

# Shrine Club of Southeastern Massachusetts

**T**HE Shrine Club of Southeastern Massachusetts hosted their annual reception in honor of the Illustrious **Robert F. Smith**. On Saturday November 7th at the Wamsutta Club in New Bedford. Over seventy people attended the event including a large delegation from the Divan at Aleppo.

Special guests at the event were two former burns hospital patients, **Carrie Holmstrom** and **Felicia Rego**. Both spoke at the gathering explaining their time in Shriner Hospitals and how appreciative they are to all Shriners. Their talk was very emotional as well as a video that Miss Holmstrom showed about her experiences.

**Richard Greenhalgh** presented the Potentate with a check for \$10,000, the result of the club's paper drives and track meet. Additional monies will be forthcoming when tabs are turned in shortly. The club has been storing them for the price to improve. They have over 2 tons in storage.

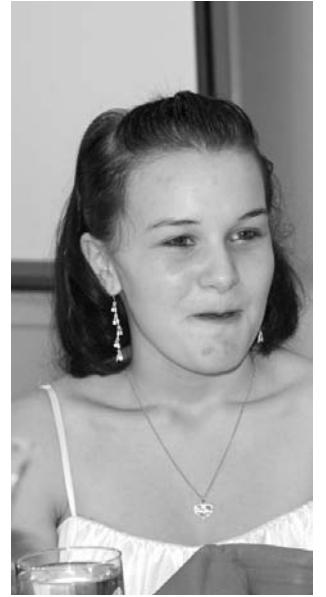
In December the club will sponsor a Christmas party at the Schwartz Center for Children. They will distribute over 100 stockings to the children. This is something they have been doing for many years.



*ABOVE: Illustrious Potentate **Robert F. Smith** (left) and **Richard Greenhalgh** hold up the afghan that a lucky winner received.*



**CARRIE HOLSTROM**



**FELICIA REGO**

*RIGHT: The head table at the Potentate's Reception hosted by the Southeastern Massachusetts Shrine Club.*



*LEFT: **Carrie Holmstrom** and her mother **Karen** at the Potentate's Reception hosted by the Southeastern Massachusetts Shrine Club.*



**Robert V. Goodman**  
President

## Neponset Valley Shrine Club



**Ted Polonsky**  
Secretary  
978-535-4995

Neponset Valley Shrine Club has completed their yearly Chinese Night Dinner at the Fez Room at the Aleppo Shrine Center. It was highly successful with good food, dancing to the great Dick Fink and the Swing Band, 275 people and a very fair price to attend. We actually had to refuse people who called in at the last couple of days.

We always have been a small club, consisting of a distinguished group of Past Presidents, Nobles: **George Wilkins, Bill Blackly, Don Pettersen, Bob Pann, Robert Rittenberg, Don Moulton**, and our longest standing president **Bob Goodman**.

We have been slowed down in our activities for a couple of years due to sickness in our ranks but now we are planning our future activities again. The Ladies have always enjoyed our events.

We do plan on having a Chief Rabban Night, when our future Potentate to be is our honored guest. A night when we honor a Noble who we designate as the man of the year.

Our Chinese Night for 2010 will be August 21, when we honor our 2010 Potentate. We have convinced the Azadians to go to work again and produce a Middle Eastern Night in the near future. Our Board of Directors has been expanded to include **Bill Ball** of the Motor Patrol, **Ed Flashenberg** of the Hospital Volunteers and Chief Steward **Al Gebow**.

Our thanks to **Arthur Fink** for secretarial work for many years. Our new Secretary is **Ted Polonsky**, who is also Secretary for the Motor Patrol.

Our meetings are generally held in various restaurants where we conduct most of our business, the Ladies are always invited.

We are always in need of new members to help support our activities and to come up with new functions and events that we can embark on. We have always been a small club but a strong organization with some tremendous supporters. Join the Neponset Valley Shrine Club today!

Fraternally,

Bob Pann, Past Potentate

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CHRIS AZADIAN • WILLIAM G. BALL • BRUCE BOULTER • EDWARD FLASHENBERG • AL GEBOW • ROBERT L. PANN

## A Warm Welcome, As Shriners Hospitals for Children Galveston Reopens

**T**HERE were lots of hugs among returning patients and hospital staff at Shriners Hospitals for Children—Galveston when it reopened Nov. 4, 2009, after being closed for more than a year after sustaining damage during Hurricane Ike.

More than a dozen patients, most of them from Mexico, shared smiles and hugs with doctors, nurses and other staff that they had not seen in months.

Patients at the Galveston hospital have received uninterrupted medical care at Shriners Hospitals for Children—Houston during the last year.

**Maria Guadalupe Hernandez**, 13, got a warm welcome from nurse **Joanna Huddleston** as they met in the outpatient clinic lobby. Maria shared her story with local media about how she was burned in a 2005 car crash in Mexico and how her family desperately looked for a medical treatment for her.

"My family said they didn't think I would have survived if not for Shriners," the shy teen said quietly as her grandmother nodded next to her.

Many of the staff members, some of whom worked temporarily at the Houston hospital caring for burn patients for the past several months, were happy to be "home."

The staff of both the Houston and Galveston Shriners Hospitals for Children will continue working closely together to assure a smooth transition for all patients.

Services at the hospital will resume in phases, beginning with current patients who need reconstructive surgery. Galveston hospital patients needing to schedule appointments should call (409) 770-6724 or (409) 770-6969.

New patients interested in filling out an application for treatment should call (409) 770-6998 or (888) 215-3109 (U.S. only). New patients from Mexico should call 001-888-215-3109



*Maria, a patient at the Shriners Hospitals for Children—Galveston, shares her story with local media during the hospital's re-opening on Nov. 4, 2009.*