



Nur Shriners

Newsletter

February 2026 Vol. 73 No. 2



2026 Divan

Known Calendar Events . . .

If you have anything you would like to be included in any future calendar or newsletter, please send it to Rick Swalm before the end of the month prior to the month you want it published.



Feb, 2nd, **Monthly Meetings**, @ 6:00 p.m., DE Room,
 Feb. 2nd, **Ladies' Monthly Meeting** @ 6:30 p.m., Uniform Units Room,
 Feb. 3rd, 10^h, 17th, & 24th, **Weekly Cash BINGO** @ 6:55 p.m., Main Hall,
 Feb. 14th, **Valentine's Day**, Remember your lady forever and ever,
 Feb. 18th, **Ash Wednesday**, ALL Day,
 Feb 21st, **Commodore's Ball**, 6:00 p.m., Grasonville, MD, (see pg. 5),
 Feb. 25th, **Uniform Units Meeting** @ 7:00 p.m., Uniform Units Room.



BINGO EVERY TUESDAY EVENING

Bingo continues to engage our community with excellent attendance. Ruben has it running on all cylinders and community support is as high as ever. Play begins with our early bird special starting at 6:55 pm and we typically finish with our blue strip special around 9:30 pm. Our

ladies provide refreshments for our Bingo Players and raise money for their projects. Talk it up with your friends and come on out for an evening of Fun and the possibility of winning some extra spending money to help you get ready for summer. Help support our weekly Bingo games and help turn around our financial situation and putting us back in the black. Come on out and join in the fun. If you can help by working the games, make sure to call Ruben Kelly and let him know.

Potentate-elect's Message

-Christopher DeAngelo

A New Year – A New Beginning

As we start our new year at NUR Shrine I would like to remind all Nobles of a fundamental truth. People frequently focus on ranks, jewels, and positions; however, just as there is no degree in Masonry higher than the third, no title in the shrine holds greater significance than that of a Noble. Being in the Divan and our Potentate are just temporary stewards. The NUR Shrine Noble is the permanent heart of the fraternity. You are the engine that drives our hospitals, the mentor that guides our new Nobles, and the face of our philanthropy.



It is important to send representatives from your units and clubs to the uniform units meeting; they receive the information needed to pass on to all our Nobles, about parades, units, and club activities.

In closing I would like to thank all the Nobles and guests who came to the introduction of officers and units. I would also like to give a special thank you to Ricky Swalm, his wife Pat, and his daughters, Jean and TJ for a truly excellent dinner.

Chris DeAngelo
Potentate 2026





No doubt you've seen the popular scene of the Shriner carrying the handicapped girl (pictured left). What many people don't know is that it is based on an actual event in 1970. It is Randy Dieter's original photo of Shriner Al Hortman (formerly of Evansville, Indiana, now living in Georgia), carrying a girl named Bobbi Jo Wright. The older girl on the left in the photo is Hortman's daughter, Laura, who was a patient at Shriners Hospital in St. Louis. After Laura began receiving treatment at Shriners Hospitals For Children, Hortman himself joined the Shrine.

The photo known as the "Editorial Without Words" is probably one of the best recognized symbols of Shriners Hospitals, yet it was taken almost by accident. Randy Dieter, the photographer, recalled that in 1970, he had been on assignment covering Hadi Temple's annual outing for handicapped children at the now-defunct Mesker Amusement Park in Evansville, Indiana.

"I was taking shots of the midway and was using my telephoto lens," Dieter said. "I saw a local Shriner walking by carrying a little girl in one hand and her crutches in the other. My camera wouldn't fire. Then they were too close for my lens. I ran past them, but the camera jammed. I had to take my last shot as they walked by. It was the end of the roll. If I had to think about it, I wouldn't have come up with something like that. Fate guides you."

"It still seems unreal," said Bobbi Jo Wright, the little girl in the photo. "I have many wonderful memories of the years I was a patient at the St. Louis Shriners Hospital and remember all the fun activities. I was born with cerebral palsy, which resulted in many orthopedic problems that made walking difficult. I had many surgeries at the St. Louis Hospital. They greatly improved my ability to walk."

