



The 143rd Annual Session of Shriners International was held last week in Daytona Beach, Florida. It was terrific! Even more wonderful was there were so many Daughters of the Nile in attendance. Karen Keuther, Supreme Queen, and Vickie Hill, President of the Foundation, were introduced and made our generous annual monetary donations. All Daughters of the Nile were asked to stand and there was quite a large number of us scattered all over the convention floor. Imperial Sir Chris Smith, Imperial Potentate, was most flattering and complementary in accepting our contributions. How proud we all were.

Our Membership and Charitable Giving Information Booth in the marketplace was a happening place, too. Many nobles and ladies dropped by and asked lots of questions. Vesta Marshall, Past Supreme Queen, was the booth chairman and she was most ably assisted by Barbara Cogley, Past Queen, Athaliah No. 114, Orlando, Florida.

Athaliah Temple No. 114 held the Annual Nile Imperial Function for Supreme Temple on Monday. It was a complementary light brunch and was held at the new Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Florida Art. Supreme Queen Karen attended; along with Shirley Henley, Supreme Princess Royal, and Dale Obernolte, Supreme Princess Tirzah. They formed a receiving line and were joined by six or more Reigning Queens representing Temples from all over our jurisdiction.

The Imperial Divan ladies came and were warmly greeted by all. What a wonderful opportunity to mingle with these amazing ladies of the Shrine leaders!

Representatives from Germany, Brazil, and Mexico were in attendance. Past Supreme Queens Vesta and Alyce talked with the ladies at length on the possibility of starting Daughters of the Nile Temples in Brazil and Germany. We had previously talked to the ladies from Mexico. Sap Paulo, Brazil had just received their charter at the convention. We are always working for the Nile and we never lose the opportunity to promote our organization!

The attendance was well over 210, and there were delicious foods prepared and contributed by the ladies of Athaliah Temple. A chocolate fountain provided delectable sweets along with citrus punch, coffee, and water. The decorations were done in green, gold and white -- traditional Nile colors. White roses in green vases on gold doilies were in the center of the tables.

Doriann Stein and some of her committee manned a Charitable Giving table with their gifts. It was a most profitable venture for them.

I attended the Public Opening and the Public Relations presentation and introduction of the Hospital Patient Ambassadors. Wow! If those presentations and pageants don't crank up your enthusiasm, nothing will. I just wish every Nile member could have heard and seen those fantastic presentations! Our membership would soar like Imperial Lady Ethel Smith's hot air balloons!

There were several Past Supreme Queens in attendance, as well. The Past Supreme Queens attending were Sharon St. John, Ginger Franklin, Hulene (Mickey) Fitzpatrick, Laura Richardson, Vesta Marshall, and Alyce S. Thomas. Our ladies are still very actively supporting the Shrine, along with their nobles. It is an annual rite of passage as we renew our allegiance to the World's Greatest Philanthropy.

Needless to say, the nobles of Bahia Shrine in Orlando and their ladies worked very hard for ten years in order to inaugurate their Imperial Potentate Illustrious Sir Gary Bergenske, and start him and his Lady, Princess Anne, off on their long, wonderful year's journey. These nobles look forward to doing it again next year, too!

I hope many of you will want to travel to Daytona Beach next July and witness, firsthand, the wonderful work the Shriners do. It is guaranteed to generate an enormous amount of enthusiasm! Enthusiasm generates Commitment and promotes Membership!

Alyce S. Thomas, PSQ, Chairman Supreme Membership and Public Relations Committee