Melha Shriners Are The Headliners at Regional July 4th Parades

By Michael Robinson

Thousands of people lined the streets of East Longmeadow. Sitting on blankets, beach chairs, or on dad’s shoulders, what is more American than a traditional 4th of July Parade? The East Longmeadow Parade Committee reported a record number of spectators at this year’s parade. By far, the biggest entertainment feature and draw of this annual parade is the Melha Shriners. The crowd loves to see the Shriners on parade and the Shriners love to entertain. From the start of the procession with the big headline banner followed by our Legion of Honor, proudly carrying the colors, to the Melha Drum Corps bringing up the rear, it is nonstop fun.

Continued on page 5

Father & Son Race At Daytona Speedway

By Phil Thomas

Two dreams did come true for Noble Lenny Roberts at Daytona Beach this year. First, that his son Hunter would become a Shriner. Hunter had been elected to membership and joined the Hadji Unit. The Imperial Potentate made it official by obligating him along with Bahia Shriner’s candidates at the Imperial Session. The second, and most important was that both father and son got to race each other.

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Nobles and Ladies,

First Lady Denise and I were excited to attend Aleppo’s ceremonial and it was quite an honor for us to meet Shriners International’s spokesperson, Alec Cabacungan. We’d like to thank Aleppo’s Potentate, III. Sir Frank Mason and First Lady Joanne for inviting us and Karen Motyka (Hospital Donor Relations) to be part of their special day.

This past June, I attended the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication and was
complimented by our Grand Master, who was honored to have me in there and said that there had not been a Melha Shrine Potentate in attendance in quite some time. I was so thrilled to see Mt. Moriah Lodge receive the Grand Masters’ Award; Congratulations to Worshipful Master Mel Hook and the Brothers of Mt. Moriah Lodge.

I was so proud to be a Rainbow Girl when I got to see the International Order of Rainbow present the colors at the opening ceremony. Excellent job, Ladies.

That same week, the Grand Master and I attended the Grand Assembly of the International Order of Rainbow Girls and were honored to be asked to offer words. I spoke from the heart as I explained what the organization meant to me, especially what West Springfield Assembly means to Denise and me. It’s like having over 20 daughters.

Thank you, Mother Advisor Linda Jacobs, for allowing me to be part of this organization. It is truly a part of my year as Potentate that I will remember for the rest of my life.

If you don’t know by now, I fulfilled one of my greatest dreams; getting a new 2017 Harley Davidson Street Glide. I know my mother is in heaven looking down and saying WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?! PLEASE BE CAREFUL!! Which is what every lady in Melha has told me so far. Thank you for your prayers, I will be careful or First Lady Denise will kill me. (Just Kidding NOT)

I’d like to express my gratitude to Malcom Course for asking that Melha Shriners be part of the Conway 250th Anniversary Parade. It was a beautiful day and we all had a blast. A tip of the Fez to the Parade Committee. Also in June was the Franklin County Shrine Club’s Pot’s Reception at Travelers’ Woods Camp Ground. As usual, the staff did an amazing job on the meal.

In case you didn’t know, they have donated an incredible amount of money to Shriners Hospital and we thank them for all that they have done. Most importantly, I’d like to thank all the Nobles who gave up part of their Father’s Day to entertain the great people of Conway.

It was an interesting month with the two informational meetings on the future of our building. The Nobles asked the committee members a lot of good questions about the building, its sale, and the later move. The Stated Meet-

Continued on page 3
**FROM THE RECORDER**

**PAST POTENTATES OF MELHA SHRINE**

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**POTE’S MESSAGE**

Continued from page 2

ing brought a full house for the positive vote to allow the search committee to move forward with the sale of the building. More information will be forthcoming as the process continues.

