



BEN HUR Shriners

The Chariot



September 2026

Vol. 94, No. 9



**SUMMER IS OVER
AND IT'S TIME TO
GET BACK TO
WORK. HERE ARE
KEY CALENDAR
ITEMS THIS MONTH**

SEPTEMBER 7 - CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 16 - RUH NEB MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17 - BHS STATED MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19- LADIES AFTERNOON BINGO

SEPTEMBER 20 - BEN HERA LOS MEETING

NOTICE - Microsoft Publisher will no longer be available, therefore, the Editor has begun to use a new layout and publishing program. Please be patient with him as his foggy brain slowly figures out the nuances of this new program. Over the next couple of months he requests all articles and notices be submitted earlier than the normal published time. If not, you will be relegated to the back of the Chariot.

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 Closed on Major Holidays

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

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Danny Adrain

Donor Relations

Ricki Pierce - High Priest & Prophet

Master of Ceremonies

Mike Sanders

Fund Raising Chairman

Jonathan Felger

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Aliya Spivey

Building and Grounds Manager

James Heineman, PP

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Ryan Divincenzo

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Gerald C "Jerry" Carruth

Insurance Committee

Ill Sir Charles Maddox, Potentate, Charles Farnham, PP, Andy Barclay

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Gerald C "Jerry" Carruth

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\$100 Million Dollar Club

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Parade Marshal

Ricki Pierce

Parliamentarian

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Photographer

James Heineman PP

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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 Sept 17, 2026. CURRENT DUES CARD IS REQUIRED!

CHIEF RABBAN - farnhamcf@outlook.com



September is now upon us as we prepare for the continuation of Ben Hur's stated meetings.

As you arrive at the Temple, you may notice that the parking lot has been resurfaced and striped. This project was made possible by the dedication and donation of Noble Jimmy Preece. Give him a word of thanks when you see him.

I had the opportunity to attend the Texas Shrine Motor Patrol Association (TSMAPA) business meeting, held in conjunction with their Obstacle Course competition, which took place in Marble Falls in August. During this meeting we saw Ben Hur Past Potentate (2022), Illustrious Sir Dennis Motley, elected and installed as President of TSMAPA. I also want to congratulate Noble Mike Sanders for his commitment to TSMAPA, having served three years on the progressive line followed by three years as TSMAPA Secretary.

We held the Ben Hur Rodeo kickoff meeting on August 4, 2026. Attendees were warmly welcomed, fed hamburgers and hot dogs, and provided with an overview of the 2026 Ben Hur Rodeo and an explanation of the sponsorship program. The Rodeo sponsorship program and information is published on the Ben Hur website and provided elsewhere within this issue of the Chariot. Our next Ben Hur Rodeo meeting will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026. This meeting will celebrate those who have sold sponsorships and provide additional details for our Rodeo. Doors open at 6:00pm, eat at 6:10pm, and the meeting starts at 6:30pm.

We will be having a 2027 Planning Meeting on September 29, 2026, at Norton Moses Lodge in Leander. Doors open at 6:00pm and the meeting will start at 6:30pm. This is an opportunity for Nobles living in the northern suburbs of Austin to provide input into their experience with the Shrine and ideas to grow and enhance Ben Hur in the years to come.

We are finalizing the food options for the Dine and Draw event scheduled for December 19, 2026. This Dine and Draw event will be one you do not want to miss. The price per person is \$100.00 and includes a nice dinner and a large number of door prizes. Tickets are on sale now and are available to purchase through the Ben Hur website or directly from the Ben Hur office or from me. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions pertaining to this fun fraternal fundraiser.

Ben Hur's current meeting night is the third Thursday. This meeting night conflicts with the stated meeting night of three Masonic Lodges within our Oasis and, in most years, conflicts with travel to Waco for the Texas Grand Lodge Communication in January. There are a couple of things I would like each of you to think about, then let me know what it is you desire. The first is a proposal to move the January stated meeting from the third Thursday to the second Friday. This would move up our annual meeting away from the beginning of the Grand Lodge Communication in most years. The second is the possibility of moving all of our stated meetings from the third Thursday to the second Friday, which would remove the conflict with three of the Lodges within our jurisdiction. I would like to hear your thoughts on each of these two items.

Looking way ahead, there are a couple of dates that you may want to save. The first is the Potentate's Ball, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2027, and the second is the Ben Hur Potentate's Trip, which is scheduled from Saturday, September 18, 2027, to September 27, 2027. The proposed trip will consist of a flight from Austin to Boston, then a cruise to Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. More details for each of these trips will come out in the months to come.

