



CAMEL Tales

POTENTATE'S MESSAGE *Shriners the "Weigh" to go!*



Nobles and Ladies, I would like to start out by thanking all of you for the opportunity to serve as the 2025 Potentate of El Zagal Shrine. It truly is an honor to serve. Lady Kate and I are looking forward to a great year. I would also like to especially thank Illustrious Sir Travis Will and Lady Meghan for the hard work they put in last year, and the work they continue to do. They have been particularly helpful to us on our journey so far.

Glory and Banquet later that evening. I would like to thank the Big Band for playing, John Young for being the Piper for the entry, the Detroit Lakes Color Guard for providing the Colors. A special thanks to my daughter, Kallie, for singing the National Anthem. More than one person said to me "I can't believe what a great voice your daughter has! Where does she get it?"

Thanks to Imperial Sir Matt Sturlaugson for the toasts and installation of officers, Ringo for being installation Marshal. And lastly, the big guy, Ill. Sir Jason "Rocky" Rockswold for being Master of Ceremonies. We were fortunate to have Most Worshipful Grand Master of North Dakota Darrin Galde attend and say a few words for us. And to round out the night, we got an appearance by Who Took the Steak, a local band for the Vikings. I hope all enjoyed the music - I know I did. There might have even been a sighting or two of your Illustrious Potentate up there singing backup, but again that might be a rumor...

A few things for your calendar that are coming up in February and March: February 15th is the Wild Game Feed at El Zagal. It is a fantastic time and great fundraiser for the Temple. Thanks to Casey Schoer for heading up that event, and to the units and individuals who donate both wild game and prizes for the event. Get your tickets and invite your friends - it's a great time!

The Jamestown Stag and Stagette is scheduled for February 28th. Tickets are limited and available now. On March 1 and 2, the Dusters have their Car Show scheduled in Bismarck.

March 14 is the Arab Wine Tasting, followed by the Ladies Luncheon/Pote's Ball on March 15. Look for more details in this issue of Camel Tales and EZ in a Minute emails. Busy weekend! The next weekend is the Spaghetti Feed at the Shrine Center put on by the Escort Motor Patrol.

That's a lot of opportunity for fun (and shenanigans) coming up in the next few weeks. I know that Lady Kate and I look forward to joining the fun, and to seeing you all there. The more folks, the more fun! Thanks again and keep up all the hard work that you do! I am truly grateful for all that you do and the friendships that we have made along the way. And I look forward to the new people and friends we will make in the coming year. Remember - the best Ships are friendShips.

**Yours in Faith,
Chad Decker
2025 Potentate**



Mark Your Calendar!

- Wild Game Feed _____ February 15
- Spaghetti Feed _____ March 22
- Ladies Stagette _____ February 28
- James Valley Club Stag _____ February 28
- Car Show _____ March 1-2
- Wine Tasting _____ March 14
- Shamrock Soiree _____ March 15
- Shamrocks & Shenanigans _____ March 15



**TUESDAY
BURGERS
5:30PM TO 7PM**

First things first: many of you are asking, "Is he actually writing this himself? I bet he got Lady Kate to do it". Well, unfortunately, for all of you reading I am writing this myself: if she was doing it the product would be far better.

We had a great Roast the Pote on January 3. A big thank you to Illustrious Sir Steve "BD" Larson for being the emcee. I think Illustrious Sir Travis was a bit surprised that we were pretty tame with the roast. Don't worry, Illustrious Sir - there's lots of time to have some shenanigans at your expense in the coming year.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday January 6th. Breakfast was hosted by Shiloh Lodge, thank you for stepping up again and doing this. The meeting started out with usual business and then moved on to the election of the 2025 Divan members. We had a great presentation on the Finance Committee by Ill. Sir Drew Likness. I think many found it insightful on how some our investments are managed.

It was my privilege to appoint Colin Wegenast as the new 2nd Ceremonial Master and Joel Swanson as our new Chief of Staff for 2025. Nathan Hopper graciously agreed to do another year as Membership Chair, and Ill. Sir Blake 'Ringo' Wrigley agreed to be Director once more. Ringo asked me 'so what exactly do you want me to do?' I told him I wasn't sure but whatever it is, it's invaluable! Seriously, we'd be in a pickle with Temple projects without the help and guidance of Ringo.