Well, July marks the half way point in my term. It also brings the 143rd Imperial Session. As I write the article (which is why the paper is late) we are just returning from the World’s Most Famous Beach, Daytona Beach Florida. What a great session we had. Noble Gary Bergenske was elected Imperial Potentate and we have a new 2017/2018 Imperial line. Melha congratulates Imperial Sir Gary on a grand year and may he lead this Fraternity to new heights. We also have two new Patient Ambassadors Isabella and Emily. What an outstanding choice Imperial Sir. Gary and Imperial First Lady Anne made with these two exceptional girls as our representatives. They started off by singing and then introducing their families. Each one read a letter to the Nobility and their Ladies, there was not a dry eye in the house.

With pride, I can say that Melha’s hospitality room was the best in Daytona Beach. First Lady Denise and I want to thank Oriental Guide Leo Plourde and Lady Trish, Jeff Hastings, Mike and Wendy Cote (Our Kids), Garth and Ruth Parker and, most importantly, Rob and Jennifer Aubin. Without them we would not have had all our critical supplies. Thank you so much for driving down to Florida with everything we needed to put on a first-class hospitality room. Melha also hosted the “Order of the Q” for a couple of days. It was so gratifying to hear the praise of our hospitality room from the Nobles and Ladies visiting from around the country.

Much Shrine business was transacted during the session and quite a bit of legislation was passed. Many of our Nobles and their Ladies spent a considerable amount of money at the Market Place. I think

Continued on page 4
we boosted the local economy. The most important thing that I took from Daytona was that we had FUN. The weather was HOT and HUMID, and we made the most of the A/C. Thank God for A/C!

On Aug. 12 We have a short parade and picnic at the Sunset View Camp Grounds on. It’s fun and we get to entertain the campers who support Shriners. Let’s have a great showing.

NOTE: If your unit is taking part in Non-Shrine sanctioned events or parades, it is imperative that the office be notified and permission received from the Potentate prior to participation. This keeps your unit under our insurance umbrella in case of an accident or injury.

NSA in Ottawa Canada is Aug. 17 - Aug. 20. It will be fun networking with our Northeast counterparts. The 11th Annual Melha Riders’ Hospital Run will be on Aug. 20. Lady Denise and I will be back for this event. I haven’t missed it in 10 years. I apologize if I forgot something but I’m trying to get this to our Editor for the paper. Till next month

Yours In Faith,
Ray Turrini, Potentate

**Melha Shriner’s Annual Benefit Golf Tournament**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

**12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start**

**4 Person Scramble**

**Token Golf Club**

499 Russell Rd, Westfield, MA • (413) 569-1636

$100 PER PERSON - 18 HOLES OF GOLF
- GOLF CART
- DINNER
- PRIZES
- CLOSEST TO THE PIN CONTEST
AND MORE!

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**Proceeds to benefit the Melha Shriners**

**“Help us help them!”**

**Register online:** [www.melhashriners.com/events/melhagolf/](http://www.melhashriners.com/events/melhagolf/)

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and entertainment. Everyone has a favorite unit. Some love the bands: The Military Band playing Marches, the Oriental Band with the musettes and the crash of the cymbals, The Highlanders clad in kilts and playing the bagpipes and the Drum Corp and their signature drum line. Others delight in the Hadji unit’s variety of vehicles: the Jeepsters, Model T’s, Trykes doing wheelies, Mini-Monsters, Big Rigs, and Go-carts going up and down the ramp truck to the applause of the crowds. The Vintage Auto with their pageant of antique and contemporary cars all waxed and polished. Our Riders with their gleaming ‘Harleys’ or the Sportsman Club in Camo riding ATV’s. If you look carefully you might see Shonn Monday’s Stuffed Moose head on the hood. The directors in white tuxedo jackets proudly trailing a model of Shriners Hospital with ‘Fezzy Bear’ along for the ride. Easily, the most popular Shriners in our repertoire, are the Melha Clowns. Our Clown unit is renowned in the area and are beloved by kids all over western Massachusetts.