Bobbi Jo received her B.A. in English from Anderson University. She is active in her church and teaches Sunday School. "I use a cane when I go shopping," she said. "If I'm walking on grassy areas, I use crutches."

Today, the famous photo is an integral part of the Shriners Hospitals logo, and has been reproduced on stained-glass windows, mosaics, tie tacs, pins, and in statues. A larger-than-life replica of the "Editorial Without Words" stands outside the International Shrine Headquarters building in Tampa. Photographer Randy Dieter presently serves as graphics editor for the Kentucky Post.

NOTE: Noble Albert Lanier Hortman, the man in the photo carrying Bobbi Jo, passed away on December 6, 2009, two months shy of his 81st birthday. He lived a full life and was one of the fortunate ones to make a place in history that will live in time immemorial. You can read Noble Albert Lanier Hortman's complete obituary here: <http://www.tributes.com/show/Albert-Hortman-87308399>

So, what does this mean to a Noble of Nur Shrine?

Your Chief Rabban, Noble Mark Button is starting a capital campaign to purchase this 9 1/2 foot statue and place it at the front of our Temple. This statue is made of tough fiberglass and can withstand the outdoor elements. The statue is a "soft grey" color that resembles stone and has a rough chisel-cut appearance. Production time for this piece is 8-12 weeks. The maker, Jose Serra is a professional sculpter and a Mason and Noble.

Our Goal? \$20,000.00

The scope of this project is not small. The statue itself will cost approximately \$12,500.00 (includes Nur on the Fez). We will need two Nobles to drive with a trailer to Kentucky to pick up the statue (weighs about 350 pounds). This will require gas and an overnight stay. Additionally, we plan on building a small wall, doing some new landscaping, moving the Shrine flag pole in front of the building (not the US Flag flagpole), building a pedestal, running electricity for lights, etc. Any additional funds received above the \$20,000 threshold will be placed into the Nur Shrine Legacy account.

How can I help?

We will have 3 levels of support with an engraved tile appropriate for each level:

- \$1,000.00 - 12x12 tile (8 lines, 20 characters per line)
- \$500.00 - 6x6 tile
- \$250.00 - 4x8 tile (3 lines, 20 character per tile)
- Less than \$250.00 (a plaque with additional donors will be created and placed with the tiles)

How do I pay?

You can mail a check made out to Nur Shrine, to 198 S. Dupont Ave, New Castle, DE 19720, or you can hand your check off to your Chief Rabban who will ensure it gets posted in a timely manner. All donations will receive a thank you letter from the Shrine. Any funds raised above the threshold will be put into the Nur Shrine Legacy fund. Additionally, you can call Helga in the Nur office and pay by credit/debit card (there is a small card fee), 410-838-7301.

Who is spearheading this effort and who is my point of contact?

Mark Button, 443-303-9058, buttnit@hotmail.com. I will personally contact each and every donor, coordinate what you want your tile to say, and ensure you receive the proper recognition.





MAASYC Commodores' Ball

February 21, 2026

Kent Island Yacht Club, 117 Yacht Club Drive, Chester, MD 21619

Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Cash Bar

Steak and Cake Dinner 7:00 p.m.

* If non-meat option is preferred, call/text John Cataldo, Sec/Treas. MAASYC, 973-277-5935, or recorder@salaamshrine.com

Followed by music and dancing, with Frank "Elvis" Raines

Dress: Dark Suit or Uniform. Gown/Cocktail attire for the Ladies.

Hospitality at Hilton Garden Inn: Friday Snacks 4 - 10; dinner on your own.

Saturday Pot Luck Lunch 12 - 2, and Saturday After the Ball

★ MAASYC Meeting 2 pm Saturday (in Hospitality Room) ★

HILTON GARDEN INN, 3206 Main Street, Grasonville, MD 21638

Group Rate \$150 nitely, Fri., Sat: all rooms water view & balcony (**rate deadline: Jan.20.'26**)

Please call directly to make reservations: Phone: 410-827-3877 Code: SM26

Questions? Call John Cataldo, SALAAM Recorder on 973-277-5935



MAASYC Commodores Ball Reservation Form



Ball / Dinner Deadline: Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2026

Cost: \$125 per person. Make checks payable to SALAAM Shrine Yacht Club.

