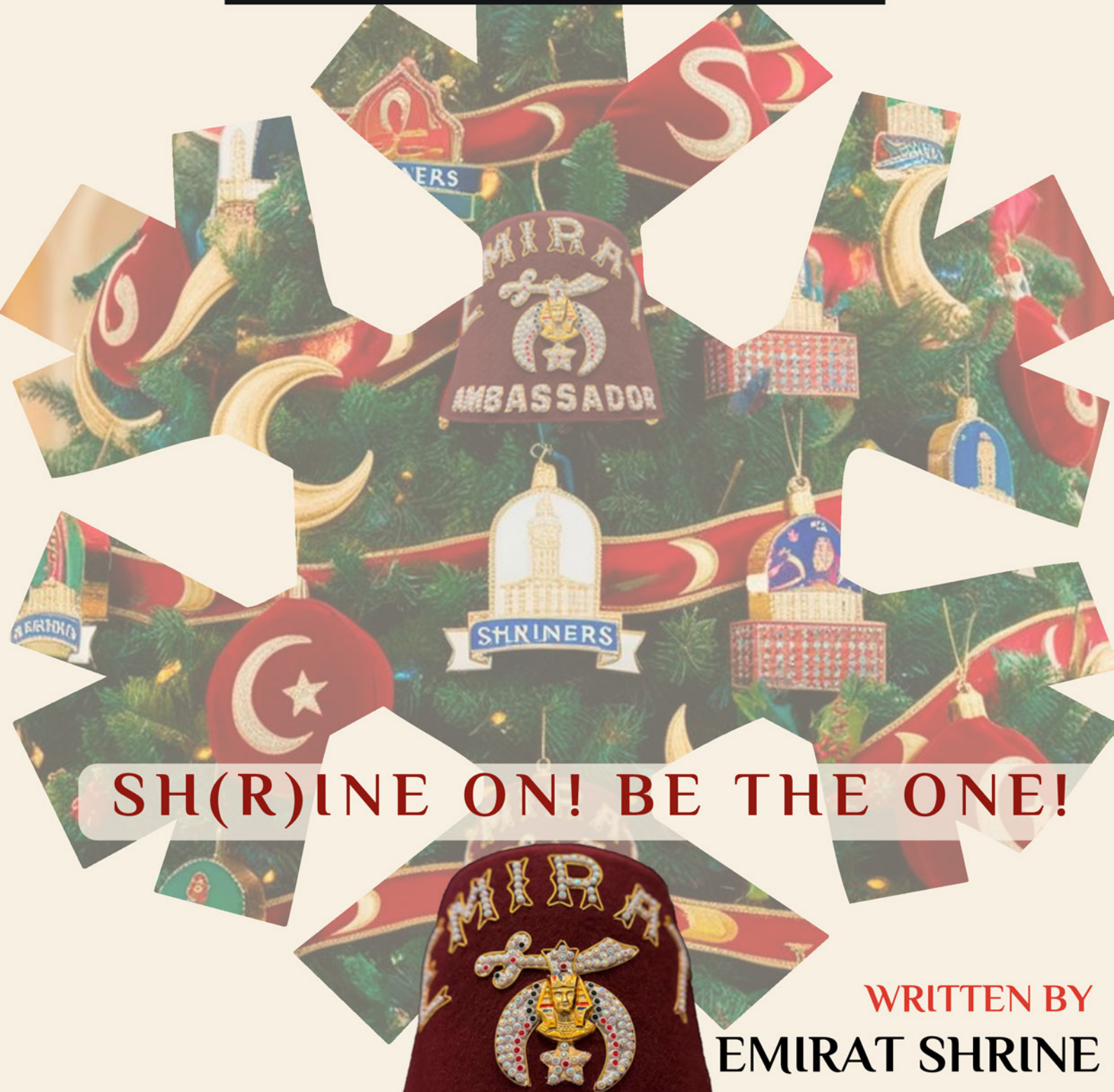


ISSUE 2 // VOLUMEN 2 // DECEMBER 2024

KAMEL TALES

E M I R A T



SH(R)INE ON! BE THE ONE!

