September 2017

## Detroit Shriners Magazine



# Come to the Cabaret...

honoring High Priestess Lady Michelle Geske

Saturday, October 7
Doors open and Games start at 4p.m. til 9p.m.
At the Shrine Center
24350 Southfield Rd. in Southfield



### Tickets \$25

Lots of Fun & Games, Door Prizes, Silent Auction & Strolling Buffet. Adult Beverages for sale. Bring your husbands and friends.

All proceeds benefit LOS general fund.

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For information concerning Shriners Hospitals for Children, call

1-800-237-5055

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### Detroit Shriners Magazine

Ten printed issues a year as well as all 12 online issues every year

### **Shrine Office**

248-569-2900 • Fax 248-557-4402

24350 Southfield Rd., Southfield, MI 48075

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (open until 7:30 pm on Mondays)

Deadline for September Issue

August 13th, 2017

All articles or comments should be directed to the Layout Director: Theresa—Rex Printing - 586-206-0390 moslemite@rex-printing.com

### Rubor et Furo

### MESSAGE FROM OUR POTENTATE



Nobles,

September marks the end of summer and the beginning of the fall season. Kids are back to school, vacations are over, cottages and boats are being closed up and stored for the season. Even the trees are starting the process of replacing their green summer shirts with colorful fall jackets. It's the prelude to the busiest time of the year, The Holidays! Even the Moslem Parade season winds down on September 24th with the Clinton being the last for 2017. We had a great parade season and I would like to thank all of the Units who participated and made it a successful year. Mighty Moslem brings something very special to the cities where they parade. The cheering of the crowd is proof. What else is on our agenda for September? At GLSA Moslem Temple has the responsibility and pleasure of announcing Illustrious Sir Charles Ferguson P.P. as their candidate for GLSA President in 2022. Charlie and his team will oversee planning the

GLSA convention which will give us another opportunity to show off Detroit. A dress rehearsal for Imperial Sir Larry Leib's Imperial convention.

The Harvest Festival for this month had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

A big Thank You to Illustrious Sir Craig Stigleman P.P., Illustrious Sir Joe Kish P.P. and all the Volunteers who worked so hard to make the Michigan State Fair another success for Moslem Temple!

Finally, Congratulations to Dr. Fred Jex who was awarded his 33rd Degree. Excellent job Fred!

"An honest witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies."

YITF,

Arthur Brdak, Potentate

September issue: online only | October issue: print/mail/online November issue: online only | December issue: print/mail/online

# CALLING ALL UNITS AND CLUBS! We want to help you grow your membership by spreading the news on the great things you do! Please submit an article on a monthly basis to moslemite@rex-printing.com by the 13th of each month. Please keep the article including photos within a half page format Clubs and Units are the "Engine" of Detroit Shriners! Let us know what you are up to!



Potentate's 2018
Trip
To
Washington DC
June 15 — June
20, 2018
6 days / 5 Nights

### Informational Meeting — Wednesday, October 25th at 7pm in the Nobles Lounge



### Per Person Pricing

Single Occupancy - \$1000 / person

Double Occupancy - \$800 / person

Triple Occupancy - \$775 / person

### Includes:

- Transportation
- Lodging
- 10 meals —
   5 breakfasts and dinners each
- · Guided tours





### Early Booking Bonus:

Book by December 31, 2017 - Save \$50 PP Book by March 15, 2018 - Save \$25 PP

5% of net profits will be donated to Moslem Shrine by Lisa & Dan Mattern - Cruise Planners.

### **September - Membership Corner**

### Good Day Nobles!

This message goes out to all that lent a hand to kick off the Detroit Shriner's Car Show to benefit our very own Child Care Program! First, a special thanks goes out to my Lady, Opal, for putting up with my antics during the preparations throughout the year. A "thank you" also goes out to my Family who helped with the fundraising, sponsorships, communications and whatever else I could throw at them. I would be remised if I did not give thanks to Capt. Pat and the Provost for arriving in uniform and keeping us secure! Chum kept us informed and rockin' throughout the day, Don Crawford aided with registration and Chief Rabban Bob O'Brien and his Lady gave a boost with the Bake Sale items (The goodies were delicious Lady Judy!) There were also Nobles in attendance to give support and even show off their own classic and vintage cars! For those whom I may not have by name, please know that I thank you for making this a smooth run event.