Mail to John Cataldo, Recorder, Salaam Shrine, 114 Algonquin Pkwy, Whippany, NJ 07981
(or use MASA link to pay by credit card)

Name _____ Lady _____ No. Attending _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Shrine Center _____ Title _____



EASTER
Kids Party

SUNDAY MARCH 29TH

SAVE THE DATE NUR SHRINE FREE
OPEN TO ALL MASONIC FAMILY MEMBERS

NUR SHRINE CARNIVAL 2026



DATES: APR 15 - 19 & APR 22 - 25

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

NURCARNIVAL.COM

ADVANCE TICKETS:

HoughtonCarnival.com

All proceeds benefit the Nur Shrine

COMING TO THE NUR SHRINE CENTER



SAVE THE DATES

TUE
26TH
MAY

WED
27TH
MAY

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE NUR SHRINERS

Nur Shrine Mini-Corvettes



The Mini Corvettes will be raffling off a 35 quart Yeti cooler that will be full of Cheer and Cigars.

Only **200** tickets will be sold and the drawing is to be held at the stated business meeting on:

Monday, June 8, 2026

Proceeds benefit the Nur Shrine Mini-Corvettes

Tickets are \$5.00 each

For tickets contact: **John Marriott (484)688-3584**



Shrine Club of Delaware's *Shrimp Feast*

Friday, June 12th, 2026

Nur Shrine Center

198 S. Dupont Hwy.

New Castle, DE



Advance Price: \$45.00

Includes roast beef, sides, beer, wine, soda

6:00PM - 9:00PM



NurShrine.org

Proceeds benefit Shrine Club of Delaware and the Nur Shrine



Saturday, July 18th 2026

5th Annual NUR Shine / 5PM - 11PM

Buccaneer Pirate Ball

Join us for a night of fun and adventure

All you can eat Pirate Buffet, Free Miller Lite, Soda & Wine.

Adults and Children are both invited

Children under 12 Yrs old get in free

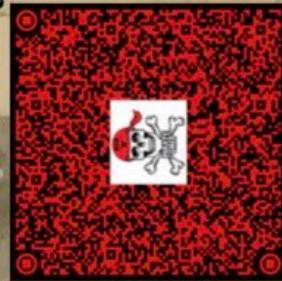
Dig out your best Pirate Costume or favorite Beach wear

Admission \$60.00

For tickets reach out to

Captain Barry Gommer

302-251-9703



198 S. DuPont Hwy. New Castle, DE 19720



WE'RE HIRING!



JOIN OUR TEAM

INQUIRE NOW!

Various NEW 2026 Opportunities:

- Asst. Business Manager
- Asst. Bar Manager
- Asst. Event Prep Manager
- No Experience necessary
- Training provided

EMAIL FOR INFO OR TO APPLY

NurBusMgr@gmail.com

Nur Shrine Center

* Must meet minimum physical restrictions



NUR SHRINE LEGION OF HONOR



VETERANS, ACTIVE AND PRIOR SERVICE MEMBERS OF ALL BRANCHES OF MILITARY SERVICE

The Nur Shrine Legion of Honor "LOH" is one of the oldest and most active units in Nur Shrine. How we obtained that status is quite simple – it is the bond formed through having served in the military. We know how to have fun and get things accomplished by working together.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we have several social functions every year all of which include our Ladies. They are Past Commanders and Ladies Night, Commanders Banquet, Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony followed by a picnic. We partially defray the cost of these functions through the two gun shows we work at and sponsor each year. Members participate in various community parades as well as the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association annual parade. Some members travel to Legion of Honor functions at other Shrine Centers.

Membership Requirements:

- Be a Master Mason
- Be a member of Nur Shrine
- Present proof of military service, DD214 or Military identification card

If you do not meet the first two requirements, ask us and we will help you through the process. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Legion of Honor please return this to: **Legion of Honor, Nur Shrine, P.O. Box 10085, Wilmington, DE 19850-0085**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ EMAIL _____



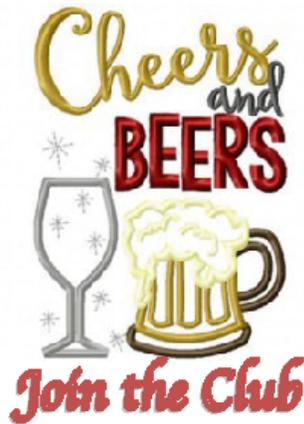
WE WANT YOU!

