



# The **EI Bekalan**



January, 2021

Illustrious *Merritt Read*, Potentate

Issue No. 01-21



What happens  
in 2020 stays  
in 2020



## El Bekal Shrine

1320 S. Sanderson Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92806  
Tel. (714) 563-9111  
FAX (714) 491-8574

### Go to [elbekal.com](http://elbekal.com) for all the latest information

Published monthly for the interest of members of El Bekal Shrine

### Shriners for Children Medical Center

909 S Fair Oaks Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Tel. (213) 388-3151

[www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org](http://www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org)

## IMPERIAL POTENTATE



Imperial Sir  
James R. "Jim" Smith



*John Rider, P.P. Imperial Marshal's Aide member*

## ELECTED DIVAN

Potentate:	Meritt Read	714-875-6344 anapm82@aol.com
Chief Rabban:	Michael Sekera	951-265-7717 mikesequera@gmail.com
Assistant Rabban:	Al Turek	562-243-8279 abluehood@yahoo.com
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Oriental Guide:	Tom Thomas	562-618-4714 tomhoytauto@aol.com
Treasurer:	Larry Griffin P.P.	310-614-5205 larrygriffin56@gmail.com
Recorder:	Coy Love, P.P.	714-563-9111 recorder@elbekalshrine.com

## Some helpful websites

El Bekal: [elbekal.com](http://elbekal.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/elbekalshrine/](https://facebook.com/elbekalshrine/)  
[ShrinersVillage.com](http://ShrinersVillage.com) (Need membership No. to join)  
[webfez.shrinenet.org/](http://webfez.shrinenet.org/) (Need membership No. to join)  
[webfez.shrinenet.org/referral](http://webfez.shrinenet.org/referral)  
[shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Potentate's Message, Ill Merrit Read	4-5
Message from Chief Rabban, Michael Sekera	6
Chief Rabban Trip	7
Message from Assistant Rabban, Al Turek	8
Message from High Priest & Prophet	9
Message from Oriental Guide	10
Message from 1st CM	11
Stated Meeting and Elections	12-13

Calendar of Events	24-25
In Memoriam	29

## HALL USAGE

For Building Reservations contact:  
Building Superintendent, 714-563-9111 Office  
Russ Allen: 714-397-0449 Cell

## DEADLINE - JANUARY 14TH 2020



Deadline for articles are DUE,  
**January 14th**  
for the February 2020 issue.

*Please e-mail your articles to:*

**El Bekal Editor**  
[elbekalmag@gmail.com](mailto:elbekalmag@gmail.com)

# ELBEKALAN SUPPORTERS

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“Thank you  
for your continued support of  
this magazine!”

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*We need you NOW more then ever.*

See Coy Love at the  
El Bekal Office to become a Elbekalan  
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To support, please send checks to:

**El Bekal Shrine**  
1320 S. Sanderson Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92806



# POTENTATE'S MESSAGE



I want to congratulate our two new nobles from the November Zoom Ceremonial: Donald Payne and Marius Popa. We hope to see you at many of our functions once we are allowed to meet again.

See the photo page for pictures of their official fezzing. Five more of our nobles passed away since our last El Bekalan. They are listed in the In Memoriam section. Our deepest sympathy to their families. Kim and I want to thank Larry Griffin and Santa (our Noble Brandon Messenger) for the Christmas Photo Shoot. We hope you enjoyed the December front cover and the hilarious photo included in my article. That elf costume was pretty funny. If you haven't seen it in color, go to the web site and look up that El Bekalan. Our movie night in November was fun. We did have a smaller turnout than the October

movie night, as we expected. I am sure that the county going to purple tier two days before contributed. My thanks to everyone that attended and to those that made it happen. Our Toy Drive for our Shriners for Children Medical Center in Pasadena was very successful. See the photo page enclosed for more details. Some of our nobles will be serving as Masters of their lodges in 2021. Congratulations to Ashot Nalbandyan from Anaheim #207, Rudy Penalosa from Gateway #339 in Brea, Mark Escobedo from Coachella #476 in Indio, Andy Prutsman from Cornerstone #659 in La Habra and Arman Ordian from Desert Daylight #873 in Palm Desert. We are proud of all of you. If there are any others that will be serving as Master in 2021, please let us know and we can mention you in the February El Bekalan. Our Zoom Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on Saturday, January 9th at 2:00 PM. Be sure to pre-register to attend this zoom meeting. Following the Annual Meeting will be our Zoom Revised In-and-Out starting at 3:30. This is open to everyone. The normal skit and charm presentation by the Past First Ladies will be postponed to the 2020 Pandemic Potentates Gala on August 28. We will be making a few presentations and the announcement of the Shriner of the Year. The Installation of the 2021 Officers will follow those presentations. Kim and I want to congratulate Michael Sekera and Lady Abeer, along with the other 2021 officers, and wish them the best year possible considering they will start with the pandemic affecting the first 3-5 months.



As this is my final message as Potentate of El Bekal Shrine, it has been a great honor for Kim and I to serve during the last 6-1/2 years. We had so many fantastic plans for 2020, but unfortunately the pandemic only allowed us 2-1/2 months. Those months were terrific and we had so many wonderful events that we will always remember. We want to again thank those that were in charge of the events that we did manage to have. We want to thank the 2020 officers, the Past Potentates and Past First Ladies for their support during the year. And we also want to thank all the nobles and their ladies who consistently consoled us for the disappointing year that we had, and their undying support to us. We want to wish all of the nobles and ladies of El Bekal a healthy and prosperous 2021. We love all of you. Please put August 28, 2021 on your calendar for the 2020 Pandemic Potentates Gala. The clubs and units that did not get an opportunity to have their POV will have a chance to make any presentations to us during the gala and your gifts will be presented. We will be honoring our Past First Ladies, we will present them with their gifts, and look forward to their skit and charm presentation to Kim. We will also be honoring any of our 2020 counterparts who can attend, many of whom were also unable to hold events during their year. It will be at our Shrine Center and will be a big party. Details will be available once we are allowed to start having events again. Thank you again for the honor of being Potentate and First Lady of this wonderful El Bekal Shrine.

**Merritt and Kim Read  
Potentate and First Lady**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF RABBAN

---



Nobles and Ladies,

My wife Abeer and I hope that you are able to spend time with your loved ones and have a wonderful Holiday Season. Be sure to call your family and friends or even set up a Zoom meeting for your Club, your Unit or group of friends if you cannot see certain family members in person. Having a fun virtual gathering as a family or even a group of people is a good way to stay in touch as well.