WRITTEN BY
EMIRAT SHRINE

- 03.- GREETINGS OF THE POTENTATE
- 04.- SNEAKER FUND- RED SNEAKER
- 05.- WATER BUFFALOES
- 06.- ILL PAUL CURRAN, PP
- 07.- HP&P
- 08.- CHIEF RABBAN
- 09.- ORIENTAL GUIDE
- 11.- TREASURER
- 13.- AL-ANDALUS SHRINE CLUB
- 15.- ISTANBUL SHRINE CLUB
- 16.- PRUSSIA SHRINE CLUB
- 18.- SICILY SHRINE CLUB
- 20.- WINTER CEREMONIAL
- 22.- STUTTGART SHRINE CLUB
- 23.- VISIT TO MEXICO





2024 POTENTATE, ILLUSTRIOUS VOLKER DEUSSEN

Dear Nobles, Ladies and friends of Emirat Shriners,

The year is coming to an end, and with it an eventful and a fulfilled year as your Potentate is gradually coming to an end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Thanks to your tireless commitment and support, we were able to make a big difference again this year and help "our" children on their way to health and joie de vivre. You and me were able to convince ourselves of this in an exemplary and personal way during a visit to Bucharest and during the visit of our "Emirat Kid" Dorka.

At the Imperial Session in Reno, we were awarded the Platinum Medal for our steadily growing number of members. As Shriners, we always stand for helping children – you have all brought this mission to life, without all of you all these successes would not have been possible. Be it through direct cooperation, donations at the ceremonies or simply through your constant friendly personal support. This is not a matter of course!

Lady Kerstin and I wish you, your families and your loved ones a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a good and healthy start into 2025. May the coming year also be successful for Emirate: SHrINE ON! Be The One

Warm Christmas greetings and thank you for everything,
Yours in friendship

Volker Deussen, Potentate 2024 & Lady Kerstin



Clowns, Water Buffalos and Nobles,

A Season Greeting to you all. And a Great Thank you. The donations made to the Red Sneaker Fund at the last Ceremonial were more than any could have thought. Through your generosity the Emirat Shriners Clown Unit was able to forward \$ 655.67 to Red Sneaker Fund.

The Sneaker Fund is a philanthropy inside the Shrines Hospitals for Children. The Sneaker Fund is a fund-raising activity for Shriners Hospitals for Children Burn and Osteogenesis Research. International Shrine Clown Association operates this activity under the annual permission of the Imperial Council, which I.S.C.A. gets from each Imperial Potentate.

Please never underestimate the Thanks and Appreciation that I.S.C.A. have for the children and Shriners Children's has for your effort.





GRAND POOHBAH, EMIRAT SHRINERS
LOYAL ORDER OF WATER BUFFALOES QUARRY NO. 194
CAMERON J. DAVIS
2024 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Yabba-Dabba-Yuletide, Fellow Water Buffaloes!

Ho-Ho-Ho and a Dino-sized cheer to all members of Quarry No. 194! As the holiday season rocks around, it's time to shake off the quarry dust and embrace the Bedrock spirit.

This year let's sleigh ride into the holidays with hearts full of goodwill and stomachs full of brontosaurus ribs! Remember, the true meaning of the season is not just in the gifts we give, but in the camaraderie, we share—because nothing says “Merry Christmas” like a lodge full of laughing, singing Water Buffaloes.

Exciting news for the new year: the Quarry will hold its next initiation and degree work during the Spring Ceremonial in May. If you or someone in your family is ready to don the buffalo horned hat and join the fun, complete a petition for membership at this link: [Petition Form](https://eu.jotform.com/241133820176045). We welcome the whole family to join us for a yabba-dabba-delightful experience filled with fellowship, fun, and Bedrock shenanigans!

May your stockings be as stuffed as a woolly mammoth at a clambake and your days as bright as the Flint mobile on a sunny day! Here's to a rock-solid Christmas and an even more Bedrockin' New Year ahead!

