

EASTERN STAR Journal

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER

January 2025



Meet our Leaders

Billie Bradfield, Most Worthy Grand Matron
Mike Berry, Most Worthy Grand Patron

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The Eastern Star Journal
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ORDER OF THE
EASTERN STAR™

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Most Worthy Grand Matron
Billie Bradfield, PGM-Arizona

Most Worthy Grand Patron
Michael E. Berry, PGP-Kentucky

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oesjournal2427@gmail.com

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**Stories from around the Eastern Star world
appear throughout the pages of the Eastern Star Journal**

Important change in office of the Right Worthy Grand Secretary

Sister and Brothers:

On November 17, 2024, we received notification from Brother Charles Chandler, Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, announcing his decision to resign from office as a result of personal and family obligations. In his message, he wrote: "Unfortunately, I must resign my position effective December 31, 2024...It has been a pleasure to serve our Order."

On December 19, 2024, the Most Worthy Grand Matron traveled to the General Grand Chapter International Headquarters in Washington, DC, to ensure the smooth transition of responsibilities. Prior to this, the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron held a Zoom meeting with Kelly O'Malley, Past Grand Matron of Virginia, to discuss next steps and finalize staffing decisions. As a result, the following appointments have been made in accordance with Article V, Officers, (c) Vacancies, how filled (4), of the General Grand Chapter Constitution, effective January 6, 2025, to align with the current pay period: Kelly O'Malley, Past Grand Matron of Virginia, Right Worthy Grand Secretary, Protém;

Laura Babbitt, Past Grand Matron of Virginia, Administrative Assistant; Rachel Babbitt, Administrative Assistant.

This marks the beginning of a new chapter for our General Grand Chapter office, as we welcome new staff and continue to move forward with our mission to serve our Order and its members. We want to thank the Board of Right Worthy Grand Trustees for their assistance and support during this process.

We most especially want to express our heartfelt appreciation to Brother Charlie and his wife, Judy, for their many years of service and leadership. Their contributions have strengthened our organization in immeasurable ways, and we are grateful for all that they have done. Please join us in keeping the Chandler family in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate the road ahead.

Fraternally,
Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron

Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron

A dream becomes a reality for Billie Bradfield, Most Worthy Grand Matron

By Billie Bradfield

Most Worthy Grand Matron

Some of you may know parts of my story, while others may not, so let me take a moment to share a little about myself.

I was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and as a child growing up in Van Buren, Arkansas, I fondly remember attending my dad's Masonic events. My Masonic heritage is deeply rooted in both my father's and mother's families.

In the seventh grade, my family moved to California, where I chose to join the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Although I did not have the chance to advance through the chairs in Rainbow, it became a vital part of my life. I joined at the Mar Vista Temple in Long Beach, an experience that profoundly influenced me.

Later, I was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star in Long Beach, following my receipt of the Marriage Degree in Rainbow. On January 18, 1966, alongside my mother and sister, I joined Mar Vista Chapter #511. Although this chapter has since consolidated with others, I still remember fondly my first office as Adah, which remains my favorite to this day. However, life's responsibilities soon called, and I stepped away after the birth of my son in July 1966.

Years later, I felt the call to reconnect and teach my children about the advantages of being part of a Masonic family. My son joined

DeMolay and served as Master Councilor, while my daughters joined Job's Daughters and both served as Honored Queens and Grand Bethel Girls in California. I, too, had the honor of serving as Bethel Guardian for Bethel #224 in Whittier, California—a time I hold dear in my heart.

After retiring in California, my husband Bob and I moved to Bullhead City, Arizona. I petitioned for dual membership with Sunrise Chapter #60. On the night I joined, I was asked to serve as Associate Conductress. Without knowing it was a four-year commitment, I said yes, and it turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for service. Over the years, I served as Worthy Matron ▶



Baby Billie in Arkansas.



Sister Billie as a Rainbow Girl in California.



Sister Billie, Brother Bob and their daughters Jennifer and Jill at Jill's reception as a Grand Bethel Girl for Job's Daughters in California

multiple times, spanning 2001-2018, each term enriching my life in unique ways.

In 2003-2004, I was honored to be appointed Grand Marshal by Sister Jean Yunker. She lovingly teased me about my energy, saying I never sat still. That year, I ran for the office of Associate Grand Conductress, and although it wasn't meant to be, Bob and I trusted God's timing. I ran again the following year and was elected, embarking on an incredible journey of leadership and service.

One of the most important milestones in my role as Right Worthy Grand Conductress was selecting a Right Worthy Grand Sentinel. I could not have chosen a finer person than Mike Berry. Together, we have faced challenges, celebrated victories, and supported one another through difficult times. We truly are a team—where one goes, the other follows.