COVID continues to have a large effect on all of us this year. We are looking forward to 2021 being Covid-free and getting our El Bekal Clubs, Units, Parades and events back in the swing of things with Fun and Philanthropy as our focus.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your efforts to maintain an active role in our great fraternity. I understand during these times that it is difficult to enjoy being a Shriner as much as you have in the past, but it is important that we stay in communication, supporting one another and our cause. It is also important that we continue in our fund-raising efforts. The Medical Center and El Bekal need your support.

I would like to ask all Nobles, as we go through this pandemic, that you call and check in on others. This time of the year can be hard for some, and with the added stress of the pandemic, we want to make sure that we all are staying strong and healthy and that we can be there when someone wants to talk or needs help.

Hopefully, 2021 will be a vast improvement over 2020. I am hoping that a vaccination for the Covid-19 virus will soon be available and safe so that we can open our building.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> we had a special meeting on changes in our by-laws. We were:

## **§4.3 Election and Appointment**

**(c) For the office of Recorder or Treasurer. The noble must be a member of El Bekal Shrine for no less than 3 years;**

**(d) For the Divan. A noble must be a member of Shriners International for no less than 3 years;**

That night the Nobles of El Bekal Shrine voted to accept the by-law changes by a 2/3 margin. In closing, we are not out of the woods yet with the Covid-19 pandemic. Please be mindful of others and keep practicing social distancing per the State of California and the CDC.

Stay safe and see you soon.

Michael Sekera – Chief Rabban

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PLEASE KEEP UP WITH ALL THE EVENTS AND  
CHANGES GOING ON AT EL BEKAL  
SEE THE CALENDER AND THE ELBEKALEN AT:  
ELBEKAL.COM

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## 2021 POTENTATES TRIP

**Chief Rabban Michael Sekera & Lady Aberer  
Invite the El Bekal Shrine Family & Friends**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> – August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**There will be events for everyone:**

### **On Koloa, Kaua’I**

Luau Kalamaku

### **On Wailea-Makena, Maui**

Tour Iao Valley & Visit Lahaina Town

### **On Waikiki, Oahu**

Tour Pearl Harbor, USS AZ Memorial, USS Missouri and see National Cemetery of the Pacific  
Visit Shriners Hospital

### **Optional Events**

Golf: Poipu Bay

Golf: Princeville Makai

Golf: Wailea Golf Club Gold Course

Golf: Plantation Course Kapalua Golf Club

Sport Fishing

Sunset Haleakala

Seed to Cup Gourmet Lunch Tour & Lavender Farm

Road to Hana

Sailing/Snorkel Adventure

Kauai Movie Tour

Waimea Canyon & Smith’s Grotto

Hanalei for the day

### **Included Also**

Breakfast Daily

Resort Fee’s

Airport Transfers

Flight Kauai - Maui

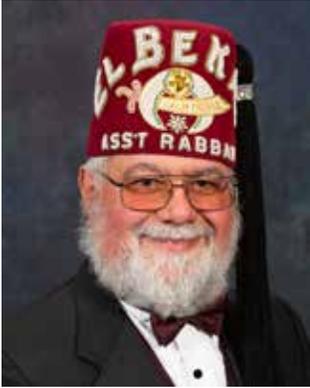
Flight Maui - Honolulu

R/T Portorage



# MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT RABBAN

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Greetings Nobles!

It's a whole new year and we can bid goodbye to 2020. It's been an unusually trying term for Illustrious Sir Merritt Reid, and he deserves a full amount of thanks and congratulations for dealing with these turbulent situations. Hopefully we can say goodbye to all the craziness of 2020 and start having events again. I remain guardedly hopeful about that. Remember that, no matter how cynical some people can be, humans always tend towards optimism. The old adage "it's darkest just before the dawn" reminds us to have hope even when things are at the worst. Little Orphan Annie sings "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow" to bolster her optimism. Even Dante's "All Hope Abandon, Ye Who Enter Here" had its exceptions that Dante himself

benefited from. So while we might be holding our breath for a while, spring is only a few weeks away and so is the possibility of better times. Like the old poster of the kitten clinging to a tree branch says: "Hang in there, baby!"

It's also time to choose new officers for the Divan. This is my last message as Assistant Rabban and I thank all the Nobles for choosing me to serve in this important office during the past year. I'm throwing my hat into the ring for the office of Chief Rabban. Er, wait a second, that would mean throwing my Fez and I'm not going to do that. Despite my humor, running our Shrine is a serious business and I hope every Noble joins with me in supporting our Shrine and our new Potentate and the Divan over the course of the 2021 Shrine year.

To 2021, may better times be here soon!

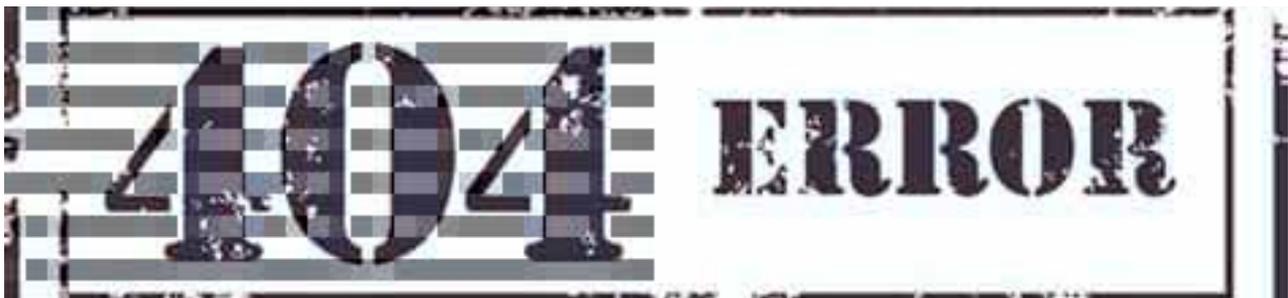
-Al Turek

Assistant Rabban

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# 2021

LOADING...



# MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH PRIEST & PROPHET

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

Can you believe that we have lived through this crazy year? Some has fared better than others but we are all in this together. Adapting to the new rules has been hard. Decreasing economic stability, practicing social distancing, and remaining cloistered with loved ones for weeks on end has taught us many lessons in our repertoire of social skills--- yet ones as which we as Freemasons have long been enjoined to practice. I refer to the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity and the cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice inculcated in Freemasonry. For sure we as Freemasons may be at the vanguard in supporting a “new normal in the days to come”.

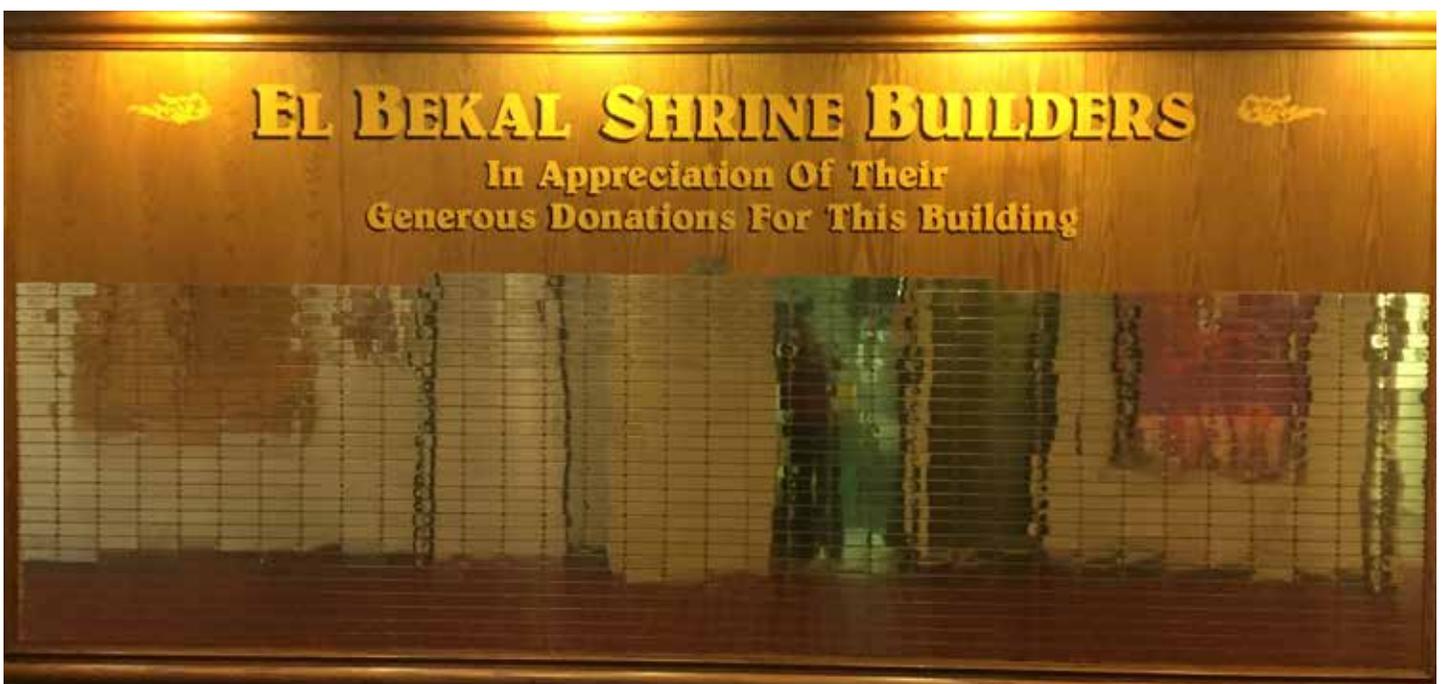
Here I look at the virtue of prudence. In what is not ciphered, we learn that prudence “teaches us to regulate our lives and actions agreeably to the dictates of reason”. Note the phrase does not ask us to act “reasonably” so much as according to the dictates of “reason.” Reason requires discernment. In effect, it requires us to examine what is around us, “judge wisely,” and make choices in thought and action which should ensure our present as well as our future happiness. Our ritual goes on to make a curious comment: “this virtue should be your peculiar (special) characteristic”.

Think about this virtue. Are we living within it’s dictates? Do we actually make our daily decisions on reason? Or do we just do what is “reasonable”? BIG difference. Masonry teaches us to think. So please go back and study the four cardinal virtues with an expanded and enlightened mind. These are written out in English and can be shared. Please share them with your family. You may be surprised at their input and encouragement to change the entire family’s lives!

The degree work of Freemasonry, with it’s focus on this charitable notion of prudence, has within it the potential to create the perfect leaders for a “new normal” and a more just, compassionate world to emerge.

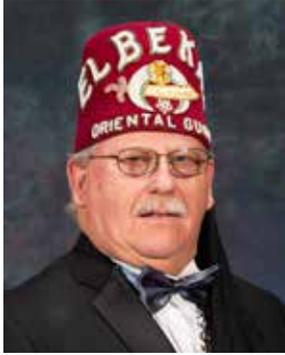
Bella and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in person. We all miss our Masonic family. Our heartfelt love to all!

Jim Ridley/Bella



# MESSAGE FROM THE ORIENTAL GUIDE

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As I sit down to write this article I can't believe that Christmas is almost here and it looks like this will be a Christmas unlike any others that we have seen before. Will there be Christmas parties? Will there be caroling? Will there be Christmas shopping in stores or will it all be online? There are just so many questions and so much unknown.

I have to take these changes in the positive and hope that this extra time allows us to not be as stressed through this busy season and allow us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

One of my favorite seasonal movies is *It's A Wonderful Life*. I'm sure many of you have seen it, with lead star Jimmy Stewart. It's a great reminder that we can all make a difference in the lives of others. We need not demean our lives in any way, because our God can use each one of us to make a difference in others. God can use us to improve the world around us as we let our God enter the lives of others.

Christmas brings to the forefront the wonderful life that our Savior led while here on earth. There has never been or ever will be a more wonderful life than Jesus. God sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus showed us how much God loves us by sacrificing His own Son that, by believing in Him, we may have life everlasting.

One of my other favorite activities of this season is joining in the music. There are so many wonderful Christmas hymns and carols that enlighten and brighten our Christmas. Music is the language of the soul. It allows us to join the mighty chorus that filled the sky the night Jesus was born. We can truly be "angels" as we sing the Christmas carols and worship the one who was born King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let us give glory to God in the highest, and may there be peace and goodwill among all the peoples of the earth. Let us each receive God's greatest gift: his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and may this be the merriest Christmas of all.