Petition: <https://eu.jotform.com/241133820176045>

Fraternally,

Cameron J. Davis
Grand Poohbah
Emirat Shriners



GREETINGS FROM MARLENE AND PAUL

Marlene and I would like to thank all the Nobles, Ladies and Children for being part of the Emirat Shrine family. We would also like to thank you for all that you do, in every country, to spread the word of our philanthropy and seek out children, who without the specialized care that our hospitals give would not have a chance to lead a better life.

This has been another good year for Emirat Shrine, we created 150 new Nobles this year. This is only possible by the total team effort of all the Nobles of Emirat Shrine. Job well done. I want to thank all the Clubs for their efforts and hospitality when we visited to conduct a ceremonial. Without their efforts in the planning none of the ceremonials would have been a success.

But with the good sometimes comes the bad. We still are suspending too many Nobles every year due to nonpayment of dues. You have heard me at every meeting and ceremonial talk about this, so during this festive season I will not expound upon here.

Marlene and I are sending prayers and hearty Christmas greetings to you and your families. May you receive the most special of God's blessings during this Christmas season!

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year,

Paul and Marlene



The year that passed

Another year has passed and another good year for the Emirat Shriners. More Nobles have joined, new clubs have been formed, and we can proudly say that Emirat Shriners continues to develop in a positive direction. This is due to the commitment of the individual Nobles and clubs that tirelessly continue to spread the good word about Shriners Children.

In March, Lady Pia and I had the pleasure of visiting New York and meeting Nobles from Mecca Shriners. Time also allowed for a trip to Pennsylvania where we participated in the Irem Shriners Easter Egg Hunt and met with Nobles and Ladies there and exchanged experiences.

In early July we had our barbecue for Shriners in Denmark and northern Germany, which was held at our home in the garden in Flensburg. We have to say that there are now so many participants that we cannot continue to hold it at our home. We'll have to think about how to set it up for next year.

At the beginning of September, we traveled to Mexico City to meet Anezeh Shriners, but especially to visit the Shriners Children's Hospital in Mexico City.

At the end of October, we traveled to Scaldaferrò in Italy, where we participated in a ceremonial and helped founding of the new club Trivenetio.

At the end of October, we held a well-attended lecture for Freemasons in the south of Denmark, which was of great interest to the approximately 40 guests who attended, and in early December we traveled again to Italy, more specifically Sicily, where we participated in the initiation of new Nobles and a visit to the local hospital's children's department. Local Shriners, along with the police and others, had sponsored a large mural in the hallway of the pediatric ward. The absolute highlight was the Superheroes, made up of Shriners and other people with an interest in making life better for children in hospitals, which attracted the children's attention in the hospital. So fantastic.

Of course, there were also two Ceremonials in Stuttgart, as usual with a great turnout and a very dedicated Nobles and Ladies to make it special.

As I look back at the end of the year, looking back at all the amazing people we have met, seeing the commitment that so many people show all over the world, I can only be grateful and proud. Grateful to be a part of the Shriners, and proud of what the various enthusiasts around the Emirate Shriners and other temples manage to put together. Of course it takes money, but what's more important is commitment and dedication to the cause.

If you haven't been as active with the Shriners this year, don't feel sad. I'm pretty sure there will be plenty of opportunities to socialize next year, be it in your local club, at one of our ceremonials or just like that, with people who share an interest in the cause: Helping children and having fun!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hopefully we'll see you again very soon. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of Emirate Shriners and thank you for being an important part of our temple and Shriners International.

Noble Sven & Lady Pia

High Priest & Prophet

Holiday Greetings from the Chief Rabban

Dear Nobles and Ladies,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for your unwavering dedication to Emirat Shriners and the mission of Shriners International. It is an honor to serve as your Chief Rabban and to work alongside you as we continue to make a profound difference in the lives of children and their families.

I am always inspired by the dedication I see within our Temple, not just in serving our patients but also in fostering a sense of unity and belonging within our fraternity. Emirat Shriners are unique in many ways, bridging cultures, countries, and faiths, and showcasing the true spirit of Shriners International.