As I finish, I would like to discuss RSVP. RSVP comes from a French phrase, *répondez s'il vous plaît*, meaning "please respond." It is used to ask recipients to confirm whether they will attend an event, so the planner or host of the event has a headcount for food, drinks, and seating. With few exceptions, proper etiquette holds that everyone invited should respond as requested. Now you know!

2026 BEN HUR RODEO

Overview

The Ben Hur Rodeo is an event envisioned to replace the “Circus” fundraisers of the past. The 2026 Ben Hur Rodeo is scheduled to be a one-day Bull Riding event along with a calf scramble and mutton busting activities for the children. In addition to the rodeo action, attendees will enjoy live music, concessions, a VIP hospitality area, and other family-friendly attractions.

The vision is to build the Rodeo event to be a premier multi-day event drawing in more attendees while highlighting Ben Hur Shrine.

Your current and future support of this fraternal fundraising event will help bring this vision to life.

Sponsorships

Business, organization, and personal sponsorships will be the basis for revenue for this fraternal fundraising event. We are offering a number of sponsorship opportunities and ask each of you to contact businesses you are familiar with and encourage them to purchase the sponsorship opportunity that best fits them.

The sponsorship opportunities are available:

Title Sponsor

- There is one Title Sponsorship package available priced at \$4,000.00
- The Title Sponsor package consists of 2 each 3'x5' arena signs, 10 each VIP tickets, and top sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and announcements during all events.

Fez Sponsor

- There are two Fez Sponsor packages available priced at \$3,000.00 each
- The Fez Sponsor package consists of 2 each 3'x5' arena signs, 8 each VIP tickets, and second-tier sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and announcements during all events.

VIP Area Sponsor

- There is one VIP Area Sponsor package available priced at \$2,500.00
- The VIP Area Sponsor package consists of 1 each 3'x5' arena sign, 1 each sign in the VIP Area, 6 each VIP tickets, and sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and announcements during the bull riding event.

Let-out Gate Sponsor

- There is one Let-out Gate Sponsor package available priced at \$1,500.00
- The Let-out Gate Sponsor package consists of 1 each let-out gate sign, 1 each 3'x5' arena sign, 4 each VIP tickets, and sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and announcements during the bull riding event.

Bucking Chute Sponsor

- There are six Bucking Chute Sponsor packages available priced at \$1,500.00 each.
- The Bucking Chute Sponsor package consists of 1 each bucking chute sign, 1 each 3'x5' arena sign, 4 each VIP tickets, and sponsor recognition on our social media platforms, during the event, and each time the signed chute is used during the bull riding event.

Mutton Busting Sponsor

- There is one Mutton Busting Sponsor package available priced at \$1,000.00.
- The Mutton Busting Sponsor package consists of 1 each 3'x5' arena sign, 4 each VIP tickets, and sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and during the mutton busting event.

Cont next page

2026 BEN HUR RODEO

Calf Scramble Sponsor

- There is one Calf Scramble Sponsor package available priced at \$1,000.00.
- The Calf Scramble Sponsor package consists of 1 each 3'x5' arena sign, 4 each VIP tickets, and sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and during the calf scramble event.

Bronze Sponsor

- There are multiple Bronze Sponsor packages available priced at \$500.00 each.
- The Bronze Sponsor package consists of 1 each 3'x5' arena sign, 2 each VIP tickets, and sponsor recognition on our social media platforms and during the bull riding event.

Incentives

To encourage your support, we are offering incentives based on the work that you do to help make the Rodeo a success. These incentives are designed to strengthen Unit finances which will allow them to grow and prosper. The Incentives are:

- 25% of sponsorship sales go back to Unit
- 30% of Rodeo proceeds go back to Units based on their working members.

Ticket Pricing

Attendees will be able to purchase tickets online prior to the Rodeo event and at the entrance gate on the evening of the Rodeo. Ticket pricing will be:

- VIP Admission - \$200.00
- Adult General Admission - \$15.00
- First Responders and Military with ID - \$10.00
- Children - \$5.00

Work Areas

The success of the Ben Hur Rodeo depends on the dedication and support of our volunteers. Workers are needed to assist with both the planning and execution of the event. Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to, event setup and teardown, parking operations, concessions, ticket sales, ticket taking, promotions, VIP hospitality, and a variety of other support roles.

Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or throughout the event, your time and effort will play a vital role in making the Ben Hur Rodeo a memorable experience for our guests and a successful fundraiser for Ben Hur Shriners.

Together, we will make the Ben Hur Rodeo a success!

V1.0

HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET - piercerick8511@gmail.com

Nobles and Ladies,

This Imperial Session in Tampa, FL was my first and what a great learning experience. Donna and I enjoyed meeting Shriners and their ladies from all over Shrinedom, we look forward to next year.

