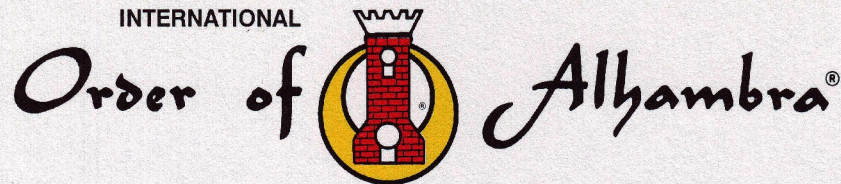


Hot Sands

The Official Newsletter of



ALGARVA CARAVAN NO. 168

GRAND BEND, ONTARIO

50 years of service to the mentally challenged

Home of the Supreme Director for Region X - SD Gerald Forster

Our website: www.algarva168.org

Our email: algarva168@execulink.com

Volume 51 No 7

July 2018

Our Grand Commander Speaks:



The warm weather has arrived, and we're now waiting for rain to accompany it! We had 15 members at our last meeting. Tom Smits name was drawn for the good of the order draw but he was not present to collect. The pot grows.

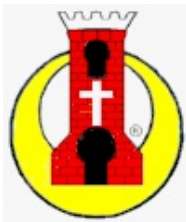
Our Fun Day was a great success. Thanks to Rose Vandenberg for all the hard work in organizing. Also for all her helpers, and the volunteers that donated their time, a big thank-you! This event is what our group is all about. We bar-tended at the Max Rombouts fundraiser. Thanks to Jerry Bongers for scheduling and all the volunteers that made it run smoothly.

Our next event is our annual golf tournament on July 14, which is sold out. Thanks to Frank DeVet for the great work in organizing. Louis

Hendrikx is organizing the volunteers for the day. Please let him know when you can work.

We have been invited to St. Peter's Parish in St Joseph for the dedication of the sign we purchased outside of St. Andres healing garden on Sunday Sept 9. We will pray the rosary at 10:30, Mass at 11:00, Sign Dedication at 12:00. Finger lunch to follow. Lets all plan to attend.

Our next meeting will be on July 26 @ 8pm . I will not be present, therefore, Lisa will have her first trial run . Wishing her luck, and everyone go easy on her!



Al Salaam
Grand Commander

Doug Willsie

Calendar of Events:

July:

- July 14 Alhambra Golf Tournament
July 22 Bartending- Book Launch:
History of the Bog
July 26 Regular Meeting, Alcazar
8:00 pm

August:

- August 18 Steam Thrashers-Bartending
11:00 am - midnight
August 30 Regular Meeting, Alcazar
8:00 pm

September:

- Sept. 27 Regular Meeting, Alcazar
8:00 pm
Sept. 29 Bartending – Veens Wedding
Legacy Centre

October:

- Oct. 25 Regular Meeting, Alcazar
8:00 pm

Dates and times are subject to change, so please check each month.



From the Chaplaincy:



Summer is upon us, for many of us there will be opportunity to have a change of pace, some recharge time, both physically and spiritually. As a society we become “busy people”. Thus by allowing yourself a step back and to have a breather...to take some time for prayer including meditation, to look within ourselves...and to be open for a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. Being open to God’s love, wisdom and direction will help us be the person that God has invited us to become, so that in our “busyness” we may strive to stay focused on the truly important aspects of life... building stronger and healthier relationships with God and our community.

Brother in Christ John Lammers Deacon
519 490 3832

"Speak Lord... your Servant is Listening"

For the Good of the Order:

Tom Smit’s name was drawn, but since he was not in attendance, he did not win the \$80.50. You could be next, but you need to be at the meeting to win. Will you be there when your name is drawn?

Next meeting: Thursday, July 26th at 8 p.m.

JULY 2018-NEWSLETTER

FROM: DENISE BLAKELY, denise@orderofalhambra.org

**Like us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/orderofalhambra and follow us on:
[Twitter@orderofalhambra](https://twitter.com/orderofalhambra)**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GC's will be receiving the packet of caravan material from me. This consists of an Election of Grand Divan Form, Membership Cards, Dues Notices, Convention information, Roster, a Directory, etc. Please hold on to this information and pass it on to the appropriate Grand Divan member(s) who need to complete the request. Please note dates that items are due. The per-capita billing in September will be based on your caravan roster update on file as of September 1st. Notify your caravan if you have moved. Thank you!

DIRECTORY

A new Directory has been made for 2018-2019. It is being mailed with your packet. Please review and refer to the back two pages which list dates to remember. This will be very helpful to keep handy. It has important Convention information that we ask you to share with your members. We want to see every caravan participate like you did back when. I will send each GC an updated Caravan listing for 2019 after the elections.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE NOTICE

Effective July 1, 2018, the password to our member section of our website (www.orderalhambra.org) will no longer be salaam. The new password will be the word: peace. This is all lower case. I am asking each of you to please advise your caravan members and get the word out of the change. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to the Alhambra!

