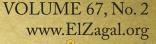
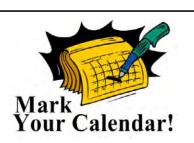
# March 2025





Car Show	_March 1-2
Wine Tasting	_March 14
Shamrock Soiree	_March 15
Shamrocks & Shenanigans	_March 15
Spaghetti Feed	March 22
Bloom with Style	April 12
Easter Party	April 19



RV campsites and hotel rooms are available for reservations.



# TUESDAY BURGERS 5:30PM TO 7PM

# **POTENTATE'S MESSAGE** *The best Ships are friendShips*

I am hoping that when you read this, it is warmer – at the current time, it is unconscionably cold. But I am assuming better weather is coming.

It has been a busy time so far this year. The week after the El Zagal Annual Banquet, Ill.

Sir Bob Wedberg, Ill. Sir Travis Will, Lady Meghan, Lady Kate and I all traveled up to Grand Forks to participate in Kem's Annual Meeting and banquet. It was great to see some old friends and make new ones.

A few of us (Bruce Ridgway, Nathan Hopper and I) drove over to New Rockford to have a meet and greet with some prospective members. Mark Kennard, Andy Kapp, Colin Wegenast and Richie Wolf all drove up from Jamestown. We had a great time up there, and we received I think 12 new petitions! And a couple of requests for reinstatement. Thanks again to Stu and Brady Richter for organizing this. I think having these sorts of things out and about is something we should do more often.

The Arab Patrol was nice enough to extend an invitation to Lady Kate and I to attend their Christmas Party. We had a great time, and it was nice to participate.

Then it was off to Dallas to see the East West Shrine Bowl. We had quite a turnout from El Zagal – over a dozen people from our Temple were able to make the trip. That's fantastic, and I hope the trend continues in the years to come.

Upon landing at MSP airport, we journeyed over to Minnetonka to Zuhrah's hospitality rooms at the Marriott. Although they don't do a Roast the Pote (yet), many of their units had hospitality in several different rooms



on the same floor, and it was quite

a thing to see. Ill. Sir Clif, if I knew you guys were this much fun, I would have come sooner! The next day they had several candidates go through a mini-ceremonial, and that was great to see. The banquet and installation were very enjoyable as well. We had

Potentates from El Zagal, Zor, Tripoli, and Osman in attendance. Nice to get together with counterparts!

Lady Kate and I did get up to the Super Bowl party at El Zagal. It was lightly attended, but all had fun.

Then it was time for the Wild Game Feed – a great fundraiser and all-around good time at the Temple. We did a Cold Sands for a couple of new candidates before it started – which is a great way to begin the evening! I definitely did not have the best luck with raffles and such, but I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and it appeared that everyone had an excellent time. We even got a bus load of Vikings from down South! Great to see those folks from my home unit.

Looking forward to a fairly busy calendar coming up. We have the Jamestown Stag/ Stagette at the end of the month (make sure you get your tickets if you haven't already). Then the Dusters Car Show in Bismarck on March 1-2, and then the Arab Patrol Wine Tasing on March 14. And certainly, don't forget the Pote's Party/Ladies Luncheon the next day on March 15. Join us for Shamrocks and Shenanigans! Call Andrea by March 10 to reserve your spot.

Remember - the best Ships are friendShips.

Yours in Faith, Chad Decker 2025 Potentate

### TUESDAY BURGER UNIT SCHEDULE 5:30PM - 7PM

MARCH 4 ARAB PATROL March 11 Misfits March 18 Directors Staff March 25 EMP

APRIL 1 – PROVOST April 8 – Arab Patrol April 15 – Misfits April 22 – Emp April 29 – Directors Staff

### El Zagal Camel Tales Published monthly for

Published monthly for El Zagal Temple, Shriners International 1429 North 3rd Street Fargo, North Dakota 58102 email: info@elzagal.org www.ElZagal.org

### Office Manager

Andrea Kallstrom Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Temple Office / 701-235-7521 Temple Fax / 701-235-7522

#### 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

1st CM
2nd CM
Director
Chief of Staff

#### Membership Nathan Hopper 720-938-8198

nathan.a.hopper@gmail.com

### **HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Ken LeggateDickinson	701-483-1681
Garret NjosBismarck	701-426-3557
Cal BraunFargo	701-793-6586
Paul WitthauerJamestown	701-320-5433
Lonnie StippichHettinger	701-567-2664
Dean AndersonGwinner	701-678-2695
Gary GrindallDetroit Lakes	218-234-0821
Jim HildebrantValley 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



Treasurer Jason Rocky Rockswold, PP

Divan Ladies





Ladies Auxiliary The February Brain Buster: What has to be broken before it can be used? Answer: An egg.