Illustrious Sir Art was instrumental in giving the chance to chair and pilot our very own car show. For our efforts, we had netted over 60 cars, had 40 vendors, raffles, bounce houses, and a bake sales to help profit over \$1,300.00 for Child Care! A little bonus as well, as the Roseville City Mayor, Br. Robert Taylor had not only welcomed the Shrine that day, but also signed a petition to join our Shrine Temple! A fair result for not having a car show in couple of years I believe. Perhaps we may do this again next year.....

Fraternally Yours,

### **Noble Rick Gaines**

Noble Robert Gaines Car Show Director Asst. Director – Provost Moslem Temple SEPTEMBER EVENTS

SEPT. 10 — RICHMOND PARADE

SEPT. 13TH-16TH — GREAT LAKES CONVENTION (GLSA)

SEPT. 24TH — CLINTON PARADE

### Refer a Shriner today!





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### **Shriners International**



### Cocktail Reception Honoring Imperial Sir Larry Leib

Thursday, October 26, 2017 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

Tickets \$20.00 per person

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres

~Cash Bar~

Silver Gardens Event Center 24350 Southfield Rd. Southfield, MI 48075

**RSVP:** 

Katie @ 248-569-2900 X 3



Lawrence J. Leib Imperial Outer Guard



### George Washington Post 88 American Legion, is looking for a few good men

Did you serve during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Gulf War, Iraq, or Afghanistan? If so, you might be a Veteran we are looking for ! Join our American Legion, George Washington Post 88; an all Masonic group of patriots meeting 4 times per year. Our next meeting is Tuesday October 17, 2017 at 1PM, in the



Moslem Shrine Center. Contact the Adjutant: Jim Hodgson at 734-416-5159



American Legion, George Washington Post 88, was founded in 1922 by a group of Masons.

It now meets in the Shrine Center.

### Meet Elina Villemure,

Elina is MOSLEM'S own patient ambassador chosen to represent SHC ERIE HOSPITAL at this years 2017 PGA "Shriners Hospitals for Children Open" in Las Vegas.



Please visit Elinas web site:

https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/elina-villemure

to learn more about this special young lady and how you can help support her trip to the PGA by making your tax deductible Donation.

Thanks, Jack Horner, Erie BOG Rep.; Joe Merem, Erie BOG Assoc. Rep.

### MOSLEM SHRINERS YACHT CLUB



Yes, by popular demand the MOSLEM SHRINERS YACHT CLUB is being restored to activity and purpose: Family Fun in Boating & Promoting Shriners Service For Kids.

Like the level of Lakes Huron and St. Clair, the price of fuel, the economy and the age of boat ownership, the MOSLEM SHRINERS YACHT CLUB has ebbed and flowed since its beginning back in 1968 and proceeding with Shriners, by illustration and not of limitatio ns: Nobel's Bob Haffner, Bill Shaffmaster; Freddy Waldecker, Art Brdak, and many East and West Siders.

Besides the major pleasures of Boating with Shriners and Family, as well as Shriner Kids for a boat cruise on the Lake, MOSLEM SHRINERS YACHT CLUB membership [thru our Yacht Club in the Anchor Bay Yachting Association (A B Y A)], gives you recognized "receptacle privileges" in a multitude of other Yacht Clubs around the US and especially in Florida, for you "Snow Birds".

Still, having no boat, at this time or ever, does NOT keep you from being in the MOSLEM SHRINERS YACHT CLUB. Meeting us by "Land Yacht" wherever

we go or riding aboard with someone is very acceptable!!

Newly installed (July 27th) partial list of flag officers of MOSLEM SHRINERS YACHT CLUB are Nobel Craig Minch, Commodore (586) 222-2356,craigminch71@ gmail.com Nobel John McWilliams, Vice-Commodore, (313 581-4445 johnmlawman@gmail. com; Nobel Tim Lancaster, Rear Commodore; Noble Bill Behrend Secretary

Although the annual dues and initiation fee of \$15 (first year dues included) remain the same, the roster, treasury, dates and places for meetings, events are being reformulated.