Fraternally,

Tom Thomas

(562) 618-4714

TomHoytAuto@aol.com

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**WELCOME**



**NEW NOBLES**



**INVITE THEM TO  
JOIN YOUR  
UNIT OR CLUB**

# MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST CM

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## Member's Bio running for the office of Oriental Guide

Nobles,

I am officially putting my Fez in the ring to run for Oriental Guide for the upcoming Shrine year. Many of you know me already, but for those of you who don't, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Andy Prutsman. I was raised a Master Mason in Cornerstone Lodge No 659 on April 16, 2014. I have been a Shriner for 5 years. I have served this Shrine as 1st Ceremonial Master this year and have been in charge of the Super Bowl and College National Championship parties this year. I have served my Lodge as an officer, beginning the year that I was raised. I have served on many Lodge committees, including the Sweethearts Tea, Member Retention, and Building Association. I am currently the sitting Master of Cornerstone Lodge. My goal as Master this year has been to foster relationships in our Lodge and to just have a great time. I believe that my Lodge has been successful in this, including having tailgate parties and spending time with our families together, and that it is something that I can contribute to El Bekal as well.

While I have always enjoyed my time in my Lodge, I have also been a member of the York Rite bodies. I have served in several roles in the Commandery and Royal Arch. I am a twice Past Commander and Past High Priest. I had the honor of being appointed as the Grand Warder for California Grand Commandery in 2017. I am currently the inspector of Department II and am the treasurer of my Commandery and Council. I have been honored with the Knight Commander of the Temple award as well.

On a personal note, I have been married to my amazing wife, Mary Ann, for 11 years and we have two wonderful children, Nathan (10) and Emma (5), who you have probably seen running barefoot at Shrine events this year. Mary Ann is a Past Honored Queen of Bethel 224 Whittier and she also held many offices and is a majority member of Bethel 333 La Habra. I was not raised in a Masonic family, but I married in to an extremely Masonic family. Most of you know that my father-in-law is Tom Thomas, our current Oriental Guide, and he has been a Mason for 36 years. Both of my grandfather-in-laws have been Master Masons for over 50 years. I have seen the strong ties to Masonry and knew that I wanted to be part of this great brotherhood. I have never regretted that decision. As I have battled cancer over the last few months, my Lodge brothers have supported me at every step. Since they cannot be physically with me, they have sent cards, gifts, food, and prayers. I didn't join Masonry for what it would give me, but I have certainly been blessed by it.

I am a Journeyman Lineman and am currently an Apparatus Technician for Southern California Edison. I have worked in the trade since 2007 and have been blessed by the life that it has provided for my family. As a family we enjoy camping, dirt bike riding, spending time at the river on our boat, and going to Disneyland, when we aren't in a global pandemic!

Thank you for your consideration,

Andy Prutsman



# El Bekal Stated Meeting, Election and Installation of Officers

Annual Meeting Program  
Honoring  
III Merritt Read and First Lady Kim

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular schedule ANNUAL MEETING of El Bekal Shrine will be held on January 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM Via ZOOM. This is a tiled meeting

Must pre-register for Stated Meeting and Elections  
**Registration must be must by December 23, 2020**

Email Coy Love at [Recorder@elbekalshrine.com](mailto:Recorder@elbekalshrine.com)

A ZOOM link will be sent to you.

Please wear your FEZ

Business to be conducted will include voting on all petitions received since our last Stated Meeting and adjustments to our Shrine budget and other business that shall come before the Nobility.  
Annual Elections, No business shall come before the Nobility after the Elections.

Fraternally, Merritt Read  
Potentate

Attest: Coy Love  
Recorder

At 3:30 PM after the Business meeting we will have the Installation of Officers and Awards for 2020

Installation of Officers is open to all that want to join.

You can find the ZOOM link at [elbekal.com](http://elbekal.com) and see the calendar

<http://www.elbekal.com/index.php/calendar>



## Form for In & Out 2021 must be made by Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

For Lady Kim's gold Wheelchair Charm \$ 8.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit/Club affiliated: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel #:( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) CVV ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

Send checks and this form to: El Bekal Shrine 1320 S. Sanderson Ave. Anaheim, CA 92806 Memo: 2021 In & Out

At 3:30 PM after the Business meeting we will have the  
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Installation of Officers is open to all that want to join.  
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<http://www.elbekal.com/index.php/calendar>

El Bekal Shrine Center

1320 S Sanderson Ave

Anaheim, CA 92806

714-563-9111

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**SPECIAL NOTICE**  
**EL BEKAL ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS**  
**AND IN-AND-OUT**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
**YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED TO ATTEND**

The Executive Board of El Bekal Shrine, along with Shriners International, have approved a zoom meeting for El Bekal's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, January 9. This will be a tiled meeting and only El Bekal members with a 2021 dues card may attend. We ask each member to be cautious that no outsiders be allowed to participate in the meeting.

In order to expedite the check-in process and to facilitate any roll call votes that may be required, it will be necessary for members to pre-register.

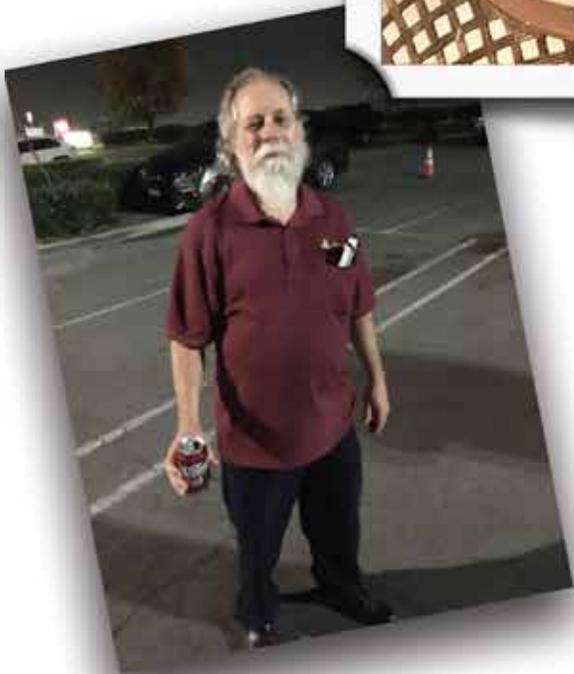
**Pre-registration may be done until Noon on January 8 through the Recorder by email only at**

[recorder@elbekalshrine.com](mailto:recorder@elbekalshrine.com). When pre-registering, please verify your email address so that the link for the meeting can be sent to you prior to the meeting. We ask that the link for the meeting be shared only by the Treasurer, who is the host of the meeting and will verify the attendees. Please log in before the start of the meeting. The meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 PM and **logging onto the link will be available from 1:30 PM - 1:55 PM.**

The meeting cannot be recorded or retransmitted. The attire is casual, and a fez is recommended.