The blanket party held on February 8 was a great event as we all worked together to make blankets for the WGA for Kids. Six blankets were made at this meeting. Way to go gals!

The winter months with excessive wind, very cold temps, icy roads, can lead to feelings of loneliness. What can we do to lessen these feelings? Here are a few suggestions:

- ✓ Call a friend
- ✓ Go to a social activity
- ✓ Do physical activities such as group exercise classes
- $\checkmark$  Have a lunch with a friend

✓ Develop a morning routine, and stick to it. We are continuing to meet and plan for our upcoming Style Show being held on Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 am at El Zagal Shrine. Tickets are \$20 and includes lunch, dessert, and the fashion show with door prize drawings. A cash bar will be available. Tickets are available from any Auxiliary member, El Zagal office, the Arabian Room, and at the door.

The Shamrock Soiree, the Potentate's Ladies Luncheon, is being held at El Zagal Shrine on Saturday, March 15 at 11 am. Reservations should be forwarded to Andrea at the El Zagal Office, and are due by Wednesday, March 12. "Wear green"!

The WGA for Kids Annual Meeting is April 27 & 28 at Lake Elmo. Our next meeting will be at El Zagal Saturday, March 8 at 10 am. More blanket making...

March's Brain Buster: What building has the most stories?

Auxiliary Reporter Barb



## Misfits

How about those minnow shots at the WGF? We hope you tried one of those delicious morsels and got a one-of-a-kind limited edition Misfits Minnow Shot shirt. They will be a collector item at some point.

The Misfits are still in a little bit of a deep freeze from winter, but hope to be thawing out and standing around the cooker soon, can't wait to sniff a smoking pork butt. The Misfits are cooking for the OK TIRE CHARITY GOLF event coming up on May 21st, and a couple burger nights.

Our meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, social at 6:30, meeting at 7 PM, El Zagal Temple. Were a great group of fellas, just ask us.

Rub you butts & pull your pork for a smoking good time,

Misfits MR





If your name is missing, please let us know and we can get you added and thank you all for your loyal support for all these years and years to come.

Yours in Faith

Blake H. Wrigley "Ringo"

Temple Director 2025







At the FARGODOME - 1800 University Dr N, Fargo, ND APRIL 4 - 7 PM, APRIL 5 - 10 AM • 2 PM • 6 pm, APRIL 6 - 12 PM • 4 PM FOR TICKET INFORMATION GO ONLINE WWW.FARGOSHRINECIRCUS.COM

### **Mystics**

Hello everyone in El Zagal hope all is well. Jamestown Chamber of Commerce had their annual banquet in January and awarded The Shriners the Beautification award for all the beautiful lights on Shriner Hill. A big thanks to the Light bulb committee for patrolling the hill and making sure the lights are shining bright. Thanks Scott A. and Richie W. for making JMST shine bright.

Our 14th Annual Gun Raffle is out and selling fast. \$100 gets you a great chance to Win 20 high end guns and 5 Cash prizes. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Get your ticket soon. Brock and Kyle are working long nights getting our parade units ready for the 2025 parade season. Adjusting clutches, changing spark plugs, and polishing them up so we can make El Zagal shine like we always do. Thanks boys.

FFAC committee is getting ready to go print with that raffle ticket (more to come on that next month).

FISH FRY .....THATS RIGHT......44th Annual Fish Fry will be on March 21. Shadys Banquet room at The Gladstone Inn 4:00pm-7:00pm. Drive up and take out available. Hope to see ya all there.

Do you hear what I hear? That's right, the El Zagal Shrine Circus is coming to town, April 15th. Mystics are busy selling ads for the circus book and preparing for the big show. Don't miss it.

The Mystics are preparing. We have 3 new candidates doing degree work right now. Welcome brothers.

Sorry to say we lost a brother. Our prayers go out to the Charlie Skeel family. That's all for now. Catch ya next month.

