

## 2008 Aleppo Lady's Luncheon

By JEANNE STONE

On a beautiful sunny day, almost warm for January, was the beginning of the day of the Lady's Luncheon. Tewksbury Country Club with its vaulted wood ceilings, intricate wall paintings and beautiful stone fireplace was the setting. These things only enhanced the feeling of warmth of us being together to celebrate the beginning of a new year with Lady Lynne and Illustrious Stephen Eriksen.

101 Lady's in attendance represented family, friends and members of Aleppo Shriners.

Apparent to all was Lady Lynne's love and support of family and friends. Especially poignant was the reason, as Shriner's Ladies, we do what we do. Lady Lynne's guests also included **Jill Johnson** and her daughter **Megan**. Megan, a patient at Shriner's Hospitals for Children in Portland, Oregon touched all in attendance with her tenacity, spirit, articulation and maturity. She is a spokesperson for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, going around to different Shrine Temples and even the 2007 Imperial Session in Anaheim California.

After a delicious meal, commiseration with friends, formal introductions and memorable speech by Megan, the Ladies returned to the Shriner's Auditorium in time for the installation of officers for 2008.



MEGAN JOHNSON left a memorable impression on the guests at the Lady's Luncheon on January 26, 2008. Each person left the luncheon with a smile on their face hearing her story and how much she loves the Shriners. She lit up the room as she spoke of how all the work the Shriners and their Ladies do makes a difference in each and every child's life that is a patient at one of the Shriners Hospitals for Children.



Jill Johnson, Lady Lynne Eriksen and Megan Johnson pose for a quick photo before heading back to the Aleppo Shrine Center for the Installation of Officers for 2008.

## Patient Ambassador

### Megan Johnson Visits Aleppo

Wearing her gold Fez earrings and backpack full of sketches, **Megan Johnson** and her mother **Jill** were bound from their home outside Seattle, Washington, for Boston on January 24, 2008.

They were invited by the Aleppo Shriners of Wilmington, MA, to take part in the Ceremonial festivities on January 26.

The next day **Stephen G. Eriksen**, Chief Rabban, **Douglas W. Dodge**, Public Relations Chairman, with **Curt Nitzsche** went to pick up Megan, Jill and **William L. Greene**, Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut, to go to the Shriners Hospital for Children-Boston. Bill and Megan became friends years ago and he just couldn't pass up the chance to see her and Jill again so he canceled his plans for the day and drove up.

They arrived at the Hospital and were greeted by **Robert Tibbetts**, their tour guide for the day. Hospital Administrator **C. Thomas D'Esmond** came right down to the lobby to see Megan. Tom was at the Portland Hospital, which she is a patient of, prior to coming to Boston.

Sixteen year-old Megan has been a patient of the Shriners Hospital for Children-Portland since she was six. Born in Seoul, Korea, Megan had a severe case of hemifacial dysplasia, which resulted in a cleft lip and palate and other serious facial bonegrowth problems.

She has had twenty-five (25) surgeries so far, but nothing stops this bubbly, energetic teen from accomplishing whatever she wants.

In her backpack are sketch books full of amazing drawings. Jill showed us the one she drew on the plane ride over, a beautiful portrait of her and Bill (Greene).

Jill shared the next of Megan's endeavors which was a book comprised of Megan's drawings which is to be published soon. The proceeds will be going to charity, of course.

Another amazing thing about this seemingly over-caffeinated girl is, she founded "Megan's Mission," which helps keep the homeless warm on Seattle's cold streets.

She holds fundraisers like selling apple cider outside her Federal Way home raising money to buy materials to make the scarfs and blankets and also purchasing socks and gloves for them.

Another fundraiser is the silicone bracelets stamped with "Megan's Mission" that she sells for \$2.00 a piece.

Playing the piano, clarinet, violin and singing are just a few things she does in her "spare time". She also gets straight A's in school, and takes tae

*continued on page 27*

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DURING Megan's visit to Boston, she went on a tour of the Shriners Hospital for Children-Boston. From left to right are: **Douglas W. Dodge**, Aleppo Public Relations Chairman; **Megan Johnson**; **Stephen G. Eriksen**, Aleppo Chief Rabban; **Jill Johnson**; and **William L. Greene**, Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut.