



BEN HUR Shriners

The Chariot



October 2026

Vol. 94, No. 10

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

October 10th - Watch Party

October 15th - Stated Meeting

October 17th - Ceremonial

October 24th - Rodeo



BEN HUR SHRINE
CHARTERED AUGUST 16, 1892
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 www.benhurshrine.org
 secretary@benhurshrine.org
 recorder@benhurshrine.org
OFFICE HOURS
 Mon - Fri 9:30am to 2:30pm
 Closed on Major Holidays

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2026 POTENTATE

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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

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Aliya Spivey

Building and Grounds Manager

James Heineman, PP

Chaplain

Ryan Divincenzo

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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

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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 Oct 15 2026.
CURRENT DUES CARD IS REQUIRED!

POTENTATE - charlesEmaddox@gmail



Imperial Sir, Illustrious Sirs, Nobles all,

We are three quarters (3/4) of the way through the Shrine Year. But that does not mean your Divan is going to slow down. Like any good marathon runners, your Divan is finishing strong: watch parties for Texas Football, our annual Ceremonial, the inaugural Rodeo, the Christmas Dance, the Murder Mystery, and the New Years Lunch, just to name a few.

If you missed last year's Red River Shootout Watch Party for the Texas/OU football game, you missed an exciting get together. With the way the Texas Longhorns played against the Ohio State Buckeyes, this year's Red River Shootout promises to be another for the ages. Join your fellow nobles and ladies for another watch party to cheer on the Texas Longhorns (Sooner fans and Texas haters have reserved seating in the parking lot by the dumpsters). This is an excellent social event to bring anyone you know who is interested in Shrinedom (or Masonry as the case may be.). Kickoff is at 2:30pm CDT on Saturday, October 10, and we will watch the game in the ballroom. Wear burnt orange!

Finally, I was contemplating recently on the worst sentence uttered in Masonry: "We've never done it that way before," or its brother variant, "That's not the way we've done it." As Masons, we were taught to learn and to be disciplined in our art. It is one thing shoot down an idea simply because it new; but it is another to perhaps expound on why the new idea should be considered. When Illustrious Sir Boyce Freitag was Potentate, cellular phones were for the wealthy; today they are so commonplace children have them. When Illustrious Sir Gene Freudenbergen was Potentate, the internet was in its infancy; today we can scarcely remember how we lived without it. When Illustrious Sir Silas Powell was Potentate, social media was a dream in a university dormitory; today it's the principal way to keep in touch. Evolution is inevitable. What changes are in store for us? Simply because we never did "something" that way before, or never tried it, does not mean we should not. Even past failures can teach us future lessons. Let us always keep an open mind, and guide those who are coming behind us.

Fraternally,
 Ill. Charles E. Maddox, Potentate
 Ben Hur Shriners No. 58
 Past President, Texas Shrine Assn.

CHIEF RABBAN - farnhamcf@outlook.com



This month's Chief Rabban article contains information related to the Ben Hur Rodeo, the Dine and Draw fundraiser, a proposed resolution to change the day on which Ben Hur's Annual Meeting (January) will be held, and a few words on "Patience."

As we inch closer to Ben Hur's inaugural Rodeo, I want to thank those who have participated in the update meetings and shared ideas and enthusiasm to make the event happen. October 24, 2026 is the big day. This is our opportunity to come out for an afternoon and evening to work together as a fraternity while offering affordable fun for members of our community. If you have not reached out to help, now is the time to get active and participate with other Nobles while benefiting the Shrine. I am just a text, email, or phone call away. Our last Rodeo Update meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., light meal at 6:15 p.m., and meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.

Have you sold a Ben Hur Rodeo Sponsorship yet? If not, now is the time. They are due by October 10, 2026. We have created a sponsorship package and sponsorship form to assist you in the process. These documents are available on the Ben Hur website at www.benhurshrine.org/rodeo. Go to this site and check it out!

October also begins the last quarter of 2026. As we move through this last quarter, there are many events, including holiday events, that we have the opportunity to enjoy with family and friends. As your schedule starts to fill in, please remember to keep December 19 open, as this is the date of our last fraternal fundraiser of the year. The Dine and Draw will offer good food and door prizes for all. The meal will be roast beef, pork loin, mashed potato bar, vegetables, and salad. This event promises to be as fun as the Dinner and Casino, with door prize drawings throughout the night.

At the September Stated Meeting, I introduced a resolution to change the day of Ben Hur Shrine's Annual Meeting to the second Friday in January, instead of the third Thursday in January. This proposed resolution is published in this issue of the Chariot for your review and consideration, and will lay over until our October Stated Meeting, where we will consider its adoption.

"Patience is a virtue!" I heard that a lot growing up and did not really understand the full importance of that saying at the time, but I have come to realize the broader meaning as I matured. Patience is sometimes mistaken for simply waiting — waiting for a situation to pass, waiting for someone else to act, or waiting until the dust settles. But true patience is much more than just waiting. Patience is the strength to pause before we respond, the wisdom to listen before we judge, and the discipline to understand before we act.