My dream is to bring peace and harmony to jurisdictions experiencing difficulties, to meet members and encourage their involvement in Eastern Star, and to champion the causes that matter deeply to us. I have chosen Alzheimer's research, supporting the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas and the National Alzheimer's Research Foundation, in honor of my mother. We also support cancer research, as Mike

courageously battles pancreatic cancer.

Additionally, we are committed to preserving our Historical Landmarks—the International Headquarters, International Peace Garden Chapel, Little Red Schoolhouse, and the Rob Morris Home—to ensure these treasures endure for future generations.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who attended the installation in Myrtle Beach. Having my children present to share that special evening with me was a profound blessing. They saw firsthand how important Eastern Star is in my life. Though Bob was not physically with us, his unwavering belief in me and his humor still inspire me. He used to joke about being my escort, driver, luggage carrier, and wallet—a role he embraced with love.

To the members of Arizona, Kentucky, and all other jurisdictions, your support means the world to me. I look forward to meeting each of you during my visits.

Let me leave you with a quote that resonates deeply:

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” —Harriet Tubman

Thank you, and may we continue to work together to make a difference in the lives of others. ■



Sister Billie and Brother Bob when she was installed Worthy Grand Matron of Arizona in 2008.



Son Jim is a Past Master Councilor of DeMolay in California



Sister Billie and Brother Bob at an installation at Mohave Valley Lodge #68 in Bullhead City, Arizona.

Mike Berry gives us insights to his life and term

Editor's Note: Here is an interview of Brother Mike Berry that will allow us all to get to know him just a little better.

When did you remember first learning about the Masonic family organizations?

Mike: "I think I learned about the Masonic family before I was even born. My mother was a Deputy Grand Matron of Kentucky when she was expecting me so being from District Number One, when she "led the line," I led her!

What was your family Masonic history?

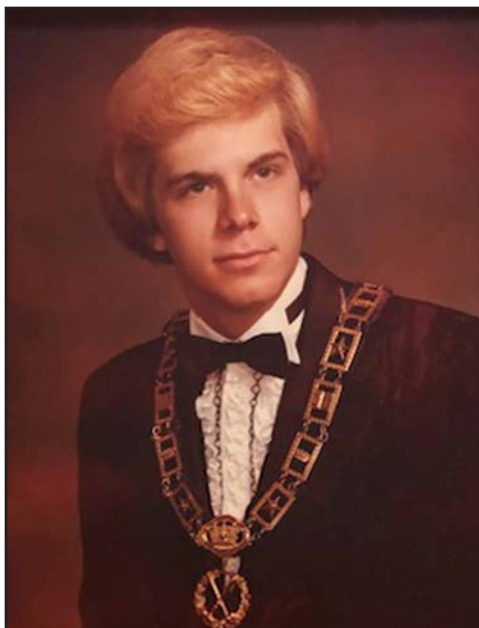
Mike: My father was a charter member of Shively Lodge in Louisville, and my maternal grandfather a member of Preston Lodge. My mother and grandmother were members of Brilliant Star Chapter and my two older sisters were Past Grand Officers of Kentucky Rainbow.

You were a DeMolay -- when and where were you initiated?

Mike: I was initiated into Beargrass DeMolay Chapter in Louisville in 1974.

When did you serve as State Master Councilor of Kentucky?

Mike: I was elected State Junior Councilor of the Kentucky DeMolay Association in August of 1978 and progressed through the line serving as Kentucky's State Master Councilor in 1980-81.



Mike as State Master Councilor of Kentucky DeMolay.

What influence did DeMolay have on your life?

Mike: DeMolay taught me leadership, planning and public speaking...I traits that I used everyday in my career as President/CEO of the Kentucky Derby Festival and Secretary

of Tourism for Kentucky.

I know you're a member of the DeMolay Hall of Fame. When were you inducted and what were your thoughts when you found out you were to be inducted?

Mike: I was inducted into the DeMolay International Hall of Fame in 2012. When I received the letter informing me of my election, I thought it must have been a mistake. Since the convention was being hosted in Louisville, I thought the letter was supposed to be asking me to speak on behalf of the City of Louisville.

Who inspired you to become a Mason and when did you join?

Mike: My father was my inspiration to join Masonry. While he was never Master of his lodge, he lived the tenets of Masonry in everything he said and did. I was initiated (and raised by him) in August of 1982.

Who inspired you to join Eastern Star?

Mike: Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be a member of Eastern Star. When I was 15 years old, my mother served as Worthy Grand Matron of Kentucky. Her Grand Family and friends were like a second family to me, as well. Upon becoming a Master Mason in 1982, I petitioned Eastern Star within 2 weeks.

When and into what chapter and jurisdiction were you initiated?

Mike: I was initiated in October of 1982 into Brilliant Star Chapter #153 in Louisville.

Do you have any particular memories about your initiation?

Mike: My most vivid memory was the number of people that were present on a Friday night in October. The next week I attended my first Kentucky Grand Chapter Session and one week after that attended the 1982 Triennial Assembly of General Grand Chapter in Anaheim, California, where I escorted my mother as she was installed as Worthy Grand Ruth for the 1982-85 Triennium.

