

# Time to Add New Generations



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Shrine upon younger generations.

Fundamentally, Masonry selects for membership men who are "worthy and well qualified", meaning that they meet the criteria of high moral standards, do not harbor prejudice in their hearts, are not themselves a burden to others, are ever ready to shoulder their share of responsibility to fulfill the work of the craft while meeting their own obligations, and personally adhere to the most basic Masonic concept that man, with the help of God, endures. Such has been the strength of Masonry for almost 300 years, and the road that the best of mankind has followed down through the ages.

The Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine has an anagram, A.A.O.N.M.S., that defines the fraternal order known as Shrinedom. Its letters, when rearranged, spell out the underlying foundation of the Order ("A MASON"), which delineates that to become a Shriner, an initiate must first be a Master Mason. The Shrine was founded by a group of distinguished Masons in New York City in 1872, when they created the first Shrine Temple named Mecca.

The original idea behind the Shrine was to have a good time by dressing up in ornate Middle Eastern-inspired costumes. Those first Shriners would invite other Masons to join them by initiating them through an equally rich ritual that imparted various aspects of ancient wisdom, culminating with the presentation of a red wool conical hat called a Fez, named for the Moroccan city whence it originated. They formed an organization presided over by officers with wonderful titles: Illustrious Potentate, Chief Rabban, Assistant

Rabban, High Priest and Prophet, Oriental Guide, Treasurer, Recorder, First Ceremonial Master, Second Ceremonial Master, Director, Marshal, Captain of the Guard, and Outer Guard. These officers, or Divan, oversaw the activities of Shrine Units, which initially carried on the Oriental theme through the formation of the Arab Patrol and the Oriental Band. Being Masons, besides having a really good time, the object of their efforts was support of local charities.

We know from the Entered Apprentice degree, where we took the first step in Masonry, that all Masons should practice Hope, Faith, and Charity, and that of these, the greatest is Charity. While Shrine Temples were spreading across the country, the Nobles therein were not fully satisfied with supporting only local charities. At the same time as Shrinedom grew, a terrible scourge was being visited upon the children of North America and the world: polio.

In 1919, the North American Shrine Association voted overwhelmingly to build the first Shriners Hospital in Shreveport, LA, to combat the epidemic. That hospital opened in 1922, and thus was born the fourth largest charity in the United States. Polio was eventually conquered as more hospitals were added. The direction of the hospitals' efforts changed with the need to address other afflictions, but those efforts have always involved treating children up to the age of 18 at no cost to patients or their families. We do not accept federal, state, or local government monies, and submit insurance claims only for prosthetics which may have to be replaced as the child grows. To date, our 22 hospitals (4 Burns and 18 orthopaedic, 3 of which provide treatment in spinal cord injuries) have provided medical treatment to over one million children. In 2005 a cleft lip and palate program was established. While children suffer, we shall not be stayed.

Along with the growth of the Shrine and its hospital building program, each Shrine Center (of which there are 191 North America), created new marching or mobile units to meet the ever-expanding interests of their Nobles (but only Aleppo has a Minutemen Unit). Whatever your inclination, whatever skill you bring to the Shrine will be readily enlisted. At each Ceremonial a Noble has attended, the various Units of that Shrine have marched in review past the Divan, and each of these units will accept you into their fellowship. Nobles - especially those of you in the Boomer, Jones and X generations - you are our future, you are wanted, and you are needed. Joining an active Unit is a decision you will never regret. In September the Aleppo Units will again meet on a regular schedule.

