



# MECCA SHRINE

Public Installation  
of Illustrious Potentate  
Levent Ozkurt  
&  
The 2021 Elected & Appointed Divan



Thursday, January 14, 2021  
Tutta Bella Trattoria  
754 White Plains Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

[www.MeccaShriners.org](http://www.MeccaShriners.org)

## Ceremony Agenda

Prelude:	Ill. Sir Mark J. Buono
Welcome:	Ill. Sir Mark J. Buono
Introduction:	Ill. Sir Mark J. Buono

Illustrious Potentate - Levent Ozkurt & Lady Mona

- Elected Divan & their Ladies
- Past Potentates & their Ladies

Pledge of Allegiance:	Ill. Sir Mark J. Buono
Star Spangled Banner:	Noble Anthony Maltese
Invocation:	Noble Anthony Ruffini
Installation Ceremony:	Ill. Sir Mark J. Buono
Intro. of Illustrious Potentate:	Ill. Sir Mark J. Buono
Potentate's Remarks:	Ill. Sir Levent Ozkurt
Benediction:	Noble Anthony Ruffini

## Mecca Shrine 2021 Elected Divan

Potentate:	Ill. Sir Levent Ozkurt
Chief Rabban:	Noble Zachary N. Ostrow
Assistant Rabban:	Noble Mike Sikos
High Priest & Prophet:	Noble Anthony Ruffini
Oriental Guide:	Noble William Neri
Recorder:	Noble Joseph McMillen
Treasurer:	Ill. Sir. Steven J. Baker
Trustee(s):	Noble Fahimul Islam (2021) Noble Willie Manalang (2022) Noble James Reichman (2023)

## Mecca Shrine 2021 Appointed Divan

First Ceremonial:	Noble Pablo Antonio Reyna
Second Ceremonial:	Noble Marcos Moncoya
Captain of the Guard:	Noble Victor Melendez
Outer Guard:	Noble Brian Donlon
Marshall:	Noble Andrew Wiktor
Temple Lawyer:	Noble Jim Melis
Membership Chairman:	Noble William Soto
Temple Auditor	Noble Steven Rosen
Temple Editor	Noble Joseph McMillen
Temple Hospital Chairman	Ill. Sir Levent Ozkurt
Temple Hospital Transportation	Noble Bob Martin
Temple Public Relations	Noble Joseph McMillen
Parade Chairmen:	Noble Ursino Rivera (Puerto Rican Day ) Noble Rene Bautista (Phillippine Ind.)
Ritual Director:	Noble Barry Banks
Musical Director:	Noble Leon Weinstein
Potentate's Aide(s):	Noble Harvey Friedman Ill. Sir Louis O'Neill Noble Anthony Maltese
Ambassador(s):	Noble Barry Banks Noble Paul Guerrero Noble Charles Norris Noble Yaron Bob
Executive Committee:	Elected Divan & Past Potentates
Temple Historian:	Ill. Sir Scott Bisogni

## About Mecca Temple

In 1870, there were several thousand Masons in Manhattan, many of who lunched at the Knickerbocker Cottage at a special table on the second floor. There, the idea of a new fraternity for Masons, stressing fun and fellowship, was discussed. Walter M. Fleming, M.D., and William J. Florence took the idea seriously enough to act upon it.

Florence, a world-renowned actor, while on tour in Marseille, was invited to a party given by an Arab diplomat. The entertainment was something in the nature of an elaborately staged musical comedy. At its conclusion, the guests became members of a secret society. Florence took copious notes and drawings at his initial viewing and on two other occasions, once in Algiers and once in Cairo. When he returned to New York in 1870, he showed his material to Fleming.

The group adopted a Middle Eastern theme and soon established Temples (though the term Temple has now generally been replaced by Shrine Auditorium or Shrine Center). The first Temple established was Mecca Temple (now known as Mecca Shriners), established at the New York City Masonic Hall on September 26, 1872. Fleming was the first Potentate.

## Shriner's Creed

Shriners believe in God and that He created man to serve His purposes, among which is service to others in His name.

We believe that care for the less fortunate, especially children who suffer from burns and crippling diseases, is our institutional calling.

We are patriots, each willing to serve his country with fidelity and courage. We cherish independence under law and freedom with responsibility.

We honor family. We respect our parents, wives and children. We should instill in our children the tenets of this creed, and the heritage from which it emanates.

As individuals we pledge ourselves to integrity, virtue and nobility of character. Our intentions will be honorable, our relations will be trustworthy and our spirits for giving of each other.

As brothers we offer each other fraternal affection and respect. Together we will support each other in adherence to this creed, so that we and our communities will be the better because of our fraternity and its principles.

As Shriners we look beyond ourselves to serve the needs of others, especially children who cannot help themselves. We believe Shriners Hospitals to be the world's greatest philanthropy, and we covenant with each other to support its "temples of mercy" with spirit, time, talent and means.