

The Arabian

The Official Publication of Arabia Temple

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Rick Peña (Naomi).....Potentate
Ralph "Corky" Bynum (Ruthann).....Chief Rabban
Eddie O. Reed (Marty) Assistant Rabban
Bobby Hyde (Jamie) High Priest and Prophet
Ben LaBlanc Alyssa) Oriental Guide
Dennie Jackson (Elaine).....Treasurer
Dale Dickman (Teresa) Recorder

IMPERIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Jerry Gantt, P. P.Past Imperial Potentate
Rick Peña Potentate
Ralph "Corky" Bynum Chief Rabban
Eddie O. Reed Assistant Rabban
Bobby Hyde High Priest & Prophet

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The Arabian Newsletter 2021

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BRAZOS VALLEY Charles Lee 281 636 4193	LAKE HOUSTON Jack Morrison 281 798 3289	SOUTHEAST James Gorden 281 216 8053
BRENHAM Keith Killgore 979 777 8606	MONTGOMERY Jonathan Ramirez 936 232 4551	TOMBALL James Leigh 281 546 6273
COLORADO VALLEY Glenn Leist 361 594 3643	NEW CANEY Joe Melton 281 689 6377	WALLER John McGaughy 281 770 5499
FORT BEND Henry Gonzales 281 799 2045	SAM HOUSTON Michael Dowden 936 662 0327	WESTSIDE David Frishman 281 391 2589

SHRINE UNITS

ALCHEMIST James Fristoe 512 525 9044	DIRECTOR'S STAFF Albert Hyde 832 266 8650	ORIENTAL BAND Camdon Lipe 832 435 0138
ARABIAN KNIGHTS Rene Quinones 713 552 5544	GOLFERS Tony Macias, PP 281 685 5929	PATROL Mike Sevilla 832 434 2228
BOWLERS Rick Gallier 713 829 1957	GREETERS Willie Rodriguez 832 278 5484	PROVOST GUARD David Ashley, PP 281 650 7455
CIRCUS ROUSTABOUTS Dale Dickman 936 581 3347	HOT RODS Paul Weber 713 899 7035	SHENANIGANS Russell Mayfield 281 426 7432
CLOWN JEWELS Marvin Lutz 713 417 5783	LEGION OF HONOR Alvaro Alvarado 832 701 9989	SPORTSMEN John Calhoun 210 669 8246
	MOTOR CORPS Larris Nolan, PP 281 830 4611	

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE contd. by Illustrious Sir Rick Peña

I'm only a phone call or email away, so call me at 713-545-9204 or email me at (rpena1pasa@aol.com) with any questions that I may be able to help you with. If you call and I can't answer the phone, please leave me a message with your name and a call back number, and I will call you back as soon as I can.

Yours in Faith,
Rick Peña
Potentate
Arabia Shrine



FROM THE CHIEF RABBAN'S SEAT by Noble Corky Bynum

Welcome to 2021! My lady Ruth Ann, and I would like to congratulate Illustrious Sir Rick Pena and First Lady Naomi. We are looking forward to a great year!

Thank you to all of you that have supported Ruth Ann and myself throughout our time on the divan. We appreciate you all. We are looking forward to continuing to serve Arabia as Chief Rabban and Circus Chairman this year. As most of you know by now, we have had to cancel the Arabia Circus at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds for April 21 - April 25, 2021. The Fort Bend Fairgrounds are using their grounds for a Supercenter for Covid vaccinations and testing. My hope is to find another fundraiser that we can support. However, at this point it is very hard to find or book anything not knowing how if / when things will open up for the public to come together. Nevertheless, we will continue to look for opportunities. If anyone has any ideas/thoughts they would like to share with me on how we can raise money to support our Shrine Center and fraternity, please reach out to me via phone 832-816-5681 or email corkybynum@yahoo.com.

We are still delivering shirts that have been ordered and collecting for those. If you ordered one that you have not received, please get with me and we will get it to you. There are a few on back order and a few that were ordered in

December that we are waiting to be ready to pick up. Thanks again for all you do for Arabia. Have a great week!

