



# Al Koran Shriners News



## *Bru Welcomes New Members*



*New members Pat Geyer and Paul Ozancih with Illustrious Potentate Bru Lewis*

## The Al Koran

published monthly by  
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### ELECTED DIVAN

Potentate ..... Bru Lewis  
Chief Rabban ..... Michael Spisak  
Assistant Rabban ..... Brandon Gould  
High Priest & Profit ..... James Barone  
Oriental Guide ..... Michael Krake Jr.  
Treasurer ..... Jay Flack  
Recorder ..... Thomas Klecan, P.P.



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Frankel, President  
Ronn Murphy, PP  
Dan Andrews  
Mike Miranda

### AL KORAN EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Jay Flack, Treasurer and Sheila Flack

### SUBMISSIONS

All articles, advertising and suggestions should be sent to the address listed below and marked ATTN: Al Koran Magazine or email to: [alkorannewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:alkorannewsletter@gmail.com)

### MEMBER INFORMATION

For information on Dues, Assessments, Regulations or to report Illness or Death of a Noble please call the Business Office as listed above.



Bru Lewis, Potentate

Greetings Nobles and Ladies!

As I write this article for the March Newsletter Lady Melissa and I are still glowing from a very nice Valentine's Day dinner event hosted by Mansfield's Mid-Ohio Shrine Club. Over 100 attended! Just before the dinner High Priest and Prophet Jim Barone and I provided a private Cold Sands for a father and son. Let's warmly welcome Jerry and Richard Snay, who are now new Nobles of Al Koran! We also obtained another new petition at the dinner and heard a motivating talk by Shriner Children Dayton Hospital's Director of Philanthropy Bethany Deines. Growing membership continues as our number one focus for 2024 after our Children of course. Kudos to the Mid-Ohio Club!

In April AL Koran is joining several other Ohio Shrine Temples for a Statewide Ceremonial hosted by Aladdin Shriners on April 13th in Columbus. If you are reading this and have not yet experienced your Hot Sands contact the Al Koran offices and come with us for something you will always remember in your journey in the Shrine.

Your Divan has been very busy and is close to completing several initiatives this first month-and-a-half of 2024. Some of our progress on just a few of these: (1) We are in the process of moving the Al Koran website to a new provider and having it refreshed with updated current information and photos and making the event calendar a useful communication tool. (2) There has been a presentation scheduled with the Key Bank Wealth Management team to advise us on our bank accounts and investments so we can determine the best possible opportunities for Al Koran's future. Our focus and vision needs to be on 3-5-10+ year plans, not just what "we may be doing next year." (3) The "Potentate's Ball" venue and theme has been set for Saturday October 12th and details will be communicated soon. I am very excited about the line of young Nobles in the Divan line behind me, and what a bright future is possible for AL Koran.

Lastly the "Lunch with the Potentate" event is scheduled for Saturday March 9th at noon. This working lunch will be paid for by Al Koran and will provide an opportunity for communication to all of Al Koran's Club and Unit families as well as an opportunity for them to voice their own questions, concerns, and just fellowship together with their counterparts. We are excited for what the rest of the year may hold as we are just beginning to pick up speed!  
Brunell "Bru" Lewis, Potentate

Bru Lewis, Potentate  
*Something to Wrap Your Love Around*



## Official Call of the Potentate

The next regular monthly business meeting will be **MARCH 18, 2024** to be held at **Berea Masonic Center** (Quarry Lodge), 366 Eastland Road, Berea. Dinner will be served at 6:00 with **RESERVATIONS** called in to Recorder Tom Klecan...by the previous Thursday.

Bru Lewis, Illustrious Potentate  
Thomas Klecan P.P., Recorder

**Es Selamu Aleikum**

## Divan Directory



**Illustrious Potentate**  
Bru Lewis  
C: 330 242-6861  
Email: brudee613@wmconnect.com



**Chief Rabban**  
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**Assistant Rabban**  
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**High Priest & Prophet**  
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**Oriental Guide**  
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**Treasurer**  
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Email: alkorantreasurer@gmail.com



**Recorder**  
Thomas Klecan P.P.  
C: 440 520-8101  
Email: klecantom@hotmail.com

## Calendar of Events

For a detailed **Calendar of Events** see Al Koran Website

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### MARCH

- March 11 - Board of Directors/Divan/Hunters
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 - Business Meeting - Ladies Program
- March 31 - Easter

### APRIL

- TBD Board of Directors
- April 15 Business Meeting with Ladies Program

## Paper Deadline!

For those of you that submit materials for the Al Koran News:  
I need your letters, ads and photos in a timely manner,  
so that I can assemble the newsletter with  
enough time for artwork, layout, printing & mailing.

