.

Fraternally,  
Fred Maynard  
Assistant Rabban

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## LIZZYTEERS

Election for new officers was held on January 4, 2025. New officers are President Richard Alonso, Vice President Abe Wallace, Secretary/Treasurer Raul J. Scully, and Trail Boss David "Tide" Williams. The unit is currently transitioning from the Tin Lizzy go karts to mini Jeep go karts due to the age of the Lizzie's and the lack of availability of parts. Needless to say, we will be updating our bylaws and are looking forward to the new parade season. Anybody interested in joining the unit can Talk to any of the officers. We look forward to growing the unit and representing Ben Hur shrine.

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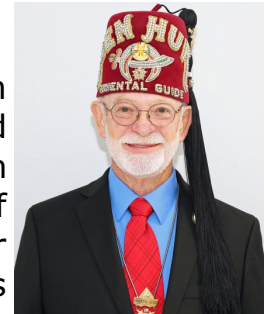
## GEORGETOWN AND SUN CITY

GEORGETOWN & SUN CITY SHRINERS - During a chilly morning on January 7th, a group of Ladies and Nobles got together for a hardy breakfast and shivering socializing at Simmer Down Cafe in Georgetown. You know it had to be lively and full of tall tales with so many Nobles from around America gathered and huddled at the table. Debbie and I really enjoy having a number of Nobles & Ladies join us such as Lady Sharon Banks, Meridian MS, David Reed and Lady Katy, Jim Crawford and Lady Mickie and their special guest. We're always blessed and entertained by Ill Sir Berkeley Conn, Wichita KS, and the great conversation provided by Ill Sirs James Campbell, PP Suez, Jack Weibel, PP El Riad, Gene Freudenberg, PP and Lady LaDell Ben Hur and PIP Jim Smith and Lady Alice. I always fail to mention a number of fun folks that join us. The food was great, the laughter was plentiful and several of us stayed for that third and fourth cup of jo. Come join us, it's strictly a social gathering. *Submitted by: Ron Speaks*

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### ORIENTAL GUIDE - [poppyspeaks@msn.com](mailto:poppyspeaks@msn.com)

Born a Kentuckian, Ron is proud Texan by choice! He is a Vietnam Veteran and after 7 years of active-duty 1968-1975, he continued working for the US Air Force as a DOD Civilian from 1975-2003, with multiple duty stations around the globe. His last assignment was Chief of Aircraft & Missile Maintenance Training Management, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB Utah. While stationed in Alaska, Ron was made a Master Mason at Tanana Lodge #3, became a 32°Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of AL ASKA Shrine, all at Fairbanks, Alaska during Nov 1998 – June 1999. Later, during his Air Force time and after his 2003 retirement in Utah, he became York Rite Mason, served as Worshipful Master of George Washington Lodge #24, President of Ogden Shrine Club, President of EL Kalah Clowns, VP of the Ogden Temple Board, Finance Committee on the Salt Lake Shriners Hospital Board, Grand Pursuivant on the Grand Lodge of Utah. In 2002 Ron was appointed to Staff positions with EL Kalah Shrine, and was elected Oriental Guide, High Priest & Prophet and Assistant Rabban 2004-2006. Sadly, a family death made it necessary for Ron to resign in 2006 and relocate to Florida. Although his new location made it difficult to be involved with Shriners, he enjoyed many good times with the JF Swartzel Lodge and served in several positions.



After a two-year battle with cancer in 2011-2013, he reunited with his former high school sweetheart, Deborah Riddell, the gal with whom he used to flirt on a Kentucky school bus. She's that wonderful Lady you all know as Debbie Speaks. After a couple of years dating and going back and forth - Florida to Texas, Debbie's mother needed her back in Texas. In 2016, they packed up and moved to Texas. On February 28, 2017, the anniversary of our reacquainting, Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield of Georgetown said, "Ron, you may now kiss your bride."