## Unit Meeting Times

- AIDES** - 4th Tuesday each month, Conference Room 7:00 pm
- CYCLES** - Every Tuesday in Auditorium
- MOTOR PATROL** - 2nd Thursday 6:30 pm
- PIPE BAND** - Every Tuesday in Lobby
- LEGION OF HONOR** - Every 3rd Tues. each month in Aud. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- ORIENTAL BAND** Every Thursday
- HILLBILLY CLAN** - 2nd Tuesday each month in Conference Room 7:00 pm
- ARAB PATROL** - 1st or 2nd Thursday each month in Auditorium
- FIRE BRIGADE** - 3rd Monday each month - Unit room
- CHANTERS** - 1st Monday at 1:30 pm - 4th Monday at 7:30 pm
- BRASS BAND** - 2nd and 4th Thursday 7:00 pm
- CLOWNS** - 3rd Wednesday 7:00 pm
- DIRECTORS STAFF** - Sundays 8:00 am and Tuesday 7:00 pm
- MEDICAL CORPS** - 3rd Tues. 7:00 pm Medical Room 1st Flr
- MINUTEMEN** - 1st and 3rd Thurs. 7:30 pm in 2nd Flr Barracks
- PROVOST GUARD** - Last Wednesday of each month 7:00 pm
- RAG TOPS** - 3rd Tuesday 7:00 pm
- TEMPLE GUARD** - 3rd Monday 7:30 pm
- MOUNTED PATROL** - 2nd Thursday each month
- SWING BAND** - Every Tuesday in Wilson Room

## A penny at a time, a boy thanks Shriner's He raises \$500 in gratitude for sister's treatment

By JILLIAN JORGENSEN  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT / MAY 15, 2008

**S**PARE change can go a long way. Just ask **Ryan Gill**, an 8-year-old second-grader from Attleboro who raised more than \$500 in pennies for the Shriner's Hospital for Children to thank them for treating his little sister, **Emily**, who suffered first- and second-degree burns on her back and arm last June when she was just 1 year old.

"I wanted to help the people at Shriner's, because it was a free hospital," Ryan said yesterday.

Ryan learned about the hospital last June when his sister spent a week there after she was accidentally burned at a family barbecue to celebrate Father's Day. A cousin had knocked over a crockpot of hot beans on Emily, the little girl's mother said.

"They're very close. He's definitely the protective big brother," said his mother, **Lisa Gill**.

Ryan presented the money to the hospital yesterday in the form of a check.

"Thank you so much for all you've done," **David Faulkner**, the hospital's director of development, told Ryan as he accepted the check.

"We were happy you weren't showing up with all the pennies," he joked. Ryan was there with his parents and Emily, who turned 2 last month. Faint red marks from the burns were visible on the parts of her back left uncovered by her pink dress.

"She's doing great," her father, **Thomas Gill**, said. "Hopefully she won't even remember the place, except for when we visit for things like this."

With the help of his teacher at Willett Elementary School, **Claire Mallette**, Ryan raised the money by passing out a "Pennies for Shriners" flyer to his classmates.

In the flyer, which is posted on the school's website, Ryan wrote that after his sister was burned he went to visit her often at the hospital.

"I saw some of the other kids staying there some (sic) weren't as lucky as Emily; they needed more help than her," 8-year-old Ryan wrote.

"While I was there I found out that they are a free hospital. My dad told me they get paid by donations and people who volunteer, so I would like to help them."

Ryan raised \$300 at school in about three weeks, and the rest came from neighbors and friends.

Gill said his son's work was incredible, but what was more impressive was how humble he was about what he had done.

"What's incredible is that he doesn't see it that way," he said. Ryan's parents said he was hoping to plan a more "hands-on" fund-raiser this summer, like a lemonade stand or mowing neighbors' lawns, in order to raise more money for Shriner's.

The pediatric burn hospital, which is also a research and teaching center, treats children at no charge, regardless of their financial need.

Lisa Gill said that although she knew the hospital was not for profit, she had assumed that it was free only for those who did not have the means to pay.

"They don't accept your health insurance even if you have it, and that's an amazing thing," she said.

Lisa Gill said she hopes Ryan is an example for others. "Hopefully he can be an inspiration," she said. "It's not often you see such a young kid think so unselfishly."



**Shriners Hospitals for Children™**



**Ryan Gill, 8, of Attleboro, with his mother, Lisa, and 2-year-old sister, Emily, presented his donation of more than \$500 to Shriner's Hospital for Children in Boston yesterday.**

Wendy Maeda/Globe Staff



**Ryan, along with his parents and sister Emily, presented the money to David Faulkner on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.**