

# TEHRAN SHRINERS BULLETIN



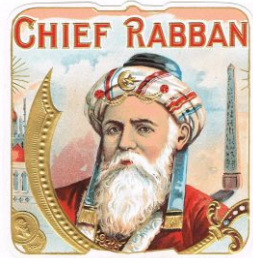
November - December 2023



**Mike Nella**  
**Potentate**

Tehran Shrine Center  
5407 East Olive Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727-2500  
Phone: 559.251.1991  
Website: [TehranShriners.org](http://TehranShriners.org)

# From the Desk of: Chief Rabban Christopher Guillen



Greetings Nobles,

We had a successful All Masonic Picnic! We added two competitions headed by Assistant Rabban David Pitts! Our Latest Cornhole Competition was won by guest John Wilson! Also our latest Annual Chili Cook Off was won by Team Wayne Schwartz and Ron McClain. Congratulations to our winners!

I'd like to give a Shout Out to Travis Cantrell P.P. Who is the new Chief Aide to Imperial Potentate Illustrious James E. "ED" Stolze! Congratulations!

December 2nd is our ceremonial followed by our Christmas Party! The Ceremonial will be at 1 PM followed by the Christmas party at 2 PM.

Our Stated Meeting will be on December 6th at 6:30 PM!

Our Chief Rabbans Night will be held on November 18th, 2023 at 6 pm! We will be unveiling our 2024 Calendar! In that Calendar we will announce our Installation of Officers event and a couple of fun activities like AFC/NFC Championship Watch Party and Super Bowl Watch Party! We have a full calendar of events lined up for your enjoyment! Also come enjoy the new outside lounge area just outside the Oasis! Big Huge Thank You to Wayne & Colleen Schwartz for donating the brand new patio furniture for our new addition to our beloved Oasis! Please RSVP to [christopher.guillen007@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.guillen007@gmail.com) or (559)519-9678.



This upcoming year we have an opportunity to get back to being a social organization that has fun and raises money for our children's hospital! I look forward to seeing everybody there!

# From the Desk of: Assistant Rabban David Pitts



Greetings Nobles, Ladies and Friends,

The Tehran Shrine "All Masonic Picnic" was a huge success. Thank you for attending. I think the biggest hit of the day was the bounce house. The children loved it. Congratulations to the winners of the chili cook off, Wayne Schwartz and Ron McClain. The competition was tough, but the team prevailed.



The corn hole tournament proved to be great fun with eight tough teams competing for the prize. Congratulations to our 2023 champions, Chris Green and John Wilson. Everyone was a little disappointed not to see Potentate Mike get wet in the dunk tank. At the time of expected delivery the weather did not look favorable. Thank you to everyone that worked to make the day great fun for all. The food was delicious, music was fabulous, and fellowship outstanding.



Chief Rabban, Chris, has his 2024 calendar near completion. He has many fun and exciting events planned. He will be sharing the details with you soon.

Congratulations to Travis Cantrell P.P. Travis was appointed an Imperial Potentate's Aide for the 23-24 year by Imperial Potentate, Ed Stolze. What a great honor for Travis and for Tehran Shrine.

In closing. Once again, as he has done for many years, Jim Stahl PP and PM will be hosting a Masonic Trip down Christmas Tree Lane. Tehran Shrine will be sponsoring sleigh rides down Christmas Tree Lane for our Masonic Brothers and their families. This sleigh ride is **Free**.

When, you say: Wednesday, December 20, 2023. 6 PM, 7:30 PM, 9 PM. 4222 N. Maroa, (North of Ashlan), Fresno, CA. RSVP to Tehran Shrine Center 251-1991 or James Stahl PM 779-8079. I look forward to seeing you there.

# From the Desk of: High Priest & Prophet Wayne Schwartz



**MEMBERSHIP:** We have initiated 3 new members since our last newsletter, for a total of 18 creations this year (so far). The other numbers: 1 Demit, 8 expired for a gain of 9, leaving us with 226 members as of November 1 or a gain of 4.15%. We still have a few days (our December Stated Meeting) left when we can create more members.

**SHRINE CENTER HAPPENINGS:** The Masonic picnic went quite well in spite of the weather. Our Chili cookoff winner(s) were Ron McClain and yours truly! In fact, the judges awarded us 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Yup, the only entry. Watch for next years cookoff as the chili committee is going to relax the rules a bunch hoping Ron and Wayne get some competition! But it was really good. We ran out of chili before everyone had a taste. Everyone just ranted and raved about it, well maybe not, but most. OK, we liked it and we really did run out. The corn-hole contest was a roaring success. (See Dave's article). Once again, 1 new petition. Bring a brother mason to these shrine functions whereby they can see what we are doing!