We have all experienced that first flash of emotion when something is said or done that catches us the wrong way. In that moment, it can be tempting to respond immediately. But sometimes the reaction we have to an event creates more trouble than the event itself. A hurried word, an assumption made too quickly, or a response given before we know the whole story can damage relationships that took years to build.

That is why sometimes the best thing we can do is simply take a breath and give it a little time. Step back, listen, and consider the possibility that there may be more to the situation than we first understood. And if something truly needs to be addressed, have the courage and respect to go directly to the Noble or Lady involved and talk it through.

(Cont next page)

CHIEF RABBAN (cont)

A sincere conversation can accomplish far more than a quick response or a secondhand conversation ever will.

As Nobles of Ben Hur Shrine, let us remember that we do not have to respond to everything immediately. We can choose to pause. We can choose to listen. We can choose to understand.

And in doing so, we may discover that patience is not about being slow to act — it is about being wise enough to make our actions count.

ASSISTANT RABBAN - hayesre1@yahoo.com

Ill Sirs, Nobles, and Ladies,

It was fantastic to see everyone back at the Temple after being dark for the summer months and while our regular stated meetings took a breather, spirit of fellowship and fun continued. I would like to extend continued thanks to every noble, lady, family member, and friend who came out to support our summer events and parades! Our visibility in the community serves to further our fraternity and thereby our philanthropy.



Looking forward, Lady Angie and I are excited and honored to represent Ben Hur while attending the Assistant Rabban Conference in Florida, which promises to be an excellent educational opportunity focusing on advanced Shrine-centered leadership and affording us innovative ideas to help serve the fraternity moving forward.

Finally, and because I like it, I want to share this poem. Circa 1927, author unknown

The Shriner's Creed

SMILE on, and always keep smiling,
It helps you and other chaps, too

HOPE on, and always keep hoping,
For others as well as you.

REAL life is helping to do things, to com-
fort and cheer those in need.

IN spreading abroad glad sunshine, and
being the true friend in deed.

NOBILITY has for its motto: "To help
and to aid is divine."

EACH Son of the Desert upholds it.
Yes Masonry's smile is the Shrine.

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

Welcome, Nobles! Glad summer is almost behind us. Parades have been going well and have been fairly well attended. Hope everyone is planning to attend and help out at the Ben Hur rodeo coming up on Saturday, October 24. This event replaces our circus, so participation is vital to our success.



Want to talk to y'all about the ceremonial coming up Saturday, October 17. Plan to start your day with a light breakfast starting at 8 a.m. We have big plans for both First and Second sections. Your ladies are more than welcome to attend First section. Lunch is planned for the ladies during Second section. Buddy Funderburg's band will provide the excellent entertainment he's known for following dinner that evening. So wear your dancing boots and shoes and plan to kick up your heels. Let's welcome the new Nobles and their ladies. Hope y'all plan to come out for all the festivities.

Fraternally,

Mike Preece
Oriental Guide

PROVOST GUARD

The Ben Hur Shrine Provost Guard practicing for our Mid-Winter Invitational Match in Wichita Falls to be held in a couple of weeks from now. I'll follow up later on the results and how well we did against the other Texas Shrine Provost Guard units. Rock on Shriners.

Chuck Jones - Marshal



Ben Hur in San Francisco for Imperial



Pictured is Noble Louis Mayer of Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios in Los Angeles in 1925 during the Shrine Imperial Session. The Chariot on display in the Ben Hur Temple Lobby in this original format except the color is now royal blue, the hub covers are not original, and the 125 light globes have been replaced with fixed jewels. All the woodwork and carvings are original. The original wheel width was reduced slightly so that the Chariot would fit through the double ballroom doors at Dell Diamond for the Potentate's Ball of Ill. Sir Jim Smith in 2009. One of the decorative metal floral pieces on the wheels was replicated as were wheel hub covers. The iron and metal work was very likely done by Wiegell Iron Works at E 1st and Red River. The Ben Hur Chariot was not in the movie Ben Hur that was in the making at the time of the Imperial Session. The director that was doing the movie "Ben Hur" was so impressed with the chariot and driver in the parade that he came out of the reviewing stand to meet with him.

The Charioteer was Ben Hur's own Dewey Bradford. There was serious talk of him being used in the upcoming movie as one of the charioteers in the Chariot race scene.

Noble Bradford was a UT student and athlete who represented the persona that the director wanted for his character. Dewey served as Ben Hur's Charioteer along with Noble Nowlin for a number of years in the shrine parades. Over the years the Ben Hur Chariot has been pulled by teams of rented horses, three wheel motorcycles and nobles. There was a metal tube tongue fashioned that allowed it to be pulled by two nobles. A ten inch diameter, swivel "tail wheel" was added to prevent accidental tipping as passengers boarded.

The predecessor of the current chariot is shown in Washington D.C. In 1923. This chariot served Ben Hur from the late 1800's until the new chariot came on board in 1926. The old chariot was spotted in a farm auction in the 2000's by a noble that did not recognize the significance of the item and failed to purchase it. At the time it had been used as a kids donkey cart on a farm owned by a past potentate's family.