To join the Shrine Club of
Delaware -the oldest shine
club in the world, circa 1907.

The annual dues are only **\$10.00.**

Support your Shrine by supporting
the Shrine Club.

Contact Jeff Lank to get involved. (302) 545-1650.



The purpose of VeNURable Shiners is to provide an opportunity for the Nobles of Nur Shrine to explore the hobby of home brewing in all its facets and to increase the awareness of the quality and variety of home-made beverages.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month.

We have a social quarterly that include guests and our ladies at a local brewery.

Our annual dues is \$20.00, if you want to be part of this club come on out to one of our monthly meetings.

We are part of the International Association of Shrine Taprooms.

For more information contact our Cellar Master, Jeff Lank at

jtlank@gmail.com.



I'm **John Marriott.**

I am a veteran and
I need a kidney transplant.



Would you consider
becoming a living
kidney donor?

You don't need to be a match for me, you just have to be healthy enough to donate. Your donation will generate a voucher for me, helping me receive the best possible match for a living donor transplant. To prevent any financial hardship from donating, you can be reimbursed for lost wages, travel expenses, and dependent care costs.



**Scan the QR code or
visit www.nkr.org/DYT898**
to learn more about becoming a
donor or to share my story.

You can help save my life!

NUR SHRINE



Mini Choppers

Ladies Appreciation Dinner



On Saturday January 10, 2026 the Mini Choppers paid homage to our ladies by having a dinner in their honor at the Citizens' Hose Company Auxiliary in Smyrna. The ladies of the auxiliary served a dinner consisting of a piece of filet, crab cake, potatoes and of course masonic green beans. Several members of the grand staff were in attendance including the Grand Master of Delaware and his Lady. Several Past Potentates and Grand Masters were also there to help us honor the ladies of the Mini Choppers. This dinner has become an annual tradition for the club.

The choppers greatly appreciate the support that we receive from our ladies and this dinner is the very least that we can do to show them that we appreciate them.



January 16, 2026

Brethren All,

On behalf of Right Worshipful Matthew W. Thompson, Deputy Grand Master, and his lady, Robbin, I am pleased to share with you information about the 2027 Grand Lodge Cruise.

The cruise on the beautiful Royal Caribbean Vision of the Seas will depart San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 28, 2027. The itinerary includes beautiful ports of call in St. Thomas, Antigua, Martinique, Grenada and St. Vincent, as well as one day at sea. The cruise returns to San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sunday, March 7, 2027.

Please note you do not need a passport to fly to San Juan, however, one is always recommended when traveling outside the United States. Also, there are many flight options from BWI and Philadelphia to San Juan.

Registration is now open. Please see the attached flyer with more details. Final payment is not due until November 30, 2026. There are multiple cabin options to fit any need you would like.

To make your reservations, please contact Aaron Jackson from Dreams Fulfilled Travel at (302) 858-7841 or by email at aaron.jackson@DreamsFulfilledTravel.com. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at (302) 270-4391.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Chad Robinson, PGMars.





Delaware Masonic Cruise Feb 28 to Mar 7, 2027

8 Day Southern Caribbean

Round-trip from:

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Visiting:

- Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
- St. Johns, Antigua
- Fort De France, Martinique
- St. George's, Grenada
- Kingstown, St. Vincent
- San Juan, Puerto Rico

not included: insurance, gratuities, airfare, transportation, hotel stays, excursions

Deposit of \$500 per cabin due at booking

Final Payment due November 30, 2026

Optional Travel Insurance is available, quote provided after booking

Third and fourth guest rates are available along with other cabin options.

Valid Passport **NOT NEEDED** but recommended for cruise travel outside the US

Best offers and perks available NOW



Available
Balcony & Suites
Ocean View & Interior



302-858-7841

Aaron.Jackson@DreamsFulfilledTravel.com

Monthly Dose of Mad Magazine