We have a really nice wrought iron fence around the front of the Shrine center and some pretty cement furniture in the enclosure. Please stop by and look at it and while you are at it, have a cup of coffee with our recorder, PP John Denton. He always has pastries on the table.



We will have our Initiation Ceremony on December 2, right before the Christmas Party. Put this date on your calendar, come down and welcome our new Shriners and join us in our holiday celebration.

**"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."  
George Bernard Shaw - Dramatist (1856 - 1950)**

## **NOVEMBER:**

November is the eleventh and penultimate month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars, the last of four months to have a length of 30 days and the fifth and last of five months to have a length of fewer than 31 days. November was the ninth month of the calendar of Romulus c.750 BC. November retained its name (from the Latin novem meaning "nine") when January and February were added to the Roman calendar.

The Western zodiac signs for November are Scorpio (October 23 – November 21) and Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21).

November's birthstone is the topaz (particularly yellow) which symbolizes friendship. Its birth flower is the chrysanthemum.

**"I don't mind going back to daylight saving time. With inflation, the hour will be the only thing I've saved all year." Victor Borge**

### **THANKSGIVING:**

It originated as a day of thanksgiving and harvest festival, with the theme of the holiday revolving around giving thanks and the centerpiece of Thanksgiving celebrations remaining a Thanksgiving dinner. Other Thanksgiving customs include charitable organizations offering Thanksgiving dinner for the poor, attending religious services, and watching television events such as Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and NFL football games.

**Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness." Anne Frank - Writer (1929 - 1945)**

The event that Americans commonly call the "first Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in October 1621. This feast lasted three days and was attended by 90 Native American Wampanoag people and 53 survivors of the Mayflower (Pilgrims). The feast was cooked by the four adult Pilgrim women who survived their first winter in the New World (Eleanor Billington, Elizabeth Hopkins, Mary Brewster, and Susanna White), along with young daughters and male and female servants. According to accounts by Wampanoag descendants, the harvest was originally set up for the Pilgrims alone; the surviving natives, hearing celebratory gunfire and fearing war, arrived to see the feast and were warmly welcomed to join the celebration, contributing their own foods to the meal.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by President George Washington after a request by Congress. President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens". On June 28, 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the Holidays Act that made Thanksgiving a yearly appointed federal holiday in Washington D.C. From 1942 onwards, Thanksgiving, by an act of Congress received a permanent observation date, the fourth Thursday in November, no longer at the discretion of the President.



The Plymouth settlers, known as Pilgrims, had settled in a land abandoned when all but one of the Patuxet Indians died in a disease outbreak. After a harsh winter killed half of the Plymouth settlers, the last surviving Patuxet, came in at the request of Samoset, the first Native American to encounter the Pilgrims. Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to catch eel and grow corn and served as an interpreter for them until he too succumbed to the disease a year later. The Wampanoag leader Massasoit also gave food to the colonists during the first winter when supplies brought from England were insufficient. Massasoit had hoped to establish an alliance between the Wampanoag. The tribe reasoned that, given that the Pilgrims had brought women and children, they had not arrived to wage war against them.

### **If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring?... Pilgrims**

The Puritan by Augustus St. Gaudens, 1904. The "buckle hat" atop the sculpture's head, now associated with the Pilgrims in pop culture, was fictional; Pilgrims never wore such an item, nor has any such hat ever existed as a serious piece of apparel. The First Thanksgiving 1621, oil on canvas by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1899). The painting shows common misconceptions about the event which persist to modern times: Pilgrims did not wear such outfits, nor did they eat at a dinner table, and the Wampanoag are dressed in the style of Native Americans from the Great Plains. It is worth mentioning that there are other recounts of the Thanksgiving meal of the time. "While the celebrants might well have feasted on wild turkey, the local diet also included fish, eels, shellfish, and a Wampanoag dish called nasaump, which the Pilgrims had adopted: boiled cornmeal mixed with vegetables and meats. There were no potatoes (an indigenous South American food not yet introduced into the global food system) and no pies (because there was no butter, wheat flour, or sugar).

### **VETERANS DAY:**

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces (who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable). It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are commemorated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May. Veterans Day commemorated the service of all U.S. veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have died while in military service. Another military holiday that also occurs in May, Armed Forces Day, honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.

**THANK YOU VETERANS**



**"Liberty has never come from Government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it." Woodrow Wilson - 28th president of the United States (1856 - 1924)**

### **DECEMBER:**

December is the twelfth and final month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and is also the last of seven months to have a length of 31 days.