After the business meeting wrapped up, the nobles enjoyed lunch catered by Labby's, and was sponsored by the Vikings. Thanks again to my home unit, and it was great to see so many of you at the meeting. As the Nobles were enjoying their lunch upstairs, there were over 40 Ladies that joined Lady Kate for an excellent Bubbles and Brunch event in the lower level. Special thanks to all that helped put that event on, and I hope it continues in the future.

Back to the Courtyard for the Annual Parade to

TUESDAY BURGER UNIT SCHEDULE

5:30PM - 7PM

- FEBRUARY 11 – DIVAN
- FEBRUARY 18 – DIRECTORS STAFF
- FEBRUARY 25 – PROVOST
- MARCH 4 – ARAB PATROL
- MARCH 11 – MISFITS
- MARCH 18 – EMP
- MARCH 25 – DIRECTORS STAFF

El Zagal Camel Tales

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DIVAN OFFICERS Elective

Chad Decker.....Potentate
Bruce Ridgway.....Chief Rabban
Mark Kennard.....Asst. Rabban
Shane Heiberg.....High Priest & Prophet
Casey Schoer.....Oriental Guide
Jason "Rocky" Rockswold, PP.....Treasurer
Bob Wedberg, PP.....Recorder

Appointive

Tim Dawson.....1st CM
Colin Wegenast.....2nd CM
Blake "Ringo" Wrigley, PP.....Director
Joel Swanson.....Chief of Staff

Membership

Nathan Hopper 720-938-8198
nathan.a.hopper@gmail.com

HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ken Leggate.....Dickinson	701-483-1681
Garret Njos.....Bismarck	701-426-3557
Cal Braun.....Fargo	701-793-6586
Paul Witthauer..Jamestown	701-320-5433
Lonnie Stippich....Hettinger	701-567-2664
Dean Anderson.....Gwinner	701-678-2695
Gary Grindall.....Detroit Lakes	218-234-0821
Jim Hildebrant...Valley City	701-840-1056

CAMEL TALES DEADLINE 18TH OF EACH MONTH

CamelTales Email
cameltales@elzagal.org

Editor

Jon Juelich

Publisher/Creative Editor

J&M Companies



Charlie Skeel

Passed on January 9, 2025
2007 El Zagal Potentate

Families may send submissions to
cameltales@elzagal.org

FARGO SHRINE CIRCUS CLUB MEETINGS



2025

- Tuesday February 11, 2025: Executive Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday February 22, 2025: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- Saturday March 15, 2025: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- Tuesday March 25, 2025: Executive Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday March 29, 2025: Circus Meeting: 10:00 A.M.
- April 4th, 5th, 6th CIRCUS AT DOME

Director's Staff

The Director's Staff had an amazing 2024, and as we welcome 2025, we have some exciting updates to share. This past fall we elected our new officers for 2025 who now have taken their new offices. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Casey Schoer in December for his dedicated service as president over the past two years. Now, in January, we warmly welcome our new president, Cal Braun. The transition was smooth and peaceful, with only a minor hiccup involving Nobel Travis Leach misplacing a beer, which led to some playful accusations. Once the dust settled, we had our newly elected leadership in place:

- Chris Tuders, Treasurer
- Bobby Anderson, Secretary
- Ian Somerville, Vice President
- Cal Braun, President

Looking ahead to 2025, we have a busy spring lined up. On April 26, the Director's Staff will be hosting one of El Zagal's premier events. Suds N Spuds will return for its 14th year! Earlier that same morning, the Shriner's 5K will take place. Come out and stretch your legs—whether you're a runner, jogger, sprinter, or walker, all are welcome! The event concludes with a delicious breakfast.

Before that, the Director's Staff will be actively participating in many Shrine events, such as the Wild Game Feed, the Circus, and numerous Tuesday Burgers. No rest for the wicked. We're sure to have a Pizza Puzzle & Beverages event somewhere in there too. If you haven't attended one of those, you really should check it out. No one leaves hungry or without a smile. Around then we will also be looking for warmer weather and getting the hogs out of the garage and into action.

Until then,
Jon Juelich

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Ladies Auxiliary

The December Brain Buster: What has a head and a tail, but no middle?
Answer: A coin.

Our Christmas brunch was a great success, good food, good friends and great conversation among us.

A meeting was held on January 11 with the purpose to plan our upcoming Style Show which will be held on April 12. More details to follow.

The next meeting is on Saturday, February 8 at 10 am at El Zagal Shrine. WE will be making more blankets. We encourage you to bring a friend to help!