#### The El Zagal Mystics Howard Weispfenning



## **Jamestown Clowns**

Hello to all Nobles and Ladies,

Isn't it great to have a few really clean air days in Winter? Except they are usually -20. I hate the cold, and wind, I guess I'm old.

February is about over, and our new Clown President is doing great; Polar Plunge, new members, upbeat e-mails, although a new e-mail from him EVERYDAY does seem like he is trying to push his agenda a little too much. Let's hope he has a new gavel at our upcoming meeting. I don't think the old one will last much longer. (A lot of pounding). I was gone for our Feb. meeting, but I can still make stuff up.

March will come in like a lamb, so let's hope it goes out that way too. Not much snow to push and by the time you read this it should be very scarce. I think half the clowns are south right now, can't they stay home? Roads have been clear, what's the problem? Everyone has a furnace.

I wish everyone good health, fair skies, and wind at your back. As always,

I am ending it here.

Thanks for Reading This......Weezer.



**RIDGWAYLAWNS.COM** 

# Director's Staff

As distant as it feels in -20 temperatures, we are looking forward to a very busy spring and summer.

We are poised and ready to make sure all those smiling faces at the circus have a light up novelty in their hands. The circus may be a ton of work for all of nobility, but I think we can all agree that smiling faces make it well worth the sore feet and aching bodies that we all earn over those three days.

Speaking of sore feet and aching bodies, we cannot forget to talk about the Wild Game Feed that was held at El Zagal this last weekend. In the last number of years, this event has evolved and essentially been reinvented to continue to exceed expectations. I am absolutely blown away by the growth of this event year after year. This is due to leadership that really cares about the success of this event. Although no event is perfect, there were many hands that ensured that it ran as well as possible. I can't name all the people that worked, but I am going to call out a few that not only showed up the day of the event but dedicated many hours behind the scenes in the weeks or months prior to the actual event. The first one is Mike Hennebry. When you see him, please thank him for his work. Running an event is a thankless job as many of you know. I have no idea how many hours he has into this but I assure you it is many. Bravo Sir! Very well done! I also need to recognize others that went above and beyond with time and talent. Thank you to the following: Scott and Laurie Schafer, Roger Ellsworth, Casey Schoer, Ringo, Mike Haugen, and D Hennebry. Thank you to everyone else that helped as well. I hope I didn't miss anyone. Of course, Shana and the entire Bar staff did an excellent job as usual. I do need to thank Paul and Barb Rudh and Chuck and Geri Monroe separately. These people amaze me. God willing, I will be healthy enough when I am over 80 years young to contribute like they do!

Last month, Jon mentioned Suds N Spuds on April 26th. We will have the usual craft beer tasting, potato bar and chef competition. We are looking for competitors for the competition. If you know any chefs or home cooks up to a challenge, please send them to Roger. We always hear about how much fun they have doing it. Also, we are looking for a sponsor for our glassware. If anyone has a business that would like to advertise or knows anyone that may be interested, reach out to me. It would be a one-time commitment to get two years of advertising at the event. This includes an imprint on one side of the glassware and the ability to print a coupon or other advertising on the back of the ticket to drive customers to your business.

With a busy year ahead, there is much more to say but I have already taken up too much space. So, until next time, when someone does something good, Applaud! You will make two people happy.

Regards, Cal Braun

OWNER



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Wine Tasting Hors d'oeuvres Silent Auction

Open to public, 21 & over

El Zagal Shrine Temple 1429 3rd Street North Fargo, ND

### 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 # COULD WIN YOU A PRIZE

\$500 Hornbacher's Gift Card \$250 Scheels Gift Card \$100 West Acres Gift Card

44<sup>th</sup> Annual El Zagal Mystic

# **FISH FRY** Friday, March 21st, 2025

SHADY'S BANQUET ROOM AT THE GLADSTONE INN 4:00-7:00 PM

DRIVE UP AND TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

## TICKETS

ADULTS \$15.00 6-12 YRS \$5.00 UNDER 6 YRS FREE

Tickets Available at Shady's, Jonny B's, West End, from any El Zagal Mystic member, or at the Door

TICKETS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES. PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT MYSTIC FUNCTIONS AND SHRINE CHARITIES



SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 EL ZAGAL SHRINE CENTER DINING 4:30 - 7:30 pm

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.

