

International Shrine Awareness Day Established To Celebrate Fraternity

SHRINERS everywhere should mark their calendars and make plans to participate in the inaugural International Shrine Awareness Day on June 6. The Imperial Membership Executive Committee came up with the idea of an international day of recognition to celebrate the day the Imperial Council was formed – June 6, 1876.

"Isn't it great to be a Shriner? It's FEZtastic!" said Imperial Membership Committee Chairman **George Mitchell**. "To continue being so great, we need to show the world – get out there and tell your family, friends, neighbors and anyone who will listen about our wonderful fraternity."

On this day every year, Shriners will be asked to wear their fez, if appropriate, or a hat, shirt, pin or other item with the fraternal logo to help recognize fellow Shriners and increase awareness of Shriners of North America. Many Shriners are also busy organizing special events at their own temples and in their communities.

"Hosting recognition events or activities to celebrate our fraternity and all its impressive achievements over the past 126 years is a wonderful way to increase awareness in our communities," said Imperial Potentate **Bernard J. Lemieux, M.D.** "I would encourage temples to plan a local activity to observe International Shrine Awareness Day on June 6, and invite the public to take part, so they can get to know Shriners and what we do."

This international day of recognition is an opportunity for every Shriner to share information about the fraternity, its history and the benefits of becoming part of an organization that is dedicated to fun, fellowship and philanthropic support.



Remembering Little Elias “Across America”

By HERMES BOYATIS

HOW much we grieved when seven-year-old **Elias Tembenis** rode his little horse to heaven. How much has been done since then in his memory by the Mahans at their ForgeWorks Farm in Rutland, MA.

As parents **Harry and Gina Tembenis** say, "Elias will always be our hero. He was our strength and our light. He had a great sense of humor and loved to make us laugh."

In May 2008, **Robert Williams** and **Bobby Genese** are starting a journey of 3,000 miles across fifteen states, called "The Elias Tembenis Walk for Autism." Friends of the Tembenis household, they are walking to benefit families struggling to pay for autism therapy and medical services. As Genese said, "Even a waterfall begins with only one drop, giving rewards."

While we have all been so mindful of the Marathon in Boston and the upcoming Olympics in Beijing, Gina speaks of another glow, "We wanted to honor the light he brought to our lives by keeping the torch lit and by passing that torch to other families, rather than just letting that fabulous light go dark." Remember that paradigm about one little candle?

They will stride primarily on Route 50 and the American Discovery Trail, starting in San Francisco and ending in Washington, D.C. The 3,000 mile walk will take 10 to 12 months. Proceeds will benefit the National Autism Association's Helping Hands Program, a national fund assisting families unable to afford autism therapy and medical services, and will support autism services in Elias's hometown.

As we remember little Elias, like the Tembenis family, the Mahans, and all the others across America, we will share the torch and the enlightenment!

For more information on the walk or how you can help go to:
www.nationalautismassociation.org/eliaswalk



Elias Tembenis

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Please RSVP your attendance to the **Informational Meeting** to be held on **June 5, 2008** at 6:30 pm Second Floor in the Wilson Room at the Aleppo Shrine Center. Call Maribel at 978-657-4202 ext. 16 by May 30, 2008.

(The first 52 people signed up for the cruise are guaranteed a bus ride to NY)

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