

III. Glenn Opperman  
Potentate

The Fez  
Spring 2021



*The Official Publication of Kismet Shrine*

P.O. Box 834 Hicksville, NY 11801

<http://KismetShriners.org>

## **This Philanthropy of Ours**

- Dr. Mitch Goodkin

**M**erriam-Webster Dictionary defines Philanthropy as “...**goodwill to fellow members of the human race.... active effort to promote human welfare**”. Being philanthropic, being charitable, is at the fundamental core of what it means to be a Shriner. We, as Shriners, as Kismet Shriners, are deeply proud of our philanthropy, of our foundational sense of charity, especially in respect to the Shriners Hospitals and the children.

An insightful article on [charterforcompassion.org](http://charterforcompassion.org) states:

Being philanthropic, “...*being charitable towards others is a spiritual asset—one that can contribute to community building. Some might even maintain that it is impossible to build a sense of belonging and community without some form of charitable practice.*” They go on to quote social rights activist Desmond Tutu:

*“You can’t be human all by yourself, and when you have this quality..” “...you are known for your generosity. We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole World. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity.”*

In overlaying this concept upon our core beliefs as Shriners, we can look further at our sense of charity and at this philanthropy of ours. Our philanthropic mission is, at it’s roots, a type of generosity; it is the ability to give of yourself for the betterment of the world, or, specifically, in our cause, for the betterment of children in need. This generosity does not necessarily mean financial generosity, there are many ways that we, as Shriners, can give of ourselves; we can give our time and encouragement to support our Brother Nobles.

*...continued inside back page*

**M**y Noble & Illustrious Brothers,

I'd like to thank you all for your attendance and participation at our last communication. I was very excited to be potentate as we witnessed the birth of the "**4 FEZ SHRINE CLUB**". I wish them well and I personally look forward to participating in all of their already-planned upcoming events. Please see one of their officers for a petition to join!

I'm looking forward to our June communication. As you all know, it will be our **Spaghetti Fundraiser Festive Board** dinner. At this exciting communication we will also be obligating the new nobles. I'm encouraging you all to attend. The price for the dinner is very reasonable at only \$15/per noble.

As we begin to enter the summer season, with Covid-19 restrictions being lifted, I'd like to see if we can have a barbecue this year. They were always so much fun and I'm really looking forward to see if we can put one together this year. I'll reach out to our past potentates, Illustrious Billy Bontemps and Illustrious Mike Brzoza, to see if we can still use their connections in Amityville as a location to host this event. Let's keep our fingers crossed!!

As of now there are still no updates on the sale of our beloved Kismet Shrine Center. As soon as there is any kind of an update I assure you all that there will be notification.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU TO CONVERT YOUR LODGE BROTHERS INTO NEW NOBLES!**

**REACH OUT TO ME OR TO OUR  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN,  
NOBLE DAVID ROTHSTEIN!**

**Nobles, your Divan is here for you!**

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Your Potentate 2021

**III. Sir Glenn  
Opperman**



## KISMET'S DIVAN AT A GLANCE

<b>Potentate</b>	Glenn Opperman	Potentate@KismetShriners.org
<b>Chief Rabban</b>	Leo Johnson	ChiefRabban@KismetShriners.org
<b>Assistant Rabban</b>	Mitch Goodkin	AssistantRabban@KismetShriners.org
<b>High Priest &amp; Prophet</b>	Joe Konklewski	HighPriestAndProphet@KismetShriners.org
<b>Oriental Guide</b>	Miles Maier	OrientalGuide@KismetShriners.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	III Sir Greg Feldman	Treasurer@KismetShriners.org
<b>Recorder</b>	III Sir Russell L. Magidson	Recorder@KismetShriners.org

Chief Aide	Bob Stein	Hadji Director	Terry Maccarrone
Captain of the Guard	Robert Dawson		
Membership Chairman	David Rothstein	Webmaster	III. Glenn Opperman
Director	Leo Johnson		III. Russell L. Magidson
Chaplain	Ed Middendorf	Fez Editor	Mitch Goodkin
Culinary Unit	III. Mike Iannone		III. Glenn Opperman
Mini Choppers	Oscar Garcia		III. Russell L. Magidson
	III. George Heyen		
Suffolk Shrine Club	Mike Hebert, President	Public Relations	ALL Nobles of Kismet
Yacht Club	III. William Bontemps Jr.	Fund Raising	ALL Nobles of Kismet
Clowns	Joe Konklewski		
Cabiri	III. George Wacob	Trustees (2021-2023)	III. Robert DiCarlo
Band-assador	Christopher Montuori		David Rothstein
Donor Relations	III. Robert Di Carlo	Trustees (2020-2022)	III. Mike Marmo
"Oasis"	Robert Dawson		III. Jeff Arist
	III. George Heyen	Trustees (2019-2021)	John Kelly III
Building Management	III. George Heyen		III. Sir George Heyen
	Oscar Garcia		
	III. Robert Di Carlo		
Photographer	III. Robert Di Carlo		