December got its name from the Latin word decem (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the calendar of Romulus c. 750 BC which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any month. Later, the months of January and February were created out of the month less period and added to the beginning of the calendar, but December retained its name.

In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the astronomical winter is traditionally 21 December or the date of the solstice. The zodiac signs for the month of December are Sagittarius (until December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 onward). December's birth flower is the narcissus. Its birthstones are turquoise, zircon and tanzanite.

Fruit cake month, eggnog month. 4<sup>th</sup> – National cookie day, 7<sup>th</sup> – Pearl Harbor Day, 11<sup>th</sup> – Noodle ring day (?),

**Two snowmen in a field, one turned to the other and said "I don't know about you but I can smell carrots!"**

### **CHRISTMAS:**

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it is preceded by the season of Advent or the Nativity Fast and initiates the season of Christmastide, which historically in the West lasts twelve days and culminates on Twelfth Night. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries and is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians, as well as culturally by many non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the holiday season organized around it.

The traditional Christmas narrative recounted in the New Testament, known as the Nativity of Jesus, says that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in accordance with messianic prophecies. When Joseph and Mary arrived in the city, the inn had no room and so they were offered a stable where the Christ Child was soon born, with angels proclaiming this news to shepherds who then spread the word.

There are different hypotheses regarding the date of Jesus' birth and in the early fourth century, the church fixed the date as December 25. This corresponds to the traditional date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. It is exactly nine months after Annunciation on March 25, also the date of the spring equinox. Most Christians celebrate on December 25 in the Gregorian calendar, which has been adopted almost universally in the civil calendars used in countries throughout the world. However, part of the Eastern Christian Churches celebrates Christmas on December 25 of the older Julian calendar, which currently corresponds to January 7 in the Gregorian calendar. For Christians, believing that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity, rather than knowing Jesus' exact birth date, is considered to be the primary purpose in celebrating Christmas.

**"It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get." Confucius - Philosopher (551 - 479 BC)**

The English word "Christmas" is a shortened form of "Christ's Mass". The word is recorded as Crīstesmæsse in 1038 and Cristes-messe in 1131. Crīst (genitive Crīstes) is from Greek Khrīstos (Χριστός), a translation of Hebrew Māšîaḥ (מָשִׁיחַ), "Messiah", meaning "anointed"; and mæsse is from Latin missa, the celebration of the Eucharist. The form Christenmas was also used during some periods but is now considered archaic and dialectal. The term derives from Middle English Cristenmasse, meaning "Christian mass". Xmas is an abbreviation of Christmas found particularly in print, based on the initial letter chi (X) in Greek Khrīstos (Χριστός) ("Christ"), although some style guides discourage its use. This abbreviation has precedent in Middle English Xpēs masse (where "Xp" is an abbreviation for Χριστός).

In addition to "Christmas", the holiday has had various other English names throughout its history. The Anglo-Saxons referred to the feast as "midwinter", or, more rarely, as Nātiuteð (from Latin nātīvitās below). "Nativity", meaning "birth", is from Latin nātīvitās. In Old English, Gēola (Yule) referred to the period corresponding to December and January, which was eventually equated with Christian Christmas. "Noel" (also "Nowel" or "Nowell", as in "The First Nowell") entered English in the late 14th century and is from the Old French Noël or naël, itself ultimately from the Latin nātālis (diēs) meaning "birth (day)".

At the time of the 2nd century, the "earliest church records" indicate that "Christians were remembering and celebrating the birth of the Lord", an "observance [that] sprang up organically from the authentic devotion of ordinary believers." Though Christmas did not appear on the lists of festivals given by the early Christian writers Irenaeus and Tertullian, the Chronograph of 354 records that a Christmas celebration took place in Rome eight days before the calends of January. This section was written in AD 336, during the brief pontificate of Pope Mark. In the East, the birth of Jesus was celebrated in connection with the



Epiphany on January 6. This holiday was not primarily about the nativity, but rather the baptism of Jesus. Christmas was promoted in the East as part of the revival of Orthodox Christianity that followed the death of the pro-Arian Emperor Valens at the Battle of Adrianople in 378. The feast was introduced in Constantinople in 379, in Antioch by John Chrysostom towards the end of the fourth century, probably in 388, and in Alexandria in the following century. The presence of hymns for the feast in the Georgian *ladgari* demonstrates that it was celebrated in Jerusalem by the 6th century at the latest.