*****IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION*****

58TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION, BALTIMORE, MD

*******STARTING AUGUST 1, 2018*******

RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE FOR THE 2019 CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE, MD. PLEASE CALL A.S.A.P. TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM. THIS HOTEL FILLS UP FAST AND WE HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ROOMS. A CREDIT CARD IS TAKEN JUST TO HOLD YOUR ROOM, NOTHING WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR ACCOUNT UNTIL YOU CHECK-OUT. PLEASE CONTACT THE DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, 410-859-8400 AND TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE ORDER OF ALHAMBRA CONVENTION. DATES ARE: JULY 28, 2019-JULY 30, 2019. YOU MAY WANT TO ARRIVE ON SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2019.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AND WHY RECRUITING IS AN ACT OF LOVE

I received this from PGC Mike Kiefer and SD Cliff Dake, Region VI. (Even if you read this before, it is worth reading again)

At a fund-raising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities (Chush in Brooklyn, NY) the father of one of the students delivered a speech that will always be remembered by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff he cried out, "Where is the perfection in my son Shaya? Everything God does is done with perfection. But my child cannot understand things as other children do. My child cannot remember facts and figures as other children do. Where is God's perfection?" The audience was shocked by the question, pained by the father's anguish and stilled by the piercing query. "I believe," the father answered, "that when God brings a child like this into the world the perfection that he seeks is in the way people react to this child."

He then told the following story about his son Shaya:

One afternoon, Shaya and his father walked past a park where some boys whom Shaya knew were playing baseball. Shaya asked, "Do you think they will let me play?"

Shaya's father knew that his son was not at all athletic and that most boys would not want him on their team. But Shaya's father also understood that if his son was chosen to play it would give him a comfortable sense of belonging. Shaya's father approached one of the boys in the field and asked if Shaya could play. The boy looked around for guidance from his team mates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said "We are losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

Shaya's father was ecstatic as Shaya smiled broadly. Shaya was told to put on a glove and go out to play short center field. In the bottom of the eighth inning Shaya's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the bottom of the ninth inning Shaya's team scored again and now, with two outs and the bases loaded with the potential winning run on base, Shaya was scheduled to be up. Would the team actually let Shaya bat at this juncture and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shaya was given the bat. Everyone knew that it was all but impossible because Shaya didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, let alone hit with it.

However, as Shaya stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shaya should at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shaya swung clumsily and missed. One of Shaya's team mates came up to Shaya and together they held the bat and faced the pitcher waiting for the next pitch.

The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly toward Shaya. As the pitch came in, Shaya and his team mate swung at the ball and together they hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could easily have thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shaya would have been out and that would have ended the game.

Instead, the pitcher took the ball and threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman. Everyone started yelling, "Shaya, run to first. Run to first." Never in his life had Shaya run to first. He scampered down the baseline wide eyed and startled. By the time he reached first base the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman who would tag out the still-running Shaya.

But the right fielder understood what the pitcher's intentions were so he threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second." Shaya ran towards second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the bases towards home. As Shaya reached second base the opposing short stop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base and shouted, "Run to third." As Shaya rounded third the boys from both teams ran behind him screaming, "Shaya run home." Shaya ran home, stepped on home plate and all 18 boys lifted him on their shoulders and made him the hero as he had just hit a "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "those 18 boys reached their level of God's perfection."

Shaya didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy and coming home and seeing his mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS BEGINS WITH THE NEXT NEW MEMBER

Next meeting: Thursday, July 26th at 8 p.m.

The Last Word

By Lisa Finch



I'm filling in for our Master of Communications, Bernice Cadman, who is visiting her daughter in Australia. I hope she's having a good time.

Bernice's newsletters are great and she's doing a fabulous job with the writing and editing. I'm thoroughly enjoying each issue.

So I figured I'd use her format. You know, keep the layout consistent. Even though it was different from what I was used to working with, how hard could it be. Right?

But guess what. I couldn't get anything to work. After struggling with the boxes and layouts and columns she'd created, the realization came crashing down around me. I remembered why my children rolled their eyes whenever I had computer questions. Okay, so I'm not that tech-savvy. So I went with what works :)

Meanwhile (and more importantly), our caravan is busy as always. Next up is the golf tourney. I'm not a golfer and summer is a crazy-busy time for my family, but I've been able to put aside a couple of hours to help out. I've never volunteered at this event, so it's about time! (Better late than never?) It'll be a great day.

And on that note, I end on a joke:

(from <https://www.golf-monthly.co.uk/features/the-game/20-best-golf-jokes-90683>)

***After a particularly poor round, a golfer spotted a lake as he walked despondently up the 18th.

He looked at his caddie and said, "I've played so badly all day, I think I'm going to drown myself in that lake."

The caddie, quick as a flash, replied, "I'm not sure you could keep your head down that long."***

Enjoy your summer and thanks for letting me pinch-hit for Bernice.

God Bless you all!

Lisa Finch

Vice Grand Commander

Next meeting: Thursday, July 26th at 8 p.m.