**Deadline is 2nd Wednesday each month.**

*Thank You, Jay Flack., Editor & Publisher*



*Noble Mike Miranda, President of the Mid Ohio Shrine Club presenting a check to Illustrious Potentate Bru Lewis and Assistant Rabban Brandon Gould.*

## From the Recorder

So, last month I complained about dues, this month I won't, because I will be complaining about them again in June. Make me a liar, Please!

As I write this we are working on restoring the Website and I hope that as you are reading this, we have it up and running as we should. It can be a great tool, especially for planning events. Once, I have the calendar updated you should be able to use to pick days, that won't conflict with other events for your event.

Please buy some onions, this can be a great little fundraiser for us, and remember that it is with successful fundraisers like this that we are able to keep dues where that are and subsidize some of our senior members who may have financial difficulties.

This newsletter that you have just received is one of the largest costs Al Koran has. It costs us approximately \$35.00 per member per year, to get this out, and the costs of producing and postage keep increasing. We would like to reduce our costs for the newsletter, so we have begun to gather information so as to make the best decision we can. In the near future, we will be asking our entire Nobility how they would like to receive this information. We will try and gather the information in several different formats. While electronic is the easiest we are aware many of you do not communicate that way. So we plan to have a couple of means of response. Stay Tuned!

You can reach me by e-mail at [klecantom@hotmail.com](mailto:klecantom@hotmail.com), [clevelandshriners@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandshriners@gmail.com), or call the office 440-546-9866 and select #1 Recorder.

## KHEEDAWEE COURT #6

### YOU'RE INVITED!!

Ladies of the Oriental Shrine cordially invite you to the Open Installation of our court at Massillon Masonic Temple **333 2nd St SW Massillon, Ohio** at 2PM on March 16, 2024. Please make reservations with Barbara Morse by calling her at **440-897-5286** by March 1, 2024. Hoping to see all of you there!

Lady Jeanne Kemp, High Priestess Elect  
Kheedawee Court No. 6

### JANUARY 2024 MEMBERSHIP

JANUARY 1st	783 Regular	5 Associates
Creations	1	0
Restorations	0	0
Affiliations	0	0
Demits	1	0
Suspensions	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Deaths	3	0
JANUARY 31	780 Regular	5 Associates
<b>Total Membership as of JANUARY 31, 2024 ....</b>		

**783 Nobles**

### DONATIONS

In Memory of William Stacey

Stu Shoaff

In Memory of Paul Peddie

Ken & Beth Weidig

### IN MEMORY

*Nobles lost to the  
Black Camel*

**January 2024**

Noble William Stacey

Noble Paul Peddie

Noble Richard Brintzenhofe

*Note: Reports are posted as received,  
not necessarily in chronological order.*

## Mariners Log

By Bob Stanley M.S.A.

With the arrival of March, the days are getting longer, the song birds are returning to Cleveland, and the daffodils and crocuses are emerging from the ground. It is also time for Shriners to start recruiting our Masonic Brothers, who are not a member of Al Koran Shrine. The Ceremonial crossing of the Hot Sands this year will be a statewide Ceremonial of all six Shrine Temples. It will be held at the Aladdin Shrine Center in the Oasis of Columbus. The date is Saturday, April 13. Let us, as Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, do our part to help guide a large caravan of neophytes across the Hot Sands to the oasis of our ShrineCenter.

At this writing (February 4), Sunshine Chairman P/C John Baker has informed me that several members and their ladies have come down with Winter colds. Hang in there, Spring is supposed to start on March 19.

One Winters Evening, I began reading articles of Masonic History. One item that caught my eye was the story of the worlds tallest man in history. He was Robert Pershing Wadlow. He was born February 22, 1918 and passed away on July 15, 1940. His height was 8ft. 11in. and weighed 439 lbs. In his short life of 22 years, he was not only a DeMolay but also a Master Mason in the Grand Lodge of Illinois A.F. and A.M.