As we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us, I encourage each of you to embrace the opportunities ahead. Whether it's expanding our charitable reach, strengthening our communications, or engaging the next generation of Nobles, together we can ensure that Emirat Shriners thrive well into the future.

Finally, as we celebrate the holiday season, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. Emirat is a diverse and international temple, encompassing a rich tapestry of cultures and religions. To those celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Mawlid al-Nabi, and other holidays, may your celebrations be joyful and filled with peace. And to all, may the New Year bring happiness, health, and continued success in all we do.

Thank you for your trust, your effort, and your heart. Let us continue to build on our successes and remain focused on our shared mission of love, care, and hope for the children we serve.

YITF,
Noble Anthony Ward
Chief Rabban





Season's Greetings from the Oriental Guide

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the values that define us as Shriners and Masons—brotherhood, service, and teamwork. These principles take on even greater significance during the holiday season, a time of unity and goodwill.

This past year, I have been deeply inspired by the dedication and teamwork displayed by numerous individuals and Clubs within Emirat Shriners. Each effort, large or small, exemplifies the heart of what it means to serve together for a greater purpose.

Take, for example, the unwavering commitment of our Past Potentate, Illustrious Sir Frank Ullmann, whose leadership in Public Affairs and social media has kept Emirat Shriners vibrant and connected. The Sicilia Shrine Club's Superheroes have brought smiles and joy through their heartfelt efforts, while the Bavaria Shrine Club's outreach programs and charitable initiatives—like their collaboration with the “Centre for Special People” and the children's hospital in Aschau—have made a tangible difference in their communities.

We are equally proud of Noble Sven and Lady Pia, whose regularly serve as Ambassadors to the US and Mexico have strengthened our global Shriner connections, and Nobles Daniel Jap Lim and Tarik Eker, who demonstrated incredible endurance during the Mammutmarsch to raise funds for the Transportation Fund. The annual fundraiser hosted by the Cigar, Pipe & Whiskey Unit continues to provide vital support for our Transportation Fund, and the Heidelberg Shrine Club has upheld our traditions with their outstanding representation at the Speyer Brezelfast.

These are just a few examples of the many remarkable contributions made throughout the year—it would be impossible to list them all. From organizing Ceremonials across our vast jurisdiction to conducting innovative fundraisers and fostering community partnerships, these efforts demonstrate the profound impact we can have when we work together.

Our mission as Emirat Shriners is as vital as ever, and it is driven by the collective commitment of Nobles and their families. Together, we embody the values of service, teamwork, and brotherhood, inspiring hope and making a difference in the lives of children and communities worldwide.

The teamwork that defines our fraternity is not only an ideal but a necessity. For example, the Legion of Honor Color Guard exemplifies our values by presenting the Colors of our Nations and Fraternal Order at our most prominent Masonic events. Their work represents the dignity and spirit of Emirat Shriners, but maintaining this high standard requires leadership and initiative. Currently, we face challenges in finding Nobles willing to step into roles such as Commander of the Colors or assist in organizing the team when the Commander is unavailable. This is where your support is vital. I encourage all Legion of Honor Nobles to consider stepping up to volunteer for roles like these or lending a hand in other temple or Club activities. Whether it's assisting with the Brezelfast parade, organizing fundraisers, or contributing to event planning, your involvement is key to our success. Remember, no effort is too small, and every contribution adds to the larger impact we create together.

Teamwork is a cornerstone of our craft. The allegory of the trowel reminds us to spread the cement of Brotherly Love, uniting us in purpose and action. Let's take this opportunity to strengthen the bonds of fraternity, not just within our temple but in our personal lives and communities as well.

As we celebrate this season of joy and reflection, let us commit to building on our shared achievements. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply the warmth of the holidays, may you find peace, happiness, and a renewed sense of purpose.

From the Davis family—my wife Gina, our children Emily and Liam, and me—to yours, we wish you a joyous holiday season filled with love and fellowship. Together, let's make the coming year one of unity, progress, and shared accomplishment.