Yours in faith,
Corky Bynum
Chief Rabban



LOOKING ON AS THE ASSISTANT RABBAN by Noble Eddie O. Reed

First, I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to proceed to the position of Assistant Rabban. You have my wholehearted thanks, and appreciation. I will perform my duties to the best of my abilities. My new responsibilities as Assistant Rabban are units and Clubs. I will be visiting each throughout the year.

Before moving on to 2021 I have one last thing to report for December 2020. On December 19 we were invited to attend the Houston Diesel Christmas Car Show at McCleskey Fair grounds in New Caney. We were asked to collect toys for the Hospital. We loaded our 34 Ft box trailer over half full of toys. The next day they presented a check to the hospital for \$36,000.00. We were not expecting a donation of this magnitude. Many thanks to Houston Diesel Club for their generous donation. The toys collected were taken to the Shriners Hospital in Shreveport. The hospital was in special need for toys for the kids.

2021 The New Beginning

2020 is no more, it is best that we leave it at that and move forward into 2021. With the new year beginning we will be faced with many new challenges and opportunities. We should not worry about the things that we cannot change but rather focus on opportunities where we can make a positive impact for our Philanthropy and our Hospitals. Please continue your CDC recommendations for the Covid19 Virus.

As the Journey Continues,
Eddie O. Reed
Assistant Rabban
Eoreed48@aol.com
713-542-3231

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HIGH PRIEST AND PROPHET

by Noble Bobby Hyde

As we start this new year, I would like to thank the nobility in their support in making me this year's High Priest & Prophet. We are getting ready to kick off the 2021 hospital fundraising year with the 2021 hospital benefit kick off on Sunday Feb. 21. My Lady and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the kick off. Please RSVP if you are attending.

The first fundraiser we are going to have this year is the Willis Chili Cookoff. It will be March 19-20 at the American Legion in Willis. They have supported our hospitals for years and all that is asked is that we have as many nobles as possible there. So with that being said bring the entire family out and enjoy a great time and great food.

We hope to see you at these events.

Bobby Hyde
High Priest & Prophet
rrh03@aol.com
832-244-1756

ORIENTAL GUIDE'S OUTLOOK

by Noble Ben LaBlanc

First, my Lady Alyssa and I would like to start by saying thank you to the Nobility of Arabia Shrine for putting your faith in us, and electing me to serve on the Divan as Oriental Guide for the 2021 year. We are very appreciative and excited to undertake this journey. We will continue to work hard, for the Arabia Nobility and their families, to keep Arabia as one of the premier temples in not only Texas, but all of Shrinedom.

We have already begun working on membership. We have poured hours into learning the ins and outs of membership and Webfez, and will continue to do so as the year progresses. I have been in contact with the membership team, and I feel that we have started off on a strong note already. In the two weeks since election night, we have had four restorations, and will be creating at least three new nobles either at or before the February stated meeting; with more in the works. The membership team is working hard to hit all the area Blue Lodges and to restore any suspended members we can. If you or anyone you know (current, new and future nobles, their ladies or anyone else interested in expanding our organization) is interested in joining the membership team, please reach out to

me at lablanclegacyshriner@gmail.com and I will gladly add you to the team and utilize your skills and contacts.

The last thing I'd like to note this month is that we are working on reintroducing a membership incentive program. We used to have one at Arabia, and we would like to bring it back this year. It will look a little different than in years past, but I think the new plan will excite all the nobility. We haven't quite added the finishing touches as of this writing, but be on the look-out for that in the near future.

Thank you again for your continued support of both my Lady Alyssa and I, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Fraternally,
Ben LaBlanc
Oriental Guide 2021

FROM THE RECORDER

by Noble Dale Dickman

First, I would like to thank everyone for the trust and confidence placed in me and my abilities, following my election as Recorder. I dedicate myself to the Nobility who compromise Arabia Shriners and would ask that we work together to maintain and improve everything about Arabia Shrine.

Second, I would like to extend my personal thanks to my predecessor, John Olivarri, who has demonstrated his commitment to Arabia through service as a Potentate, and Recorder. It's hard sometimes to remember everything he accomplished as the previous years fade, but just consider how hard he worked to begin and grow our ballroom rental program. Thanks as well to Grace for her selfless service in so many areas.

Just a few more things, as I want to keep this article short!