**I bought my son a fridge for Christmas. – I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.**

The first recorded Christmas celebration was in Rome on December 25, AD 336.[49][50] In the 3rd century, the date of the nativity was the subject of great interest. Various factors contributed to the selection of December 25 as a date of celebration: it was nine months after the date linked to the conception of Jesus—March 25, which also marked the vernal equinox (celebrated as the Feast of the Annunciation) and it was the date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. The early Church Fathers John Chrysostom, Augustine of Hippo, and Jerome attested to 25 December as the date of Christmas. The early Church connected Jesus Christ to the Sun through the use of such phrases as "sun of righteousness." The early Christian writer Lactantius wrote "the east is attached to God because he is the source of light and the illuminator of the world, and he makes us rise toward eternal life". It is for this reason that the early Christians established the direction of prayer as being eastward, towards the rising sun. In the Roman Empire, in which many Christians resided, the winter solstice was marked on December 25.

In 567, the Council of Tours put in place the season of Christmastide, proclaiming "the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season, and established the duty of Advent fasting in preparation for the feast." This was done in order to solve the "administrative problem for the Roman Empire as it tried to coordinate the solar Julian calendar with the lunar calendars of its provinces in the east." Christmas played a role in the Arian controversy of the fourth century. After this controversy ran its course, the prominence of the holiday declined for a few centuries. The feast regained prominence after 800 when Charlemagne was crowned emperor on Christmas Day.

In Puritan England, Christmas was banned, with Puritans considering it a Catholic invention and also associating the day with drunkenness and other misbehavior. It was restored as a legal holiday in England in 1660 when Puritan legislation was declared null and void, but it remained disreputable in the minds of some. In the early 19th century, Christmas festivities and services became widespread with the rise of the Oxford Movement in the Church of England that emphasized the centrality of Christmas in Christianity and charity to the poor, along with Washington Irving, Charles Dickens, and other authors emphasizing family, children, kind-heartedness, gift-giving, and Santa Claus (for Irving), or Father Christmas (for Dickens).



# FRESNO SHRINE CLUB

**Come have lunch with your friends!**

Sometimes you wanna go

Where everybody knows your name

And they're always glad you came

You wanna be where you can see

Our troubles are all the same

You wanna be where everybody knows your name.



**November 8th and December 13th**  
**Tehran Shrine Center**

5407 E Olive Ave, Fresno

Lunch will be by Hewitt's Catering

Menu still to be determined

12 Noon Social - Lunch at 12:30



\$20.00 per person

**Reservations needed by noon**  
**Monday before each meeting**

Please call or text Judy Hershey at 916-717-0458  
or respond to this email to make your reservations  
([jhershey01@comcast.net](mailto:jhershey01@comcast.net))

# Fresno Shrine Club

## October



Dear Friends,

First of all, I, Nurhan Adarian, would like to thank each one of you for coming today to remember your two friends, my Aunt and Uncle, Madeleine and Walter Kassabian. I would like to share with all of you some of my family history with regards to my dear Auntie Madeleine and Uncle Walter.

My Auntie Madeleine's mother, Melanie, came to California around 1915. Melanie escaped from Turkey with her brother Carl. Brother and sister came to America to flee from the horrors of the Armenian Genocide that began in 1915. As you may or may not know, the Armenian Genocide was a series of massacres, forced relocations and other unspeakable atrocities visited upon ethnic Armenians living in Turkey at the time by the Ottoman Turks. Melanie and Carl made their way to California and lived their lives out here in California almost on the other side of the planet from their now ravaged homeland.

It is now the 1960s and I was a young man growing up in Istanbul, Turkey. My dear mother, Filomen, had come in contact with long lost relatives in Fresno, California. Shortly thereafter, one of those relatives, my Aunt Melanie, returned to Istanbul to visit us. We were all very excited to meet our long lost relative for the first time. As a young man with a driver's license I was given the honor to show my Aunt Melanie around the city. During that visit we had ample opportunity to get acquainted and I was able to forge a strong bond with the long lost Fresno side of my family. After my new found aunt returned to Fresno, we continued to stay in contact through countless phone calls.

Years later, I moved to America. I settled in New York City and started my own family. Soon after, I had the opportunity to meet my Aunt Madeline and Uncle Walter when they came to visit me in New York. Much like I had done fifteen or so years earlier in Istanbul, I had the opportunity to act as tour guide for my Auntie Madeleine and Uncle Walter. We had a great time and that first visit to New York was a catalyst to the creation of a life-long familial bond strengthened through weekly phone calls, occasional visits and most importantly - love. I cherished the monthly phone call with my beloved Auntie Madeline and Uncle Walter. I am sure it is no surprise to all you listening that they were always full of great advice on any and all topics and provided me with excellent perspective as I worked through all the ups and downs that life tends to throw at any of us.