This year was outstanding in part due to more Shriners being able to take part because of rescheduling of the Imperial Shrine Session. The Melha Shriners were complimented for a job well done and they look forward to having a great showing next year.
Hello All - I hope you are enjoying your time off while we are dark. Can you believe it is already August? Even though the calendar says summer, Mother Nature surely doesn’t seem to want to cooperate - Bring on some heat! Not a whole lot going on this month. However, the events that are going to happen this month are ones that you really don’t want to miss. The Sunset View parade on Saturday, August 12th. Then, the always popular and very well attended Rider’s Annual Hospital Run. If you have never seen this before, I tell you it is worth the trip to see hundreds of bikes all lined up and then when they take off for the Ride - WOW! Just imagine all those bikes revving their engines and the loud thunder of the exhaust pipes as they take off. It is also so great to see all these people gathering for the same mission - “(They) Ride so Kids can Walk”. Then, it’s on to the Stated Meeting on August 23rd. Be sure to attend as with the recent vote to sell our building, there is sure to be some great info. I would just like to say that we all must stick together and support the Divan as they work on the very tough task of finding us a new place to call home while trying to satisfy everyone’s wish list for what they would like to see in our new home. Finally, we finish up the month of August with the Melha Golf Tournament. Be sure to sign up early as this is probably going to fill up fast. We then start back in September with the 2nd Half of the Shrine Year. Stay tuned for more info as events planned later in the year may be amended due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the sale of the building.

I would like to finish up by once again recognizing Frank Watson and Michael White for all their efforts at the Rocky’s Melha Awareness Campaign event. Did you know that over the 3 years that the Directors have organized this event, with the amazing help of many of the other clubs and units, we managed to collect over $10K. Last month, the Officers presented Illustrious Ray Turrini with a check for $1800 for the Temple. That’s like having a parade but in 9 different spots simultaneously and with NO expenses to Melha; what a great idea, guys. To show our appreciation to Rocky’s for their support, Frank, Michael and Charlie presented a plaque to the Director of Marketing, Alan Whitney, at the Rocky’s Corporate Office in Springfield in late July and have already begun plans on the next event.

The time has come to prepare for the DCA Championships in Rochester, New York, on August 31 to September 3. These are the big boys, and we will, undoubtedly, get our heads handed to us by the judges, but we don’t care. We are there to entertain and educate the crowd, not to win a trophy. It’s always good to get the Shrine out there into the public eye, especially to a brand new audience like this. I
I just saw a bumper sticker today which I absolutely loved. It said, “Do you follow Jesus this close?” Well, I don’t know about following things closely, but if you follow this scribe, you will know how I am about to end this article. Go forth and Rock the Fez!

FLYERS
By Lance Whitcomb

As this summer is quiet (so far, anyway!), this article will be correspondingly brief. I would like to personally thank all of the Nobles who came out to participate in Conway’s 250th Anniversary on June 18. In fact, one of the highlights of the weekend for my granddaughter was the chance to sit in one of the little Hadji cars before the parade! Happily Mother Nature decided not to rain on our parade, and the Melha Shrine contingent provided a wonderful finale to a great event.

Enjoy your summer!

HIGHLANDERS
By Saul Michaelson, PC

Parade season is going well. We have had several parades and despite the fact that the turnout of Highlanders has not been impressive those who did participate in the parades presented our usual solid and respected image. It certainly would be great to see more of our members supporting us in public events where we can remind the public of our commitment to Melha and our commitment to retaining and honoring Scottish heritage.

As Past Chief of the Highlanders I want to express my opinion about the potential sale of our building. I remain convinced that the sale of our building will not strengthen our future because of the fact that we continue to lose an average of 100 members every year. It seems as though we will run out of members before we run out of money if we stay where we are and moving elsewhere is no guarantee that our membership will grow. Just my opinion.

In the meantime if the Highlanders need a place to meet I will offer the use of the basement in my house with the condition that my Johnny Walker Blue will remain locked up.