In addition to his duties as Oriental Guide, Ron will serve as Parade Marshal, assist the Divan in Fraternal and Hospital Fund Raising, and other assignments. Ron & Debbie look forward to serving the Ladies and Nobles of Ben Hur Shrine. May God Bless each of you.

## MOTLEY BRUE

With the many events that are taking place throughout the state during this and next month we hope everyone has a great time and safe travels. From February 28 - March 2, The Texas Shrine Home Brewers Association (TSHBA) will be having Mid-Winter in Salato, Tx. Of course, there will be new officers installed and congratulations to those that have made themselves available for the next brew year but we are most excited to hear about the new list of brews for our 2026 competition year. This gives us a chance to practice making some tasty beverages that we might not have had a chance to drink or even make. For those that have not had a chance to be apart of the brewing process, please come out and see us. You don't have to be a member of the Brüe crew to come and learn. "We would love to have your company and fellowship!" Maybe "Just Maybe" if we get a good crowd of folks, we can get the Past Brüe Masters to cook something up on the back porch. One thing to note, if you're interested in making other items other than beer, we do make root beer, wine and mead. We have made several different recipes, and we are still looking for the one recipe that will make a name for us. If you would like to be a part of that process, let us know and we can see if we can made an elixir that will make the masses happy.

On March 15, Mötley Brüe will be hosting our very first concert at the Shrine. Featuring 70's and 80's rock by the Home at Last Band, (7-9pm) doors open at 6pm. If you're a fan of Steely Dan, The Eagles, The Doobie Brothers, Pink Floyd just to name a few, this band is for you! Advance ticket purchase can be made on line at <https://www.benhurshrine.org/product-page/motley-brue-spring-concert>. They are \$25 for each ticket or you can purchase at the door for \$30. We hope to see you there



# ***Mötley Brüe***

Presents

## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Concert and St Patty's Day Celebration**

March 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 – 7 to 9pm (Doors open at 6pm)

Featuring 70's and 80's rock by the Home at Last Band



# BEN HUR Shriners

## & Central Texas Masonic Family Night



March 14th

7:00 PM

H-E-B Center

Cedar Park



VS



**\$20**

[www.BenHurShrine.org](http://www.BenHurShrine.org)

Join us for Military Appreciation Weekend. We will honor military members and their families. The Stars will wear specialty jerseys to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. They will be worn during warmups on Friday. \$3 Beer Night



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## BEN HUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

**SHRINE SUNRISE DANCE?** The Shriners of Ben Hur Temple and all visiting Shriners will enjoy a "sunrise dance" at Barton Springs on Labor Day morning. The dance is scheduled to begin at 6 o'clock in the morning and continue until nine. Hot coffee and light wafers will be served to the merrymakers, and Steve Gardner will furnish the music. Several parties of Shriners have planned to have a bacon fry at the springs and then attend the dance. Admission to the dance will be your 1925 dues card and fez, and all visiting Shriners are cordially invited to attend and bring their ladies. Since this is the first sunrise dance the local Shrine has ever staged, and since it falls on the morning of a holiday, Labor Day, Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, it is expected that a large crowd will attend.

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE/SHRINER ARRESTED:** Friday morning, April 16<sup>th</sup> Representative Felix Raymer was parading on the burning asphalt of Congress Avenue as a new novice of the Shrine Reunion. He was ringing a cow bell advertising the Shrine Circus. As of Friday afternoon, Rep. Raymer was in custody of the Austin Police for disturbing the peace. He appeared in court with his coat turned inside out and his trouser legs rolled skyward. By dint of strenuous labor, the Shriners had him out on bond by 3 o'clock and promised to keep him out of sight for the rest of the day. Raymer demanded that since he was prisoner, he be given dinner. He was informed by Chief Littlepage that jail meals were served two times a day, morning and evening. Shriner Harry Nolen told the Chief it was only a joke and "the case will never come up again".