When did you first get fully involved and where?

Mike: Officially, I got fully involved at my initiation into Eastern Star. However, I had attended social functions, washed dishes for chapter dinners and bazaars, and been an "anteroom brat" since I was a toddler.

When and where did you serve as Worthy Patron?

Mike: I served as Worthy Patron of Brilliant Star Chapter #153 in 1986-87 with my mother, Helen Berry. I served as Worthy Patron of Brilliant Star Chapter #153 in 1988-89 with my "adopted" grandmother, Lucy Atkinson.

In 2012, Brilliant Star #153 and Faird-



Mike's smile is even recognizable as a young boy.



Although Mike was a young Worthy Grand Patron, he was not Kentucky's youngest one.

ale #566 consolidated to become Fairdale Chapter #153. I served as the Charter Worthy Patron with Pam Cooper, Charter Worthy Matron.

You were just installed as Worthy Patron of your chapter again, right?

Mike: I was installed as Worthy Patron of Fairdale Chapter #153 in October of 2024 with a former member of the Kentucky Derby Festival Board of Directors serving as Worthy Matron, Marilyn Coslow.

You were Grand Marshal for Eastern Star in Kentucky. When and why did you decide to run for the Grand Line in Kentucky?

Mike: Serving as an Appointive Grand Officer in 1992-93, I had the opportunity to travel Kentucky and visit many of the subordinate chapters. I also became friends with the Associate Grand Conductress and friends thought we would make a good team and encouraged me to run for Grand Sentinel. There were three candidates, and I was elected on the first ballot.

What year did you serve as Worthy Grand Patron?

Mike: 1995-96.

You were a younger WGP, correct? Do you think people treated you differently because of it?

Mike: I was a “younger” Worthy Grand Patron, but not the youngest. In fact, my mother’s Worthy Grand Patron was younger than I was when he was installed and the Chairman of our Star Chasers, John Stull, who was the youngest Worthy Grand Patron in Kentucky history (so far!). I think people appreciated my enthusiasm as well as my historical knowledge of the Order. I was considered a young man with an old soul.

What were your goals as you served as Worthy Grand Patron?

Mike: I wanted to promote Kentucky’s role in the history of Eastern Star as the final



Mike and his biggest fan, Snickers.

home and resting place of our Founder, Rob Morris. We promoted both our Rob Morris Home and the Eastern Star Home as our main objectives.

What experience or experiences were your most memorable during your time as WGP?

Mike: Kentucky hosted the Multi-State in Louisville when I was serving as Worthy Grand Patron and I chaired the event. We also had the Official Visit of the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron during our Grand Chapter Session. We hosted a Halloween cruise of the Belle of Louisville Steamboat during the session.

What prompted you to serve Eastern Star on a higher level (as RWG Trustee and RWG-Treasurer)?

Mike: I have always enjoyed the business side of organizations and groups that I have been active in. I felt very honored to be able to assist in guiding the General Grand Chapter administratively and financially by serving 9 years as Right Worthy Grand Trustee and 6 years as Right Worthy Grand Treasurer.

Please list the offices you held in the General Grand Chapter and for how long:

Mike: Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee – 2000-2003. Right Worthy Grand Trustee – 2003-2012. Right Worthy Grand Treasurer – 2012-2018. Right Worthy Grand Sentinel – 2018-2021. Right Worthy Associate Grand Patron – 2021-2024. Installed as Most Worthy Grand Patron on October 31, 2024

What prompted your decision to run for Right Worthy Grand Sentinel?

Mike: I was quite content to be serving as Right Worthy Grand Treasurer and working with my fellow officers to guide General Grand Chapter financially. In fact, I had every intention of serving the maximum of 15 years in that office. However, my routine was interrupted by a persistent Past Grand Matron of Arizona who refused to take, “No!” for an answer. After nearly a year and three turn-downs, I was finally convinced that joining Billie Bradfield on this journey of service was the right decision for me and General Grand Chapter.

What are some highlights of your journey to the General Grand East?

Mike: As Chairman of the Jurisprudence



Mike is sworn in as a Cabinet Secretary in Kentucky.



Mike and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear.

Committee, I was honored to be asked by Acting Most Worthy Grand Matron, Pat Rasmussen, to present the legislation to the delegates for consideration during the Triennial Assembly in Portland, Oregon in 2003. Developing and presenting the budgets for the General, Headquarters and Assembly funds at each Triennial Assembly in 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2018 was a labor of love – especially when delegates told me they understood the proposed financial plans. Serving as an officer of the Perry Belmont House Foundation from its founding to the present and now being elected as its President inspires me to work to expand the influence and success of this important affiliated support organization.

What are your biggest goals for the next



The family Christmas pajama photo.

three years?