The best exercise you can do is to get rid of those extra calories from the holidays is to walk. It is one of the most effective health strategies that we can do.

February's Brain Buster:
What has to be broken before it can be used?

Auxiliary Reporter
Barb



Misfits

We wrapped up another year, smoked PP Travis Will with an awesome replica of his logo made by Piglet Don Roos. Parade to Glory was a squealer of a good time, our little porker put down some serious donations all under the name of EL Zagal. Thanks to OK Tire for funneling their employee deductions to the hospital through the Misfits. Well Done PP Mike Dow.

Not to Boar you, but we have been bellied up to the trough working on the 1st Annual OK Tire / Misfits Golf Tournament. Mark your calendars for May 21st to be played at Hawley Golf Club.

If you are missing our vittles, the Misfits will have special Misfits minnow shots at the WGF! Misfits will be cooking both at the dome and the appreciation meal for the circus, don't work hungry. Cooks seem to come up, so we will keep you posted on any opportunities for Misfits food.

Keep your plate full and the napkins handy,

Misfits MR

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3RD ANNUAL SHRINER LADY STAGETTE

Shriner Lady Stagette

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TICKET \$50

Friday, February 28, 2025
Doors Open at 6:30 pm for Social
Event 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

at The Arts Center
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No. 001

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Dusters

It is the end of the year for the Dusters. A successful Car Show, Circus, Fly In Breakfast, and Fall Ceremonial are in the books. And who keeps the books is as important as the events the Dusters supported in the 2024.

Bob Bartosh, a Duster, was awarded Samsar Jewel at the Masonic Christmas party held at the Bismarck Elks. Bob works tirelessly as the Secretary and Treasurer for the Dusters. He does the books for the Duster Car Show, local ceremonials, and the Fly In Breakfast. He is our Wizard of Oz. Paul Wilkins is Toto and Rick Kramlich is Dorthy, but only due to the sassy blue and white picnic table print dress he wears! I digress. This is about Bob and not about Rick's crossdressing. Another lesser-known fact about Bob is that he has the neatest printing you will ever see.

Jim Martin, a Duster, also received the Samsar Jewel. If there is an event, Jim is there helping and is there before organizing. He is an Arabic trader when it comes to getting the best deals on locations and food for events. He is well-known as a good guy and knows all the good guys as well. He knows me so what more can I say! He is one of the prime movers for the Dusters and keeps us relevant and active in the community.

At the December meeting of the Dusters we elected the same slate of officers for 2025 as in 2024. We closed out 2024 with our Christmas Party at the Mandan Train Depot on December 14. Mandan has a light display next to the Depot. Mandan, as well as Jamestown, do a great job with decorations. If you are in either town, it is worth your time to see the public light displays.

By my count, we had 14 Dusters plus ladies at the Annual Meeting or Roast the Pote. The longer I am in the Shrine, the more I come to find that the Roast the Pote and Annual Meeting Banquet are the best events. We sent off Pote Travis properly and welcomed Pote Chad. We gave a little over \$32,000 in the Parade to Glory. Much fun was made of Travis for being Lilly White and milk toast in his personality at the Roast. I will have you know that Travis is not boring. He likes two kinds of music: country and western!

The Dusters wish all their Brothers and their Ladies a belated and sincere most blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tim "The Tin Man" Dawson

Mystics

Hello everyone in El Zagal, hope all is well. Happy New Year to all.

The El Zagal Mystics had a successful 2024, I want to thank everyone that made it possible. Mystics are feeling good about this new year as our gun Raffle committee has selected and tickets printed and ready for sale. Fishing For A Cause committee is working hard on their raffle as we're getting sponsors committed. The executive committee recommended and group voted on the new officers for 2025:

- Membership chairmen- Craig M
- Member at large - Dudley Eudy
- Treasure- Jeff Oster
- Secretary- Kyle Trener
- Vice President- Mikes Weatherly
- President- Colin Wagenast

No worries these guys will get 'er done.


El Zagal had their annual meeting this past weekend along with parade of glory and installation of new officers. I am proud to be part of an organization that's does so much to help kids in need. I am proud and excited for our own President Colin (The Fridge) Wegenast has been installed as Second ceremonial master.

That's all for now, catch ya next month.

The El Zagal Mystics Howard Weispenning

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Jamestown Clowns

Hello to all Nobles and Ladies.