**KIDNAPPING PLOT BY "SHRINERS" FOILED:** Two men were arrested by Hollywood Police for planning to kidnap silent movie star Mary Pickford and hold her for a 100,000-dollar ransom. The men were to kidnap Miss Pickford from her automobile while being driven from Pickford-Banks studios to her home by her chauffeur. The men were to be disguised as visiting Shriners driving a vehicle decorated in Shrine colors and symbols. The men were charged with conspiracy by Hollywood Police Captain Home.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON HONORED IN ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM.** George Washington, in his time, a past master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, was honored in a special anniversary program Sunday afternoon in the Hancock Opera House given by the Ben Hur Shriners. The concert given under the auspices of the Choral Club of the Business and Professional Women's club was well attended.

The program was given by the Ben Hur Shrine Band, Patrol and Drum Corps, under the direction of Dr. H. E. Baxter, with Ms. John McCall as soloist.

As is customary, Louis Novy, manager of the Hancock, donated the use of the house for the concert.



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# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## STATED MEETINGS

<b>Austin Lodge #12</b>	3rd Monday at SRCT
<b>Colorado 96</b>	3rd Monday in Webberville, Texas
<b>Texana #123</b>	1st Monday at Ben Hur Shrine Center
<b>Onion Creek #220</b>	1st Thursday in South Austin
<b>Parsons #222</b>	2nd Wednesday at the LSCB
<b>Hill City #456</b>	1st Tuesday at SRCT
<b>University #1190</b>	1st Thursday at SRCT
<b>T Neal Porter #1354</b>	2nd Tuesday at LSCB
<b>San Gabriel #89</b>	2nd Tuesday in Georgetown
<b>Robert Burns #127</b>	4th Saturday in Round Rock
<b>Round Rock #227</b>	3rd Tuesday in Round Rock
<b>Post Oak Island #181</b>	1st Thursday in Beakiss
<b>Norton Moses #336</b>	3rd Monday in Leander
<b>Florence #338</b>	Full Moon Saturday in Florence
<b>Liberty Hill #432</b>	2nd Saturday in Liberty Hill
<b>Solomon #484</b>	2nd Thursday in Taylor
<b>Live Oak # 304</b>	2nd Monday in Kyle
<b>Buda #800</b>	1st Monday in Buda
<b>Rambo #426</b>	4th Thursday in Dripping Springe
<b>Wimberly #1445</b>	2nd Tuesday in Wimberly
<b>Centennial #500</b>	1st Saturday (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) SRCT
<b>Blazing Star #413</b>	3rd Monday in Marble Falls
<b>Henry Thomes #278</b>	1st Saturday in Smithwick
<b>Bertram #583</b>	3rd Monday in Bertram
<b>Scottish Rite</b>	1st Wednesday at SRCT
<b>Colorado Commandry</b>	2nd Monday at LSCB
<b>Ben Hur Shrine</b>	3rd Thursday. Dark June, July and Aug
<b>National Sojourners</b>	4th Wednesday at Holiday Inn Mid Town

# February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 LOS Fashion Show Motley Brue
2 Sons of Hermann	3 Texana #123	4 RENTAL	5 LOH RENTAL	6 Divan Midwinter San Antonio		8 RENTAL
9 RENTAL NILE Anniversary Pins	10	11 RENTAL Mini-B	12 Trailblazers Charioteers	13 Provost Guard	14 LOS	15
16 RENTAL	17 President's Day BHST CLOSED	18 RENTAL Directors Staff Provost	19 NILE	20 BHS Stated Transporters SREKOJ	21	22 Directors Staff Fundraiser
23	24	25 RENTAL	26	27	28	

**BE SURE AND CHECK [WWW.BENHURSHRINE.ORG](http://WWW.BENHURSHRINE.ORG) FOR LATEST DATES AND TIMES. CALENDARS CAN CHANGE.**