I miss my Auntie and Uncle terribly, as I am sure all of you do. I want to thank all of you for allowing me to be part of your monthly get together and to give me a chance to celebrate my aunt and uncle with you, their dear friends. I also want to extend a very special thank you to the man giving voice to my words today, Mr. Ken Burkett. Ken is a great friend I only had the opportunity to meet due to his friendship with my Auntie and Uncle. Ken's unbelievable dedication and loyalty to my family is unmeasurable. Thank you Ken. And thank you to all of you, the friends of my wonderful Aunt and Uncle, Madeleine and Walter Kassabian, may God bless their souls and may God bless you all.

## Walter Kasabian & Lady Madeline



Hospital Screening Clinic Coordinator Walter Kasabian and Lady Madeline worked on Tehran's screening clinics since 1988. They expanded the program from two clinics in 1988 to six clinics in 2005. Clinics have been held in Merced, Madera, Los Banos, Visalia, Corcoran, Coalinga, Porterville and of course Fresno. The records kept since 1988 through 2005 show that from the clinics alone, 1,910 children were examined with 1,274 sent to Shriners Hospital, San Francisco and since 1997, to Shriners Hospital in Sacramento. Children have come from 91 cities and towns in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Transportation Fund paid for bus, plane, Amtrac fares and gasoline for parent and patient to get to the hospital, averaging approximately \$11,000 per year since 1994. The Transportation Fund donations (tax deductible) are always welcome.

Tehran Shriners Hospital Patient Transportation Fund is what it is today because of Noble Walt's and his Lady Madeline's generous commitment to the children of the San Joaquin valley.



# Tehran Shrine Ceremonial

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Tehran Shrine Center

1:00 pm

Open to Shriners, Lady, Friends & Family



## *Tehran Shine Christmas Party*


Saturday, December 2, 2023

Tehran Shrine Center

5:00 pm Social - 6:30 pm Dinner

\$20.00 per person

*Merry  
Christmas*

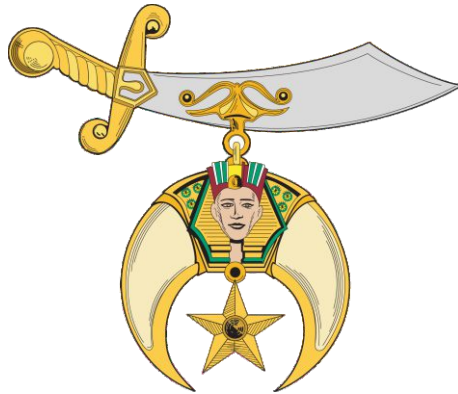
NOVEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Pageantry Practice	7	8 Fresno Shrine Club Daughters of the Nile	9	10 Veteran's Day 	11
12	13 Scottish Rite	14 Temple Guard/ Patrol	15 Nile Sewing	16 Roustabouts (DARK)	17 Novkeps	18 Chief Rabbans Night
19	20	21 Clowns	22	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
26	24	28 <u>BOD Mtg "Board of Directors"</u>	29	30		
		Notes: BOD - Board of Directors; open to all Nobles * Denotes Temple/Shrine Event				

☆ Nov 18 Chief Rabbans Night - 6:00 pm

DECEMBER 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <u>Tehran Shrine Ceremonial</u>  <u>Tehran Shrine Christmas Party</u>
3	4 Pageantry Practice	5	6 <u>Tehran Shrine Stated Meeting &amp; Elections*</u>	7	8	9
10	11	12 Temple Guard/Patrol	13 Fresno Shrine Club Daughters of the Nile	14	15 Novkeps	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30
Notes: BOD - Board of Directors; open to all Nobles * Denotes Temple/Shrine Event						

- ☆ Dec 2 Ceremonial - 1:00 pm
- ☆ Dec 2 Christmas Party - 5:00 pm
- ☆ Dec 6 Stated Meeting - 6:30 pm

# TEHRAN SHRINE STATED MEETING



**WEDNESDAY, December 6, 2023  
6:30 p.m.**

**Tehran Shrine Center  
5407 East Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA**

**Attire: Business Casual  
Fez  
Must Be a Noble in “Good Standing”**

Tehran Shrine Bylaws

*§3.6 Notice of Meetings. At least one week's notice must be given of the time and place of all meetings and ceremonial sessions. The notice may be given in the official temple publication or by letter.*