### Living Past Potentates:

III. Donald Harrison, 1996	III. Michael L. Marmo III, 2009
III. Louis F. Barazotti, 1997	III. Joseph Savaglio, 2011
III. Charles L. Schueler, Jr., 1998	III. Russell L. Magidson, 2012
III. John E. Schwartzman, 2001	III. Michael P. Iannone, 2013
III. Robert F. Smith III, 2002	III. Greg Feldman, 2014
III. George R. Wacob, 2003	III. George Heyen, 2015
III. Kenneth Sussman, 2004	III. Larry Dittmer, 2016
III. Robert Seldomridge 2005	III. Jeff Arist, 2017
III. Joseph A. Santillo, 2006	III. William Bontemps Jr, 2018
III. Mark Suckle, 2007	III. Robert DiCarlo, 2019
III. Edward Chaini, 2008	III. Mike Brzoza, 2020

### Shriners Hospitals Board Members

III. Lou F. Barazotti, PP (Boston, Emeritus)	III. Russell L. Magidson, PP (Boston)
III Robert Di Carlo (Philadelphia)	III. Joseph Savaglio, PP (Philadelphia, Emeritus)
III. Greg Feldman, PP (Boston)	III. Charles Scheuler, Jr., PP (Philadelphia, Emeritus)



## In Remembrance of those taken by The Black Camel

The Great Architect of the Universe has seen fit to send The Black Camel to carry our Noble Brothers beyond this vast desert of life to reside in everlasting comfort and peace by His side at the eternal Oasis of Heaven. Although we mourn the loss of our Noble Brothers, for they will truly be missed, we take solace in the knowledge that, as a Shriner of Kismet Temple, they leave a legacy of charity and kindness behind.

Noble Dan Rosenfeld.....Obligated 10-15-2012

Noble Robert A. Vitale.....Obligated 06-09-2007

Noble Raymond Klimpel.....Obligated 12-18-1971

Noble & Past DDGM RW □ Mike Winkler.....Obligated 03-04-2003



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MassGeneral Hospital for Children to  
provide the most comprehensive care for  
children with craniofacial disorders.



# SOME WORDS FROM THE DIVAN

## From the Chief Rabban's Desk

**G**reetings Nobles!

As I write this, I hope I find you doing well as we near the end of our pandemic isolations and ordeals. All of our lives have been touched by COVID, but now, as the restrictions start to be cautiously lifted, I am hoping the summer will allow us some return to a semblance of normalcy.

If anyone still wants an official Kismet shirt, or needs a name badge, please let me know. We are still organizing our accommodations for Virginia Beach; this is a great event for Shriners, so reach out to me if you need more information.

With our relocation soon approaching, I'd like to remind you all that we need to come together to make this transition a smooth one.



## From the Assistant Rabban,

**W**e need to refocus our actions to meet our goals.

**Goal #1**—Making our Shrine fun and fraternal. **HOW? Refocus our Actions!** Well, in order to make the Shrine fun and fraternal, we need **YOU** to be involved: attend the meetings, attend events, post on Facebook, reach out to other Nobles you haven't seen in a while; it's as simple as that, **BE INVOLVED!**

**Goal #2**—Supporting the children and our Hospitals. **HOW? Refocus our Actions!** Well, funny enough, the answer is the same as the first goal!... **BE INVOLVED!** There are so many opportunities for you to be an active, involved Shriner. It all begins with you actually showing up to stated meetings. **PLEASE**, be involved.

**Our Shrine needs you, the children need you.**



Thank You & Be Well,  
- Leo Johnson  
Chief Rabban



Fraternally & Sincerely,  
Dr. Mitch Goodkin  
Assistant Rabban

## From the Desk of the High Priest and Prophet,

**A**s we enter a time of metamorphosis from isolation and zoom into a sort of normalcy we can actually return to the Shrine in person. This has not happened in over a year. I'm excited to that this is occurring and as we all get our shots and restrictions lessen. I am pleased to announce that in June I will be a part of a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Children's Hospital this allows the Nobles to get together and break bread. Please pay attention to the date and time. There's a possibility of a barbeque in August if all goes well. Looking forward to seeing all of you again.

