

With the Help of Shriners Hospitals for Children, Life is a Song

WHEN **Timmy Kelly** sings, his unquenchable enthusiasm for life comes through loud and clear.

Perhaps the young man can sing with such a love for life because he has already endured, and overcome, so much.

Timmy, now 15, has waged a tenacious fight for survival from the start. Born prematurely at 26 weeks, he spent four months in intensive care before going home for the first time. He endured emergency heart surgery, eight operations that could not save his sight, and then, he did not begin to walk.

At that point, Timmy's family turned to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia. Timmy was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and a treatment plan of surgeries and therapies began.

Today, Timmy walks and plays, just like other children. He's received awards from the Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and The Philadelphia Unit of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. Timmy is also an honor student, and he was selected as part of the "Who's Who Among Outstanding Middle School Students in America." But his tremendous physical progress, academic achievements and awards are only part of his story. Timmy recently starred in his high school's production of "Grease" as the Teen Angel.

Timmy was born with an incredible singing voice and is well on his way to becoming a celebrity. He performed his first solo at the age of four, and he hasn't stopped singing since. He's performed at hundreds of public events, including Philadelphia Eagles football games, the East-West Shrine Game, the Governor of Pennsylvania's inauguration and even at the White House.

Timmy's tenacious spirit and incredible voice have led to numerous television appearances, including the CBS Early Show and Access Hollywood. He performed live when he was featured on the CBS Early Show's "Extraordinary



People" segment; and when he was selected to be featured on Access Hollywood, he had the opportunity to meet celebrities and perform an impromptu duet with **Beyoncé Knowles** during Grammy rehearsals.

Timmy Kelly is quite an impressive young man. Despite beginning life with many difficulties, he definitely has a future worth singing about.

www.shrinershospitals.org



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

To Shriners Everywhere!

By HERMES BOYATIS

Whenever the phone rings night or day
we are immediately on our way!
We fly or drive at great speed
for little wounded ones in great need.
From Nicaragua to Indiana,
Mexico to California,
they must have the meals that heal!
So Aleppo drivers or aviators,
forget your own breakfasts and shaving razors
and drive like blazers!
NOW is recruitment time,
far more important than this simple rhyme!

Blue Lodge Happenings

By RALPH REED

Greetings Brothers, Nobles and all the ships at sea,

Hope this finds you well. Things are going well in my little part of the world. My blue lodge has decided not to go dark this summer; we are having too much fun.

What kind of fun are we having? At the beginning of June we bought one hundred and fifty tickets to the opening day of the Lowell Spinners. This has been a tradition for the past five years. We buy a quarter page ad in the baseball program and we have the option to buy tickets. Can you imagine the fun of 150 Masons and their families all in the same section of a Single A Short Season Minor League team? It's way cool.

We bring lots of balloons, supplied by our fantastic Aleppo Shrine clowns. Some we make into animals and hats. Others we just blow up and shoot around the right field bleachers. It is quite a sight to see dozens of three-foot balloons waving in the air. You need to come next year, contact Ill. **Steve Eriksen** or **Barry "Boo Too" Patterson**. Tell them to put you on the list for opening day.

A quick little story: **Doug Hanks** of Lowell DeMolay also got tickets for the game. When we got to the Lowell Masonic Hall to park our car for the game, **Mike Taylor**, Senior DeMolay, was waiting with one of the boys to get his ticket. Can't call Doug, no cell phone. Let's go over to the stadium to find the tickets. Get there, another DeMolay is also waiting for his ticket. My wife and I give them our tickets, telling them to find Doug inside and bring out our tickets. In they go, happy as only twelve-year-old boys can be going to a ball game. Got a call for inside the park. "No tickets for us, the boys had said they didn't want tickets, so theirs was given away" As we were leaving, a total stranger asked us if we still wanted to go to the game? Yes, we would. He gave us a pair of box seat tickets. YAY, baseball, and the kindness of strangers.

You might have noticed my signature at the bottom of my emails or the bottom of this article. I've added Lodge of Instruction Chaplain to my list of Masonic jobs. Wor. **George Tournas**, the Master of the 12th Lodge of Instruction, asked me to be Chaplain for his year in the East. Of course I said yes; I enjoy being involved. I had the chance to fill in as Chaplain for part of last year, because Wor. **Dick Bolander** had me fill in, for **Steve Burton**, who has a new job as DDG Marshal.

My lodge initiated twelve men on the second Thursday of June. Yes, I said twelve. We didn't do a one-day class, or use an exemplar. We brought each man in individually, as many have done before, each was asked the proper questions and the proper rituals were performed for each man. As each man was blindfolded, each one needed someone to help him get around the lodge safely. We used all four of our deacons and all four of our Stewards and we had some brothers that generally sit on the sidelines be conductors. One brother, **Ernie**, had just come back into Masonry after an absence of 15 years. He says it was the best time he had ever had in Masonry.

WAIT, I can sense your questions. Yes, we have two



Candidates receiving further instruction in Freemasonry.

Senior Deacons, two Junior Deacons and FOUR stewards. All of our newer guys wanted to be in line so we installed them all. They share the workload, and share the ritual rehearsal. All great fun, our ritual is getting better as each man tries to be the best. We took our cue from Grand Lodge. If they can have lots of Grand Chaplains, we can have multiple men for each job. Yes, there are two chaplains for Ancient York, **James Francis Patrick Burke Jr.**, and me. You know **Jim Burke**; we call him Free Space at LOI. He belongs to every lodge in the district so gets counted for every attendance call.

Another one that gets counted for every lodge is Noble **Joe Camara**. He is organist for most of the lodge in the area. He is also the Director of the Shrine Chanters. Thanks, Joe, for all your great music.

Back to our twelve man meeting; it didn't go on till the middle of the night. We started at 6:30 and ended at 9:50. Not bad for such a large class. It was quite a sight, twelve men at the altar taking their first steps in Freemasonry. The picture is the some of our newest Masons. How do you like our new candidate's uniforms?

We are now looking for a project to engage all twelve guys. We have given them a couple of suggestions, but have also said they need to decide what they want to do to be of service to others. I can hardly wait to see what this dedicated group of men comes up with.

I want to thank Wor. **Wayne Standley** and Wor. **John Papeacos** for allowing me to be a substitute Chaplain in their respective lodges. Have prayer, will travel.

SW **Mike Hudon** and Brother **Ron Urnetta**, along with helpers **Rick Watson**, **Chris Heil**, **Bob Blaisdell** and family have created a nice destination breakfast on the fourth Sunday of the Month. This crew along with new brother **John Siedel** serves all the breakfast standards plus some inspired specials. You should come and try our grand breakfasts. We'll save you a spot.

The Anchor Club is coming along nicely. We have the

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