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2021 (or 2020) please pay them as soon as you can. If you are in financial straits - please give me a call.

One hundred and thirteen Nobles were visited by the Black Camel last year - please take a

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moment to keep them and their families in your prayers. If in your travels you should encounter a Mason whom you would believe might be interested in the Shrine please invite him and his Lady to join you at a club or unit meeting, or an event – it's time to really grow our membership.

If you do not have an account in “WebFez” (<https://webfez.shrinenet.org/Account/Login>) – PLEASE MAKE ONE! Why you ask? Because we use WebFez as our single data source for the Nobility and we are asking everyone to (1) establish an account, (2) enter address, phone, email, etc., (3) maintain the information – if you move – update it. Do you realize how much you refer to the “Directory” that was compiled and printed in 2017? Please take 5 minutes, and if you need help come by the office and one of us will help you to establish your own personal account. If, I don't have a good address or phone, how can I contact you to tell you have won the lottery!!

Thanks for taking the time to read this article – Please Stay Safe! Also, if you come to the Temple, we have Hand Sanitizer at the doors, and we have masks and gloves, and for the larger events we will check temperatures and ask you to complete a brief questionnaire – all of this is for YOUR SAFETY – and mine! Hope to see each of you soon!

Fraternally,
Dale Dickman

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF

by **Illustrious Sir Jerry Parish, PP**

Nobles and Ladies , I would like to Let you all know Ill Sir Rick Pena and Lady Naomi have given my Lady Edie and I the opportunity to serve Arabia Shrine Center as Chief of Staff this year . I am (two time) Past Master of Goose Creek Masonic Lodge 1192 in Baytown, Texas, Past President of Baytown Shrine Club Past Potentate 2003 of Arabia, Past President of Texas Shrine Association 2003 .

The entire 2021 Staff are well versed in their respective duties and are here to serve the Shrine Center along with the Divan. We are here to assist in any way. We will be doing projects during the year to enhance and promote Arabia Shrine and we may tap you on the shoulder for some advice or help. I ask you to openly discuss problem and concerns with us or fellow nobles. We encourage you to let us know what we can do to assist.

Every Shrine Mason is a member of the membership committee, I encourage you all to attend and support your Shrine Center, Blue Lodge, Shrine Club , Unit and Club functions and appendant bodies and meetings . My belief is activity is the key to growth. I ask each of you to keep petitions for appendant bodies readily available.

Spread the word--- Ill Sir Rick Pena and Lady Naomi are” Powering Fun in 21 “ Talk to your Shrine Center representative or call me direct for any need.

Fraternally,
Jerry C Parrish, PP
713-494-9595

NOTICE OF STATED MEETING

Notice is hereby giving that the next regularly scheduled meeting of Arabia Shriners will be held Monday February 15, 2021. 7:00 pm. Dinner will be served. Please RSVP online or to the Temple. Wear your fez - 2021 dues card required.

This meeting is subject to state and local COVID-19 guidelines.

Dale Dickman
Recorder

Rick Peña
Potentate

FROM THE COLONEL

by **Nobble Shawn Trader**

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself, Shawn Trader as your 2021 Colonel of Arabia Shrine. This year I am praying we can get back to some normalcy. With that being said, I plan on attending as many Unit Meetings as possible to pass along information I receive from the Potentate, Divan and the Chief of Staff.

Please feel free to contact myself or my lady Liz if we can help you in any way.

Sincerely,

Shawn Trader

Colonel 2021

832-457-0648

strader@tcisd.org

Liz Trader

832-457-1031

ltrader@tcisd.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF AMBASSADOR

by **Noble Travis Aldridge**

I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday season and are ready to get back into Shrine activities again. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you as your 2021 Chief Ambassador. My Lady Nikki and I are looking forward to a great year of working together as a team with all of our Clubs to make 2021 FUN.

My duties this year are to make sure that all Clubs are kept up to date on the activities for the year for Arabia. We have a great group of hardworking Ambassadors this year that you will hear from at each of your Club meetings. One way to keep Arabia up to date on activities with your Club is to submit an article each month for The Arabian. If you haven't participated in this, I urge you to do so. Please feel free to reach out to me via phone at 281-831-3032 or email at travisnikkialdridge@gmail.com if you need any assistance or have any questions.