**-Sincerely and Fraternally  
Noble Joe Konklewski  
High Priest and Prophet**



## From the Pen of the Oriental Guide,

**N**obles,  
As you all may know Kismet has been running a 50/50 raffle fundraiser to help raise money for the Shriner's Hospitals for Children in both Boston and Philadelphia. So far the response and number of tickets returned have been impressive; as we continue to sell raffle tickets at our Lodges, and within our family and social circles, we anticipate being able to donate a significant amount to our Hospitals for the children in need. As the member of the Divan coordinating this endeavor along with other Nobles, I can speak for everyone involved and say thank you so very much for your charitable giving and generosity; not only is it appreciated here at Kismet but also it will be greatly appreciated by the Hospitals. As the warmer weather settles in, I just want to wish all of the Nobility a joyous Spring season."



**As-salāmu ‘alaykum,  
Noble Miles Maier  
Oriental Guide**

## From the Recorder's Desk

**H**ello Nobles and friends,  
*Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the boidies is?*

As I write this, Spring has really not sprung very well... It's been more rainy and windy than sunny and blooming. Ah well, everyone complains about the weather but no one does anything about it. We are, as you are all aware, entering a time of transition for Kismet Shrine. Hopefully by the time you read this the sale of the building has hopefully gone through and we can focus our energies on Membership and Units instead of figuring out how we are going to pay our property taxes. I also hope that everyone has lent a hand on the packing and tossing out that needs to be done around the building.

We've had quite a good year thus far with new Nobles being created (Obligation will be in June) and a few fund raisers being worked: eBay auction, 50/50 raffle, Steak/Cigar night... our dedicated Nobles and Divan continue to work for the betterment of Kismet and by extension our Hospitals and our Children.

Please remember that Kismet is You and You are Kismet. The principles and values that we hold dear as Masons and Shriners are put into effect every time we don our Fez, within our (or another) Shrine Center and in the world around us. We must ensure that we don't fall into the trap of speaking about Kismet (like we talk about the Government) as if it was anything other than ourselves. Often we refer to The Shrine as if it was some entity with a life of its own - but it is exactly and precisely us. You and I. We together make up what Kismet is, for better or worse. Our lifeblood... ourselves.

As Kismet (meaning us) enters this phase of transition and looks toward our future, take an active role. If you feel that the Divan or Nobility has not reached out to you often enough, or not listened well enough, instead of stepping back in anger step forward in eagerness. You and I will shape Kismet now and forever and there's no reason to wait.

Remember also that ideas are not enough. However positive and meaningful ideas may be they cannot grow into fruition by themselves: Kismet needs your energy, your time and your involvement in order to turn good ideas into good actions.

Coming up in July is the annual Imperial Session. Illustrious Sir Greg Feldman and myself have been elected as your representatives for the session and will vote in the best interest of Kismet, Shriners International and our Hospitals. In September we will once again take part in Fall MASA in Virginia Beach. These are two great ways for all Nobles to meet and socialize with other Shriners as well as know firsthand what's happening with our Fraternity and our Hospitals. If you are not sure about the details let me or any Divan member know. Make sure you keep watching our website often and sign up for our email distribution list.

Most of all, stay safe, happy and healthy. Take care of yourselves and your families. Come to our meetings and social events. Stand tall as a Mason and a Shriner. Be the best man you can be.

**Sincerely and Fraternally,  
III Sir Russell L. Magidson, PP  
Recorder, Kismet Shriners  
[Recorder@KismetShriners.org](mailto:Recorder@KismetShriners.org)**







**Please Congratulate  
Noble Brother  
Greg Feldman  
On receiving the  
Jacob Morton Award**

**The Grand Lodge of New York established the "Jacob Morton Award", which is given to Masons that have demonstrated exceptional voluntary service to their community.**



**Also, Please Congratulate,  
Noble Brother Mitch Goodkin  
On being elected to the Board of Governors  
for our Boston Shrine Hospital**



**Shriners Hospitals  
for Children®  
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## NOTES FROM AROUND THE OASIS