First meeting of new year was a class in being classy. First... Andy was a push over THEN all of a sudden, he was beating the gavel, like a rented mule. I think the power went to his head. Later he admitted he will make a plethora of mistakes, and we had to forgive him now for those later. We did not buy what he was selling. Later on that...

Clown for a Night Report was good, Thanks Dave and Chuck for all you do. And Andy for decorating.....

- Polar Pig Walk the plank --Feb. 1
- Shrine Club STAG-- Feb. 28
- Circus April 15
- Watch for E-Mails on other stuff

Polar Pig Walk the Plank is coming, and any donations can be dropped off at Hillerud Construction. Thank you guys for doing that...

Jon L. cancer report was good, we heard he is cancer free. Congratulations Jon !!!! Kieth S. was not at the meeting, no one had a report on him. I saw him a while ago he was doing good. That is wonderful.

Charlie Skeel passed away, and I cannot write the words that express my feeling of loss. We wish all the best for Jan and family. We had a small tribute at the meeting and a few stories were told. All good. Charlie was a wonderful giving person, who loved children, and loved being a clown, he made a clown look like a clown should look. Funny man... He will be missed by all. When he was Potentate (2007), I entered the shrine with 32 others. We were the last class to begin our journey in the old Masonic Building on main street. I can't say it enough; Sweet Pea will be missed. We wish all the best for Jan and family. A memorial is lining up for April 26, here at the Masonic lodge in Jamestown. ALL will be informed later. Watch for e-mails.

I am ending it here. Thanks for Reading This..... Weezer..



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The El Zagal Shrine

Wild Game Feed

Anyone 21 or under must attend with legal guardian.
All ages need a paid ticket.

Saturday, February 15, 2025
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

"Food served until gone"
Social and early bird games start at 4 pm
Grand Prize drawings at 9:00 pm

El Zagal Shrine
1429 3rd St. N. Fargo, ND

PRIZES

- 1st Prize** \$1000 Scheels Gift Card
- 2nd Prize** \$750 Scheels Gift Card
- 3rd Prize** \$500 Scheels Gift Card
- 4th Prize** \$250 Scheels Gift Card

*additional games and raffles throughout the night
****Must be 18 or older to participate in raffles**
(proceeds benefit Temple operation only and is not a charitable donation)

\$40.00 in advance

Limited Tickets so get yours in advance, tickets may not be available at the door.

(Need Not Be Present To Win)



El Zagal Camel Tales Submissions:

- To help insure accurate information, please include all names and locations of photos submitted.
- Submission deadline for Camel Tales is the 18th of each month prior.
- Submissions for EZ in a Minute can be made any time. Please allow 1 to 2 weeks for publication. .jpg or .gif preferred.
- To subscribe & unsubscribe, go to www.elzagal.org//ez-in-a-minute
- Please continue to send all submissions to cameltales@elzagal.org

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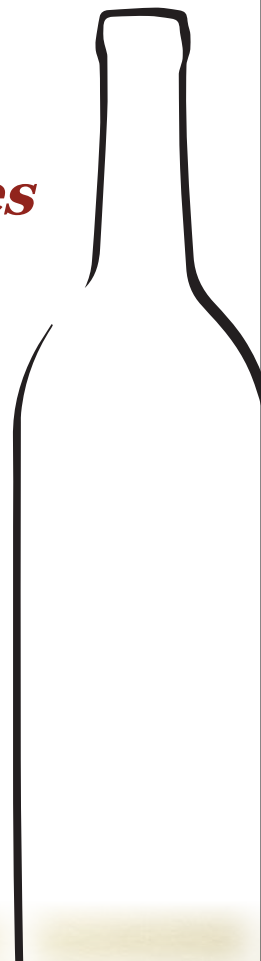
Friday, March 14, 2025

6:00pm to 8:30pm
Tickets: \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door

Advance tickets can be purchased from:
Arab Patrol members
El Zagal Shrine office
Arab Patrol facebook events page

**YOUR TICKET #
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- \$500 Hornbacher's Gift Card
- \$250 Scheels Gift Card
- \$100 West Acres Gift Card





SHRINERS
INTERNATIONAL



Nobles don't hesitate to help as wildfires spread

Dear Fellow Nobles,

Like you, we have been watching the news out of Southern California with a growing sense of care and concern. Wildfires in Los Angeles County continue to burn and are proving very difficult to contain and fight. Our thoughts and prayers are with our fraternity members and all residents of the area.