Now on to our local events. I'm sorry that we had to send out emmas for two of our charity events being postponed those being Puzzles, Pizza & Pitchers and the Murder Mystery, once new dates are set we will get that information out.

The 49th Annual Oatmeal Festival Parade in Bertram, Texas, takes place on Saturday, September 26, 2026. Lineup at 8:00 AM the parade steps off at 10:30 AM from Panther Park down Vaughan Street.

With our ceremonial fast approaching I leave you with this:

At the beginning of the first section of the Noble's initiation into the Shrine, the Orator states, "The purpose of the Mystic Shrine is the teaching of the broad principles of Toleration, Charity, Benevolence and unselfish Friendship. Within our Temple will be found the common ground upon which upright men may meet in harmony and good fellowship without fear of discussion of sectarian, political or personal differences." Fellowship amongst good men from different ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds and beliefs is what makes the fraternal bonds of the Shrine so special.

As we return to meetings after being dark for the summer months, I want to remind each of us that one's political and religious beliefs are their own, and there is no need to discuss those topics within our building walls or during Shrine events. Instead, let's focus on furthering the work of our fraternity and the philanthropies we support together, building upon the peace and harmony which is our strength.



ORIENTAL GUIDE - s.m.preece1954@gmail.com

Things have slowed down a bit since we're dark and Imperial is a not too distant memory but there are a few things that we need to be aware of. Please check the calendar, that's where most of it is.

So far in the short time I've been on the Divan, I've learned a lot and I'm having a good time. I'm sure a lot of you are just like me when it comes to parades. I now have a renewed interest in them not just because I'm on the Divan but you go and experience the interaction with the people that come to them. It makes me realize why I used to participate like I did. The people are constantly asking about the other units especially the motorized units and clowns. It would be nice to see us come back together and participate like we used to.

I'm helping the parade Marshal Ricki Pierce where needed. My info is: Mike Preece (512)-636-3959 or s.m.preece1954@gmail.com if I can help in any way please contact me. P.S. please attend the ceremonial October 17th the festivities will commence at 8:30 am with pastries and coffee. That's where the new nobles get their first impressions of us.



Fraternally
Mike Preece Oriental Guide

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 RENTAL	2 LOH RENTAL	3	4	5 Motley Brue
6 RENTAL	7 Texana Lodge 123 LABOR DAY	8 Mini Bs RENTAL	9 Parsons Lodge Motorized Units	10 HLSC Provost Guard	11 Murder Mystery	12
13 Celebration of Life	14 Golf	15 Directors Staff Provost RENTAL	16 Nile Parsons Lodge	17 BHST Stated	18	19 Bingo RENTAL
20 LOS RENTAL	21	22 RENTAL	23	24	25	26 Grotto RENTAL
27	28	29 RENTAL	30			

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

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Motley Brue
4 RENTAL	5 Texana Lodge 123	6 RENTAL	7 LOH RENTAL	8 HLSC NILE Provost Guard	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13 Mini Bs RENTAL	14 Parsons Lodge Motorized Units	15 BHST Stated	16	17 Full Form Ceremonial
18 LOS RENTAL	19	20	21	22	23	24
TRAVIS COUNTY EARLY VOTING						
		Directors Staff	Nile Parsons			GLOT Rodeo
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
TRAVIS COUNTY EARLY VOTING						
		RENTAL				

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

Ben Hur Shrine 2026 Fall Ceremonial



SAVE THE DATE

**Ladies and Nobles please join the
Ben Hur Directors Staff
on**

Saturday, October 17, 2026

8:00 am

Doors Open

CEREMONIAL

6:30 pm

Dinner and Dance

Music by: Nite Shift

**Ben Hur Shrine Center
7811 Rockwood Lane
Austin, TX**



BEN HUR GOLF UNIT



The Editor received this picture from an anonymous source.

The pictured medalist's endured 102 degree heat. Not sure if that was in the club house at Morris Williams or out on the fairways.

One thing is for sure, one of them could be noticed from about 2 miles away. There were rumors that a flock of flamingos diverted their flyover just to see what it was.



TSMPA OBSTACLE COURSE COMPETITION BEN TRAILBLAZERS TAKE HOME 2ND PLACE



ASSISTANT RABBAN - hayesre1@yahoo.com

Ill Sir, Nobles, and Ladies,

While summer rolls on and our Temple remains dark through August, the summer break has made Lady Angie and I realize just how much we miss the regular fellowship and familiar faces we see not only at stated meetings, but at all Ben Hur Shrine events as well as those of Daughter's of the Nile and Ladies of the Oriental Shrine. We look forward to seeing all the Nobles, Ladies, and their families when we reconvene later in September.