Travis Aldridge
Chief Ambassador

FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

by **Nobble Shawn Trader**

Activities and projects kicked off fast as Lady Ceci and I began our year of service to Arabia Shrine Temple and Ills. Sir Rick Peña as your Chief Administrator. Ills. Sir Rick Peña has identified a significant need to update Arabia's member directory. As we continue to adapt our work to using virtual meetings that keep us safe from the virus, maintaining a strong communication network is more important than ever and starts with accurate membership information.

To this need, Ills. Sir Rick Peña has set a goal for an updated membership directory to be ready for review by the end of February (this year). We have several tools that speed up this process including an online membership portal. Many of us may not be familiar with WebFez hosted by Shriners International, but this directory is used by Imperial leadership and all temples to keep us informed about events, news, and meetings via email and mail.

If you have already registered with WebFez, now is the time to login and confirm your contact information by checking your email address, mobile phone number and physical mailing address. Why should we update all three? Any of these can change during the year. Important communications are sent using all three routes - just in case one of these has changed, the other two will still reach you.

Smart mobile phones and email offer another convenient way to stay in touch. Text messaging service is in process of being added to enhance the delivery of timely, short notes sent directly to your mobile phone. Text messaging services usually continue to operate even if cellular networks cannot support voice calls.

If you have not used WebFez, we are here to help. Registration is easy and can be done from any device with web access. Just go to

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<https://webfez.shrinenet.org> and click on REGISTER. The only info you need to create a login are your home temple name, member number and email address. Once connected, fill in address, phone, and other fields as you want, like nick name and spouse. This is all that needs to be done: Remember to click REGISTER to save your information.

If you need help with WebFez, email me at ChiefAdmin@shriners-houston.org to get more help, set up a time for phone support and step by step assistance.

Henry Gohlke
Chief Administrator

PATROL UPDATE by Noble Art Valdez

On January 19, 2021, members of the Patrol Unit consisting of Patrol Captain Art Valdez, Past Captain Mike Sevilla, Patrolmen Emit Abanilla, Maynard Fernando, and Melanio "Jun" Pedro attended the El Mina Shrine Installation of Officers.



They had the honor and privilege of being invited to witness the installation of Potentate Randall Kimbrough and his Divans. This exciting and memorable event took place in El Mina Shrine Temple at Galveston, Texas.

The Patrolmen were introduced, and were acknowledged by Illustrious Kimbrough and the Nobility.

Junior Past Potentate Illustrious Paul Green expressed El Mina Shriners' gratitude to



Illustrious Ruben Robles and the Arabia Shriners for the 2 vans that were donated to them.

The Arabia Patrolmen had an enjoyable time and great fellowship with the Nobility of El Mina Shrine, and headed back to Houston at the conclusion of the event.



Baytown Shriners Clay Shoot



Duck Hunt Challenge



Saturday, March 27, 2021

**Location: 12525 I-10 East Baytown, Tx
Gene's Powersports Country**

Shoot Starts at 9:00am

Free lunch furnished for shooters by Baytown Shrine Club

Come join us for a day of fun filled activities

ATV's, Golf Carts & Coolers Welcome

To be raffled:

15 Guns | Polaris 570 Ranger Crew

All Proceeds go to the Baytown Shrine Club and are not tax deductible as a charitable donation.

For information call Bobby at 713-539-8584, Gene Anderson at 281-932-0097, Kenny at 713-702-7954, Russell at 832-414-7041, or Robert at 281-414-8262.



*Arabia Shrine request the honor of your presence
at the 2021 Inaugural Ball honoring*

**ILLUSTRIOUS SIR RICK PEÑA
& LADY NAOMI**

*Saturday, February 27, 2021
at 7.00 o'clock p.m.*

*Arabia Shrine Temple - Grand Ballroom
10510 Harwin Drive
Houston, Texas 77036*

**RSVP by February 22, 2021
Melissa or Grace at 713.664.3437**

*Men: Tux or Dark Suit and Fez
Ladies: Formal Dress*

JANUARY STATED MEETING

Photos by Noble Michael Paul McDaniel
January 11, 2021



To see complete album,
visit www.arabiashriners.org