



THE ARABIAN

July 25, 2025 Houston, TX



Nobles and Ladies of Arabia Shrine,

As we reach the midpoint of this remarkable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we've accomplished together and express my deep gratitude for the participation and dedication of each and every one of you. It has been a year filled with incredible achievements, and it's all thanks to your hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Shrine. First, I want to highlight our incredible participation at the Imperial Session in Atlanta this July. Our units, including the Hot Rods, Slick Willies, Oriental Band, Alchemists, and Hillbillies, made an exceptional impact at the event, showcasing the vibrancy and dedication of our temple. Your presence at these events not only demonstrated Arabia Shrine's leadership but also made it clear that we continue to set the standard for fraternal excellence.

I am truly grateful for the involvement of each unit and for every Noble and Lady who joined us at TSA and Imperial. You have all helped elevate the Arabia Shrine experience, making it more impactful than ever before. The spirit of camaraderie, support, and enthusiasm has been palpable, and I could not be more proud of how we've come together to represent our temple and Shriners International.

As we move forward in the year, it's important to remember that we have built something remarkable together. The positivity and collective energy of our members create an undeniable force of goodwill, and it becomes ever more challenging for any negativity to take root. We are in a time of growth and celebration, and I am confident we will continue to build on these successes.

In Atlanta, Arabia Nobles also made a monumental contribution to Shriners Children's - Texas, presenting a ceremonial check for \$200,000, the total funds raised by our temple throughout 2024. This generous donation will go toward improving the lives of children who need it most, and it stands as a testament to our collective commitment to philanthropy and community support.

At the Imperial Session, we were honored to present Leah's Project, an initiative that continues to make a significant impact in raising water temperature testing standards within the home inspection industry. The presentation was a proud moment for our Shrine, and we thank everyone who has contributed to the project's success. Additionally, the Texas Hospitality Room, shared with 11 Texas temples, was a wonderful success. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who helped make it such a welcoming space.

At Imperial, we also celebrated several outstanding achievements. Our very own Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt received the prestigious Award of Merit, a recognition that speaks to his tireless dedication to our fraternity. On a lighter note, I was particularly proud of our Oriental Guide, Don Savell, who was called upon as an impromptu Chaplain for an afternoon during the session. His presence and leadership are a testament to the strength of our team.

As many of you know, we also marked a significant milestone this year: the 110th anniversary of Arabia Shrine. On July 13th, we gathered to honor the founding of our temple and to celebrate 110 years of service. During this special occasion, we were privileged to present 65-year and 75-year service awards to two of our most distinguished members, Noble Jim Bush and Noble Sid Tiras. Their dedication is an inspiration to us all, and we were honored to share this moment with them. We also celebrated the grand opening of the Arabia Shrine Museum on the same day as our anniversary party. The museum is already filling up with an incredible collection of photos and artifacts from our rich history. I encourage all Nobles and Ladies to come and check it out — it's a great way to connect with our legacy and the many milestones that have shaped our Shrine. The museum is a true reflection of the pride and tradition we share.

In celebration of the anniversary, we were joined by brothers from both of our local Prince Hall Shrines, Doric No. 76 and Nafud No. 80. This gathering was a powerful reminder of the importance of renewing and rebuilding the bonds we share with our Prince Hall brothers. Together, we can work to make Houston a shining example of what Masonry and Shrinedom can achieve when we unite in purpose and spirit. The strength of our shared commitment to fraternalism will continue to serve as a beacon of inspiration for Masonry and Shrinedom nationwide.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your ongoing dedication and participation in making this year one of our best yet. As we look forward to the second half of 2025, I am excited to see how we will continue to grow, support each other, and make a lasting impact on our community and beyond.

Your in the Faith,

Ben LaBlanc, Potentate

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Looking Ahead Together: Strengthening Arabia Through Smart Stewardship

As Arabia Shriners continues to grow in both presence and potential, our leadership remains focused on making decisions that support long-term sustainability, fraternal strength, and meaningful collaboration across all areas of our organization. Recently, the Board of Directors made one such decision — one that involved a change of space within our Temple facility and one that reflects our ongoing commitment to thoughtful stewardship of our shared home.

Effective immediately, Holland Lodge No. 1, the oldest Masonic Lodge in Texas, will begin leasing what has previously been the Arabia Patrol unit room. We are proud to welcome them into our facility as partners in the Masonic family. Their presence brings not only a strong cultural and historical tie to our own mission, but also helps strengthen the financial stability of our Temple by bringing in meaningful rental income.

As part of the lease agreement, Holland Lodge will pay \$4,000 per month for exclusive use of the former Patrol unit room, in addition to \$825 per month for their continued use of the lodge room on Mondays and Wednesdays. This combined rental income will generate just under \$58,000 annually, representing nearly 27% of our total budgeted rental revenue for 2025 — a substantial and timely contribution that will help support building operations, maintenance, and mission-driven activities across the Temple.

To help support a smooth transition, the Board of Directors allocated \$4,000 to the Arabia Patrol for moving expenses and the opportunity to make the former Greeters Room their own. In a generous and selfless gesture, the Patrol respectfully declined the funds, expressing that they believed the money would be better used toward broader Shrine projects that benefit the entire Temple. Their commitment to the greater good of Arabia is a shining example of what true fraternity looks like in action.

We sincerely thank the Patrol for their flexibility, cooperation, and continued service. Their willingness to embrace change with grace and dignity demonstrates the very best of what our Nobility stands for. The move to the new space will allow the Patrol to build fresh momentum in a room that they can truly make their own—revitalizing their identity and continuing their proud legacy within Arabia Shrine.