Note: the host will have control of the meeting. All will be muted and unmuted by the host. If you have any questions or comments, you can CHAT with the host to notify him of what you need.

After the meeting, the In-and-Out portion will begin. This will include presentations to the First Lady, presentations by the Potentate and the Installation of the new officers. This portion will be open to everyone.





# New Noble Fezing



Nobles attending the official fezzing of our new members included Chuck Wilson, Donald Payne, Potentate Merritt Read, Marius Popa and photographer Edwin Calayag.



Noble Chuck Wilson presents El Bekal etched glass cubes to our new Nobles Donald Payne and Marius Popa.

**New Noble Donald Payne was fezed by his wife Judy and congratulated by Potentate Merritt Read.**



**New Noble Marius Popa was fezed by First Lady Kim Read and congratulated by Potentate Merritt Read.**

# SCMC Christmas Toy Drive

On December 9th the High Priestess of El Tanya Court LOS Shari Dodds, her husband Doc, El Bekal Potentate Merritt Read and First Lady Kim traveled to Pasadena to deliver the toys from our combined Toy Drive. El Bekal had 120 toys and El Tanya had 172. What a great effort by the members of both organizations. We want to thank all the members who contributed either toys or money that we used to purchase toys. We are positive that our fabulous Shriners Kids will appreciate them, especially during this pandemic.





**DC - 1**

**Formal**

**Men** - Tux

**Women** - Dresses

Ordering outfits  
Call Mike Sekera  
951 - 265 - 7717

**2021**

**El Bekal**

**Outfits**

Theme events  
Wear theme  
outfits (optional)



**DC - 2**

**Smart Casual**

**Men** - Black Suit,  
white shirt with  
Potentate's tie.

**Women** - Red Scarf  
with silver tree of life  
print with black shirt  
& black pants or  
skirt.

Wear to POV'S



**DC - 3**

**Shrine Casual**

**Men** - Red embroidered shirt with  
black pants.

**Women** - Red embroidered shirt  
with black pants or skirt.

Wear to parades, hospital visit and  
any other functions



El Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND INITIATION INTO EL BEKAL SHRINE  
1320 So. Sanderson Ave. Anaheim, CA 92806 (714) 563-9111**

To the Illustrious Potentate, Officers and Nobles of El Bekal Shriners International, situated in the Oasis of Anaheim, Desert of California. I the undersigned hereby declare that I am a Master Mason in good standing in

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ located  
at \_\_\_\_\_

Furthermore, I do not now and never will hold membership in or allegiance to anybody claiming to be a Master Mason that has been declared clandestine; that I have resided within the jurisdiction of your Shrine, or unoccupied territory, not less than 6 months, as required by the bylaws of The Imperial Council and that I am not under suspension or expulsion in the prerequisite body to this Order, and respectfully pray that I may be made a member of your Shrine. If I be found worthy, and my request granted, I promise to conform to the articles of Incorporation and the bylaws of the Imperial Council and the bylaws and Ceremonies of your Shrine.

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Res  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Bus  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
If retired, list former occupation \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's name \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously applied for admission to this or any other Shrine Temple? \_\_\_\_\_ If so which  
Shrine \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number & Street, City, State, Zip**

Business \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number & Street, City, State, Zip**

Mail  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Hat Size \_\_\_\_\_

Print name in full : \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

If elected the signing of this petition constitutes the signing of the bylaws of El Bekal Shrine and Shriners International Recommended and vouched for on the Honor of (both must sign and must be members of El Bekal Shrine).

Noble \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name Address Zip Phone Blue Lodge Card #

Noble \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name Address Zip Phone Blue Lodge Card #

Credit, Unit Club: \_\_\_\_\_

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# JAMES R. "JIM" SMITH ELECTED IMPERIAL POTENTATE

A Ben Hur Shriner Will Lead the Fraternity  
for the 2020-2021 Imperial Year

★ James R. "Jim" Smith of Georgetown, Texas, was elected Imperial Potentate, part of the 12-member body that helps govern the Shriners fraternity, in Tampa, Florida, on July 11, 2020. He is serving his 10th year as a member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Smith became a member of the Imperial line to make a difference. "I really thought I could help," he said. "We need to strengthen the temples and ensure they are places where people want to go, and are welcomed. We have to make it attractive to join. To put it in business terms, we need to offer a better product."

## His Masonic Journey

Smith became a Mason on Feb. 13, 1999, and a Shriner in 2004. He joined the fraternity as a way to acknowledge and give back to the organizations that assisted a nephew who had orthopaedic difficulties, and received care at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Chicago throughout his childhood.

Smith joined Zor Shriners in Madison, Wisconsin. When the family moved to Georgetown, Texas, he joined Ben Hur Shriners in Austin where he participated in the Provost Guard and helped transport children to and from the Texas Shriners Hospitals. He also was a member of the Board of Governors for the Houston Shriners Hospital.

In 2009, Smith served as Potentate of Ben Hur Shriners. That year, the temple had a balanced budget for the first time in many years and was awarded a Gold Membership Award for a net gain in membership. It was the first time Ben Hur Shriners had achieved gold status in 38 years.

## Fun and Fellowship

Smith believes the fraternity needs to emphasize and focus on its original purpose of bringing fun and fellowship to a Masonic organization.

"When the Shriners fraternity started in 1872, its purpose was fun and fellowship," said Smith. "We did well with that — but we've lost our focus. As Imperial Potentate, I will try to put Fun and Fellowship back in the fraternity."

Smith has established a Fun and Fellowship Council to help find ways for "Nobles and ladies to have a good time"



Finding that "better product," and promoting it effectively, will positively impact the fraternity's membership numbers and future, which is critically important to the Shriners organization, Smith said.

## Family, Faith and Education

A native of Racine, Wisconsin, Smith spent his childhood summers on his father's family farm. "I really enjoyed that time. It was a great way to be raised," he said.