## California, Here We Come!



# 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.

For further information, or to reserve your spot, contact: Micki Downey (408) 482-9023 micki@starandcompass.com





### How One Self-Proclaimed Misfit Turned His Passion Into a Club at Shriners International

Fun And Fellowship



Members of El Zagal's Misfits BBQ club gather together.

When you join a group, you want to feel a sense of belonging. But, in 2018, when Todd Kirchoffner joined the **El Zagal Shriners** in Fargo, North Dakota, he felt like a misfit, he told friend and fellow noble Mike Hennebry. "He said he didn't feel he fit into any one unit or club," said Hennebry, a Shriner since 2000 and a highly active member. "He's not a social butterfly."

So, to better connect with his new brothers, Kirchoffner wanted to form a club inspired by his abiding passion for barbecue. He's such a fan of the cuisine that he even built a smoker in 2018, complete with a pig-shaped head sporting a fuchsia snout and ears. Hennebry loved the idea and, since he had leadership experience from El Zagal's motor corps, set out to help his friend establish a group serving up good times and great eats.

He recalls the process as simple, in part thanks to his past leadership roles but also because other El Zagal members were more than happy to lend a hand in getting Misfits BBQ - named after Kirchoffner's initial feeling of being an outsider - up and running. Hennebry met with the young members club, Yoshi, which gladly shared a copy of its bylaws and answered questions.

"I edited the bylaws to fit our club and presented them to the potentate for him to review and sign," he said. "It was really very easy to start." Since then, it's been a "blur of nonstop fun," Hennebry said.

Misfits BBQ leader Mike Hennebry at an event.

Except for their timing: Misfits BBQ officially opened in January 2020, right before the outbreak of Covid. However, the club has remained nimble (like switching from delivery to drive-through for contactless service and using social media to advertise), adapting



to challenges by consulting other clubs and units of El Zagal. The group also discusses issues at the end of each meeting in its "kangaroo court," said Hennebry, a past president of Misfits BBQ. Making sure every member feels heard is an important part of retention, he said, and the club currently stands at 20 members strong.

For other Shriners considering starting clubs or units, don't hesitate, Hennebry said. Find a few other like-minded individuals to form your initial group, tap the knowledge of those members or others within the Shrine to get things done and consult the Divan if you're having trouble. "I've never run into any obstacles within the Shrine where somebody doesn't want you to do something because they think it'll take away from them," he said. "We're all there for the same purpose: We want to grow membership. We want to keep the club and the units in the temple active."

For nobles seeking to improve their skills and leadership, Shriners International **offers online and in-person educational classes** in various areas, including membership, marketing, accounting and technology, for members at all levels.

Have a club or unit you want featured on our website and social media? You can do so through **Project 3-5-7**, a new dynamic endeavor that celebrates our existing groups while fostering growth for new ones. **Spotlight your club or unit by filling out our form**.

Story from Project 3-5-7, How One Shriner Turned His Passion Into a Club | Shriners International https://www.shrinersinternational.org/en/news-and-events/news/2025/02/how-one-shriner-turned-hispassion-into-a-club

# Kate's Corner:

Ladies, I hope you have your ticket for the ladies stagette in Jamestown.

Make sure you sign up for the Ladies luncheon. The Ladies luncheon is on March 15 at 11. We look forward to seeing all you Ladies that day. We will have another amazing meal by our favorite caterer. In addition to the Ladies luncheon, we are hosting the Pote's Party that evening. (casual attire) Wear your green!

If you are a quilter, crafter, or scrapper and are looking for an opportunity to get together, let Lady Katy know as many people have requested a get together. deckerkate@outlook.com

Anchor pins, necklaces, and earrings are available for you at \$10, or \$30 for all 3! Proceeds go towards the Ladies Auxiliary and the Imperial Ladies Luncheon of 2029.

So happy to be anchored in friendship with you! Katy

### Did someone say golf ?

EL Zagal will be teeing up a bunch of golf opportunities for you this summer. The OK TIRE Charity Golf Tournament – May 21st at the Hawley Country Club The 9 holes in One and ceremonial golf events should happen over the summer

AND THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE GOLFING SEASON – EL Zagal / CyberAdvisors PRO-AM Charity golf Tournament August 20th Registrations will be coming out soon for these stellar events, and in the interim, see me with questions.





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# **OKTire Open**

### Greetings Nobles and Ladies,

I hope everyone has endured the winter well.

