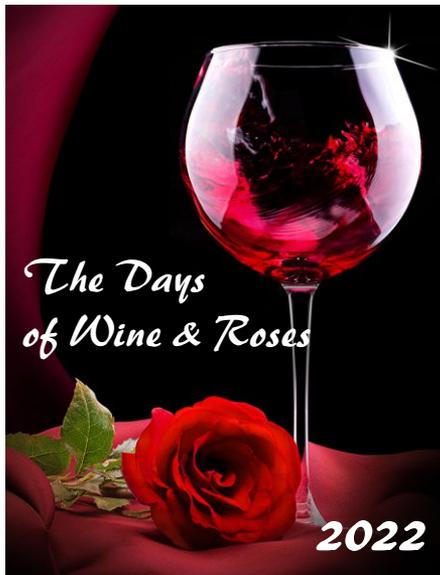


# TEHRAN SHRINERS BULLETIN

December 2022



Larry R. Goeringer  
Potentate

Tehran Shrine Center  
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Phone: 559.251.1991  
Website: [TehranShriners.org](http://TehranShriners.org)

# From the Desk of: Wayne Schwartz



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Well, another year almost gone. We started our membership recruitment year a little slow but picked up quite a bit of steam in September. I believe we will be making 6 brothers new Shriners at our Christmas Party. There will be a ceremonial in April at which time all the new Nobles will be properly inducted into Shrinedom. As of the day I am writing this we have lost 17 members to the Black Camel, 1 suspension and 1 restoration leaving us with 219 members. However, we should be excited about those Masons who will become Nobles in December.

We had a good turnout and had a fun night at the Halloween party. There were some great costumes and some not so great. Our Chief Rabban's, (aka Mike Nella) costume won the "Needs a lot of work" award, Mary Catherine Doi had best and Ron & Janie McClain best couple.

Our Pote's party at his ranch was a hoot! All had a good time despite the cold. Lots of good wine and plenty of food.

Our first ladies' lunch was wonderful. Pretty decorations and a very nice lunch. Thanks to former First Lady Sandy Dawson for putting on the event. The First Lady's Hospital Project benefited.

Our Shrine units and clubs are always looking for guests to join their dinners and functions. Look at the calendar and flyers in this bulletin. Most of our groups enjoy the company of their ladies at their dinners. I'm sure you will enjoy the camaraderie. We get to talk about our kids, grandkids, pets, weather, and such. If you have a smartphone, you can even show us pictures of your latest travels, Bottom line, come join us. Just be sure to call the person taking reservations.

*"In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed." Khalil Gibran (1883–1931)*

WANTED: Nobles willing to lead Tehran into the future. Yup, it will take up some of your spare time, but working for a great bunch of people is rewarding. Several of our clubs and units have kind of shut down for the lack of leadership. I believe there are lots of our Nobles who are well qualified to be leaders. If you are so inclined, don't be bashful, let us know. If you want to get into the line of elected officers or any other position, call the office and let us know asap as we hold elections at the December Stated Meeting. Come out to our clubs/units' functions and if you enjoy the folks and what they do, raise your hand and keep us alive.

***The reward of a thing well done is having done it." Ralph Waldo Emerson - Poet (1802-1882) and***

***The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex, overwhelming tasks into smaller manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one." Mark Twain - Author (1835 - 1910).***

Up coming events:

Stated Meeting on December 5. We will be voting on several potential members. **December Meeting. At the December stated meeting, the officers and representatives for the ensuing year shall be elected.**

Christmas Party: December 11. Look for article in this bulletin. We will be swearing in our new members.

It's time to send in your dues for 2023. ***339.1 A Noble may not be admitted to his own or any other temple, unless he exhibits to the temple to which he desires admittance an official Shrine card for that year.***



## STUFF ABOUT DECEMBER

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.

Anglo-Saxons referred to December–January as *Ġēolamonað* (modern English: "Yule month"). The French Republican Calendar contained December within the months of Frimaire and Nivôse.

December contains the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the day with the fewest daylight hours, and the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere, the day with the most daylight hours (excluding polar regions in both cases). In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the astronomical winter is traditionally 21 December or the date of the solstice.

*"In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger, something better, pushing right back." Albert Camus - Philosopher (1913 - 1960)*

The zodiac signs for the month of December are Sagittarius (until December 21) and Capricorn (December 22 onwards). December's birth flower is the narcissus. December's birthstones are the turquoise, zircon, and tanzanite.

### **A date that will live in infamy**

**Pearl Harbor** was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service upon the United States against the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, just before 8:00 a.m., on Sunday, December 7, 1941. The United States was a neutral country at the time; the attack led to its formal entry into World War II the next day.

*"There has never been a good war or a bad peace."*  
*Benjamin Franklin - Founding Father, author, postmaster, statesman, diplomat (1706 - 1790)*

Japan intended the attack as a preventive action. Its aim was to prevent the United States Pacific Fleet from interfering with its planned military actions in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and those of the United States. Over the course of seven hours there were coordinated Japanese attacks on the US-held Philippines, Guam, and Wake Island and on the British Empire in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

***Oh, you're a troop who survived pepper spray AND mustard gas. Well, I, too, am a SEASONED Veteran!***

The attack commenced at 7:48 a.m. Hawaiian Time. The base was attacked by 353 Imperial Japanese aircraft (including fighters, level and dive bombers, and torpedo bombers) in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers. Of the eight US Navy battleships present, all were damaged, with four sunk. All but USS *Arizona* were later raised, and six were returned to service and went on to fight in the war. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, and one minelayer. More than 180 US aircraft were destroyed. 2,403 Americans were killed, and 1,178 others were wounded. Japanese losses were light: 29 aircraft and five midget submarines lost, and 64 servicemen killed. Kazuo Sakamaki, the commanding officer of one of the submarines, was captured.