First date of a next scheduled even is a rendezvous at the St. Clair municipal Marina for the weekend of September 15th thru 17th - Friday evening thru Sunday Noon. Boat slips are reserved but require an advance call at 810-329-4125.

If your already on the member roster and haven't heard from Commodore Graig or Secretary Joe in the past 30 days send to one of them your current email address and information.

### What's New in Erie!































### Local Erie Patient, Emily Mellish, Named **National Ambassador**



Every year, Shriners Hospitals for Children® selects two National Patient Ambassadors to represent the health care system's patients. The ambassadors spend the year telling their stories of perseverance in the face of adversity and the ways Shriners Hospitals for Children has made a dramatic, life -changing difference. The new national patient ambassadors, including local patient, Emily Mellish, were introduced during the premiere of their documentary called 'Free to be Me' as part of Imperial Session.

Here are just a few highlights of Emily's story: Emily's mother, Joy, did not experience significant issues during pregnancy, but moments after Emily was born, that changed. Emily was rushed by ambulance to a hospital in a larger city only hours after birth, and spent her first two weeks in the NICU, where doctors gave her a complete assessment. Emily was born with spina bifida, as well as severe scoliosis (missing eight ribs on her left side) a leglength discrepancy, additional orthopaedic conditions, bladder and kidney problems and other issues When she was 6 weeks old, Emily had surgery to close the defect over her spinal cord. The following day, a long list of serious complications began, keeping her in the hospital for 28 days. During this time, the Mellish's learned about Shriners Hospitals for Children from a close friend. "It was comforting to know that even before I needed to worry about a place to take her orthopaedically, that someone had come forward and said there was a place where Emily would be taken care of," said Joy.

Finding the Right Team: Emily was first seen at Shriners Hospitals for Children – Erie when she was approximately 6 months old. There, she has undergone several surgeries. Other surgeries, including a VEPTR (Vertical Expandable Prosthetic Titanium Rib) procedure, which stabilizes the spinal curve and levels growth, were done through a collaboration between Shriners Hospitals for Children and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Emily has also been seen at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia, where external fixators were used to straighten Emily's leg at the knee, and increase leg length. After this, she was able to ride a bicycle for the very first time. Emily always amazes her doctors with her "no limits" attitude.

Giving Back with Beads for Needs: Today, Emily is an energetic and sociable 11-year-old. She loves dancing, swimming, painting pottery and public speaking. In 2012, she started Beads for Need, an organization dedicated to raising funds for Shriners Hospitals for Children through bracelet and photograph print sales, and has raised more than \$80,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children. Without Shriners Hospitals for Children Emily would not be Emily, she would be forced into a box," said Joy. "With Shriners Hospitals there are no limits to what she can do."

### **Timmy's Day Out Program Encourages** Fun, Independence



Since 2004, the Timmy's Day Out program at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Erie has provided many children with opportunities to participate in local and regional recreational events throughout the summer. This summer was no different! The program was started with funds raised by Candy Bollin, whose son Timmy was born with spina bifida. It introduces children with spina bifida to experiences and outings within the community.

The group kicked off the summer by attending an Erie Seawolves baseball game. They also visited Wagon Trails Animal Park for a safari with 350 animals. They held a cooking contest using ingredients that were grown by the patients themselves in Timmy's Garden, and the final activity of the summer will be a visit to Splash Lagoon Water Park, scheduled for August 17. Although Candy Bollin, the driving force behind the creation of the program, passed away in June 2017, her legacy will live on through the families who participate in Timmy's Day Out.

### Save the Date! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 — **Shredding for Shriners**

Time to clean out the files before winter! Not sure how to dispose of documents containing private information? Mark your calendar for the fall edition of Shredding for Shriners. Bring your confidential documents to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Erie's parking lot (1645 W. Eighth St.) between 10 am - 2 pm and with a donation, your papers will be professionally shredded by Shred-X of Erie.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19—Fourth Annual Telethon

In cooperation with JET 24 (local ABC affiliate) and FOX 66 (local FOX affiliate), Shriners Hospitals for Children — Erie will host the fourth annual TV telethon. The telethon will air from 5—8pm. A phone bank of volunteers will be taking donations in support of the Erie medical center. The annual telethon not only provides a chance to raise funds, but also a chance to connect with the community and share stories of the hope and healing that take place at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Erie.

