

Subject: Updates From The Centre, 2026-01-15

From: Gary Long <recorder@abshriners.com>

Date: 1/15/2026, 9:40 AM

Updates From The Centre, 2026-01-15

What do you call a medieval lamp?

(See the end of the email, just before the Upcoming events for the answer)



Nobles and Ladies,

As my year as Potentate of Al Azhar comes to a close, Lady Joni and I want to express our gratitude to you all for your friendship and support this year.

We never had an ambition to seek this mantle but stepped up when we thought it was needed. Our goal was to offer leadership and guidance to those more junior Shriners following in this monumental journey, and I hope that we succeeded. We had a lot of fun during the year as we tried some new things and brought back some of the traditions.

To the Divan of 2026, I leave this Shrine Centre in your very capable hands. Remember that the people you lead are volunteers and have busy lives of their own. Never ask them to do something you yourself aren't willing to assist them with. When needed, roll-up your sleeves and shovel the manure.

James and Kim, we wish you the very best in 2026. The friendship Joni and I have made through this quick journey will last a lifetime. We are here for you if you need us.

**Yours in Faith
Evan and Joni Schmitke**

Evan Schmitke

Potentate (President) 2025

Al Azhar Shriners





Nobles,

It is with great humility and gratitude that I accept the honour on January 17th of serving as Potentate of Al Azhar Shriners for 2026. And I vow that we, your 2026 Divan will continue to uphold our proud traditions, support our Clubs and Units, and most importantly, advance our mission of helping children and families in need.

I look forward to a year of fellowship, fun, and purpose as we work side by side for the good of our Shrine and our communities, so, put on your seatbelts because its going to be a busy, fun, and eventful year.

So, I guess what I am saying is that we are going to sell you the whole seat but you're only going to need the edge!

**Fraternally,
James Mutzeneek
Incoming Potentate, Al Azhar Shriners – 2026**

James Mutzeneek

Chief Rabban

Al Azhar Shriners

403-830-7557

james@abshriners.com



To the Nobility

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Recorder for the last 32 months.

Beth and I have developed some great friendships and memories that we would not have had if it not been for this experience. To say the least it has been a *ride* with numerous events and unforeseen circumstances that developed periodically. The help from some of the members that I received was invaluable and made my job significantly more pleasant.

The current Divan has been great to work with. I believe we have made some incredible strides toward our own recovery laying a foundation for great success.

To the new Divan, you have helped set the sail under which we are now moving and I believe it is strong with a positive future. I look for to continued success as Al Azhar Shrine Centre, more support of the philanthropy that is so close to our hearts and lot more fun and fellowship.

Yours in Faith

Gary Long

Recorder

Al Azhar Shriners



PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES OUT OF YOUR BUSY DAY TO READ THIS!!

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers from the Sakkara Temple Ambassador Unit last year. Your support is truly appreciated.

It's not too late to take part again this upcoming year. For those who don't garden, we've taken on the task of helping beautify the Al Azhar Shrine Centre. As you may remember, we placed two large flower boxes and two smaller planters at the front entrance, along with planting flowers in the large cement containers near the water feature. They made a wonderful impact.

We would love to continue this project, but we can't do it without your support. Your donation will allow us to purchase and plant flowers on your behalf to keep the Shrine Centre looking vibrant and welcoming.

Your contribution helps us enhance the beauty of the grounds and strengthen the Centre's appeal, which plays an important role in its ongoing success and sustainability.

If you're interested in purchasing flowers for your own garden, please let me know. I'd be happy to send photos, flower descriptions, and an order form. Orders must be placed by February 1 so the greenhouse can begin preparing the baskets, flats, and other arrangements.

Thank you for considering supporting this project. .

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you!

Myrna Sheppard

403-874-2598

(Continued from beginning of email)

A knight light!

Upcoming Dates

- **January 17th, 2025** – Al Azhar Shriners Annual General Meeting
- **January 17th, 2025** – Al Azhar Shriners Potentates Ball

—Attachments:—

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