LEGION OF HONOR
By Michelle Greaves

We had a good showing for the 4th of July Parade in East Longmeadow. It was a very warm day, but beautiful. We had the pleasure of transporting 20 ladies from the Daughters of the Nile on our float to the beginning of the parade and again at the end picked them up and returned them to the American Saw. Ladies you are always welcome. We never had so much color, green and white, and happy joyful ladies on our truck before. It was a great day.

We are now wearing the summer parade uniform. The next scheduled parade is the Bid E Parade, a date to be announced later. We will have the truck in that parade, therefore guys join us no need to march just get there and ride.

We are saddened with the loss of Richard “Skowie” Skowron who passed last month. May he rest in peace we will all miss him.

Plans are being worked on for our annual Christmas Party. I know that it is only August, but before you know it the snow will be falling, yuck. Time flies when you are having fun. The party will be at Casa DeLisa in Agawam. Date tentative for December 10th, more details to follow. Remember we meet every Tuesday in the “Fox Hole” for friendship and camaraderie. So find the time and join us.

PAST MASTERS
By Richard A. Poudrier

Greeting Nobles,
Summer is upon us. Many Masonic Lodges recess in July & August. July 4th also gives us the opportunity to reflect
on the birth of our country. Enjoying the many activities, which the summer holds, will be given top priority. May all of you enjoy a safe and happy summer.

The ‘Rays of Hope’ Walk-a-thon is coming up on Sunday, October 22nd. Andy Tieman is the Parking Chair and he is looking for Shrine volunteers. Contact him at 413-567-6723 or andrewtieman@comcast.com.

Bob Allard is looking into different restaurants venues for our September meeting. We’ll keep you posted.

RIDERS
By Jeff St. John

Once again, the riders were out in force to support two local parades. The parade in Conway was a new one for us. We had some of the big bikes show up and all in all, it was a great day. The East Longmeadow Fourth of July parade was VERY well attended. Lots of big bikes and those lovable mini choppers graced the streets of East Longmeadow. The weather was warm and sunny. Patriotic cheer was overflowing and a good time was had by all.

As the dog days of summer envelop us all, we in the group look forward to the upcoming Melha Riders 11th Annual Hospital Run. The ride is Sunday, August 20th. The cost of each ride ticket is $20.00 and includes food and entertainment. The starting point is the Melha Shrine Center with line up beginning at 10:00 AM, kick stands up at noon. Our ride captain will take us on a scenic ride through parts of Western Mass with the end destination of Westfield River Brewing Company. Once at the destination, food, drink and entertainment will be provided. As usual, ALL proceeds from this event go directly to the Shrine Hospital. If you would like more information, you can contact any Melha Rider or go to www.melhariders.com on the web.

Occasionally, you will see the riders out and about hauling around a wheel barrow stocked with bottles that would have been considered illegal during prohibition. We use this “Wheelbarrow of Cheer” as a fund-raiser to help support the riders and all they do. If you happen to see us set up outside of your favorite restaurant, a Melha event or in your favorite shopping mall, please stop by and buy a raffle ticket. The winner of the “Wheelbarrow of Cheer” receives the entire contents, less the wheelbarrow. Hand delivered, with care, to the destination of your choice.

VINTAGE AUTOS
By Ken Taylor

Wow, The East Longmeadow Parade was longer than I remember it with even more people Lining the streets. Seventeen cars, from A’s to Z’s showed up at the parade. We had a good showing.

The next event is the Sunset Show on August 12. Watch the Camelha for the details.

Take the time to go to the
Continued on page 9
UNITS & CLUBS
Continued from page 8

Springfield Cruise Nites on Mondays at Court Square from 5:00pm to 8:00pm and pass out flyers. This Cruise Night runs through August 28.

The Vintage Auto “Chef” night is August 25 at Buttery Brook Park Cruise Night. This is bring your appetites and bring your friends See you there.

We need some help with the paper drive on August 26. Come on down and sign up at the August meeting to help distribute the papers. We started discussions on rebuilding our advertising trailer. Both the sign and the trailer are on their last legs after all these years. More details after the show in September.

