Ben Hur Shriners
The Chariot
November 2026
Vol. 94, No. 11

SERVICE AWARDS MONTH

50 YEARS

KENNETH J AUNE

GENE L FREUDENBERG, PP

ROBERT K HOGUE

JEROME K HOHMAN

ALAN L KAROTKIN

Come and join the Ben Hur Nobility as we recognize these Nobles for their service to Ben Hur, the community, and our philanthropy.

The meal will start promptly at 6:15pm and the ceremony at 7:00pm.

BEN HUR SHRINE
CHARTERED AUGUST 16, 1892
7811 Rockwood Lane
Austin, Texas 78757
Phone: 512-480-0812
www.benhurshrine.org
secretary@benhurshrine.org
recorder@benhurshrine.org

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

ILLUSTRIOUS SIR
CHARLES E MADDOX
2026 POTENTATE
charlesemaddox@gmail.com 512-567-6744

CHARLES FARNHAM…CHIEF RABBAN
cfarnham62@att.net 512-497-3962

RICKY HAYES… ASSISTANT RABBAN
hayesre1@yahoo.com 512-914-7077

RICKI PIERCE…HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET
piercerick8511@gmail.com 512-948-8867

MIKE PREECE…ORIENTAL GUIDE
s.m.preece1954@gmail.com 512-461-0504

JAMES HEINEMAN…TREASURER
heinemanja@yahoo.com 281-923-5890

SAM STIMSON, PhD…RECORDER
sstimson70@gmail.com 512-796-4179

CHARIOT EDITOR … SAM STIMSON, PhD

WEBMASTER/DESIGNER … DIANE REID

APPOINTED DIVAN

Temple Director - Chris Garner
Captain of the Guard - Robert Eschenburg
Outer Guard - Dave Harnden
1st Ceremonial Master - Russell Jones
2nd Ceremonial Master - Ted Robertson
Marshal - Raul Scully

APPOINTED STAFF

Colonel of Units
Danny Adrain
Donor Relations
Ricki Pierce - High Priest & Prophet
Master of Ceremonies
Mike Sanders
Fund Raising Chairman
Jonathan Felger

APPOINTED STAFF (CONT)

Chief of Staff
Earl Robertson, PP
Office Manager
Aliya Spivey
Building and Grounds Manager
James Heineman, PP
Chaplain
Ryan Divincenzo
Entertainment Committee
Chef Ernest Owney, Jim Kinley, Debbie Kinley, Russell Hur, Russell Jones, Brenda Willis Scholin, Lana Stone, Dave Harnden, Mike Sanders, Michele Sanders, Jeff Schlieve, Cristal Schlieve
Insurance Chairman
Gerald C "Jerry" Carruth
Insurance Committee
Ill Sir Charles Maddox, Potentate, Charles Farnham, PP, Andy Barclay
Legal Council
Gerald C "Jerry" Carruth
Masonic Relations
Christian Moore
$100 Million Dollar Club
Ricki Pierce
Parade Marshal
Ricki Pierce
Parliamentarian
Gerald C "Jerry" Carruth
Photographer
James Heineman PP
Public Relations
Andy Murray
Sickness and Distress
Nobility
Transportation Chairman
Vance Brown
Social Media
Andy Murray
Membership Committee
Ricky Hayes, Asst. Rabban Chairman
Chuck Jones PP
Andy Murray
Christian Moore
Jeff Schlieve

STATED MEEETING

Ben Hur Shrine meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month except June, July, and August when we are dark. The next stated meeting will be Nov 19 2026. CURRENT DUES CARD IS REQUIRED!

POTENTATE - charlesEmaddox@gmail



Imperial Sir, Illustrious Sirs, Nobles, Ladies, and Brethren,

Notice how brethren was included in the salutation? It occurred to me before I sat down to draft this article that many individuals who are not connected with Ben Hur Shrine may, if not should, read the Chariot. Even if you are not connected with Ben Hur Shrine, on behalf of the Divan and Nobility, we WANT you to be! Whether it's being created a Noble (joining the Shrine as a member), or hosting your next Masonic, business, or personal event, we want you to be involved with Ben Hur Shrine!

To those new Nobles who joined this year, including at our recent Ceremonial, welcome to the Shrine! We hope you are enjoying yourselves. Remember, you have up to one year of membership in all units and clubs. The more you – and your family – put into the Shrine, the more you will get out of it. And if we do not have a club or unit that gets your interest, please let us know so we can help you form a club or unit around your interest.