For additional information contact: Micheal Widrig 814-875-8780.

### **Reception Unit**

By: George Staten



Greetings to all the members of the Reception Unit. I hope everybody is in good health and enjoying the good weather we are having. All the good things of Summer is in full swing and we better enjoy it while we can. What more could we ask for.

As I said before, all of the functions that are put on by the Shrine are not only fundraisers, they are for your enjoyment and if you don't attend them, you are not getting your money's worth. (To all the Shrine members that don't belong to a Unit, join with us.)

By the time you read this, our next big fund raiser for the Shrine, our Sportsman Raffle, will probably be over, and as usual we probably had huge crowds and made a big profit. Our Unit fund raiser is at the same time and as usual we will have made a huge profit for the Unit also. I hope everybody was there to help.

Our Charity Poker in June is over and as usual we made a good profit for our Unit.

Thanks to all the members that helped. Our next one is on September 3rd and we don't have a line-up of workers yet, so call director George and let him know you want to help. As you know these (2) fund raisers are one of the ways that we make money for the Unit to help the Shrine and the Shrine Hospitals and for our subsidies. Anytime we have a fundraiser it is to your benefit that you help in any way you can.

Congratulations to all the new members and thanks for joining.

At the last meeting, Director Staten stated that after this year, there will be no more Past Master and Reception Unit Christmas Party. The Past Master's will put it on in their name only. Any expense they have will be their own.

Our next outing will be with the Potentate on his Tiger Baseball Game Outing on August 20th and all the reservations are in. Hope to see you there. This is subsidized by your Unit.

As you know, our Unit is to carry the Shrine Banner in all the Parades. The next ones are the State Fair Parade Sept. 4th and the Clinton Parade Sept. 24th. Call Director George and let him know you will help. If you cannot walk in the parade there is always a lot of vehicles that you can ride in.

July 8th was the Shrine Convention in Daytona Beach, Fl. If you didn't go you missed a great time. We were in the Holiday Inn on the Ocean, with a nice pool and just a great place to be. Some of the fun things were: Daytona Beach Race Track walk of Love, Imperial Market Place, Bubba Gumps for dinner, Trip to St Augustine for the Ladies, meeting at the Imperial Convention Center where Emily, from Erie was named Ambassador for the Shrine, Sea food Dinner in the Hospitality room, Hospitality room open most of the time. Lots of things to see and do in Daytona Beach.

July 23rd was the Shrine Picnic. There was a lot of people there and lots of things for the kids to do and everybody has a great time.

If anybody has any ideas of a fund raiser we could do come to the meeting and tell us about it and we will consider it.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 25th 2017, and as I have said before, come out to the meeting and meet our new members and our new Shrine members and join with us for snacks, refreshments a 50/50 drawing, a door prize and lots of

camaraderie. Help us to make the meeting more interesting with your new ideas.

If anybody wants a new Shrine Shirt or a Gray Shrine Sport Jacket, a Black Leather and

Wool Jacket or a Maroon quilted jacket, we can order them any time. We can also order Shrine Ties. Let your Director George know and he will order them for you. All of these will be subsidized by the Unit.

Brothers, as I said before at one of our meetings of the Reception Unit, a motion was made to pay HALF OF THE FEE of any new Shriner that any Member of the Reception Unit would have join the Shrine with the stipulation that they be an active member of the Reception Unit for a year. This still stands. Pick-up a petition from the Shrine Office for your Masonic Lodge and the Shrine and see how many you can get to join. Maybe we can help have more candidates at the the next Ceremonial.

If anybody wants RECEPTION on their FEZ, let your director George or secretary, Tim know. The Unit will cover the cost. Also, if you don't have a Unit Name Tag let your

Secretary know and again, the Unit will cover the cost.

We still have gold and silver Shrine Fez pins, so sell them if you can. Call your director at 248-828-4151 and he will mail them to you.

If you are not receiving any notification of meetings, call Director George.

If you know of any of our members that are not doing very well, let your dire ctor know and he can send them a card and give them a call.