Growing up, the importance of family and faith were deeply instilled — to this day, he continues to uphold the conservative values and Lutheran faith of his family.

Smith received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin. He studied for his MBA at the Keller School of Management in Chicago.

## The Smith Family

Mary Lou Jones and Alice Smith shared a classroom when both were young teachers. Her husband, Bob Jones, was a friend of Jim Smith and arranged a blind date to bring the future Mr. and Mrs. Smith together. Jim and Alice were married 10 months later in Alice's hometown of Kilkenny, Minnesota, and celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary in August.

As Jim's career with a conveyor systems company progressed, the family moved quite often, mostly to various cities in Wisconsin and Minnesota, but they also spent time in Illinois and on the East Coast. Eventually, they purchased a fuel company in Phillips, Wisconsin, which was their last move before retiring to Georgetown, Texas.

The Smiths have a son, Jason, and a daughter, Abby, and five grandchildren. The fraternal tradition will continue in the Smith family for at least the next generation — both Jason and Abby's husband, Greg, are Shriners.

# FIRST LADY ALICE SMITH'S FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

*Rising Stars* Helps Patients Discover Their Potential

We are all proud of Shriners Hospitals for Children's commitment to providing wrap-around care — maintaining a family-centered approach and caring for our patients' overall health and well-being.

This can mean different things for different patients. It can include finding ways to help them play with their friends, enhance their education, enjoy a hobby and live more independently.

"For many children, reaching their goals is often possible, but they may need to approach them in a different way," said First Lady Alice Smith. "Sometimes an assistive device can make all the difference. In my program, *Rising Stars*, I want to highlight the ways that Shriners Hospitals help kids realize their potential by providing assistive devices and other support."

## Treating Unique Needs

For some kids, independence means that they want to be able to feed or dress themselves. Shriners Hospitals therapists help with that by evaluating each patient individually and working to find or create a custom tool, such as cutlery for persons with a hand or limb difference or devices to assist with dressing or grooming for persons with limited use of upper extremities.

Other assistive devices are mobility aids, such as crutches, walkers and wheelchairs that help patients learn to walk or regain that ability and to move about independently. There are also computer-driven augmentations to help those with speech and communication difficulties.

## Integrating Technology

We also use assistive technology in our therapy programs, through the availability of various systems such as body weight supported gait training and functional electrical stimulation bikes. To help patients enjoy a higher quality of life, we also provide, or make families aware of, adaptive recreation opportunities and items to provide additional kid-friendly mobility, such as adaptive toy cars or bikes.



"We all want our children to be happy and successful," said First Lady Alice. "I want to help our patients move from the Shriners Hospitals system to successful, independent adult lives."

## Women Working Together

Women have always encouraged others and influenced change in society. Today, women have a greater opportunity than ever to support the work that they hold dear.

As First Lady of Shriners International, Lady Alice is pleased to support *Women & Philanthropy*, which is now in its second year. Membership is open to women of all ages and backgrounds. The only criteria are having a heartfelt desire to make the world a better place and a passion to improve the lives of children. *Women & Philanthropy* will support First Lady Alice's *Rising Stars* program.

First Lady Alice invites all women, including those who are Shriners Hospitals for Children physicians, nurses, therapists, administrators, vice presidents, members or volunteers, as well as women worldwide who support the life-changing work of Shriners Hospitals for Children — to join this mission-driven community by committing to an annual gift of \$500. Membership includes a commemorative necklace, collectible pin, special event invitations and other opportunities.



To learn more, please visit [lovetotherescue.org/first-lady-program](http://lovetotherescue.org/first-lady-program).

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

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Greetings Nobles and ladies of El Bekal,

We have endured this long lasting Pandemic so far. I hope all is hanging in there. One way to stay in touch with each other is to attend some of our ZOOM gathering we have from time to time. The other is to just reach out and call someone and ask how they are doing. Don't let this situation pull us apart, but make it a time to bring us closer together. Also stay current with all changes with the El Bekal Calender for all the latest news and updates on events and Zoom Meetings.

## Some helpful websites

El Bekal: [elbekal.com](http://elbekal.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/elbekalshrine/](https://facebook.com/elbekalshrine/)

Imp. Shrine: [ShrinersVillage.com](http://ShrinersVillage.com) (Need membership No. to join)

Membership: [webfez.shrinenet.org/](http://webfez.shrinenet.org/) (Need membership No. to join)

2021 Imp Session: <https://imperialsession.com>

WSA: <http://www.westernshrine.org>

Orange County Coronavirus update: <https://coronavirus.egovoc.com>

California Coronavirus update: <https://covid19.ca.gov>

Please stay safe and we will see you soon.

Larry Griffin P.P. / Treasure / Editor of El Bekalan / IT Dept.

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### A SIMPLE NOTE:

Nobles, it has been trying times in the last few months with the pandemic that is hanging over our heads. How many times have we heard "give your friend a call or drop them a note"? On a quiet afternoon I sent a Brother an E-mail (a brother that I have not seen for an age, a brother who is restricted to home because of health issues). It took a couple of days for his answer. It was amazing on what he had to say, that I was the first one he has heard from in the Lodge in a while. This took me by surprise, I did not think that a simple message would mean so much to anyone.

You could send someone a simple note or card to see how they are doing; you'll be amazed at how your message will be received. That person will answer you, try it, it will do your heart good especially the heart of the person receiving your message.

In life, probably tomorrow might be too late for that message that you were meaning to send.

In Faith, Don Leger, P.P.



If you are located in the South Orange County area and looking for a connection to the Shrine, may we suggest you consider South Coast Shrine Club, “The Host of the Coast”. South Coast was chartered in 1954 and is under the jurisdiction of **El Bekal** Shrine Center. We are a group of Shrine Masons, Ladies, Honored Ladies and friends from a number of jurisdictions around the world who enjoy each other’s company, good food, fellowship and our dedication to Shriners International & Shriners Hospitals for Children. We also have an active group of ladies who are an important part of our Club. We have several social events outside our dinner meetings such as theater parties, trips and our Italian Night & Potentate’s Visitation party.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday night of each month at Polly’s Pies, Moulton Parkway & Santa Maria, in Laguna Hills. Social time is at 6:00 PM with a no-host social hour before that we refer to as, “lies and old war stories time” followed by dinner. We order from the standard menu and pay our own checks. Reservations are suggested to assure correct seating set up. The location is convenient, the food and service good and the fellowship warm and friendly.