Change often comes with challenges, but it also brings new opportunities. The addition of Holland Lodge to our building family, alongside the continued dedication of our Shrine Units like the Patrol, is proof that when we come together, great things happen. This moment marks not an end—but a new chapter of growth, collaboration, and possibility.

We also wish to clarify that while Patrol's input was appreciated and considered, the decision to lease temple space ultimately resides with the Board of Directors, per our bylaws. With that responsibility comes the duty to consider the needs of the entire organization and act in the best interest of all our Nobles.

We thank the Patrol for complying with the move-out deadline of July 28, 2025, and for doing so with professionalism and dignity. The Recorder's Office remains available to assist with any final logistics, including access to designated storage space as discussed.

This situation, while requiring change, also brings opportunity. It reflects how, when guided by respect, transparency, and shared values, our Temple can adapt and thrive. We're proud to welcome Holland Lodge to Arabia and equally proud of the Patrol's legacy of service and commitment to our Shrine family.

This moment serves as a reminder: when we work together, we all move forward.

Together, we build. Together, we serve. Together, we thrive.

Upcoming Events

August 1: Tomball Parade of Lights (Tomball)

August 3: Schulenberg Parade (Schulenberg)

August 17: Circus Kick Off & TSA Victory Party (Arabia)

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Clownin' Around All Summer

Philip "Flux" Webb, Secretary

This past month, the Clown Jewels proudly participated in the July 4th parade in the South Belt area—near the Beltway and the Gulf Freeway. Camo and Flux tossed out trinkets and candy to excited parade watchers, while Pickles drove the truck and kept things lively by nearly launching Camo and Flux out the back every time she hit the gas! The fun didn't stop there! The next day, the Clowns celebrated Independence Day with a splash at BamBam's hacienda, enjoying a pool party full of laughter and good cheer.

Upcoming Event

The Clown Jewels will resume stated meetings on August 19th, starting with dinner followed by the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend—just bring some food to share!



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Please join us in honoring
the First Lady of
Arabia Shrine Center
Alyssa LaBlanc

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Reception 11:00 AM

Lunch 11:45 AM

Junior League of Houston

1811 Briar Oaks Lane

Houston, TX 77027

Please RSVP to your club president's lady by
October 10, 2025

Mail Check to Ruth Ann Bynum

14911 Stonemeade Place, Cypress, TX 77429

(832) 414-5163

Hats Optional - Cash Bar



Thinking of joining the Shrine or finally experiencing a full Ceremonial?

Now's your chance! Arabia Shriners will be hosting our first full Ceremonial in over a decade on September 13th, and it's shaping up to be an unforgettable day of fun, fellowship, and fraternal pride.

👉 New Candidates:

Don't wait—sign up now to be a part of this historic event!

👉 Current Nobles & Ladies:

Help us celebrate by RSVPing today!

Register and RSVP here:

📱 <https://bit.ly/ArabiaCeremonial>

💰 \$25 per Noble & Lady includes lunch and dinner!

PATH OF THE CRESCENT The Arabia Shrine Ceremonial



SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

10510 HARWIN DR., HOUSTON, TX 77036



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Temple History and Museum

Philip "Flux" Webb , Temple Historian



The Arabia Shrine Museum is officially up and running! If you had the opportunity to walk through the museum during the Arabia Anniversary Party, we'd love to hear your thoughts and feedback.

A special thank you goes out to Chris and Amy Staudt for their invaluable assistance in preparing the museum and arranging the artifacts in such a cohesive and meaningful way. Amy's eye for design truly brought the displays to life — her decorating talents have made a lasting impression!

We are still seeking additional items, artifacts, and photographs to complete the unit display cases. If you're considering donating or loaning items, it would be greatly appreciated if you could provide any known history or background information related to them. If the item appears in a photograph, we would also welcome a copy of that image to help complete the story behind each piece.

A heartfelt thank-you as well to Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt and Illustrious Sir Jerry Parrish for their generous donations of items and artifacts. Your contributions help preserve the rich history of Arabia Shrine for generations to come.



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Imperial Session from the Eyes of the AR

Jim Clark, Assistant Rabban

Arabia was well represented in all aspects of the Imperial Session:

Fun - The best Hospitality room ever!

Food - Excellent dining choices, with a great Nobility dinner.

Philanthropy - we presented \$200,000 on the stage that was raised with the assistance of our awesome Nobility!

Fellowship - Did I mention our hospitality room 😊? Lots of great interactions and relationships from Nobles from around the world.

Lastly the highest point of the event was the roll out of Leah's Project! Our own Treasurer Chris Staudt and his Lady Amy did a stellar job presenting, as well as creating this project that will protect and save children's lives for decades to come! Our Illustrious Potentate and his Rock Star Lady Alyssa wrapped up with the presentation and also words of dedication and inspiration to a packed assembly hall.

All said and done the amount of impact, whether giving or receiving, Arabia has made a difference and we will continue to shine bright.

What I do, and WHY is our calling. How about you?





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The **Arabia Hot Rods** were revved up and ready to take on the drill and the obstacle course. They brought home **2nd Place Class 8 Drill** and a lot of excitement for years to come.

The **Slick Willy's** didn't bring home hardware but they made Arabia proud and had a lot of fun doing it!





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The **Oriental Band** showed up ready to bring down the house! They beat the drums, spun the cymbals, and the musettes proclaimed victory with every note. They brought home **First Place Unlimited Band, First Place Parade**, and our very own **Dave Prentice** won **Director of the year!**

Congratulations to the Oriental Band on an exceptional performance and assembling the largest band in over 20 years!



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ARABIA
CELEBRATING



110
YEARS

CHARTERED JULY 14TH 1915



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