Mike: To be a trusted resource for General Grand Chapter officers and members regarding the law and traditions of our Order. To encourage others to want to serve in all levels of Eastern Star leadership. To be enthusiastic in my interactions with the members so that our joy in serving will be contagious. In the words of my objective: “Be Real, Do Right, Bring Joy. Give Thanks.”

If realized, what would you like to see as your biggest accomplishment(s) of the upcoming triennium?

Mike: To build on the past successes of General Grand Chapter and honor those who served before me. To have our members have a greater appreciation of what our order has meant in the past and the role it can play in the future of the fraternal world.

Please list your educational and work background.

Mike: COLLEGE And DEGREE(S): Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Georgetown College.

PROFESSION: 1983-1986 – served as an Executive Assistant to Governor Martha Layne Collins (Kentucky’s first woman Governor and a 60+ year member of Eastern Star).

1986-2019 – employed by the Kentucky Derby Festival. From 1997-2019, I served as President/CEO, the longest to have held that position in the Festival’s history.

2019-2023 – served in the Cabinet of Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear as Secretary of Tourism, Arts and Heritage.

Please let us know a bit about your family:

Mike: I am blessed to have two sisters (Marilyn and Marsha), both of whom attended our Installation in Myrtle Beach, along with my Brother-in-Law (Gordon) and Niece (Melanie – who carried my mother’s bible in the Emblem Presentation Ceremony).

Bill and I have been together for 36 years and have raised two sons (Chris and Josh) who are married to incredible women (Angie and Abby). The light of our lives are our grandchildren Samantha, Hayden, Raygan, Luke and Simon. Of course, the ruler of all things in our household in an 18-month-old Miniature Bernedoodle, Snickers.

What are your family’s thoughts on your desire to serve Eastern Star at this level?

Mike: My family is incredibly supportive of my desire to serve General Grand Chapter in this capacity. They appreciate that I try to lead a “balanced” life and attend as many field hockey games, soccer matches, swim meets, and school musicals as possible. I try to be the “glue” at home, keeping family traditions and taking every opportunity to celebrate as a family.

During the recent health challenges I am facing, I also try to be strong and courageous, showing love with every word and act.

Any inspirational thoughts that you’d like to share with the membership?



Mike and Bill meet former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Mike: I have never appreciated how many prayer warriors there are in Eastern Star until the last six months. They have lifted me up and lifted my spirits. Unknown to me when it was selected, they have become the proof of our prayer, the “Prayer for Protection” (James D. Freeman): “The Light of God surrounds us. The love of God enfolds us. The power of God protects us. The presence of God watches over us. Wherever we are, God is. And where God is, all is well.”

What huge takeaway would you like the members to remember about your term.

Mike: That we are called to serve our Order at every level; whether we are a sideliner or a General Grand Chapter Officer. We have been given a tremendous opportunity and heritage to build on. At the end of this triennium, I want people to say that Eastern Star is stronger, more compassionate, serves our fellow man and the greater good more often – all with loving hearts and joyful spirits.

What goals or ideas would you like individual members, chapters or grand chapters to follow through with?

Mike: To rededicate ourselves to charity, truth and loving kindness. To support our main objective of Service Dogs and our special objectives for the triennium of Alzheimer’s and Historical Landmarks. ■



Billie, Mike and Mike’s mom.

Newly formed Historical Landmarks Committee has set goals for the future of our Order

By Donna Parrish, PGM Arizona
Eastern Star Journal Committee
Chairman and Editor

Historical Landmarks Committee

A new committee, the Historical Landmarks Committee, was voted on and approved at the General Grand Chapter Triennial Session in October of 2024. It now puts the four historical landmarks of our order under one umbrella committee. Brother Scott Smissen, Past Grand Patron of California, was appointed as the overall chairman of the committee.

According to Brother Scott, the mission of the committee is to promote and raise awareness of our Historical Physical Landmarks while raising funds to ensure their successful sustainability. The goal he has set for the committee is to educate and bring a renewed interest to the general membership for our four treasured physical landmarks of the Order of the Eastern Star and to assist in raising funds for each of the landmarks.

Two of the landmarks are owned and maintained by the General Grand Chapter, the International Headquarters in Washington, D.C., under the Perry Belmont House Foundation, and the International Peace Garden Chapel on the border of Canada and the United States. The other two landmarks, the Rob Morris Home and

the Little Red School House are owned and maintained respectively by the Grand Chapters of Kentucky and Mississippi.

Brother Scott believes that each of these landmarks bring a different perspective to the history of our Order.

The Little Red School house is where Dr. Rob Morris began his journey to hone his skills as a teacher and Master Poet Laureate. It was here he wrote the beginnings of our Ritual, as seeing a need to add women to the light of Freemasonry.

Dr. Rob Morris House in Louisville was his personal home. It is here he built his life. He chose to stay in La Grange, Kentucky, although it was considered at that time to be an unwise decision. He felt the need to support the Union efforts of what was to become the Federal Government we know today.