Our local temple, Al Malaikah Shriners, is near downtown Los Angeles and out of harm's way. But Potentate Dario Gamboa has advised that they do have a few members who lost their homes and are currently staying with relatives. So far, we have not received any reports of fatalities among our membership, and we pray it remains that way.

It is no surprise that Al Malaikah has stepped up to support the community. Their efforts are ongoing and include deliveries of food, water and coffee to the first responders working tirelessly under extremely difficult conditions. We are so proud of our nobles, who are making the time and effort to assist others.

While our Shriners Children's Southern California location was not threatened by the flames, it was closed for three days last week due to severely hazardous air quality in the area. Thankfully, the medical center has reopened today. Many staff members were forced to evacuate, while others were standing ready for evacuation orders to be called in their neighborhoods. We are distressed to report that a few staff members have lost their homes, as did the family of one of Pasadena's patient ambassadors. Chief Nursing Officer Beverly Bokovitz told us that as Shriners Children's leaders and staff members in Pasadena navigate the wildfire challenges, we should rest assured that patient and employee safety are the first priority.

As a fraternity, we are called to stand together as brothers and to do all we can to help make the world a better place. We congratulate the efforts of our Al Malaikah brothers and commend them for their service. And we continue to send our best wishes and deepest concern to all who are impacted by this horrific, historic disaster. Yours in the faith,

Imperial Sir Richard G. Burke
Imperial Potentate, Shriners International

Dr. Leslie D. Stewart
Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Shriners Children's

Kate's Corner

Here is the Ladies Corner.

There are many fun events this year. Here are a few to put on your calendar.

Things to Note:

- **Anchored in Friendship jewelry available for \$10 each.**
Proceeds go towards the Ladies Auxiliary and Ladies Luncheon at Imperial 2029.
 - Pin
 - Earring
 - Necklace
- **Ladies Stagette in Jamestown on Friday, February 28, 2025**
- **Spring Ceremonial in Gwinner June 6-8, 2025**
- **Fall Ceremonial is September 12-14 at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, Minnesota**



WELCOME

TO THE EL ZAGAL Escort Motor Patrol Annual

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

EL ZAGAL SHRINE CENTER

DINING 4:30 - 7:30 pm



TICKETS TAKE OUT ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE

TICKETS AVAILABLE: FROM ANY ESCORT MOTOR PATROL MEMBER AND THE ARABIAN ROOM AT EL ZAGAL AND AT THE DOOR

TICKETS: \$20.00
CHILDREN UNDER 6: FREE

Proceeds from this Spaghetti Dinner are for the benefit of the El Zagal Escort Motor Patrol not deducted as a charitable contribution.



WILD GAME FEED 2025 FEBRUARY 15TH



CALLING ALL NOBLES AND LADIES. WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS AND PEOPLE TO HELP WITH ONE OF THE YEAR'S FINEST TASTING TEMPLE FUND RAISERS.

MEETINGS BEGIN OCTOBER 29TH AT 6 PM

NOVEMBER 20TH @ 6 PM

DECEMBER 18TH @ 6 PM

JANUARY 8TH @ 6 PM

JANUARY 22ND @ 6 PM

FEBRUARY 5TH @ 6 PM

PREP WEEK IS FEBRUARY 9TH - 14TH



Make sure to put the Wild Game Feed on your Unit or Club's agenda and make a point of attending WGF meetings. Each year we ask units and clubs to donate a raffle item, this year we would like your cash. We found out last year that our buying power goes a lot farther if we can purchase everything at the same time.

Contact Mike Hennebry at m.f.hennebry@gmail.com or 701-238-3573 with donations, volunteering or tickets.

Bison - Elk - Walleye - Northern Pike - Venison - Alligator - Wild Boar - Pheasant - Goose - Partridge