We distribute our newsletter (Bulletin) monthly and offer you the opportunity to visit and/or join our group. There will be no pressure or solicitation. While we welcome you to our meetings, the decision to affiliate with South Coast is entirely a matter of your personal choice. It is the Brotherhood of other Shriners and Ladies that we offer, with no strings attached.

If you think you would like to join us, we’d be glad to see you. If you have any questions, or need further details or directions, please feel free to contact me directly at 949/584-9716 or at: [southcoastshrine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:southcoastshrine@sbcglobal.net). We would be proud to have you associate with us. We welcome the opportunity to extend to you the hand of Shrine Fellowship. You are always WELCOME at South Coast.

Fraternally,  
**Chuck Wilson**, Bulletin Editor

### Some helpful websites

- El Bekal: [elbekal.com](http://elbekal.com)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/elbekalshrine/](https://facebook.com/elbekalshrine/)
- [ShrinersVillage.com](http://ShrinersVillage.com) (Need membership No. to join)
- [beashrinernow.com](http://beashrinernow.com)
- [webfez.shrinenet.org/](http://webfez.shrinenet.org/) (Need membership No. to join)
- [webfez.shrinenet.org/referral](http://webfez.shrinenet.org/referral)
- [shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org)
- 2021 Imp Session: <https://imperialsession.com>
- WSA: [westernshrine.org](http://westernshrine.org)



Hi Noble, looking for a place for lunch ? May we suggest Valencia Shrine Club ?

If you’re looking for a place to connect with other Nobles of El Bekal and Shriners International, look no further than Valencia Shrine Club. We meet every Thursday for lunch and social communication, otherwise referred to in some places as ‘Lies, exaggerations & old war stories’.

We gather at the Garden Grove Elks Club on Trask & Newhope in Garden Grove every Thursday for an 11:30 Social time followed by lunch, ordered from the menu, and fellowship with Brother Nobles and guests.

On month’s with 5 Thursdays, or about quarterly, we conduct our special Lady’s Day program inviting our Ladies, Honored Ladies, significant others and guests. We offer a special meal and program with live entertainment designed for the enjoyment of all. However, on Lady’s Day reservations are a MUST.

So, stop by for a visit. No reservation required, the first lunch is on the Club and we just love company, especially Nobles.

# JUST ONE

# JAN 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>
					Happy New Year	
<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>
						El Bekal In and Out
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
	College National Championship					
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
POV Oasis Patrol Ali Baba Nomads						East/West Shrine Game
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

Stay on top of what is happening at El Bekal  
 Go to [Elbekal.com](http://Elbekal.com) for the most current updates and any changes  
 on the calendar

# FEB

# 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Super Bowl Sunday		Divan Meeting			Indio Weekend	Ceremonial Sons of the Desert POV DC3
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
Date Shrine Club POV	Indio Parade CANCELLED					
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
Sweetheart Brunch						
<b>28</b>						

Stay on top of what is happening at El Bekal

Go to [Elbekal.com](http://Elbekal.com) for the most current updates and any changes on the calendar

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(714) 891-1482

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9 W. Woodward Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91801  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Monday  
(626) 281-7950

Artesia Sunrise #377  
11531 187th St.  
Artesia, CA 90701  
Stated Mtg. 2nd Thurs

Bellflower #320  
9813 Beach St.  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Tues  
(562) 866-4953

Blyth-Needles #473  
100 Murphy St.  
Blyth, CA 92225  
Stated Mtg. 1st Wed  
(760) 922-9253

Coachella #476  
51100 Jackson St.  
Coachella, CA 92236  
Stated Mtg. 1st Thur.  
(760) 398-5157

Cornerstone #659  
1701 W. La Habra Blvd.  
La Habra, CA 90631  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Wed.  
(562) 691-1476

Gateway #339  
500 E. Imperial Hwy.  
Brea, CA 92821  
Stated Mtg. 1st Tues  
(714) 256-1452

Downey United #220  
8244 Third St.  
Downey, CA 90241  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
(562) 862-4176

Evergreen #259  
5801 Chicago Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92821  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Wed  
PO Box 56564  
(909) 261-9134

Fontana #653  
16650 Arrow Blvd.  
Fontana, CA 92335  
Stated Mtg 1st Mon.  
(909) 730-3571

Garden Grove #351  
11270 Acacia Pky.  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
Stated Mtg. 1st Tues.  
(714) 636-3112

Golden Trowel Norwalk  
273  
12345 Rosecrans Ave.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
Stated Mtg. 2nd Thur  
(562) 863-9101

Granada Hills #378  
16535 Rinald St.  
Granada Hills, CA 91340  
Stated Mtg. 1st Wed.  
(818) 233-0378

Hemet San Jacinto  
#338  
150 Laursen St.  
Hemet, CA 92543  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Tues.  
(951) 925-1417

Huntington Beach #380  
601 Palm Ave.  
Huntington Beach, CA  
92648  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Wed.  
(714) 536-3119

Int. City Lodge #389  
5155 E. PCH  
Long Beach, 90804  
Stated Mtg. 1st Thrs.  
(714)322-8003

Irvine Valley #671  
23685 Birtcher Dr.  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
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(949) 357-0671

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5918 E. Parkcrest St.  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
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Long Beach #327  
3610 Locust Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
(562) 427-0821

Menifee Valley #289  
27221 McCall Blvd.  
Menifee, CA 92586  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
(951) 679-9493

Newport Mesa #604  
1401 E. 15th. St.  
Newport Beach, CA  
92663  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Wed.  
(949) 294-4309

Orange Grove #293  
71 Plaza Sq.  
Orange, CA 92866  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Tues.  
(714) 538-1443

Riverside #635  
6785 Palm Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92516  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
Riversidelodge635.com  
(951) 530-8059

Saddleback Laguna #672  
23685 Birtcher Dr.  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
(949) 458-5750

Solomon's Staircase #357  
6841 Western Ave.  
Buena Park, CA 90621  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
(714) 994-1822

Temescal Palms #314  
2313 Main St.  
Corona, CA 92882  
Stated Mtg. 1st Tues.  
(951) 737-2013

Temecula -  
Catalina lodge #524  
27895 Diaz Rd.  
Temecula, CA 92590  
(951) 695-0811