The March Business meeting of Al Koran Shrine will be held on Monday, March 18. The location will be in the official call of the Potentate in the March's Al Koran Magazine on page 2.

The Mariners March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, at the Edgewater Yacht Club. Chow and grog will commence at 1800 hours and out meeting will be rapped to order at 1900 hours.

For information concerning membership or activities of the Al Koran Mariners Yacht Club, please contact Commodore Ronn Murphy P.P. at 216-702-6785.

To all the Al Koran Shriners and their ladies, the Mariners and our ladies wish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

## SAVE THE DATE



The Ohio Shrine Association cordially invites you to mark your calendars for the highly anticipated annual meeting scheduled to take place on **April 26th** and **27th**. We are pleased to announce that this event will be held in Perrysburg, Ohio. Kindly ensure that this important gathering is duly noted on your calendar.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. -- Ronn Murphy, VP, PP

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## **Al Koran Boosters**

“Al Koran Boosters” help to defray the cost of publishing and mailing our magazine. To be a “Booster” please send a check, payable to Al Koran, for \$10 per person listed to Al Koran Headquarters. Names are listed for one year, after which it is time to renew. Renewal dates are shown after your name.

<b>BOOSTERS</b>	<b>exp. date</b>	<b>BOOSTERS</b>	<b>exp. date</b>	<b>BOOSTERS</b>	<b>exp. date</b>
Dale & Carolyn Haas .....	3/1/24	Creighton & Winnie Bradler .....	1/1/25	Richard & Linda Saxby .....	11/1/25
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John D. Baker .....	4/1/24	Mike Brookins .....	2/1/25	Fredrick & Mary Freer .....	1/1/26
Dan Frenz.....	5/1/24	Brunell “Bru” Lewis .....	2/1/25	Paula Bodenstein.....	11/1/26
Stan & Betty Updike.....	5/1/24	Steve & Kim Behm .....	3/1/25	Gary Brookins.....	11/1/26
William Miller .....	6/1/24	Jie & Danelle, Zemek.....	3/1/25	Scott & Jana Grim .....	3/1/27
Phil & Rita Welce .....	6/1/24	Debbie Saiter & Fudge.....	3/1/25	Roger A. Van Norstan .....	7/1/27
James & Naomi Rice .....	7/1/24	Jay & Sheila Flack .....	4/1/25	Joanne Larson .....	1/1/28
Ford & Nadya Cole .....	7/1/24	Virginia Briggs .....	4/1/25	Sandy Angstrom.....	2/1/28
John E. Haught .....	7/1/24	Rosemary Hixenbaugh.....	4/1/25	Ralph & Eda Thadeus .....	7/1/28
Ken & Beth Weidig.....	11/1/24	Barb Fyfe .....	5/1/25	Gordon Hastler PP .....	3/1/29
Jack & Marge Conner .....	11/1/24	Evie Probert .....	6/1/25	Joe and Joann Dugan .....	1/1/29
Joe & Becky Kevern .....	11/1/24	Ray & Kay Wilson .....	11/1/25	Donald & Debbie Meuser .....	10/1/30
Lee & Betty Pilous.....	12/1/24	Tom Scharf.....	11/1/25	Norita M Hinerman .....	4/1/32
Al Budney .....	1/1/25	Russ Arndt .....	11/1/25		
Art Moore .....	1/1/25	Mark & Debbie Bollinger .....	4/1/25		

## **Legion of Honor**

The Legion of Honor Unit meets the 4th Monday of every month, except for the months of November and December due to the holidays. Our meetings are held at 6 PM at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 9549 Highland Drive, Brecksville, Ohio 44141.

Our membership is composed of military veterans and associate members. The associate members are not veterans but volunteer to help our unit to achieve our goals. At the present time, several of our associate members are very active. If you are a veteran or you would like to help out as an associate, please contact Jack Conner, Adjutant, P.P., at 440.590.5260.