August took us to Marble Falls for the Annual Texas Shrine Motor Patrol Association (TSMAPA) Obstacle Course Competition, Meeting, and Banquet. Temples throughout the state were well represented not only by participants, but by Nobles, Ladies, family, and friends who all came out to show support and have fun! Participants from the Ben Hur Trailblazers Unit included myself, Past Potentate Dennis Motley, Noble Mike Sanders, and Noble Jeff Schlieve. We took 2nd place in our class!

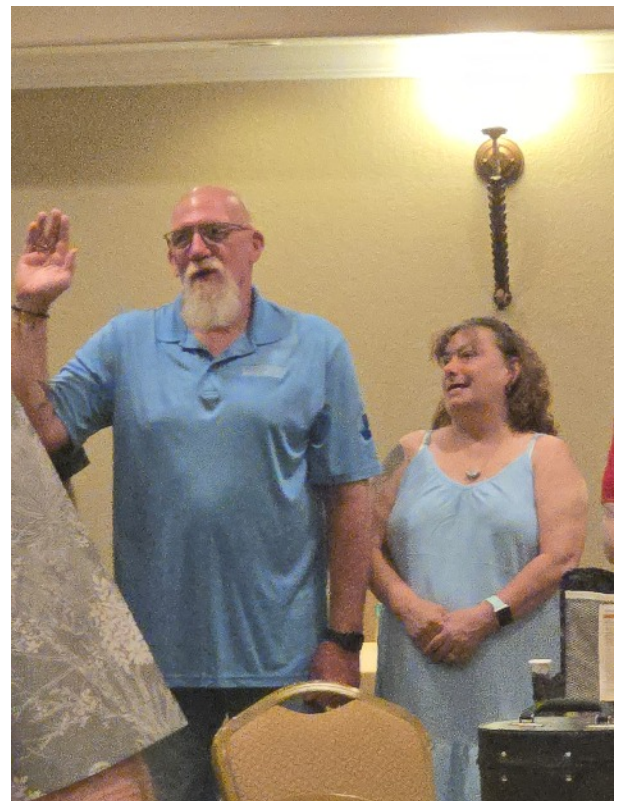
Speaking of TSMAPA, please join me in congratulating our very own PP Dennis Motley on being elected and officially sworn in as the new TSMAPA President!! I know he and Lady Sherree will have an amazing year and we are looking forward to the great things to come! Congratulations y'all!!

I would also like to recognize and thank Noble Mike Sanders and his Lady Michelle for the amazing work as TSMAPA secretary and congratulations on your "retirement" from the official position. Job well done!!

In closing, I want to give a massive thank you to everyone who shows up, lends a hand, and continues to support Ben Hur Shriner's! Your time, talent, and energy keeps our fraternity moving forward and continues to directly impact the kids and families we work to serve.

Fraternally,

Ricky Hayes,
Assistant Rabban



CHARIOT BOOSTER CLUB

Brian and Carol Vance	12/36	In memory of Stan Anderson	03/27
Greg & Ann Murrow	04/35	Kay & Ron Harrison PP	02/27
Steve & Pat Koehn	03/35	Pat & Wanda McDavid	02/27
Bobby Tiner	05/30	The Count (PP), Lady Denghel	
Vinna & Greg Rye PP	04/30	and Girlfriend Margaret	09/26
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		
In memory of Loren Orme PP	05/28		
Fred & Tracy Maynard	01/28		
Jerry & Bea Hohman	07/28		
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		

Notice: Did your name get dropped this edition? Remember to check the date following your name. **Next edition will drop all dates to 09/26!** 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.

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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

Stanley A Penner 8/31/2022

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Galveston, Texas 77550**

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Austin, Texas 78757
(512) 480-0812

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BEN HUR NOBLES WITH BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

9/1 Don Groce III	9/8 Doyle E Hobbs Paul M Todd Jr	9/18 Stephen H Huskey David B Caylor Charles L Jones PP	9/30 Robert A Northcutt Richard Alonso
9/2 Anthony J DeFrancis	9/9 Jonathan E Felger	9/22 Denny K Tharp	
9/3 Lance L Kennedy	9/10 Danny K Kleen	9/23 Gary R Brown	
9/4 Billy B Trimble David L Kinser, Jr	9/11 Mark H Meyer	9/25 Allyn R Anderson Erik W Gilstrap	
9/5 Joe H Cobb Richard T Doane	9/12 Michael L Ford PP Dale A Rundell	9/26 Gerald D Lynn	
9/6 Ronald H Dewees Charles L Easter	9/17 Leonard D Bronik Eddie E Daffern PP Jeffry D Aronson	9/27 Daniel J Adrian	
9/7 Bobby J Doherty Jeffrey S Schlieve			