And lastly, our senior citizen, Warren Christenson, was honored by being Parade Marshall at the timed trials on Monson Road in Wilbraham this past weekend. Congratulations to Warren. It was a good showing of cars. It would be great if we could get a video of the event. Speed safely until next month.

SHRINE CLUBS

BERKSHIRE CO.
By Rita Gardner

The Pittsfield 4th of July parade was a huge success. People were putting out their chairs along the sidewalks at 6:00AM, the weather was perfect, the balloons were large and colorful and the clowns of BSC were also colorful and enthusiastic. Several members of BSC were on their mini vehicles to the delight of kids of all ages.

On Sunday, July 9, in reading the Berkshire Eagle, an article entitled “New England Legends.” caught my eye. This was a PBS show that is now streaming on Amazon Prime. Episode 1, “The Spooky Berkshires” chronicled the Houghton Mansion in North Adams. The Houghton Mansion also happens to be the Greylock Masonic Lodge and is considered to be haunted and a “creepy” place. Show host Jeff Belanger, interviewed some of the Brothers about the ghostly happenings inside the mansion. If you are an Amazon Prime member check it out.

The second article I noticed was “Funding Woes End 35-year Event”. This my friends is sad or as some people might say, tragic. This is the end of Bike Night and the Fall Run! Mike Roberts, owner of Custom City Cycle, and his hard-working group of volunteers many of whom are BSC members, have run this event since its start and have raised over $550,000 for Shriners Hospital. Roberts said that the cancellation was due in part to the rising cost of police coverage and the expense of liability insurance. We all thank Mike Roberts for his many years of selfless dedication to the Fall Run and we wish him all the best!

I just recently learned that

Continued on page 10
MELHA SHRINE UNITS & CLUBS

UNITS & CLUBS
Continued from page 9

Judy Bradley, wife of Mike Bradley, has had some serious health issues. Please keep Judy in your thoughts and prayers. Cards or a kind note can be sent to 3 Lakewood Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Potentate’s Reception on September 16th at Bass Water Grill. Until next month!

FRANKLIN CO.
By John Doughty

Franklin Shrine Club meets at Harmony Lodge in Montague. For information about the Franklin Shrine Club, please contact Malcolm Corse or John Doughty.

PIONEER VALLEY
By Michelle Greaves

Sawasdeeka (hello) here we are already in August, were did the summer go. Time truly does fly, to fast. I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer with family and friends. We are currently looking into a Winery Tour in the Mystic CT area. This would be a bus trip and a lot of fun as in the past. More information to follow, watch your weekly bulletin from Michael Robinson.

The month of October will be very busy, but fun. A planned event is a 90 minute program by the Small Planet Dancers, who offer a complete WWII USO show that highlights dances from the Big Band Era. Included are readings of the war; the Tuskegee Airmen, the Navaho Code Talkers and the 442 Infantry. It will be held at Melha on Sunday October 22nd. Doors open at 1:00 pm. Cost $15.00 per person, bring your own munchies, cash bar. Please join us for an afternoon of nostalgia.

On Sunday October 29th will be PVSC’s famous Dinner/Theater. The Exit 7 Players will be presenting the comedy, “The Addams Family”. We meet in the parking lot at 1:30 pm with dinner to follow at Brigham Lodge (across the street). The cost is only $29.00 per person.

The PVSC is a social club open to all Shriners, their wives, family and friends. It’s mission is to promote fun and fellowship. For information or to book your reservations on any or all events contact Michelle Greaves 413-427-9178. Kob kun mak ka (thank you)

La kun (goodbye)

DAYTONA RACETRACK
Continued from page 1

around the famous Daytona Raceway as Melha Shriners. Lenny recounted the story after the July Stated Meeting in the Highlanders room. “It was really emotional for me to have my son obligated at Imperial and riding with him around the Daytona Raceway as a new Melha Noble.”, said Lenny. He was a proud dad that night as all the Nobles raised their glasses and toasted both father and son and wished them well. [Edited by Michael Robinson]

Nobles Lenny and Hunter Roberts racing around the Daytona Speedway during the Imperial Session.