With October at an end, we have two (2) months remaining in our Temple Year. This month alone, Ben Hur Temple hosted a watch party for the Red River Shootout, the Ceremonial, and the Rodeo up in Liberty Hill. Thank you to everyone for coming out to these events, participating, and supporting the members and these events. We cannot do this without you.

This November our Temple will host Shrine Service Awards for those Nobles who have been active members for 50 and 25 years. Come out and show your appreciation for the time and energy these Nobles have committed to the Shrine and their years of service. The business meeting will be shortened to accommodate families supporting their loved ones we will honor that evening.

Finally, brethren, I want to inculcate a charge, inspired from the Monitor of Ceremonies and too often disregarded in lodges. As Shriners, as Masons, we each have special talents, gifts, and resources. We often are more educated whether by academia or experience. We certainly support our hospitals with these specialties and knowledge. We should do good to all, not just our hospitals, not just our Temple or Lodges, but to everyone as a whole. You are each blessed, and there is someone, or a community, that can positively benefit from you. Be of service, be subject to one another, and do good!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Ill. Charles E. Maddox, Potentate
Ben Hur Shriners No. 58



Awarded to the 2026 Potentate of Ben Hur Shrine for, after 6 years, getting his Chariot Article in before the deadline. Congratulations and thank you.

Editor

CHIEF RABBAN - farnhamcf@outlook.com



This month's Chief Rabban article contains information on the Dine and Draw fundraiser, a thank you for the success of the inaugural Ben Hur Rodeo, the status of Ben Hur's Annual Meeting in January, and a few words on "Gratitude."
Are you keeping December 19 open? This is the date of our Dine and Draw fundraiser. The Dine and Draw will offer good food, drinks, and valuable door prizes for all. The meal will be roast beef, pork loin, a mashed potato bar, vegetables, and salad. This event promises to be as much fun as the Dinner and Casino, with door prize drawings throughout the night.

Cost is $100.00 per person

Tickets can be purchased online at www.benhurshrine.org/events

No tickets will be sold after December 15th

If you were at the Dinner and Casino, you know what to expect from this, our last fraternal fundraiser of the year.
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the first Ben Hur Rodeo a success: the Nobles and Ladies who worked behind the scenes planning the event, those who sold and purchased sponsorships, those who worked the event, and each of you who came out to attend. Together we showed what Ben Hur can accomplish when we pull together. A first-year event is never easy, and you made this one something we can be proud of and build on for years to come.
At our September Stated Meeting we passed a motion to move our Annual Meeting to the second Friday in January. We requested and received dispensation from Shriners International to hold this meeting on January 8, 2027. The plan is to conduct the installation of the 2027 Officers and Appointments that evening as well. Unit and Club officers unable to attend the Annual Meeting will be installed during their usual stated meetings. Keep your eyes peeled for detailed information in the December issue of the Chariot.
As we head into the season of Thanksgiving, it is a good time to pause and be grateful. Grateful for the Nobles who give their time without being asked, for the Ladies who support us in everything we do, and for the families and patients who remind us why we wear the fez. Gratitude costs nothing, yet it strengthens every bond we share. Take a moment this month to thank a fellow Noble, a volunteer, or a family member for what they bring to Ben Hur. A simple thank you goes a long way.

NOTICE

SUMMARY GENERAL ORDER NO. 1

To the Representatives of Shriners International, Potentates, Elected Officers of the Subordinate Temples and the Nobility of the Order. General Order No. 1 contains a list of the newly elected Imperial Divan officers; committee appointments made to date; amendments to bylaws and resolutions adopted; actions taken at the 2026 Imperial Session of Shriners International in Tampa, Florida; suggestions regarding the Imperial Potentate's visitations; Orders of the Imperial Potentate relating to fundraising and other activities; miscellaneous instructions; and other information of value to temple officers and Nobles.

A copy of General Order No. 1 is filed in the Recorder's office and is available to any Noble for review upon request.

ASSISTANT RABBAN - hayesre1@yahoo.com



Ill Sirs, Nobles, and Ladies,

As we head deeper into autumn, I want to take a moment to reflect on the enduring strength and unity of our fraternity. Our foundational bonds from Masonry through Shrine remain resolute, and our collective commitment to our shared values continues to guide our operations. I appreciate your ongoing dedication as we look ahead to future endeavors. In other words, the meaning of the November holiday is not lost on me, and I am thankful for all of what being a Shriner entails and means.