Perry Belmont House is the crown jewel of the General Grand Chapter. The beauty, splendor and grandeur of the Perry Belmont house cannot be overstated. It has been the heart of the General Grand Chapter for almost 100 years. It allows us to have

a central location from which all the oversight functions of General Grand Chapter emanate.

The events management of the Perry Belmont House, led by Larry von Weigel, the current Worthy Grand Patron of the District of Columbia, has brought an entire new awareness on its historical significance to District of Columbia, as well making a premier event space for the community. It has risen to a whole new level of importance in the D.C. area.

Chapel of Peace at the Peace Garden was made possible by the joint effort of the members of Order of the Eastern Star of the United States and Canada. The OES landmark, The Chapel of Peace, was the primary project of the 33rd Triennium of the Order. It was dedicated in 1970 and was completed in 1972.

According to Brother Scott, although the Committee has no direct management over the landmarks, funds will be donated to each landmark for site-specific projects they feel are most important to the sustainability of their specific landmark. As an interior designer with an emphasis on architectural design, Brother Scott, along with the committee, hopes to



Scott Smissen
PGP California
Chairman
Historical Landmarks
Committee



The Perry Belmont House and International Headquarters in Washington, D.C., is the crown jewel of the General Grand Chapter



The Little Red Schoolhouse in Mississippi is where Dr. Rob Morris wrote the beginnings of the Eastern Star Ritual.



The International Peace Garden Chapel is located at the International Peace Garden, on the border of Canada and the United States.



The Rob Morris Home in La Grange, Kentucky is where Dr. Rob Morris lived when he founded the Order of the Eastern Star.

bring suggestions for site management to better facilitate their own internal workings.

When the proposed committee met at the Louisville conference in June, the members determined that the success of our committee depended on raising funds, not just for a specific Landmark, but for all Landmarks. So, with that as the mandate, the committee crafted a giving plan that it hopes to launch in 2025, where each donation will be given to the Historical Landmarks Committee, with a donor designation to a preferred project from the list above. That donation in turn would be divided with the largest portion, 55 percent given to the designated Landmark, and the balance of 45 percent be divided (15 percent each) equally to the remaining three landmarks.

The committee's reasoning is that it wants the donor to have a say in where the majority of their funds would be used toward their specific landmark, but all the landmarks would benefit in some manner from their gift. The committee realized that every member has a Landmark that appeals to them, which they wish to support, yet at the same time all the landmarks will benefit.

Brother Scott said the committee has chosen a path to raise funds using pledge drives, specially geared to the various aspects of the Order. There will be pledge drives during the Triennium, with pledge requests geared to the membership directly. There will also be pledge drives focused at the chapter level. As for the chapter pledge, the committee will help provide some options for fundraisers.

According to Brother Scott, each one of these Landmarks makes a significant contribution to our order, locally, as well as

internationally. Their success and survival are huge part of our history and we must work to sustain their viability into the future.

The committee has no direct management over the Landmarks, per se. It hopes that as funds are raised and ready for distribution to approach each Landmark for site-specific projects they feel are most important to the sustainability of their Landmark. The committee also hope to bring some suggestions for site management to better facilitate their own internal workings.

Brother Scott said that the Most Worthy Grand Matron and the Most Worthy Grand Patron said that their goal for the Historical Landmarks Committee is to raise awareness of what each of the Landmarks means to us as members of this order.

The Perry Belmont House has had substantial visibility these past few Trienniums, but they also wish to make everyone aware that the General Grand Chapter has three other Landmarks, all of which hold a special bond to our history. They have charged the committee to not only raise awareness, but to raise money for special projects at each landmark.

Brother Scott was encouraged to become a Freemason by his now-husband, Brother Don Snyder, also a Past Grand Patron of California. Brother Scott's introduction to the Masonic family was traveling with Brother Don to Don's mother's reception as a Deputy Grand Matron in California. Scott's first impression was that he'd never stood up and sat back down again so many times in one event in his life. In 2006, Brother Don became Grand Organist and since receptions for Grand Officers were open, Brother Scott

travelled with him to the numerous open events that were then held in California. Two Past Grand Matrons, Collete Serio Gole and Karen Fletcher, showed him that Eastern Star had a place for all members from all walks of life. In May of 2008, Brother Scott joined Santa Monica Palisades Lodge and was raised in August of 2008. He was initiated into what is now South Pasadena Chapter #21 on Oct. 13, 2008 and they left for Grand Chapter the very next day. So Scott's first exposure to closed meetings following his initiation was at Grand Chapter of California.

Brother Don served as Worthy Grand Patron in 2011 and Brother Scott served as Worthy Grand Patron in 2022. One of his fondest memories was speaking to the youth members in 2022. He was able to give remarks that had not been said before to our youth leaders, "You may have that young adult in your youth groups, who may be struggling with who they are themselves and may be fearful of being outed, and not being able to be their true selves. That they have value. That they deserve to be supported, that theses youth groups need their safe place. Without delivering that support, you are not living your Masonic Obligation as a youth leader."