## **Hunter's Unit**

At the end of January, a quick decision was made to join the Irish American Club for their St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. The dinner will held on Sunday, March 3rd, and we had to make reservations. So, we made them for 2:00 PM. There were some problems. It was too late to get the announcement in the February Newsletter; our meeting was on the 12th of February. We used social media to get information out to our members before the meeting. This gave us a 50/50 chance there would be openings. The problem was the Irish Club cut reservations at 500, and they already had 225 booked in January. We are sorry for the few reservations we could not accept, but they came in too late, and the club cut us off. More news on the event will be in next months edition.

Last year, The Hunters were asked to join Jeff Miller and his father, Tom, who were putting on a Kids Fishing Derby at The Western Reserve Masonic Center in Medina. Jeff owns The Court House Pizza Shop on the square in downtown Medina. We have been asked again to join them and if we could take the Trolley Trailer to Medina. Last year the Kids Fishing Derby was held in early April. The temperature may have hit 40 degrees, with drizzle to rain in the morning and most of the afternoon. Yet the young ones stayed by the lake and continued pulling in bass and trout. Our trailer came in handy because the parents found a dry place and still could keep an eye on the fishermen. Well, this year the day of fishing is Saturday, May 4th at the front lake, at the Masonic Center. The time is not yet known, but there will be coffee and donuts, for sure.

## **Hillbilly Crooked River Clan**

We hope everyone had a couple of enjoyable and festive two months, while we were dark. There were some problems getting notification to the Hillbillies these last couple of months (December and January) for there was some confusion on getting the articles in the Newsletter. Another possibility for the lack of communication is that our roster with emails has not been completed. If you have not received emails from the Hillbillies in the last couple of months, and you are a member of the Hillbillies, please let one of the officers know with your information.

This year, we started with our Installation of Officers on January 24th, which was well attended and had plenty of food. Of course, this was a potluck. Now, we move into February, and on the 28th, we held our first initiation of the year, and now for March. We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a corned beef and cabbage dinner (\$15.00), a cash bar, and entertainment. There will be Irish Dancers, bagpipes players and more, all put on at the Irish American Club in Euclid, on the 3rd. The reason for this date is that they will be open on Sunday the 17th after the Cleveland parade. They are planning anywhere between 500 and 700 in attendance.

Currently, plans for May are to go on the Cuyahoga Vally Scenic Railroad. The train will leave from Peninsula Ohio. We will have lunch in Akron and then return. More details next Newsletter.



Onions  
Onions  
Onions



Yes, Al Koran will once more be selling onions, and yes the price remains \$15 for a 10-pound bag. And your assistance is needed. Last year we were forced to increase the cost of the onions to \$15 a bag to cover the costs of shipping and materials.

This is a fundraiser. I recently bought two popcorn bags from the Boy Scouts and paid \$35 for those two bags, which were not that large. Now that's a fundraiser.

Last year we sold about 300 bags and made about \$1500, not bad, but you can see that our supplies and shipping costs were not cheap. Also, \$2 goes to the club or unit selling the onions. I am aware many of you do not want to deal with the challenges of storing and delivering the onions, but fundraisers such as this are what keep us from having to raise dues.

So please get your club or unit organized to sell, or consider a donation to the general fund, with a little assistance we can raise a respectable amount of money for one day's work, and keep Al Koran in business, and your dues from going up.

## SCIMITARS Swing Band

Greetings Nobles!

The Al Koran Shrine SCIMITARS Swing Band looks forward to another productive year. As we have done for many years, in 2023, the SCIMITARS played concerts almost every week from Father's Day in June until Armistice Day in November. The presentations are primarily to senior and retirement centers. Donations received are used to support the Shrine Hospitals for Children. Checks for \$1000 were sent to Shriner's Hospitals for Children in Erie, Shriners Children Ohio in Dayton, and the Children's Dyslexia Center in Cleveland.

The SCIMITARS Swing Band will begin rehearsals again in May and play for enthusiastic audiences throughout the summer. They will continue to support Al Koran and the Shrine Hospitals for children.

Best wishes to all for a great year!

Yours in the Faith,

Paul Lawrence, Director of Bands.







Greetings BSrs!

Our Gathering on Jan. 28 drew over 30 people. We enjoyed having “The” Chuck Johnson of the Cleveland Bourbon Co-op (and of John W. Barkley Lodge) give an informative talk on the various regions of Scotch Whisky and how it is different from Bourbon.