Fraternally,
Noble Cameron J. Davis
Oriental Guide



The Journey of Hope: A Noble's Reflection on Dorka Gal

Dear Nobles,

It is often said that the simplest acts of kindness can transform lives in ways we may never fully grasp. Such was the case during our recent Winter Ceremonial, held from the 8th to the 10th of November 2024 at the Pullman Hotel in Stuttgart. Among the many cherished moments, one stood out: the visit of our young patient, Dorka Gal, and her father.

After concluding my military exercises, I had the privilege of picking them up from Munich International Airport early in the morning. Despite her tender age of ten, Dorka carried herself with remarkable grace and confidence. Initially shy, she quickly revealed her spirited personality. Speaking fluent English—often translating and guiding her father—Dorka demonstrated a natural leadership that left a lasting impression.

Dorka's passions are English, Mathematics, and Sports, and her eyes lit up whenever these topics came up. While we walked through the charming streets of Vaihingen, she moved swiftly, her energy unstoppable. At one point, she turned and said with a determined smile, "Yes, I am walking very fast, but I would like to run." Her words were a declaration of hope and resilience, and I replied with all the faith in my heart, "You will run, my dearest little one. You will soon."

Dorka not only inspired us with her words but also brought joy to our ceremonial. She celebrated with us, danced with us, and played alongside other children, radiating happiness and positivity. Watching her laugh and connecting with everyone reminded us of the profound impact our work as Shriners has on young lives.

Her journey to us began through a referral from the Romania Shrine Club, and her case has been reviewed and approved for care under the Emirat Shrine umbrella. She traveled with her Mother, Timea, to Shriners Children's Greenville, where she had undergone a necessary amputation and was fitted for prosthetics. The road ahead is still challenging, but with the support of the Nobles and the compassionate care provided by Shriners Children's, her future is filled with possibility.



This experience brought to mind the Stoic philosopher Epictetus, who reminds us: “It’s not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.” Dorka embodies this wisdom. She does not dwell on her challenges but embraces every opportunity to grow, learn, and inspire those around her. Her strength reminds us why we, as Shriners, do what we do.

Her celebration with us reinforced our mission: to create joy, foster hope, and give children the tools they need to overcome adversity. As Marcus Aurelius wrote, “You have power over your mind—not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.” Dorka’s strength is her refusal to be defined by her circumstances; she is determined to define her own future.

As we reflect on this incredible year, let us carry Dorka’s spirit of hope and resilience into the festive season and beyond. May your holidays be filled with joy, warmth, and the love of family and friends.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families! And remember, Nobles: the only thing better than a jolly Santa is a jolly Shriner (preferably one wearing a fez)!

Fraternally yours,
Noble Tarik Eker
Treasurer



The Al Andalus Shrine

Club is born



The Al Andalus Shrine Club was founded in Madrid, Spain 30 August 2024. Ill Paul M. Curran, Recorder, Noble Luis A. Baez Delgado and Noble Jonny Henke traveled to Madrid, Spain where they met up with Noble José, who is the driving force behind the creation of a Shrine Club for Spain. We would be joined later by Noble Robert Harris who also assisted in the creation of Nobles for the club.

The Friday night meet and greet was held in a local seafood restaurant with Nobles, Ladies and children. It was a great night of fun and fellowship and a great chance for us to meet the families in a relaxed atmosphere. The food was great but the relationships that were forged with the newly met Brothers and their families was priceless.





Saturday started off with a visit to the Prado Museum, which again was attended by Nobles, Brothers and their families. Saturday afternoon it was time to get down to business and create Nobles. During the ceremonial 10 Nobles were created which will be the founding members of the Al Andalus Shrine Club.

Saturday night we had a formal dinner with authentic Spanish food, which was well attended by the Nobles and Ladies. After enjoying a meal, we had the Fezing Ceremony

Al-Andalus Shrine Club



Istanbul Shrine Club

Heavy Load of Love

We are the few in the Caravan,
Nobles of the Mystic Shrine,
From the Istanbul Shrine Club,
Who are Proud to be One!

We travel at night,
But always follow the Light,
From the West to the East,
Yes, we are Proud to be One!