Although Brother Scott did not know he was from a Masonic family, when he was going through his mom's records as they were preparing for a remodel in 2006, he came across a cardboard tube. It held his Grandfathers Masonic apron. Scott had never met him as he died when Scott's mom was a teenager. He was initiated in Tyrolean Lodge in Topeka Kansas in the early 1900s and was later a member Nogales Lodge in Arizona.

Brother Scott has enthusiastically taken on the role as chairman of the Historical Landmarks Committee and is pleased that the committee understands the significance of its commitment to our Landmarks. The members also realize as the first members of this newly formed committee, they are setting the standards all future members will look to for inspiration and for guidance. That thought is something the members hold near and dear to their hearts.

Brother Scott asks that the members of Eastern Star look for notices and pledge drive announcements from the committee. The committee looks forward to engaging with the membership and hopes to have widespread support for the pledge drive, both on a personal membership level as well as a chapter level.

Editor's Note: A focus on each individual Historical Landmarks subcommittee, the specific landmark and each committee member will be featured in subsequent issues of the Eastern Star Journal. There will also be events held at those landmarks that will be featured closer to the events. ■

Correction for Who's Who book Historical Landmarks Committee

Please replace Richart Fortier Sr., PGP of New Hampshire with Karen Tuttle, PGM - New Hampshire. For your convenience, you can print out the attached and paste it in the book in the proper spot.



Karen D. Tuttle
International Peace Garden Chapel
 Past Grand Matron - New Hampshire
 352 1st Crown Point Rd, Unit 2
 Strafford, NH 03884-6110
 Email: karendtuttle@gmail.com
 Cell: 603-957-8589
 Birthday: May 5
 Spouse: Dennis Tuttle, PGP

Phoenix chapter welcomes Billie Bradfield to its OV

Queen Esther Chapter #22 in Phoenix was pleased to welcome our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Billie Bradfield to their Official Visit of our Worthy Grand Matron.

It was the first state event in Arizona that Billie was able to attend following her installation as Most Worthy Grand Matron.

Queen Esther #22 is a special chapter to Sister Billie as it was the home chapter of her Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Ken DuBois, who passed away in 2024. His widow, Sister Carol DuBois was thrilled that Billie made the trip to Phoenix. Arizona is a large state, so it's a five hour drive from Billie's home in Bullhead City to Phoenix.



Billie gives inspirational remarks to the members attending the Official Visit as Queen Esther Worthy Matron, Alicia dela Cruz watches on.



Sister Susan Warren, GGCCM and Conductress of Queen Esther, introduces Billie. Susann Holland, Associate Conductress assists in the escort.

Eastern Star Journal Committee looks forward to bringing information, education and fun to members

Eastern Star Journal Committee

The Eastern Star Journal committee has set a goal to publish (via the internet) a current, informative and educational magazine worthy of an organization of our size.

To do this, the committee needs the help of each Grand Chapter, plus each subordinate chapter in the General Grand Chapter world.

As the committee communicated, we would like to feature articles from Chapters and members, articles you think would be of interest to the membership as a whole. If your chapter has a unique, successful and fun membership or fundraising event, please take pictures and share it with your committee member. To the side of this article will be a list of the members of the committee and the individual jurisdictions and subordinate chapters to whom they're assigned. Please contact them if you have something that you think might be of interest. We are focusing on timely articles.

We'd also like to have recipe features. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it in. We are especially looking for recipes and meals plans geared toward feeding large crowds, such as the crowds we have at our events and dinners.

The members of the committee are looking forward to serving you during the triennium. We would like for you to get to know who we are.

Donna Parrish, Past Grand Matron



Donna Parrish

of Arizona, is the chairman and editor of the Journal. She has spent her entire working career in the newspaper business – mostly as a graphic designer, but also as a copy editor, magazine designer and production manager in a

print facility.

She was born and raised in a suburb of Los Angeles. Masons and Eastern Stars go back many generations in her family. Donna was a Rainbow Girl and a Job's Daughter in Covina. She served as Grand Lecturer of California Rainbow in 1978. She was initiated into West Covina #607 in California in 1977, three meetings after her 18th birthday.

In 1991, she decided that the crowds of Southern California were no longer for her, so she moved to the then small town of Chino Valley, Arizona. She got married in 1991, had

a daughter in 1993.

When Alyssa was two, Donna really missed Eastern Star so affiliated with Golden Rule #1 in Prescott. She is also a member of Verde Valley #7 in Cottonwood. She served as Worthy Matron four times of Golden Rule – the first time in 2000 -- and once in Verde Valley 7.

She was Grand Marshal of Arizona in 2005-06. She has also served as a Grand Representative twice and as District Instructor numerous times. She was elected as Associate Grand Conductress in 2011 and was installed Worthy Grand Matron of Arizona in 2014. She followed that with three years as a Grand Trustee.