HAMEL’S CREATIVE CATERING

HAMEL’S CREATIVE CATERING
has been serving Western Massachusetts regional business and private parties since 1990.
Founder MICHAEL HAMEL has ingrained into his family owned business, the ideals and values passed on by his beloved Grandfather, "Pepere" Hamelin, to ensure the ultimate in customer satisfaction.

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Even though Ahlem has no regular session in July or August does not mean that we have not been very busy. Parades have been well attended by the ladies of the household, 20 participated in the East Longmeadow parade. And the crowds are most appreciative – asking for information about us, complementing our outfits, and thanking us for our service to Shriners children.

In July Ahlem officers and ladies have attended Supreme Visits at temples in the Northeast – Syracuse, Albany, Boston, Hartford, Bridgeport – also in Maine and New York and others throughout Canada and United States. And members of other temples and the Shrine and Masonic fraternity have honored us with their presence at our Supreme Queen’s Visit, Ceremonial and Banquet. What a wonderfully supportive organization, locally and internationally!

Upcoming events: Bedouin Belles Labor Day Weekend Tag Sale – Saturday, September 2, 9:00am to 3:00pm., 15 Bliss Street, Monson, MA. Drop off your items on Friday and pick up your unsold items, if any, on Saturday afternoon. This is a good opportunity to allow others to share your still useful but little used goods.

Shriners Hospital Walk For Love - Saturday, September 9. Start Time: 9a.m. Finish Time: 1:30p.m., 516 Carew Street Springfield, MA. Everyone who can will walk the walk and those who cannot walk can help with the Nile information table. We need many participants to help increase our donation to the hospital, as we have every year so far.

Watch your e-mail and keep in touch to get the news of last minute Green Shirt events for August. Plans are still in the works! And in the meantime, have a restful summer!

Ahlem Temple 84 in East Longmeadow July 4th Parade

Twenty D.O.N. ladies had a fantastic time riding on a parade float and debuting their new uniforms. It was hot, but we were hotter.

Ahlem Temple Hosts New D.O.N. Supreme Queen Karen Keuther

Photos by Carla Wessels. Members of Ahlem Temple No. 84 D.O.N. hosting Her Supreme Majesty Karen L. Keuther for her official visitation.

Hmm, Lady Denise wonders what kind of shoes DO you wear with terry cloth? Melha Divan ladies at Imperial Shrine Session.

Tekoa Chapter Demolay have elected new officers for the ensuing year: Joe Ruffo - Master Councilor, Morgan Hastings - Senior Councilor & Justin Lambert - Junior Councilor.

The Chapter Chairman Dad Mel Hook, Chapter Dad Al ‘Mr. G’ Giguere Jr., Scribe Advisor Mom Donna Isbell & Treasurer Advisor Dad Jim Cooper.
Melha Calendar of Events

August 2017

Thu Aug 03 ..................................... DON Stated Meeting [BA]
Thu Aug 10 ..................................... Berkshire Shrine Club
Thu Aug 10 ..................................... Two Unit Dinner [BA]
Sun Aug 12 ...................................... Sunsetview Farm Parade
/ Appreciation Day - Sunsetview Farm Campground.
Form 9am, stepoff 10am. Picnic to follow
Mon Aug 14 ...................................... B.O.D. Meeting
Thu Aug 17 .................. NSA Summer Field Days to Aug 20
Tunis Shrine, Ottawa, Canada.
Sun Aug 20 ..... Melha Riders Annual Shriners Hospital Run
Wed Aug 23 ...................... Stated Meeting 7:30 PM [BA]
Sun Aug 27 ............ Melha Shrine Benefit Golf Tournament
Tekoa Country Club

BA = Butterfield Auditorium

Photo by Carla Wessels. Sportsman Club's Sportsman 100 Race winners.