I would like to officially extend a warm welcome to the new members who were initiated during the **Ceremonial on October 17th**. Joining our ranks is a significant milestone, and we look forward to your contributions, leadership, and fellowship within the organization. Please join me in congratulating these men as they begin their journey in our brotherhood.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all members who attended our recent gatherings throughout the month of October including parades, the Foreigner concert, the Red River Rivalry watch party, Ceremonial, and the rodeo!

The Texas-OU watch party was successful and fun, and even though our Longhorns lost, we hope to gather again next year for the Red River Rivalry.

Additionally, I would like to thank everyone who came out to represent and support the inaugural Ben Hur **Shrine Rodeo** on October 24th. Having a strong turnout at these events is a testament to our commitment to community engagement and fellowship.

Fraternally,

Ricky Hayes
Assistant Rabban

2026 BEN HUR CEREMONIAL



The Nobles of Ben Hur held the 2026 Ceremonial on October 17th. Prior to the ceremonies there was hot coffee, donuts, apple fritters, and kolaches were enjoyed by all.

Several of the Nobles had been previously Created, and came to enjoy the Full Form Ceremonial.

Nobles going through the Ceremonial are: Mitch Fuller, Prakash Balasubramawian, Mark Huerta, Ted Hodgkiss, Patrick Hodgkiss, Jaret Preece, Arun Jacob, and Anthony Steck.

During the 2nd section the Ladies went to “The Grove” for lunch.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE PER CAPITA TAX IS INCREASING IN 2027. IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE A PER CAPITA TAX LIFE MEMBERSHIP (PCLM) AT THE 2026 RATE OF USD $1,500 YOU MUST DO SO PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 2026. AFTER THAT DATE THE PER CAPITA TAX (PCLM) WILL INCREASE TO USD $1,620.

PURCHASE OF THE PCLM WILL INSULATE YOU FROM FUTURE PER CAPITA TAX INCREASES.

SHAKESPEARE
TEXAS STYLE



A GOOD OL' MURDER MYSTERY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2026

DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM – SHOOTIN' STARTS 6 PM

BEN HUR SHRINE
7811 ROCKWOOD LANE
AUSTIN, TX 78757

SUPPER AND SPECTACLE
$50 PER PERSON
($375 for an 8 person table)

RSVP BY DECEMBER 5TH
All profits benefit Shriners Children's, a fully qualified 501(c)(3) organization.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 RENTAL both rooms CLOCKS	2 Texana 123	3 RENTAL ELECTION DAY	4 LOH RENTAL	5	6 Ruh Neb #64	7 Motley Brue
8 Ruh Neb #64	9 GOLF Unit	10 Mini-B's	11 Motorized Units	12 HLSC Provost Guard	13 RENTAL	14
15 RENTAL LOS Stated	16	17 Directors Staff RENTAL	18 NILE	19 BHST Stated	20	21 RENTAL
22 RENTAL	23	24 RENTAL	25	26 BHST CLOSED Thanksgiving	27 Black Friday	28
29	30					

BE SURE AND CHECK WWW.BENHURSHRINE.ORG FOR LATEST DATES AND TIMES. CALENDARS CAN CHANGE

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 RENTAL	2 LOH RENTAL	3	4	5 Motley Brue TOY DANCE
6 RENTAL	7 TEXANA 123	8 MINI B's RENTAL	9 Motorized Units	10 HLSC Provost Guard	11 RENTAL	12 MURDER MYSTERY
13 LOS	14	15 Directors Staff RENTAL	16 NILE	17 BHST Stated	18	19 DINE & DRAW
20	21	22 RENTAL	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29 RENTAL	30	31 New Years Eve		

BE SURE AND CHECK WWW.BENHURSHRINE.ORG FOR LATEST DATES AND TIMES. CALENDARS CAN CHANGE

FIRST *FRESHMAN* UT-A&M THANKSGIVING SEASON SHRINE BENEFIT GAME

September 13, 1947 - A move to arrange an annual football game between the freshman teams of the University of Texas and Texas A&M College on a home and home basis annually for the benefit of the crippled children's clinic of Ben Hur Shrine Temple has been started by officials of the clinic corporation with athletic officials of the two schools.

Directors of the Ben Hur Shrine crippled children's clinic conferred with Texas A&M athletic director Homer Norton, President Gibb Gilchrist and other Texas A&M College officials relative to the proposed program. Those officials will discuss the benefit game with the A&M Athletic Council.