Brothers, there has been some question on the Unit Subsidies, so here is the Motion:

October 28, 2013 (Motion at meeting): Motion to have Unit Member qualify for subsidies by attending four unit meetings (one per quarter), contribute to the Wheel Barrel of Cheer and attend (2) Shrine functions per year and pay dues (All of \$10.00). The Director may make exceptions based on circumstances. Motion made by Stan Miller and Second by Joe Amador. Motion passed.

Since that time, motion was made to change motion to subsidize members only.

Dates to Remember:

**August 12th** – Shrine Sportsman Raffle And Unit Wheel Barrow of Cheer Raffle.

August 20th - Shrine Tiger Baseball Game.

August 31st -State Fair.

**Sept. 11th** – Shrine Business Meeting.

Sept. 13th - GLSA.

Sept. 21st - Pots. Birthday Party.

Sept. 24th - Clinton Parade.

QUOTABLES: Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie.



### **WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you to all that volunteered your time to sell CD's at the recent REO/STYX and CHEAP TRICK/FOREIGNER concerts.

With over 58 volunteers and your commitment, we were able to raise approximately \$5500 for our Cincinnati SHC!

Thank you, Thank you!

YITF,

Oriental Guide- Kenric



### Join the Detroit Shriners for our 2017 Holiday Art, Craft and Vendor Show!

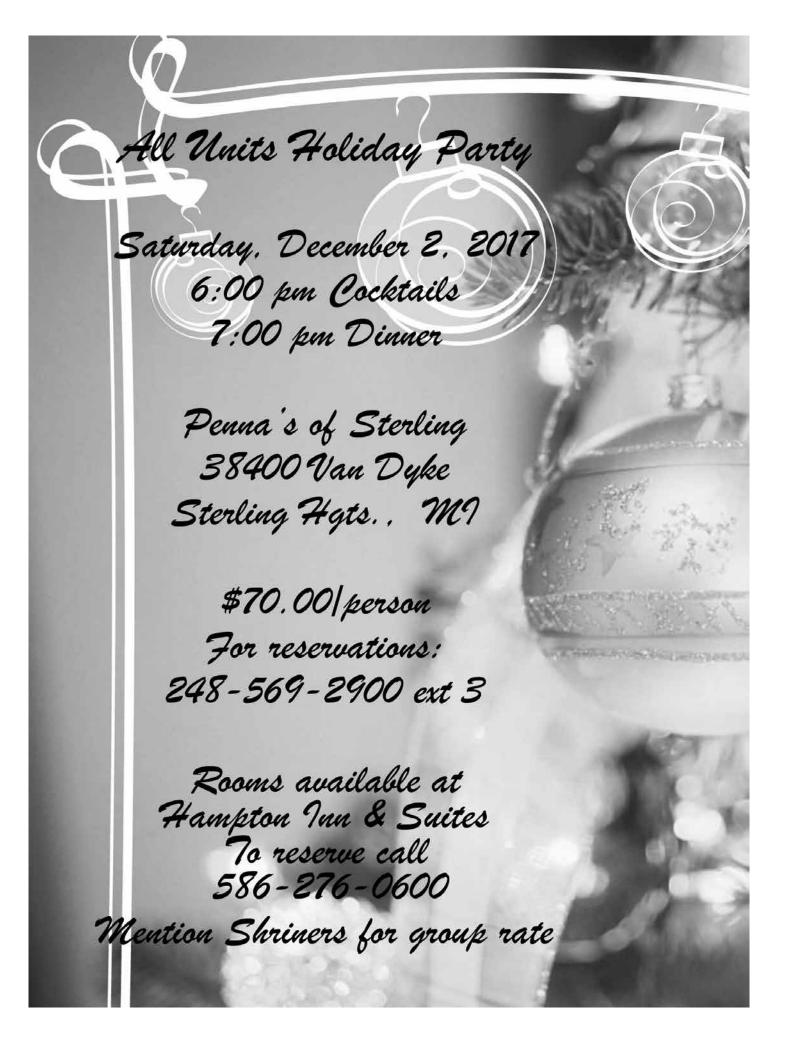
The Holidays are right around the corner, this is a great time to start your Gift Shopping!

### Saturday, October 28th 10am-4pm

Admission is only \$2.00

Over 60 Vendors have already signed up!
Support Local Small Business!
Side Raffles Available!
Cafe Lunch and Bake Sale!