I am proud to be a Kismet Shrine Trustee. Great friends have been made as we traversed the hot sands in our temple on Lakeville Road in New Hyde Park; as well as at the well-stocked Oasis. When I first joined Kismet, the Potentate gave me a cigar and welcomed me. I have done much in the Shrine: Kismet Clown; Roadrunner; Oriental Band; Yacht Club; public relations and fund-raising. I became a Kismet Shriner to help children and have fun. I was able to do that because I participated in the units and even helped around the temple with such things as painting and electrical work. I was trained if you are going to do something, do something. I received a lot of joy and satisfaction because I got involved. Paying dues is important. Supporting functions and charitable actions is the minimum one should do. Get involved, do something, help, make new friends, join clubs and units; this is what real Shriners do.

Thank You,  
Johnny Kelly



### **4 Fez Shrine Club**

I am happy to announce Kismets Newest Shrine Club 4 Fez Shrine Club. The Shrine Club will be meeting in Queens for Nobles that come from the western area of our jurisdiction. The first and foremost reason to join a Shrine should be to support Shriners Hospitals for Children and secondly ,a desire to meet and make new friends. The 4 Fez Shrine Club is very important because it will fulfill both of these goals. We as kismet Nobles are looking forward to a bright future of our club and welcome you to join us. We will keep you posted on the New Kismet web site on all upcoming meetings and events.

Sincerely yours,  
4 Fez Adviser  
Ill Sir Robert Di Carlo pp



## Five Fun Little Puzzles

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

MAN BOARD	STAND I	READING	MIND MATTER	ECNALG
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*Look for the answers elsewhere in this issue....*

# KISMET SHRINERS TRIVIA - SPRING 2021

1. In 1923 the Imperial Session was held in Washington D.C. Three of the most famous Americans living at that time were to play a part in that session. Who were they and what Temple were they a member of? (*Hint: A Politician, a Military Leader, a Band Conductor*)
2. What Musical March did John Philip Sousa premier during the 1923 Imperial Session?
3. Name the only Imperial Potentate to come from Kismet Shrine.
4. Which Shriner is frequently quoted by Donald Trump and has been credited as being the spiritual guide behind his relentless self-confidence. (*Hint: He served as Imperial Chaplain*)
5. What was the nickname given to the Kismet Shrine Band and why? The band recorded an Album. What year was the album published and name the bandmaster. (*Hint: The album sold for \$3.50*)

**Trivia Rules:** Submit answers to treasurer via email :  
[treasurer@kismetshriners.org](mailto:treasurer@kismetshriners.org)

Any Noble can submit answers. Only one correct answer per Noble. To win prize from the Potentate, you can play as often as you'd care and submit answers as often as you wish, but only one prize will be awarded per Noble.



Blast from the past... One of Kismet Cigar Club's first meetings waaaayyyy back in 2011



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## Thank you for helping us provide the Most Amazing Care Anywhere!

You can help support the Boston Shriners Hospital, One Step at a Time, by participating in the **Virtual Haunted Walk on October 24 – November 1, 2021**. Simply speak with your friends and family and your **Blue Lodges** and ask them to join or support our team. Walk, jog or skip anywhere you like and celebrate your impact anytime during the Virtual Haunted Walk week. Last year our Long Island team of Masons and Shriners, called **The Shrieking Shriners and Monster Masons of Long Island**, raised \$1351 for the Boston Hospital.; we hope, with your help, we can double that!

**What does it mean to be a virtual walker?** Teams, families and individuals can participate in the Boston Virtual Haunted Walk wherever they are. You can plan to walk in your neighborhood, local park or even your own back yard. Show us how creative you can be with your walk attire or festive Halloween costumes. There will be daily raffle prizes and many chances to highlight your walk, your costumes and most of all your support of Shriners Hospitals for Children — Boston.

**How do I register for the Virtual Haunted Walk 2021?** Contact your **Assistant Rabban Mitch Goodkin** to register today! Don't forget to share the information with your friends and family so they can join in on the fun!

**Should I have a costume?** Costumes are optional but encouraged, as we will have many prizes and giveaways leading up to and throughout the walk week.

**How do I fundraise?** Ask **Assistant Rabban Mitch Goodkin** to provide you with an official Fundraising Tool Kit, which contains fundraising tips, tricks and treats, plus additional information about our mission and the Virtual Haunted Walk 2021.