***"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."  
Aristotle (384 - 322 BC)***

Japan announced declarations of war on the United States and the British Empire later that day. The British government declared war on Japan immediately after learning that their territory had also been attacked, while the following day (December 8) the United States Congress declared war on Japan. On December 11, though they had no formal obligation to do so under the Tripartite Pact with Japan, Germany and Italy each declared war on the US, which responded with a declaration of war against Germany and Italy. There were numerous historical precedents for the unannounced military action by Japan, but the lack of any formal warning (required by part III of the Hague Convention of 1907), particularly while peace negotiations were still apparently ongoing, led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to proclaim December 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy". Because the attack happened without a declaration of war and without explicit warning, the attack on Pearl Harbor was later judged in the Tokyo Trials to be a war crime.

# 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. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many countries, 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.

***What did Adam say on the night before Christmas? It's Christmas Eve!***

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.

***Treat those who are good with goodness and treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus, goodness is attained. Be honest to those who are honest and be also honest to those who are not honest. Thus, honesty is attained." Lao Tzu - Philosopher (604 - 531 BC).***

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. 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 celebrate 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.

***What happened to the thief who stole an advent calendar? He got 25 days!***

The celebratory customs associated in various countries with Christmas have a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular themes and origins. Popular modern customs of the holiday include gift giving; completing an Advent calendar or Advent wreath; Christmas music and caroling; viewing a Nativity play; an exchange of Christmas cards; church services; a special meal; and the display of various Christmas decorations, including Christmas trees, Christmas lights, nativity scenes, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe, and holly. In addition, several closely related and often interchangeable figures, known as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, and Christkindl, are associated with bringing gifts to children during the Christmas season and have their own body of traditions and lore. Because gift-giving and many other aspects of the Christmas festival involve heightened economic activity, the holiday has become a significant event and a key sales period for retailers and businesses. Over the past few centuries, Christmas has had a steadily growing economic effect in many regions of the world.

***“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.” Norman Vincent Peale - Clergyman (1898-1993).***

In Puritan England, Christmas was banned, with Puritans considering it a Catholic invention and 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).

During the First World War and particularly (but not exclusively) in 1914, a series of informal truces took place for Christmas between opposing armies. The truces, which were organized spontaneously by fighting men, ranged from promises not to shoot shouted at a distance in order to ease the pressure of war for the day to friendly socializing, gift giving and even sport between enemies. These incidents became a well-known and semi-mythologized part of popular memory. They have been described as a symbol of common humanity even in the darkest of situations and used to demonstrate to children the ideals of Christmas.

# TEHRAN SHRINE STATED MEETING & ELECTIONS



**MONDAY, December 5, 2022  
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.*



## 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.

**The December 14th meeting is at:  
Richard's Prime Rib and Seafood  
Restaurant**



1609 E Belmont Ave, Fresno  
12 Noon Social - Lunch at 12:30  
\$25.00 per person

Please call Judy Hershey at (916) 717-0458  
or respond via email to make your reservations  
(jhershey01@comcast.net)

# *First Lady's Luncheon*



## DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <b>Tehran Shrine Stated Meeting &amp; Elections*</b> , Pageantry Practice Temple Belles Christmas Luncheon	6	7	8 Legion of Honor/ Flying Shriners	9	10
11 <b>Shrine Holiday Party</b>	12	13 Temple Guard/Patrol	14 Fresno Shrine Club Daughters of the Nile	15 Roustabouts Bulletin Deadline	16 Novkeps	17
18	19	20 Clowns Unit (DARK)	21 Nile Sewing	22	23	24
25 Christmas 	26 Temple Belles (DARK)	27	28	29	30	31

Notes:  
 BOD - Board of Directors; open to all Nobles  
 \* Denotes Temple/Shrine Event

- Dec 5**      **Tehran Shrine Stated Meeting & Elections - 6:30 p.m.**
- Dec 5      Pageantry Practice
- Dec 5      Temple Belles Christmas Luncheon
- Dec 8      Legion of Honor/Flying Shriners
- Dec 11**    **Shrine Holiday Party - 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**
- Dec 13     Temple Guard/Patrol
- Dec 14     Fresno Shrine Club
- Dec 14     Daughters of the Nile
- Dec 15     Roustabouts
- Dec 15     Bulletin Submission Deadline
- Dec 16     Novkeps
- Dec 21     Nile Sewing





*Potentate Larry &  
First Lady Jeanne Goering  
Cordially invite you to the ...*

*Tehran Shrine Holiday Party*

Sunday, December 11th, 2022

Tehran Shrine Center

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Open House  
Food & Holiday Beverages

Please RSVP  
[Recorder@Tehranshriners.org](mailto:Recorder@Tehranshriners.org)  
559-251-1991

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*