October 2026

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

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

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 Parsons Motorized Units	12 HLSC Provost Guard	13 RENTAL	14
15 RENTAL LOS Stated	16	17 Directors Staff RENTAL	18 NILE Parsons	19 BHST Stated	20	21 RENTAL
22 RENTAL	23	24 RENTAL	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 Black Friday	28
29	30					

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

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.1 OF THE BYLAWS OF BEN HUR SHRINERS

(Stated Meetings and Annual Meeting)

WHEREAS, Article 3, Section 3.1, Section 3.1 (a), and Section 3.1 (b) of the Bylaws of Ben Hur Shriners are currently worded as:

3.1 Stated Meetings. A stated meeting shall be held on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30pm., (except the December meeting which shall begin at 7:00pm). The exact hour of all meetings, including the annual meeting, shall be designated by the potentate. The Potentate may, in his discretion, discontinue monthly stated meetings of the Temple during the months of June, July, and August.

(a) December Meeting. At the December stated meeting, the officers and representatives for the ensuing year shall be elected.

(b) Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held on the first meeting in January unless such day falls on or during the New Year's weekend. In such event it shall be held on the following Thursday in January.

WHEREAS, the third Thursday of January has regularly conflicted with the timing of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas; and

WHEREAS, there is a conflict with the specified meeting times of 7:30pm and 7:00pm and the provision that the exact hour of all meetings shall be designated by the Potentate; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Ben Hur Shriners and its membership to move the January stated meeting to the second Friday in January and to set fixed meeting times by bylaw rather than by the Potentate's designation, in order to avoid these conflicts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 3, Section 3.1 (exclusive of subsections (a) and (b), which are separately addressed below) of the Bylaws of Ben Hur Shriners be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

3.1 Stated Meetings. A stated meeting shall be held on the third Thursday of each month except for the January stated meeting which shall be held on the second Friday in January. Stated Meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. except for the December meeting which shall begin at 7:00 p.m. The Potentate may, in his discretion, discontinue monthly stated meetings of the Temple during the months of June, July, and August.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article 3, Section 3.1(b) of the Bylaws of Ben Hur Shriners be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

(b) Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held on the second Friday in January.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 3.1(a) (December Meeting; election of officers and representatives) shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this amendment shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the required vote of the membership and approval of Imperial Potentate in accordance with the amendment procedures set forth in the Bylaws of Ben Hur Shriners and the Bylaws of Shriners International.

BEN HUR RODEO

A BULL RIDING EVENT



Saturday, October 24, 2026

258 N. HWY 183, Liberty Hill, Texas

Gates Open 5:00 PM | Rodeo Starts 7:00 PM

Bull Riding ★ Mutton Busting ★ Other Rodeo Action!



TICKET PRICES

General Admission (Adult)	\$15
Child (3-12)	\$5
Military & First Responders	\$10
VIP*	\$200

**VIP – Watch the rodeo action in a private area with food and drinks included!*



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Tickets available at www.benhurshrine.org/rodeo

Proceeds are for the benefit of Ben Hur Shriners' activities and are not deductible as charitable contributions.



Ben Hur Shrine

2026 Fall Ceremonial

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Doors Open at 8:00 am

Coffee and Pastries

Nobles and Ladies

First Section

Open to all Nobles and Ladies

11:00 am

Ladies Luncheon at The Grove

\$10 per person

RSVP by Monday, October 12, 2026

to Barbara George 417-224-2229 or bgeo80@gmail.com

6:30 pm

Dinner and Dance

Open to all Nobility and Ladies

Music by Nite Shift

Ben Hur Shrine Center

7811 Rockwood Lane

Austin, TX



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		
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		
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 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): _____

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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

Rev Don R Long 8/24/2026

Stanley A Penner 8/31/2022

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Galveston, Texas 77550**

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(512) 480-0812

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BEN HUR NOBLES WITH BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

10/1	10/6	10/16	10/30
Edward P Whitmore PP	Gail F Duncan	Maxie E Brune Jr	Oliver S Kitzman
Albert J Stowell	Marcus J Flake	Christopher D Garner	10/31
Stanford Todd	10/7	10/17	James A Falwell
10/2	Bobby J Tiner	Nathan W Stilwell	John D Alderson
Henry E Shoenfelt II	John H Schlueter II	10/19	
Robin B Shannon	10/8	Jason M Castlebury	
10/3	Charles W Pickering	Clint P Chapman	
William E Knox	10/12	10/20	
Gerald A Beathard Jr	Greg L Roland	Boyce J Freitag	
Mitchell Fuller	Robert M Mallett	10/22	
Ricardo Avila Jr	Marvin G Gammage	Elvin J Pederson	
Brian M Keehan	Blair D Hibbert	10/26	
10/4	Christopher N Braziel	Sam E Stimson PhD	
Kervin W Warnken	10/13	10/27	
William E Davenport II	Ronnie H Lee PP	Michael A Von Ohlen	
10/5	10/15	10/28	
Danny K Bell	William L Brown	Fred B Funderburgh	
	Sean T Williams	Michael G Hall	