Call 248-569-2900 ex. 3 with any questions. Email <a href="mailto:bbrdak@gmail.com">bbrdak@gmail.com</a> for an application to become a vendor



### The 13th Annual Summer Sportsman's Raffle















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### Ladies of the Household

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. In June nine of us went to Supreme Session in Niagra Falls, NY. We had a wonderful time. On Monday we had a beautiful memorial service for our departed ladies. On August 2nd, we had our Supreme Queen Karen visit our temple, we had a wonderful time with Supreme Queen Karen, also a lovely ceremonial to welcome our new princess Nicole Smith, and a delicious luncheon afterwards. On September 10th we will be having our annual card party. It is open to all who wish to come. If you need tickets please contact Mary Kinney, recorder at 248-582-0886. Our next stated session will be on September 11th at 12 noon, lunch will be at 11am.

With mystical pixie dust and wishes, Queen Vicki

### **WI-MOS**

Just a reminder that our first meeting is October 3, 2017 at 11:30am.

Dues of \$5 will be due then.

Hope to see you there!

### Sean Strong – A Father's Journey



Sean English has made me proud, brought me to tears, caused me to laugh, made me look at myself in a different light and appreciate the simple things in life. Sean was in an accident on April 2, 2017 where he sustained injuries to his right leg, left leg, left arm and forehead. The injuries to his right leg caused him to endure an amputation below the knee. Sean's perseverance and focus are the memories I will retain forever, but it's the relationships along the way that have changed our life. This is our story.

It was a typical Sunday in the English Household — the "ready for church" wake-up call came earlier than normal, as we were heading downtown Detroit for a mass at St Peter and Paul. Sean was first up and was at the breakfast table for food (typical 16 year-old!). After a quick bite, he's off to get dressed and into the car. A few minutes later, he's in the car and back asleep. We pull out of the driveway and enter the freeway for the 40 minute drive.

Not many vehicles are on the road at 7:20am on an April Sunday. An orange Jeep maneuvered into the left lane and lost control; striking the median and flipping onto its passenger side. Our focus is to help the injured, which is what we do; we exit our vehicle to provide assistance. While offering assistance, we are struck by another car from behind. Sean was pinned between our car and the last vehicle in the accident scene, crushing his right ankle and damaging his left leg. As he lay on the ground screaming in pain, a wave of emotion floods into my body that no parent should experience – seeing your child on the ground, in pain, with significant injuries and there is nothing you can do to solve the issue. That's what parents do - solve everything. You pray to take his place, but also know that's impossible. Tears fill my eyes and a large lump forms in my throat and all I can do is pray that I can have him one more moment; time stops and you are left with an unforgettable instant of numbness. Please, God, one more moment – there so much I want to tell him...

The arrival of the first responders signals some relief; the Calvary has arrived. Trooper Patrick Arena is the first on the scene; he methodically surveys the twisted metal and assesses the injured – Dr Cynthia Ray is given first priority; Sean is second. Within the chaos, Trooper Arena introduces himself to Sean, Peggy and me – where

Sean famously extends his hand from a prone position, in excruciating pain to properly greet the Trooper with a handshake. Trooper Arena affixes a tourniquet to Sean's right leg that, as doctor's later informed us, saved Sean's life. Sean is loaded into an ambulance, siren's blaring and his whisked off the freeway and I'm left with the watching the vehicle disappear into the distance and praying that I have another moment to spend with him.

On the pavement, lies his Varsity Letter Jacket — a living symbol of his success in athletics - torn to shreds, which I gather up carefully. His cellphone, his lifeline since he was able to have one, was discarded on the pavement — no longer a priority in his life. His shoes, that were on his feet and neatly tied, are covered with blood. His favorite tie, that was around his neck, now in tatters on the pavement. It must be raining, as the now pool of tears around me cannot be just my tears — as I look to the heavens, not a cloud in the sky. I ask, again, for God to please give me one more moment with him. I place my hand on the spot he just vacated on the pavement expecting it to talk to me, expecting it to give me relief that he will be OK, that he will once again fill the room with laughter or that I will hear his voice. More tears...