And our load is heavy,
We carry small hearts,
But full of Love,
So, we are Proud to be One!

Gokhan Gelisen
President
Emirat ISC



III Potentate Volker Deussen, Celil Şenman (President Prussia Shrine Club), Stefan Schmidt (Vice President), Martin Staratschek (Secretary), Alex Vivas Bracca (Treasurer), III Past Potentate Frank Ullmann

The Prussia Shrine Club which started with ten founding Nobles received its charter on Saturday, 11th May 2024 during the Spring Ceremonial by the III Potentate Volker Deussen and the III Recorder Paul Curran.

We were thankful to both, but we are especially grateful to Past Potentate III Sir Frank Ullmann who was the co-initiator of the creation of this club and consulted us in all our preparations.

The Prussia Shrine Club will be active in the region of former Prussia, mainly in Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg Western Pomerania.

On 28th September the Prussia Shrine Club was honored by the visit of III Potentate Volker Deussen and III Past Potentate Frank Ullmann who conducted the Installation of the Officers of this newly chartered club.





This was really motivating for all members to be creative in organizing further activities like a cigar & whisky tasting, a Charity golf tournament, a Charity soccer tournament, a shipping tour with singing & dancing on the river and seas of Berlin, and much more the following year 2025.

We wish all the Nobles and their families a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous, peaceful and joyful Happy New Year.

Celil Şenman
President Prussia Shrine Club



Special Ceremonial Sicily Shrine Club



On Friday 29th of November 2024, Sicily Shrine Club invited us to Meet & Greet in Catania, where some of us met for delicious Italian food and socializing with Nobles and Ladies. What an experience!



Saturday 30th of November started with a planned visit to the local hospital's pediatric ward. The Sicily Shrine Club along with Superheroes, the Police Department and others had sponsored a mural for one of the hallways in the pediatric ward.

Although we as Shriners were a special sight with our red fez, uniformed police shining, the absolute highlight was the Superheroes. The group consists of Shriners, but also other interested parties, and joint projects are often organized. Superman, Batman, Spiderman - they were all there.

After the official part with the “dedication” of the picture, interview with national television (and subsequent TV broadcast), and mutual congratulations and thanks, the Superheroes and some of us went to the children who were eagerly waiting for their heroes Superheroes. It was such a joy to see the children's eyes when the Superheroes suddenly stood by their beds.



Spiderman told us afterwards that one of the children whispered in his ear: “Spiderman, I have to tell you something. I love you!” Spiderman shed a tear under his mask, which no one said, but Spiderman was deeply moved by the little boy. And that's what our work does to us: we are moved by the results we create, the joy we bring to children, and the relief families experience when we and others get involved.



The afternoon was dedicated to the induction of the new Nobles followed by the Potentates Ball. A very well-planned event where old friendships were renewed and new friendships were made.

A big thank you to everyone involved in this event, and a big thank you to all Nobles and Ladies who tirelessly continue with this important work. If you haven't tried attending an event outside your club, you should give it a try. All special ceremonies are open to all Emirate Shriners Nobles, Family and Ladies - so plan your next mini-vacation and help support the other clubs, but most of all to have fun and help kids!

Emirat Shrine Winter Ceremonial

During the second weekend of November Emirat Shrine conducted its Winter Ceremonial. What made this ceremony extra special was it was the first time that Emirat Shrine had one of its child patience attend the ceremonial.

Dorka and her father Robert made their way Stuttgart after a very early morning flight from Romania and a very long car drive from Munich. Read more about their visit in this edition of the Kamel Tales.

As always Friday night started with the meet greet held at the Vaihinger Wirthaus with over 80 Nobles and Ladies in attendance and of course our special guest. It was a great night of fun and fellowship where old friends were reunited, and new friends were made.