# March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Motley Brue RENTAL
2 Sons of Hermann	3 Texana #123	4 RENTAL	5 LOH	6	7	8
9 DST (SPRING FORWARD)	10	11 Mini-Bs RENTAL	12 Trailblazers Charioteers	13 Provost Guard	14 LOS Shrine Nite Offsite	15 Spring Concert
16 RENTAL	17 St. Patricks Day	18 Directors Staff RENTAL Provost	19 Nile York Rite offsite	20 BHS Stated Transporters	21 RENTAL	22 Casino Night
23 Nile	24	25 RENTAL	26	27	28	29 LOS Installation
30 RENTAL	31 RENTAL					

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**BEN HUR SHRINE**  
**DIRECTOR'S STAFF**

JOIN US FOR CRAWFISH, GREAT COMPANY, & FUN



**FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

**2:00 TO 6:00 PM**

**7811 Rockwood Ln. Austin, TX**

**Ben Hur Shriners presents**  
**FLAPPERS & GENTS**  
**CASINO NIGHT**

**a night at the speakeasy**

**DRESS TO KILL:**  
**NINETEEN-TWENTIES GLAMOUR & ATTIRE**

**SATURDAY · MARCH 22, 2025 · 7:00 PM**

**BEN HUR SHRINERS TEMPLE**  
**7811 ROCKWOOD LN · AUSTIN, TX**

**RSVP by MARCH 15**  
**512.480.0812 or QR ---->**



**TICKETS**  
**\$50/PERSON or \$90/COUPLE**

after RSVP deadline: \$75/person or \$125/couple at the door

**LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES, DRINKS, &**  
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**OPEN TO ALL: FRIENDS, FAMILY, MASONS!**  
**THIS IS A BEN HUR FRATERNAL FUNDRAISER**

*Old Silly Chili*  
**CHILLI**  
**COOKOFF**

*Saturday*  
**15 FEB.**

TASTING STARTS AT 12:00 PM  
JUDGING AT 1:30 PM

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFO  
& TO ENTER EMAIL  
LCLARK@AUSTIN.RR.COM

Highland Lakes Shrine Club shone tonight. Not only did they bring in a new Noble, Wayne Miller, but the also brought a \$5,500 check for the Galveston Hospital. This was the proceeds of their annual Shake the Bucket in the Hill Country. Congratulations to new noble Wayne and to the HLSC members.



### BEN HUR LIVING PAST POTENTATES

1991	Boyce Freitag
1995	Gene Freudenberg
1997	Ronald Harrison
2000	Loren Orme
2002	Ronnie Lee
2004	Ronnie Jackson
2005	Silas Powell, Jr.
2007	Robert "Fred" Park, Jr
2008	Charles Farnham
2009	James Smith (PIP)
2011	Michael Ford
2012	Edward Whitmore
2014	Thomas Hauss
2015	Edward Bromstad
2016	Earl Robertson
2017	Brad Cole
2018	Gregory Rye
2020	Romeo Denghel
2021	Romeo Denghel
2022	Dennis Motley
2023	Chuck 'Fester' Jones
2024	James Heineman

### ASSOCIATED

---

1991	Eddie Daffern (Khiva)
1995	George Auer (El Kalah)



## CHARIOT BOOSTER CLUB

Greg & Ann Murrow	04/35	Glenn & Gwenn Goulet	02/25
Fred & Traci Maynard	01/28	Al & Ellie Blaschke	02/25
Jerry & Bea Hohman	07/28	In Memory of Gus Carlson	02/25
Charles & Emily Maddox	07/27		
The Count, Lady Denghel And Girlfriend Margaret	09/26		
Ron & Debbie Speaks	03/26		
Charlie & Betty Farnham	02/26		
Ronald & Kay Harrison	01/26		
John Cooper	11/25		
Brian & Carol Vance	12/25		
In Memory of Margaret & Bob Kelly, PP	11/25		
In Memory of Vernon Milton	11/25		
David & Juanell Yeager	11/25		
Gerald "Jerry" Carruth	09/25		
In memory of Gail Carruth	09/25		
In memory of Stan Anderson	09/25		
Jack O Neal	08/25		
Jim & Donna King	08/25		
In Memory of Don Lee	07/25		
Billy D & Alice Edmondson	05/25		
In memory of Robert L. Ligon PP	04/25		
Boyce and Jody Freitag	04/25		
In memory of Byron Betncourt	03/25		
Jesse & Sharen Soliz	03/25		
Margaret Shaffer	04/25		
Rickey Hayes & Angie Shaffer	04/25		
Tom & Judy Schneider	02/25		
Pat & Wanda McDavid	02/25		
Charles Campbell	02/25		

