



**DINNER**  
**HONS Spaghetti Supper**  
**May 30, 2009**

SEE AD PAGE 19

## Aleppo Circus 2009: How'd They Do That?

By MARK STOUGHT



**T**HIS year marks the 59th Aleppo Shrine Circus. Once again, the Royal Hanneford Circus put on quite a show for young and old alike. The circus took place from April 21-26 at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington, with twelve shows. The attendance was as expected, and there were lots of Circus Daddies (and Mommies) who supported the circus not only by making a donation to get tickets, but by actually using those tickets and enjoying themselves at the shows.



The volunteers really pitched in to make the Circus a success once again, with every show fully staffed. This was especially evident at the handicapped show, where the volunteers went out of their way to accommodate the visitors and make sure they had a great time.

So, if you weren't there for this year's circus, here's what you missed (and this is just on Sunday)! Even before you could get into the building, there as fun and food to be had: the smiling faces of the children going for a ride on the clown train were a testament to the high expectations they had for the circus, and they were not

*continued on page 18*



## The Rockin' Noble Party Rocked!

By STEPHEN G. ERIKSEN

**O**UR First Rockin' Noble Party was a great success! Just under 100 Nobles, ladies, and guests attended this inaugural event. Noble **Bob Brown** was the chairman for this event and should be proud of his accomplishment.

The evening started off with Nobles **Rich** and **Mike Doherty** registering all of the prospective candidates. Noble Mike and others conducted informal tours for those who were interested. Noble **Dave Tucker** and the kitchen staff for the evening prepared and served a great turkey dinner. After dinner Noble Brown welcomed the gathering and introduced Illustrious Potentate **Robert F. Smith** for his welcoming remarks. Illustrious Bob introduced our guest speaker **Tom D'Esmond** from our own Shriners Hospital for Children-Boston. Tom gave a great talk along with a CD which gave a wealth of information regarding our hospitals and Shriners.

After a lengthy question and answer period we were in for a neat surprise.

*continued on page 20*



UNION PROJECT rocked the Aleppo Shrine Fez Room at the Rockin' Noble Party on April 17, 2009.

## Help a New Aleppo Shriner ... Become a Mentor!!

By PETER A. SIMMONS

**C**AN you remember back to the ceremonial when you first joined Aleppo? If you were one of the fortunate whose sponsor was there that day you probably felt at ease because your sponsor made sure you were comfortable in the unfamiliar surroundings of Aleppo. They introduced you to their many Shrine friends, took you to the uniformed unit rooms, educated you about the many Aleppo Shrine clubs and showed you what Aleppo had to offer. By the end of the day you felt welcomed and because of your sponsor and his encouragement you are now an active member in Aleppo.

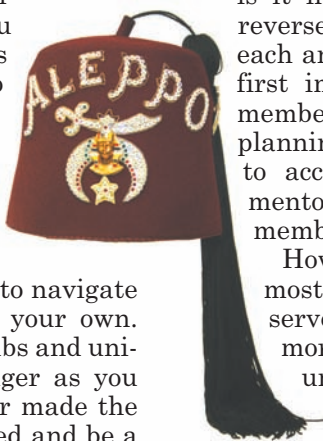
Or maybe you are one of the many candidate's whose sponsor wasn't there for them. You were left to navigate the activities of the ceremonial on your own. You didn't learn about our Shrine clubs and uniformed units. You felt like a stranger as you really didn't know anyone and never made the necessary connection to feel welcomed and be a

part of Aleppo. Although you may be proud to be a Shriner you might not be as active a member as you would have liked or could have been if Aleppo had only made a better first impression.

As evidenced by our declining membership numbers, candidate's not becoming active, involved members is not a new phenomenon nor is it incurable. Aleppo is determined to reverse this trend and make sure that each and every candidate receives a great first impression and becomes an active member in our Shrine Center. How are we planning on doing this you ask? We plan to accomplish this by implementing a mentor program as part of our overall membership strategy.

How is it going to work? First and foremost we need nobles to volunteer to serve as mentors. Currently there are more than thirty Nobles who have volunteered and served as mentors for

*continued on page 4*



## 31st Annual All-Star Classic



### Gearing Up for the Kickoff

By PETER A. SIMMONS

**A**LEPPO kicked off the the 31st edition of the Shriners Football Classic by hosting the annual player/parents orientation here at the Aleppo Shrine Center in Wilmington in two sessions on Saturday, March 14th and Saturday, March 21st.

Fifty-one players were selected to each squad through a nomination and selection process conducted by the Mass. High School Football Coaches Association. Players are selected not only based on their prowess as football players but for their leadership abilities on and off the field. This year's game features players representing 76 different schools from across Eastern Massachusetts. The game will feature several nationally recruited players, including safety **Steven Grassa** of Buckingham, Browne & Nichols, safety **Jim Noel** of Everett High School, defen-

*continued on page 17*

### INSIDE THIS EDITION



**2009 Aleppo Shriners Circus Photos**  
 See Pages 18 & 19

Ceremonial Notice .....	3, 26
Circus Daddies .....	14, 15
Clubs .....	9, 16, 21, 24, 34
Coming Events .....	5
Editor .....	6
Hospital News .....	23, 26, 27, 32
Masonic .....	26, 27, 30
Membership .....	1, 4, 8, 10, 20, 22
Potentate's Message .....	2
Public Relations .....	16, 27
Sports .....	1, 17, 32
Units .....	7, 11, 12, 13, 22, 24, 31, 33, 34

### St. Patty's Day Party Photos

See Page 35