My daughter, Meghan, arrives — I called her, awaking her from a solid slumber to ask her to find me; gave her my location and told her to get here as soon as possible. We are blessed to have two wonderful children and I hope to still have both of them. She's confused, but I cannot tell



her what happened — I want to tell her in person so that I can hold her, hug her, while she reacts to the news. She dutifully hangs up the phone and I wait for her arrival. Our vehicle is not drivable and has to be towed away — the crushed front end tears at my heart as I can picture Sean being pinned between the two vehicles. Hurry Meghan, I want to get out of here...

Meghan's face is white once she arrives on the scene and sees our now wrecked vehicle; her concern is genuine and heartfelt. As she exits the car, I embrace her to explain the extent of the injuries to Sean – her body goes limp in my arms. We had a close family, filled with love – my hope is that we will continue our journey together with Sean included. I feel her tears on my shoulder and try to comfort her as would any parent stating, "It will be OK. He will be fine." We gather what belongings I have accumulated and are off to follow the ambulance. Fear begins to creep into my thoughts – fear of losing him.

We arrive at Henry Ford Hospital some moments later - seemed like an eternity from the accident scene. I park, not sure of where I'm going, but am running towards the "Emergency" sign. We are greeted by Jeffery, an ER nurse, to explain Sean's situation. He's speaking, but I'm not hearing - my focus is Sean and I need to see him. He's been prepped for surgery and is ready to go. He's wrapped in blankets and gauze, but I get my moment to see him. I bend down to give him a kiss and his eyes open. He is alive. Thank you Lord for giving me my moment. In true Sean fashion, he is more concerned about me, asking, "Are you hurt?" My tears fill his chest as I drop back into "Parent Mode" telling him that I'm fine... The nurses start wheeling him away and I'm left alone in a Triage room with just my thoughts - again I ask God, "Is this the last time I'll see him alive? God, give me strength for I know not what I am doing; help me manage this path..."

In the waiting room, Nurse Jeffery explains the next steps, his demeanor is comforting. My wife, Peggy, is on one side and Meghan is on the other, in my arms, sobbing – tears flowing freely from all of us. Jeffery masterfully explains the process and what we need to do. Sean will be in surgery for some time. Once he is stable, we will be able to see him again. The doctors will review their findings with us once they understand the extent of his injuries. Barbi, Peggy's sister joins us – more hugs and tears. Jeffery escorts us to the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) Waiting Room.

Almost five hours later, we meet Dr Joseph Hoegler, Sean's Orthopedic Trauma Surgeon; he explains the extent of Sean's injuries, but I stopped listening at, "he's alive and stable." Thank you, God – he's alive. Once I tune back in to Dr Hoegler, we're already into the next steps – saving the leg. Dr Hoegler explains the pros and cons;



that the next few hours are very important. My only request was for Dr Hoegler to take care of him – it's then that we discover he is also a runner and he qualified for The Boston Marathon! Sean's in good hands!! We meet the rest of the trauma team – Dr Kenneth J Moquin, Dr Aamir Siddiqui, Dr Stephanie Cook and the staff in the SICU: Tabitha, Katelyn, Dave, Alisja, Chelisea, Sheryl, Jacklyn, Catherine and Crystal. Too many names, how am I to remember. Each had words of encouragement for Sean and his injuries. We came to know the nurses and doctors as "family" and we are so very blessed to have been introduced to such gifted technicians in caring for Sean – blessed... honored...grateful...

Sean finally awoke from the initial surgery and we had to explain the extent of his injuries. He was, first, relieved that he was not paralyzed, but then intent on the process of recovery. Never did he question the path as, "Why me?"; never bitter; never dropping into a shell – more of, OK this is the path that has been set for me, when and where do we start? He's never consumed by the past, only to learn from any situation and move forward. Amazing young man – wisdom beyond his years. He didn't ask what can be done, he focused on what should be done and how much more can he physically endure. He's attacking the injuries as an athlete – and the pain does not worry him. He understands that every success has some pain to manage – he embraces the task. Peggy, Meghan and I go back to school – absorb the medical information during the day and do our research at night. Google and WebMd became our comrades much like a library did in college. We then compared notes before the doctors did their morning rounds each morning so we could ask the right questions. More information and more study became the norm for us while Sean recovered. No sleep. Sean would listen to our research and take the lead in the conversations with the medical staff. On many occasions, Peggy, Meghan and I would step back and revel in watching a 16 year old take charge of his life – to the point where I had to pinch myself in asking who the adults and which is the adolescent in the room!! Proud moment...