NOTICE: Did YOUR name get dropped this edition?

Remember to check the date following your name. **Next edition will drop all dates to 01/25 !**

Send in the form below TODAY with your \$25 to become/remain a loyal booster club member.

### YES! I WANT TO BE A BOOSTER

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

ONE LINE (single name) - \$25 per year

ONE LINE (Mr. & Mrs. or two names) - \$25 per year

TWO LINES (Yours and your Lady's name on 2 lines - \$45 per year

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to the Temple Secretary.

**BROWN, LACALLADE & LANGE, P.C.**

**CHARLES L. LACALLADE**  
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**Texana Masonic Lodge No. 123**  
**Meets First Monday of Each Month**  
**at the Ben Hur Shrine Center**  
**Eat at 6:30 p.m.; Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

**BLACK CAMEL REPORT**



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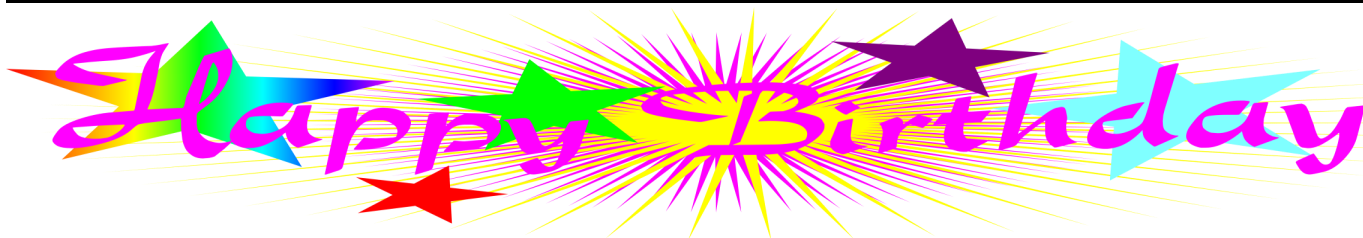
If you wish to make a donation directly to our Shriners Childrens in Texas, here is the address. Make your check payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children—Texas

**Shriners Hospitals for Children  
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815 Market Street  
Galveston, Texas 77550**

Ben Hur Shriners  
7811 Rockwood Lane  
Austin, TX 78757  
(512) 480-0812

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### BEN HUR NOBLES WITH BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

**2/2**

Edward M Allen  
Ken C Nicolas  
Howard K Kimball

**2/3**

Stephen M Preece  
Kenneth D Meek

**2/4**

LaVan R Parker, Jr.  
Cory W Bluhm

**2/5**

Joe D Parten

**2/6**

Donald R Fairley

**2/7**

Marvin E Dabbs  
John B Pantermuehl  
James J Mercer  
Charles E Maddox

**2/8**

Justin Meyer

**2/9**

Lewis Curatolo Jr.

**2/12**

John C Tonn

**2/14**

James W Hollis  
Carl U Christensen  
Gregory S Randall  
Jaret Preece

**2/15**

Jerry T Woehl  
Thomas L Salem

**2/16**

Ralph R Johnson

**2/18**

Brandon C Rans

**2/19**

Philip A Bates

**2/21**

Randy E Anderson

**2/22**

James W Shaw  
Shawn W Fredrick

**2/24**

George F Reaves  
Johnny M Hudson  
Mark A Winkelmann

**2/26**

Edward G Balagia  
Chadwyck Preece