The plan as proposed calls for staging the game each year on the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day. The freshman game would be played in Austin when the varsity teams are playing in College Station and in College Station when the varsity teams are playing in Austin.

Shrine officials point out that the jurisdiction of Ben Hur Shrine included the Bryan-College Station areas and would share in the benefits of the treatment of crippled children.

November 1947- It was reported that the Texas Steers were resting up for the Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic at College Station against Texas A&M while the UT yearlings (freshman) trained in the mud in preparation for their "little classic" against Texas A&M Freshman in a game sponsored by the Austin Shriners for their Crippled Children's Clinic.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions which cut down attendance at the game, the Ben Hur Shine Crippled Children's Clinic netted approximately $10,000 from the first annual football game between freshman teams of the University of Texas and Texas A&M College the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Announcement of the receipts was made in a letter of appreciation written to all Austin citizens by the Potentate of Ben Hur Temple and the chairman of the Ben Hur Crippled Children's Clinic. The fund will provide for treatment of children under fourteen years of age for pediatric ailments where the parents are unable to provide such care. Children are treated at no cost compliments of the Ben Hur Shriner's Clinic.

Gene Freudenberg/PP/Historian
Credits Austin/American Statesman
November 2026





Support your 2026 Ben Hur Rodeo Sponsors

Title Sponsor

ett
Environmental Treatment Technologies, LLC

VIP Area Sponsor

GAGE & CADE CONSTRUCTION

Concession Sponsor

LOCAL 286 AUSTIN, TX

Let-Out-Gate Sponsor

HORIZON BANK

Born, Raised and Invested in Texas.

Bucking Chute Sponsor

LONE STAR PAVING

Band Sponsors



Vaughn and Vicki Smith

Mutton Sponsors

BRAZEL TECHNICAL SERVICES LLC

Charlie and Betty Farnham

Bronze Sponsors

Red Oak FINANCIAL Asset Management

Austin Southpark HOTEL

Austin Masonic Lodge No. 12 supports Ben Hur Shrine

GAB Gary Brown, CPA

FRANKS Austin Texas 512-883-2458 PRESSURE WASHING, SOFT WASHING ROOF CLEANS, GUTTER CLEANS

Raiford Davis CUSTOM HOMES



BEN HUR SHRINERS RODEO

Gene and LaDell Freudenberg

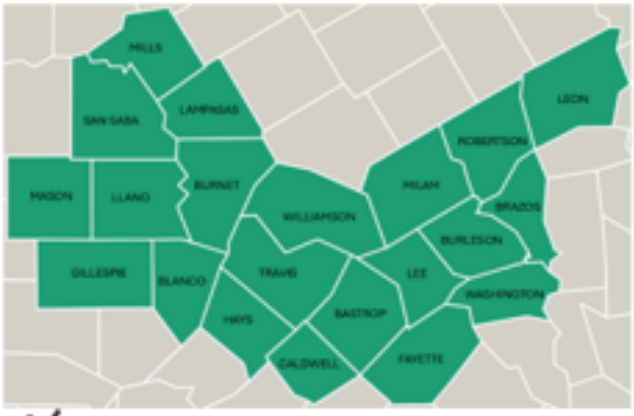
Sam and Jeannette Stimson

Ricki Hayes and Angie Shaffer

Special thanks go out to Toss It Dumpsters and Gage and Cade Construction for providing porta potties, dumpster, lighting and generators.

Masonic Relations

The jurisdiction of Ben Hur Shriners extends across twenty-one central Texas counties. Ben Hur has exclusive jurisdiction in Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Gillespie, Hays, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Llano, Mason, Milam, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson counties. Ben Hur shares concurrent jurisdiction with Arabia Shriners (Houston) in Brazos, Fayette, and Washington counties.



In short, the area, or "Oasis," is very large and includes sixty-nine Masonic Lodges within fifteen Masonic Districts.



Mt Horeb Lodge # 137

Masonic District 49
Mahomet, Texas
Burnet County

In 1854, only eight years after the Stars and Stripes replaced the Lone Star Flag over the capitol in Austin, Mt. Horeb Lodge #137 received its charter. The new lodge first met in a very small shanty with a dirt floor at Gabriel Mills.

In 1856, Past Grand Master Sam Mather and B.K. Stewart each deeded twenty-five acres of land to the lodge. On it, a two-story frame building was erected, with the upper story used for the lodge and the lower story for school and church purposes.