We gained a few new members at this gathering, including a few members who traveled from Lake County to be with us. We also now have 4 associate members from El Hasa Shrine. We are officially the fastest growing club or unit in Al Koran Shrine and we now rank as the second largest club or unit in Al Koran Shrine.

We plan to keep the fun going all year long! Our next BS gathering will be Sunday, March 3rd, at 1:00 PM at Havana’s Choice in Brunswick. As we start to move into the warmer months, several of us with large outdoor spaces (and forgiving wives) may volunteer to host a BS gathering or two. If you are interested in hosting, please

check with Mike Spisak (“The Humidor”) or Brandon Gould (“El Presidente”) so we can get you on the calendar.

Our “El Presidente” has some fun events planned and we may even have an outing or two at a local distillery or brewery, Axe throwing (before consuming libations of course), and other fun events. We hope to see you at one of our events this year!

— Mike Spisak - “The Humidor”



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# Massillon Shrine Club GOLF Extravaganza

Saturday May 4, 2024  
Lyons Den Golf Club

6347 Manchester Ave NW, Canal Fulton, OH 44614 (Rt. 93, 100 yards south of the Rt. 21 overpass)

4 Person Scramble

Shotgun Start at 8:00 am  
\$75.00 Per Person

Includes: 18 holes of golf, 1/2 cart,  
Prizes, Lunch, Dinner  
After Golf And Beverages!

Please make your reservations before April 29th  
A Good Time Will Certainly Be Had By All!

Complete The Form Below And Return With Your Payment

### Golfer Registration

Captains Name:		Phone:	
Address:		EMail:	
City:	State:	Zip:	
Total Golfing Fees Remitted:			

#	Name	Paid	#	Name	Paid
1			3		
2			4		

\*\*\*\*Please Make Golf Checks Payable to: Massillon Shrine Club\*\*\*\*

### Sponsor Registration

\$25.00 or More - (A Sponsor Sign will be Posted on the First Tee Box)  
Sponsor Contributions are Tax Deductible

Name:		Phone:	
Address:		EMail:	
City:	State:	Zip:	
Total Sponsor Fees Remitted:			

Please Submit a Business Card or Other Information for Sign Content

\*\*\*\*Sponsor Fees MUST Be Paid With A Separate Check Payable To: Al Koran Transportation\*\*\*\*

Remit to: Paul Samsa 610 9th St SW, Strasburg, Ohio 44680

#### Questions?

Paul Samsa (330) 878-7183 Samsaps@Bright.Net or Paul Westland (330) 806-7088 PWNavarre@AOL  
Golf Outing Proceeds Fund Club Operations - All Sponsor Fees go to Al Koran Hospital Transportation Fund

## Krazy Kops

Greetings fellow Kops!

Our Christmas Party with the wives was a great time as usual.

Parade season is upon us once more! We hope to have a little better participation amongst our members as we were stretched a little thin last summer. If you are available to parade, even if only to ride in the Paddy Wagon, please come out and enjoy some fun and fellowship with us.



First up is St. Patrick's Day. It falls on a Sunday this year so we should have a decent turnout. We will meet at Teamz at 10:00 A.M. to enjoy some early fellowship and then head downtown at 11:30 AM. Our downtown pickup location will be Royal Acme Co, 3110 Payne Ave., Cleveland, OH. Following the parade, we will return to Teamz for some dinner. Several of the wives may be meeting us for dinner at Teamz.

If you are planning on attending on St. Patrick's Day, please either send a \$25 check or pay on the Al Koran website and RSVP to Mike Spisak, PD, so we know you are coming.

**Other tentative parade dates are:**

Sunday May 26th	– Chagrin Falls	Thursday June 20th	– Middleburg Heights
Saturday July 27th	– Highland Heights	Saturday Aug. 3rd	– Independence
Sunday Aug. 11th	– North Ridgeville	Sunday Aug. 25th	– North Olmsted
Monday Oct. 14th	– Columbus Day		

Our Director this year, Mike Fekete, has some fun events planned and we may even have our regular meetings at different spots around town like Top Golf and The Brew Kettle (for beer brewing again). Stay tuned and don't miss out on the fun we have planned this year!

-Mike Spisak, PD  
Sect/Treasurer



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# Lakewood Shrine Club

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2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month

Cocktails 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Entertainment 7:00 pm

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