**Can my Blue Lodge participate?** Absolutely !! This is a joint effort between Kismet Shrine and all the Blue Lodges (and other concordant bodies) on Long Island. Encourage your Lodge, Valley, Order, Club to support this worthy cause. Take pictures and walk if you want, or just donate, but be a part of supporting the children.

**What will my fundraising support?** All proceeds from the Virtual Haunted Walk 2021 benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children — Boston and support and advance world-class pediatric acute burn care, reconstructive plastic surgery and cleft lip and palate care, always regardless of families' ability to pay.



**SHRIEKING SHRINERS  
AND  
MONSTER MASON  
OF LONG ISLAND**



I bid you a cheerful hello and hope all is well. I am pleased to announce that the Kismet Clowns have two dates to perform in this summer. It is exciting that we are welcoming new Nobles to the Shrine and at least four that I know want to join the Clown Unit. This is great news! For those who are joining we will have an orientation to get them started. No exact date has been set but if I can obtain their email address and add them to the Kismet Clowns, they could be notified to attend either at the Shrine or Babylon Lodge. There is also a farmer's market every weekend at Connetquot Lodge in Sayville that we might participate in and spread the word on what we do as Shriners and possibly collect a few donations for the children's hospital.

Fraternally,  
Joseph Konklewski  
"Kool Beans"



**Remember, once the world is back to normal,  
Kismet Clowns can entertain at your Lodge  
function.**

**All we ask is a donation for the Shriners**

**Reserve Booking now for Summer and**

**Contact  
Joe**



**Five Fun Little Puzzle  
Answers**  
1. Man overboard  
2. I understand  
3. Reading between the  
lines  
4. Mind over matter  
5. A backwards glance

## ***This Philanthropy of Ours, ctd....***

This philanthropy of ours supports the Shriners Hospitals for Children, but really, in looking at this, are we really supporting the children? One might argue that we do NOT support the children only, we support their families, we support the doctors and nurses who care for them, through that we support our community and our country; essentially, this philanthropy, this charitable mindset, the generosity of self that we demonstrate, may inspire the same in others, and does, essentially make our world a better place. We can begin to see ourselves, and others can begin to appreciate that all people are universally connected through the innate currency of generosity.

“We as human beings,..” **charterforcompassion.org** goes on to say, “...have a need to live within supportive environments where we are nurtured and can thrive together, where there is a strong commitment to the well-being of the community as a whole. We are fundamentally designed to live this way. Being charitable towards one another is not just “a nice thing to do”; it is an imperative for our survival as humans, and for our well-being as a local and global community.”

There are many ways you can be charitable to our Shrine and to others. There is no one right way, only your way—the way that feels right for you. Look below at the Four Aspects of Charity. Decide for your self what is the best way for you to become more charitable; more philanthropic.

### **Four Aspects of Charity**

*(as modified from charterforcompassion.org)*

**Time**: Giving of one’s time, however long or short that may be. Giving time is not so much about quantity, as it is about quality—about being present with another to support them in a “hands on” way.

**Essence**: Giving of one’s personal energy and vitality. You may have some personal qualities in abundance and want to share them with others – enthusiasm, hope, grace, gratitude, patience, love; share with the Nobles of our Shrine, infuse them with your support.

**Talent**: Giving of one’s skills and knowledge, such as cooking, or planning, or cleaning or entertaining by music, magic or clowning, or even sharing wisdom from life experience. Everyone has something to offer and Kismet, and Shrinedom in general, gives you ample opportunity to express and share them.

**Money**: Giving of one’s financial resources to provide aid. The sum of money given is not as important as the spirit of the gift. You could start off by giving what you can afford, knowing that even spare change is helpful, and then increase the amount when you are ready, willing, and able to do so.

This philanthropy of ours, Shrinedom, gives us the opportunity to be men of a charitable nature; gives us the opportunity to touch the lives of those in need. It can be argued that the generosity of charity is also a selfish endeavor in that it makes the giver feel good about themselves; it might better be described as a symbiotic endeavor, in that both the donor and the recipient both benefit. Consider the impact of the philanthropic generosity of a single Noble. That impact becomes magnified with the collective philanthropy of all of Kismet Shrine and then again magnified exponentially by the efforts of all Shrinedom. This philanthropy of ours is an amazing resource for the spread of the generosity and charity, as exhibited by Masons and Shriners on a global scale. Be proud and continue to consider how you might contribute to this philanthropy of ours.



Kismet Shrine  
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Kismet Shriners were Honored Guests of The Bellmore Assembly of Rainbow Girls  
During Their Recent Degree