BRYCE ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES

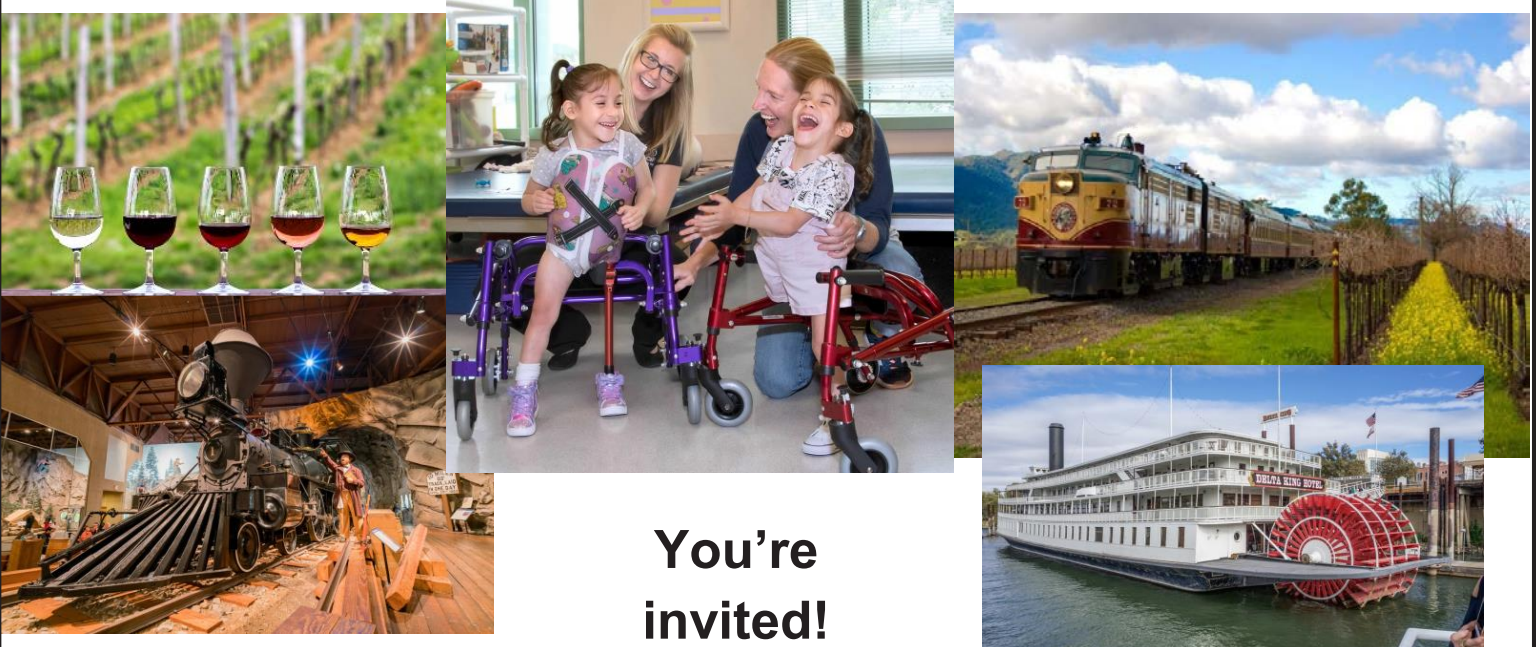
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You're invited!

2025 El Zagal Shrine Trip

with Chad & Katie Decker
November 5 – 10, 2025

This 6-day, 5-night trip will include:

- 5 nights hotel with Breakfast on the Riverfront in Sacramento
- 3 Dinners and 2 Lunches
- A tour of Shriner's Children's Northern California at UC Davis
- California State Railroad Museum
- Wine Tasting! 3 wineries
- Gold Country Tours, including a Gold Panning Lesson
- A visit to San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf
- Lunch on the Napa Wine Train
- Dinner on the Historic Delta King Riverboat

At this time, we are taking reservations only to save your space. A fully refundable deposit of \$25 per person will get you one of the limited number of spots available.

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THE POTE'S PARTY

March 15, 2025

SHAMROCKS & SHENANIGANS

5:00 PM - COCKTAILS

6:30 PM - DINNER

AFTER -
SHENANIGANS,
MALARKEY &
TOMFOOLERY

SHRINE TEMPLE



UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 2025

- March 1-2 - Duster's Car Show
- March 4 - Tuesday Burgers
- March 11 - Tuesday Burgers
- March 14 - Arab Patrol Wine Tasting
- March 15 - Shamrock Soiree
- March 15 - Shamrocks & Shenanigans
- March 18 - Tuesday Burgers
- March 22 - EMP Spaghetti Feed
- March 25 - Tuesday Burgers



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEBRUARY 2025						1
2	3	Tuesday Burgers	5	6	7	8
9	WGF Prep	WGF Prep Tuesday Burgers	WGF Prep	WGF Prep	WGF Prep	Wild Game Feed
16	17	Tuesday Burgers	MSA Winter Session	MSA Winter Session	MSA Winter Session	MSA Winter Session
23	24	Tuesday Burgers	26	27	James Valley Shrine Club Stag Shriner Lady Stagette	28



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