By 1856, Mt. Horeb Lodge had become quite prosperous. Her membership stretched from Llano County, 40 miles to the west, all the way to San Saba County, 60 miles to the north.

Over time, members of Mt. Horeb Lodge started lodges in towns closer to where they lived, and with each new lodge, the membership of and opportunities for Mt. Horeb were affected. Valley Lodge #175 in Burnet, Belton Lodge #166, Florence Lodge #338, Liberty Hill Lodge #432, and Bertram Lodge #583 were all started by members of Mt. Horeb Lodge #137. That is why she is affectionately known as the "Mother Lodge of Central Texas."

In the onetime farm community of Mahomet, just a few miles from Briggs off Hwy 183 between Liberty Hill and Lampasas, Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge still stands as a center of enlightenment and brotherly love for those who make the drive, just as it did for those who rode on horseback by the light of the moon more than 170 years ago. The lodge meets on the fourth Saturday of each month. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

CHARIOT BOOSTER CLUB

Brian and Carol Vance	12/36
Greg & Ann Murrow	04/35
Steve & Pat Koehn	03/35
Bobby Tiner	05/30
Vinna & Greg Rye PP	04/30
Aggie & George Auer PP	02/30
David & Juanell Yeager	02/30
In memory of Joyce & Donna King	08/29
Betty and Charlie Farnham PP	05/29
John Eric Cooper	05/29
In memory of James McConnell PP	03/29
Ron & Debbie Speaks	03/29
Ron & Jamie Dewees	03/29
In memory of Gus Carlson	02/29
Glenn & Gwenn Goulet	09/28
Jerry & Bea Hohman	07/28
In memory of Loren Orme PP	05/28
Fred & Tracy Maynard	01/28
Gerald “Jerry” Carruth	09/27
In memory of Gail Carruth	09/27
In memory of Don Lee	07/27
Emily and Charles Maddox	07/27
Ricky Hayes & Angie Shaffer	04/27
Jody and Boyce Freitag PP	04/27
In memory of Byron Betncourt	04/27
Brenda W. Scholin, Realtor	03/27
In memory of Stan Anderson	03/27
Kay & Ron Harrison PP	02/27
Pat & Wanda McDavid	02/27

Notice: Did your name get dropped this edition? Remember to check the date following your name. **Next edition will drop all dates to 10/26!** Send in the form below today with your payment 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 Temple Secretaty.

BROWN, LACALLADE & LANGE, P.C.

CHARLES L. LACALLADE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

425 RR 2900
P.O. Box 1956
KINGSLAND, TEXAS 78639

TEL (325) 388-7100
FAX (830) 265-6007
CHUCKLACALLADE@BLANDLLAW.COM

Garrett-Abney-
Weeren Agency

Professional Insurance
Service Since 1899

(512) 454-5266



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

None reported in October



Laura's Smiles Quilts

Crafted by Laura Holst

Specializing in T-Shirt & Memory Quilts

LauraSmiles.com | 512-736-4392

CLK
CENTRAL LOCK & KEY
PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITH SERVICES
- AUTOMOTIVE
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL

(512) 335-0190
PROUDLY SERVING AUSTIN SINCE 1988

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE TEMPLE AND LET US KNOW. WE WILL UPDATE YOUR INFO IN THE DATABASE. THE POST OFFICE CHARGES US 74¢ FOR EACH INCORRECT ADDRESS.

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

Shriners Hospitals for Children
Donation Department
815 Market Street
Galveston, Texas 77550

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 1165
Austin, Texas



BEN HUR NOBLES WITH BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

11/1
Dennis Motley, PP

11/2
James P Leigh

11/3
Vaughn E Smith
Jimmy L Preece

11/5
Ryan J DiDincenz0

11/6
Manuel Rodriguez

11/7
Tracy L Brummett

11/8
Dwane R Ideker Jr

11/9
Gerald G Garcia
Shannon L Hebert

11/12
Stephen C Koehn
Gary L McCrary

11/13
Wendell R Loban
Eric S Sims
Brian Chapman

11/16
Marvin C Malone
Erick T Matthys
David J James

11/17
Vance C Brown

11/18
Danny C Shelton
Kenneth S Davis

11/20
Frederick J Davis

11/21
Kenneth W Morris

11/22
Orous A Mulder

11/23
Robert A Martin
Juste R Sanchez

11/26
James M Medlock

11/29
Thomas E Wiener