God has selected us for this path; I'm a simple man of simple means and I am honored that God has thought me worthy of such a task – I'm eternally grateful for the people around me guiding Sean on his journey. Our Lady of Victory and The University of Detroit Jesuit High School all contributed to his growth and development – he is the product of their education and values. We, as parents, we were active in our children's educational development, but the schools refine the teachings of our home. God, take my hand and show me the proper direction; guide me as I'm scared.

Six more surgeries later, Sean is finally out of SICU and moved to a recovery area guided by the efficient Nurse Tally – kind and attentive (as are all the staff at Henry Ford – again, grateful).Peggy, Meghan or I still haven't slept more than 2 hours per night. We're in "Parent Mode": you have an injured child and your focus is on the day and the decisions to make for the day and you are not worried about your own being. After two months of Parent Mode, we can finally rest enough where my body just shut down for 14 hours!! Sean got 6 hours of sleep!! On the road to recovery...

We were nicknamed the "Ant Family" in the hospital – we would have a steady stream of friends parading through the room to offer encouragement to Sean much like an ant colony would have a set path to and from the hill. So many people to see and Sean accommodated each person – no concern for his pain, he received everyone who came to visit. His thought is that they took the time to visit him and he will thank them personally for their effort.

Hospital recovery complete enough to send him to rehabilitation — we are introduced to the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM). Carolyn, Mark and Ben are the newest additions to the family as they are Sean's therapists. For the next month, his team will challenge him to accomplish extraordinary tasks which he will do and then ask for more! Every day he extends the line and pushes the team to catch up to him — he defies common practices and wants to achieve one goal: to be released. Pain is common and daunting, but he moves to the next step knowing that his goal is closer with every day; with every ounce pain, he can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Recovery from an automotive accident has good days and bad days — his path found an infection set in to the point that he had to return to Henry Ford for treatment. The homecoming to the SICU was bitter sweet: we were among old friends, but the cause was serious. Sean had to endure one more surgery — elevated pain levels had him back to the same pain levels as was experienced

after the accident: not welcome either. Two days of intense pain before being released back to RIM. Good days and bad days – hold the good days close; know that the bad days are temporary...

Three months to the day, Sean was released from RIM to go home, but "home" is different. His mobility is limited so the home library was converted to become his bedroom – the first step in establishing his new "normal". He also has to adjust to not having pain medication readily available – that he has to stay on a pain management cycle to keep the pain at a tolerable level. Another learning opportunity. We eventually figured it out. More sleepless nights for all.

Shriners approached me to help Sean. I was honored, but confused with the whole process - Sean was just out of his third surgery. Bob O'Brien and Pam York explained the typical process with care and compassion. We agreed to become part of the Shriner Family and are blessed that we made that decision. Our initial trip to Chicago was captured by the Detroit news media of WDIV. Sean was introduced to the doctors and nurses of the hospital. Every step of the process was outlined and care was taken to explain the situation to Sean, Peggy, Meghan and me, as we had plenty of questions. We are so very appreciative of the time and effort of everyone involved: Bob, Pam, Art, Joe and so many more. Sean was also given the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball - and (his comment) his "face was the true look of pure joy." His story was carried on WDIV and the whole event was magnificent. More tears and hugs with new additions to the now extremely large English family. Sean's story has many followers, which, for a simple person like me, is foreign to my thinking. Sharing his story, we are told, brings inspiration to others...

Our path has been a challenge, but the names and faces along the way have buoyed our faith and determination to take the next step. My world at the accident scene was similar to stepping off a cliff into a cloud – you have no idea how far you have to fall, how fast you're travelling, but each breath you take prepares for doom. It felt like one day, one VERY long day since the accident to now. With all the support and encouragement extended to us, our lives are finding our "new normal" and our family that much closer. The Shriners organization gave us hope and showed us the way. Again, honored, blessed and eternally grateful – we have found our family is much larger than we had before the accident and we'll have to set more places at Thanksgiving!! To say thank you, doesn't seem to reflect enough of our gratitude. The path has been a challenge, but the journey fruitful!!! Thank you to all who have contributed to our life...

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