Tustin #241  
397 El Camino Real  
Tustin, CA 92780  
Stated Mtg. 1st Thurs.  
(714) 832-0691

Veritas Lodge #855  
24642 San Juan Ave.  
Dana Point, CA 92629  
Stated Mtg. 2nd Thurs.  
(949) 441-0357

Yorba Linda #469  
4847 Main St.  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886  
Stated Mtg. 1st. Thurs.  
(714) 758-5954

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**When: Every Thursday**

**Where: Garden Grove Elks Lodge**  
 11551 Trask Ave, Garden Grove

**Social: (in the bar): 11:15 AM**

**Buffet Lunch: 12:00 PM**

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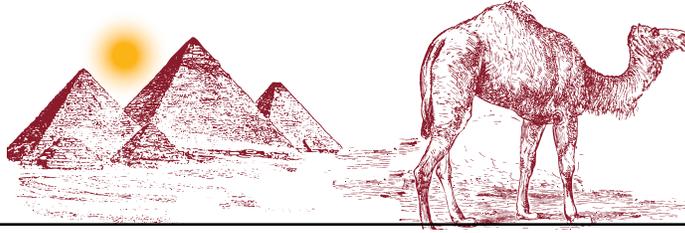
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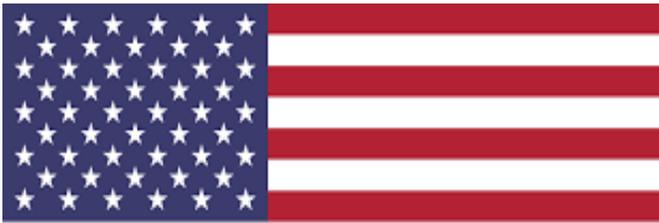
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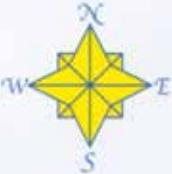
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## PAST POTENTATES

* Cedric S. Perry	1952
* Francis H. Gentry	1953
* Robert R. Ruchti	1954
* Oakley K. Morton	1955
* W. Blair Gibbens	1956
* Edward M. Humes	1957
* Cecil L. Fulcher	1958
* Robert H. Webb	1959
* George F. Thagard, Sr.	1960
* James Munholland	1961
* Ralph E. Barnes	1962
* Jessie M. Allen	1963
* Roy T. Reynolds (Lucille)	1964
* Leroy H. Crager	1965
* Roy A. Hopkins	1966
* Louis J. Anfinson	1967
* J.S. Scotty Finlay	1968
* J. Dick Sisemore	1969
* Archie Lloyd	1970
* C.R. Jerry Johnson	1971
* Howard L. Thorp	1972
* Kirby C. Serles	1973
* Robert R. Ruchti II (Diana)	1974
* Max G. Miller (Jean)	1975
* Henry W. Eilers	1976
* Ralph C. Bryson (Edie)	1977
* Richard E. Hixson	1978
* Junior V. Lewis	1979
* David B. Slayton	1980
* Preston M. Jones	1981
* Ray G. Thagard, Sr. (Gayle)	1982
* Louis Andreatta	1983
* T.D. "Ted" Grinager (Erna)	1984
* Steve Gallina	1985
* Fred Sorsabal (Marlene)	1986
* Harold E. Sievers	1987
* S.K. Stu Rothchild	1988
* George Royce	1989
* Fred Gutierrez (Marie)	1990
* Robert Lash (Donna)	1991
* William Pherrin	1992
* J. Floyd Price	1993
* Donald A. Nielsen (Sally)	1994
* Leo Sutliff	1995
* Richard O. Hughes	1996
* Max Hiles	1997
* Don Eyer (Joan)	1998
* Joe Pendergast (Mollie)	1999
* Ken Jahr (Nancy)	2000
* Bill McIntosh (Lynne)	2001
* Art Menzel	2002
* Ray Biggerstaff	2003
* David P. Suehs (Jo Anne)	2004
* Donald K. Sorsabal	2005
* Ron Schemm, MD (Barbara)	2006
* William Salpaka (Virginia)	2007
* William "Bill" Roland (Kay)	2008
* Coy Love (Margaret)	2009
* Gary Hooper (Sharon)	2010
* John Rider (Barbara)	2011
* Bill Sizemore (Lynda)	2012
* George R. Boyd (Mary)	2013
* Roger Ross (Lynn)	2014
* John Kahvedjian (Rosie)	2015
* Donald A. Leger (Gloria)	2016
* Carl G. Spalin (Fran)	2017
* Larry Griffin (Cheryl)	2018
* Mike Selix (Michelle)	2019

### Associate Past Potentate

\* Hans Lindquist, Nile (Priscilla) 1998

EL BEKAL SHRINE CENTER  
Shrine International  
1320 S. Sanderson Ave.  
Anaheim, CA 92806

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# JANUARY 2021

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

***We would appreciate your cooperation when writing checks.***

Donations to the Shriners Medical Center & \$100 MILLION CLUB should be made out to: **Shriners for Children Medical Center**

Donations to the: TRANSPORTATION FUND should be made to:  
**EI Bekal Patient Transportation Fund**

Donations to the BUILDING or the I REMEMBER FUND should be made to:  
**EI Bekal Shrine Building Fund**

Donations for EL BEKALAN SUPPORTERS should be made out to:  
**EI Bekal Shrine c/o EI Bekalan Supporters**

Donations to the EL BEKAL PARKING LOT should be made out to:  
**EI Bekal Parking Lot Maintenance Fund**

*Payment for Dues, Reservations, Fund Raisers, Etc. should be made to:*  
**EI Bekal Shrine**

## EL BEKAL ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

Saturday, January 9th, 2021

ZOOM 2:00 PM

**Must pre register to attend Meeting.**

Meeting 2:00 pm

Reservations must be in by Friday, January 8th, 2021

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS**

*Hosted by EI Bekal Shrine*

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** That the Annual Meeting of EI Bekal Shrine Temple will be held on Saturday, January 9th, 2021, 2:00 pm VIA ZOOM. Business to be conducted will include voting on petitions received since our last stated meeting and such other business as shall come before the Nobility. Elections & Voting of the 2021 Officers. 2021 Installation of officers.

YOUR FEZ & 2021 DUES CARD REQUIRED

Fraternally,  
Ill. Merritt Read  
Potentate

Attest,  
Coy Love, P.P.  
Recorder