When she was Associate Grand Matron and had been divorced for several years, she attended a local lodge installation, where a tall, good-looking newer member of the lodge came up to her and said 'hi.' The rest was history and they married six months later (and a month before she was installed WGM). His introduction to Star was quick, but he absolutely loved the organization and its members. Sadly, four years after they were married, he passed away. Donna served on the GGC Youth Committee during the 2021-24 Triennium and is now Editor and Chairman of the Eastern Star Journal and also was the Editor of the Who's Who Book and Itinerary for Billie and Mike.

She loves to do machine embroidery and other "crafty" stuff when not on the computer doing graphics. She retired when she married Morey, but about a year ago, on a whim, sent a email to the publisher of the newspaper asking if they had any openings part time. The response, "can you start on Monday." So she's back at work part time doing graphics and loves it.

Angela Oleskiw, Past Grand Matron



Angela Oleskiw

of Saskatchewan's Eastern Star journey began in 1984, when she was initiated into Lois Chapter #108, in North Dakota. She remembered overhearing her mother inform her father that she would be the Conductress and that he would be the

Worthy Patron when their eldest daughter was initiated. At the time she was unsure but as the days drew near, she recalled her mother's words: "You will like this someday."

Over the past forty years, she has belonged to a few chapters in Saskatchewan. Currently, she is a member of Yorkton Chapter #92, in Yorkton, SK, and has had the privilege of holding the positions of Worthy Matron in Estevan and Yorkton, SK. In 2006-2007, she was honored with a grand officer appointment from Betty Abrey, Worthy Grand Matron, to be her Grand Marshal. In April of 2016, she was elected Associate Grand Conductress for the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan. In 2018-2019, she served the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan as their Worthy Grand Matron. It is now her privilege to have been selected to serve on the Eastern Star Journal Committee for General Grand Chapter, under Most Worthy Grand Matron Billie and Most Worthy Grand Patron Mike. She lives in Yorkton, SK, with her husband, Mike. They have two grown sons, Dustin and Stephen, and two Miniature Poodles, Finnigan and Scarlett. She is a retired teacher and in her spare time she enjoys gardening, walking my dogs, and spin class. Finally, in response to her mother's words above, "I truly do".

Theodore G Kolb, Past Grand Patron of Missouri



Ted Kolb

is a lifelong resident of St. Charles, Missouri, and was born in 1945. He married Phyllis Kolb in 1965. They have one child and two granddaughters. Ted served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-1970 and is a Vietnam Veteran. He went to college on G.I.

benefits and received a degree in accounting management. He is retired from McDonnell Douglas where he served as a benefits accountant. He joined the Masonic Fraternity in 1973 and received his 50-year pin in 2013. He joined Eastern Star in 1983 and has been Worthy Patron numerous times. He is also a Past Grand Patron of Missouri. He currently serves as Chairman of Finance for the Grand Chapter of Missouri.

Janice Hadrick, Past Grand Matron of South Dakota's Eastern Star journey started in 1971. This was a brand new world for her, as she had no knowledge of the Order before.



Jan Hadrick

Jan was elected Worthy Matron the first time in 1976. She have held that office 11 times over the years. In 1980, Sister Gladys Zeller

appointed her to be her Grand Adah in South Dakota during the JOY Session. She served Grand Chapter in various committees over the years. She was elected AGC in 2001 and served as Worthy Grand Matron in 2005. Sister Bobbie White appointed her to GGC Community Service Committee. She is honored to serve GGC again for Sister Billie and Brother Mike.

She is a lifetime South Dakotan. Her education started in a one room country school (grades 1-8), then high school in Milbank and Nursing School in Huron. She and her husband Harold were married in 1970 and she worked in the local hospital and he farmed. They have three children, David, Susie, and Allen, and 7 grandchildren. Harold passed away in 2013.

Deb Arnold, Past Grand Matron of Idaho, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1952. She is the middle child of three.



Deb Arnold

When she was 3, her family moved to Fontana, California. She grew up in Fontana and graduated for Fontana

High School in 1971. She graduated from San Bernardino Valley College in 1974 with a degree in Early Childhood Education and worked in that field for 30 years. She is currently working at Jefferson Middle School as an Educational Assistant.

She met her husband on a blind date in 1973. They were married in 1974 and lived in Fontana for ten years before moving to Northern California where they lived for seven years. They have two daughters, two granddaughters and two grandsons.

Deb was raised in a Masonic

family on her mother's side. Her grandfather is a Past Grand Master of Missouri. My Masonic journey started when I was initiated into Bethel #302 in Fontana where she served as Honored Queen in 1970. She joined Rialto Eastern Star Chapter in 1973, which is now Tri-State Chapter #211. She is a Golden Star with 51 years.