With the hint of spring there is an opportunity to support one of our generous donors. OK Tire has a Charity Golf Outing planned in May. Of course, there will be lots of fun and great food. Our BBQ Club the "Misfits" have partnered with them to make this a great day. Get your team signed up as soon as you can. You can also sponsor a sign, donate a prize or come out and volunteer for the day.

### Hope to see you there!

Yours in Faith MD PP



# **Gun Show in Jamestown**

Date: End of April

Location: Jamestown Civic Center Sponsor: EZ Outdoors

Join us for an exciting gun show hosted by Dudley Eudy! To attend or set up a booth, contact Dudley.

Special for Shrine units: The Mystics have a table reserved and Dudley can provide an extra table for any unit wishing to sell tickets or raffles.

Meet Dudley, an FFL dealer and certified CCW instructor. He can help you get your license!

See you there!





### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

# 2025 Old Bastard's Fishing Trip

Fargo, ND to Lake of the Woods, MN

### Schedule:

**Thursday JULY 17** depart from FARGO at *Noon*, arrive at BALLARD'S RESORT at 4:15pm, check-in, group orientation, complimentary welcome reception, evening dinner, lodging first night.

**FRI & SAT** 700am breakfast, guided walleye fishing (800am to 400pm), lunch on the lake, evening dinner in the dining room, nightly lodging.

Sunday JULY 20 700am breakfast, depart lodge at 800am, arrive in Fargo at 12:15pm.

### Package:

**Lodging in cabins...** Each unit is complete with living room, two single beds per bedroom, bathroom, TV, towels, bedding, & daily maid service. Based on availability and pricing, there are one, two, and three-bedroom cabins at hand for reservations. Preference is to reserve each cabin for intact parties of two to six anglers. Groups will also be matched when necessary to effectively utilize lodging space.

**Guided walleye fishing...** Our 27 ft. Sportcrafts, (guide boats), include angling equipment, bait, tackle, on-board restroom facilities, ice, & fish processing. The boats accommodate up to six anglers, plus a Coast Guard licensed guide, & operate for an eight-hour day.

**American Plan meals...** This is a set daily menu with generous portions. Dinners each evening. Breakfasts every morning. Sack lunches on the boat (group walleye shore lunch on day-one of fishing).

**Luxury motorcoach...** Professional transportation is provided locally. Your vacation begins the second you climb aboard. This (56) passenger deluxe model includes DVD video monitors, Wi-Fi capabilities, restroom facilities, & comfortable seating. Socialize with friends, bring along a movie, read a book, relax, & share the adventures of group travel.

## Not Included:

**Beverages...** Bring a cooler to pack your own lunch & beverage for the ride up. The cooler will also be used to transport your fish on the way home. Other than breakfasts, you are responsible for your own beverages during the day on the boats and for dinners. You can purchase beer, liquor, soda, bottled water, and N/A beverages at the lodge.

*MN fishing license*... Purchase in advance <u>dnr.state.mn.us</u>, or at Ballard's Resort on arrival.

Gratuities... Tips for the fishing guides, restaurant wait-staff, & daily housekeeping.

Deposits Due: MARCH 31

Final Payments Due: JUNE 15

#218.634.1849

BallardsResort.com

# Ahoy Matey's!

July is right around the corner! Ugh...not so much, but we can start thinking about it. The contracts are signed for the 2025 Old Bastard's Fishing Trip with our Captain, Illustrious Sir, Chad Decker! The dates are July 17-20th and in the El Zagal Calendar. A \$300 Deposit is required and DUE by March 31st and final payment by June 15th.

We have 30 spots available this year, so get your deposits in early to secure your spot. If you were on the trip last year and get your deposit in by March 31, your spot is secured.

Read through the flyers and let me know if you have any questions.

Please make the checks out to Ballard's Resort and send deposits to: El Zagal Shrine 1429 3rd St. N Fargo, ND 58102 ATTN: OB Fishing Trip

I look forward to seeing everyone and getting on the big water!

Stay Hydrated, Shaun Engelsrud

# Old Bastard's Fishing Trip with our Captain! Illustrious Sir, Chad Decker!





Per Person Package Includes:

Round trip motorcoach transportation...Three nights lodging...Two days guided walleye fishing...Eight meals...Rods...Reels...Bait...Tackle...Ice...Fish processing...All taxes...

## Special Rate = \$735 per person