This a unique event that Emirat conducts because Brothers and families come from different parts of Germany, some from surrounding countries and some from other countries within the jurisdiction of Emirat Shrine. A lot of Nobles and Brothers do not know each other so it is good way to get to know each other in a relaxed environment. Saturday morning started with registration and the Nobles and Novices. Then it was the usual meeting of Emirat Shrine while the “Jimmies” had their instruction on the Shrine and Shriners Children’s. And what would any ceremonial of Emirat Shrine be if the Jimmies did not get instructions on the Shrine way by the McGillicuddy Clan.

In the afternoon during the creation ceremony, we created 30 new Nobles for Emirat Shrine pushing the total members in Emirat Shrine to over 800 Nobles.



On Saturday night was the Potentates Ball, but this one was special as it was the first time in history of Emirat Shrine that two new clubs were created on the same night and one of our patient children attended a Potentates Ball in Germany. Also, we raised over 5500 Euro for the Transportation Fund.



Shrine Club Belgium



Shrine Club Luxemburg

Stuttgart Shrine Club

The Stuttgart Shrine Club has kicked off the year with tremendous enthusiasm, fueled by a collective commitment to enhance support for the Transportation Fund through a series of impactful charitable endeavors. At the forefront of our efforts is the plan to introduce a potential annual golf tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, poised to become a hallmark event in our fundraising calendar.

With unwavering dedication, the Nobles of the Stuttgart Shrine Club are diligently coordinating efforts to transform this vision into a reality. Through meticulous planning and steadfast determination, we stand poised not only to make significant strides in bolstering our charitable initiatives but also to extend our support to children in every possible way.

In addition to this monumental undertaking, the Stuttgart Shrine Club was entrusted with providing a Meet and Greet venue for the 2024 Emirate Shrine Spring Ceremonial. After careful consideration, the idyllic setting of Schwaben Garten in Leinfelden was chosen. The fellowship experienced during the Meet and Greet was nothing short of magical, akin to a gathering of cherished family members. This unforgettable experience was made possible by the exceptional service and warm hospitality extended by the Schwaben Garten and its remarkable staff. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable contributions.

On October 2024 the Stuttgart Club has elected the new line for 2024-2025 , with the hope to revigorate the activity and participation of the Nobles. November 2024 came with a great event hosted by Stuttgart Shrine Club : the Emirate Shriners Fall Ceremony 2024. What a great event we had, meeting the Illustrious Nobles , meeting nobles from all Europe and Usa , creating new nobles. We also met one of our Shriners children - the little Dorka from Romania.

The camaraderie and spirit of service that pervade our club serve as the driving force behind our endeavors. United in our mission to effect positive change and uphold the Noble Legacy of the Shrine, we remain steadfast in our commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Visit to Mexico City September 2024

Lady Pia and I had long wanted to visit Mexico City and Shriners Hospital para de Nino, and on August 31, 2024, we took the flight from Hamburg via Munich to Mexico City. We had made a few loose agreements with Shriners and LOSNA in Mexico beforehand, but nothing concrete. We had contact with Noble Adrian Agayo, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors of the hospital in Mexico City and his wife Lady Lysette, who is a founding member of the first Court under the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America outside the USA, Sekhmet. Through Facebook we were in contact with Ill Sir PP Wilhelm Neizer (“Billy”), who is also the Deputy Grand Master of the Mexican Grand Lodge Muy Respetable Gran Logia “Valle de Mexico” in Mexico City. We knew we would be meeting with some other Shriners, though not to what extent. After our arrival and acclimatization in the city, things went fast. New updates kept coming with when we would meet with whom and where, and we started with a nice brunch with Ill Sir Wilhelm, his wife Lady Norma, Noble Joaquin and his wife Lady Alma. We got to spend several days with them during our trip, and we are truly impressed with the hospitality and dedication the Mexican Nobles and Ladies showed us during our visit to this amazing country. On this occasion Ill Sir PP Wilhelm was presented with the Emirate Shriners fez, which I had brought along for this particular occasion, along with a greeting from our Potentate Ill Sir Volker Deussen, and all Nobles and Ladies of the Emirate Shriners.



Visit to the hospital:

On September 04, we were told to show up at Hospital Shriners para de Ninos, where we were greeted by Anezeh Shriners HP&P Noble Yair Hernandez Luna, Noble Adrian Aguayo and Karla Ornelas, Marketing Manager, pictured left, at the hospital.

After a short check-in and handing out the mandatory masks, we were given a tour of the hospital. Although due to GDPR rules there is usually no contact with the children during such visits, it was inevitable that children and parents spotted us with our fez on our heads, so very quickly we were greeted by happy smiles, waves, hugs and very happy children and parents. Some wanted to take pictures with us. The staff were very welcoming and in total there are over 350 employees at the hospital, serving up to 400 patients a day, 6 days a week, that's 2400 patients a week or about 10000 consultations a month. And there is a real need for a place like the hospital in Mexico. Patients come from all parts of Mexico, and for those who are too far away from the hospital, there is the possibility of accommodation in the Ronald McDonald houses or at "Casa Q" (more on that later). A lot of time is spent on telemedicine, which relieves both patients and staff. The entire layout of the hospital was very much geared towards the children. Their X-ray and MRI scanners were designed as spaceships, and on the way there you got more and more the feeling that you were going into space. When the children went in for surgery, instead of being pushed on a stretcher or in bed, they were driven in small cars across the corridors. The nurse would walk behind the car with a remote control and steer the car, but the children were convinced that they were the ones driving. Brake marks were then painted on the floor along the corridors.



You could really feel that the hospital was built for children. The decorations around the rooms, hallways, therapy rooms and offices were so child-friendly that you didn't feel like you were in a hospital. We were told that several children regularly tell their parents at home that they are looking forward to going back to the hospital soon - something most people don't look forward to. But it's not just the actual treatment of the children that is in focus, the first thing the parents meet when they bring their children is a social worker who guides and helps with various challenges. When the children are discharged, the parents or siblings are trained in various forms of therapy to support the child in their continued development. It was such a humbling experience to see the hospital, the children, the parents and the staff, and you can't help but be proud that our organization helps the children the way we do. Noble Yair is a member of the Greeting Unit of the Anezeh Shriners, whose job it is to welcome new and old patients to the hospital. About 30 Nobles and their Ladies regularly come to the hospital and greet patients and their families or entertain in various ways. Very interesting, and we agreed that on our next visit we would have the opportunity to see the "Greeting Unit" in action and maybe participate a little.



Orthosis and Prosthetics Workshop - Garden for recreation



One image that made a big impression on us and impresses the staff on a daily basis is a picture the hospital had received from a couple of parents. It shows footprints of their child from the start of treatment until the child had finished treatment and could walk “normally”. The picture says it all and needs no further comment.

Picture: “Gracias...Shriners”

After a very thorough and impressive tour, we met various staff in key positions. Among others, we met Maria Fernanda Yong Salgado, Director of Philanthropy for the hospital, and later we had refreshments with Dr. Mariano Gonzalez, Administrator of the hospital.



Here we discussed the various challenges surrounding the hospital, and we learned that a helipad would now be established at the hospital, and thus have the opportunity to fly patients with severe burns from all over Mexico directly to the hospital for treatment instead of having to fly the patients to Galveston. This reduces the time to first treatment to less than 4 hours instead of around 20 hours, which is crucial for the later healing process of burns. This means that there are no fewer patients coming to Galveston, as there are simply a lot of patients in need of treatment in Mexico who would otherwise be treated locally with varying quality.



Wheelchair workshop (the hospital is donating around 50 wheelchairs every month to children in need. All wheelchairs are customized)

During our stay in Mexico we had several invitations to private gatherings and it was very rewarding to be invited to the homes of Nobles and Ladies privately. Many good dinners were eaten, accompanied by great conversations, and some friendships have definitely been made that will last. We would like to thank all our new and old friends in Mexico for the opportunity to visit this beautiful country and friendly people, and we encourage all Nobles and Ladies of Emirat Shriners to visit Mexico. It is so important for us in Europe to see how Shriners function on a daily basis in the places where they are most needed.

What a wonderful trip.....Lady Pia and Noble Sven



Noble Adrian Agayo and us in front of the Silent Messenger



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EMIRAT SHRINE