They moved to Idaho in August of 1992 to be closer to family. Deb's husband worked at Micron from 1992 to 1995. He became sick and passed in May of 2005. Her Idaho Masonic journey started when her girls were initiated in Bethel #38 Job's Daughters International in 1993. She affiliated with Hermosa Chapter #32 at the same time. She served as Worthy Matron in 1998-1999. She had the honor of having her daughter Karen Lynn follow her up the line. Karen Lynn served as Worthy Matron 1999-2000. She is proud to say they have four generations of Job's Daughters and four generations of Eastern Star.

She served the Grand Chapter as Grand Representative of South Dakota in 1999-2001. She was Grand Electa in 2002-2003. She was elected Associate Grand Conductress 2017 and served as Worthy Grand Matron of Idaho in 2021-2022 with Bill Tuggle as Worthy Grand Patron in the "Believe and Capture Your Dreams" session. She has made many memories and lasting friendships in all my travels.

Linda Jordan, Past Grand Matron of Oklahoma, was born in Southwest Oklahoma and has



Linda Jordan

lived most of her life in the Oklahoma City area. She and her husband Darrell have been married for 50 years and have three daughters, nine grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren.

Linda retired from a career as a legal assistant in 2013.

Linda joined Eastern Star in 1979 so she could attend her daughters' Rainbow meetings. That was the beginning of a wonderful life

Assigned Jurisdictions and Subordinate Chapters of Eastern Star Journal Committee Members

Lynn Atkinson, PGM, Ontario

Assigned Jurisdictions: Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI. Subordinate chapters in: Brazil

Debbie Arnold PGM, Idaho

Assigned Jurisdictions: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana.

Judith Covey, PGM, Florida

Assigned Jurisdictions: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina.

Setha Bennett PGM, Virginia

Assigned Jurisdictions: Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee.

Barbara Gaskill, PGM, New Hampshire

Assigned Jurisdictions: New Hampshire, Maryland, Massachusetts.

Fran Goodman, PGM, Arkansas

Assigned Jurisdictions: Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama.

Rosy Guastafierro PGM, Italy

Subordinate chapters in: Germany, Italy.

Janice Hadrick, PGM, South Dakota

Assigned Jurisdictions: South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska.

Eileen Howells PGM, BC & Yukon

Assigned Jurisdictions: BC/Yukon, Sao Paolo, Wyoming. Subordinate chapters in: Alaska.

Linda Jordan, PGM, Oklahoma

Assigned Jurisdictions: Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Louisiana.

Ted Kolb PGP, Missouri

Assigned Jurisdictions: Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota.

Kathryn Livings, PGM, Indiana

Assigned Jurisdictions: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan.

Cheryl Maslowski, PGM, Ohio

Assigned Jurisdictions: Ohio, Kentucky, Philippines. Subordinate chapters in: Hawaii, Aruba.

Emily McCarthy, PGM, Pennsylvania

Assigned Jurisdictions: Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Bolivia, D.C.

Angela Oleskiw, PGM, Saskatchewan

Assigned Jurisdictions: Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba.

Donna Parrish, PGM, Arizona

Assigned Jurisdictions: Arizona, California, New Mexico. Subordinate chapters in: Romania, Mexico and South America (except Brazil).

Paula Polajen, PGM, Utah

Assigned Jurisdictions: Utah, Nevada, Colorado.

Wayne Stacey, PGP, Delaware

Assigned Jurisdictions: Delaware, Connecticut, Rhode Island. Subordinate chapters in: Taiwan, Guam

Diane Tracy PGM, Vermont

Assigned Jurisdictions: Vermont, Maine, Philippines. Subordinate chapters in: Quebec.

Please refer to your Who's Who book for email addresses of above listed committee members.

experience. I served as a first-time Worthy Matron in 1991 and I was appointed as Grand Lecturer in 1997. In Oklahoma, the Grand Lecturer is a grand officer and is responsible for instructing the membership in the ritualistic work.

She was elected to the Grand Line in October of 1999 and served as WGM for the term 2002-2003. She served General Grand Chapter as Personal Secretary to MWGP, Brother William E. "Bill" Owen and a member of the Finance Committee for the 2006-2009 triennium.

She is a member of Fidelis Chapter No. 426 in Oklahoma City, and Yukon Chapter No. 245 in Yukon, Oklahoma. She is also on the Rainbow Board of Advisers.

She is a member of the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Daughters of the Nile and the Order of the Amaranth, having served as Grand Royal Matron in 2018.

Cheryl Maslowski is Jr. Past Grand Matron of Ohio.



Cheryl Maslowski

Her Grand Chapter session, "Strike a Chord" was held at the end of September. Her five-year journey through the Grand Line in Ohio (which included the Covid years) made her appreciate all that is going on in our Order, from struggles with membership to ways of promoting what an amazing organization we are.

She was asked to be on the General Grand Chapter Eastern Star Journal Committee. She is looking forward to representing her assigned areas of Ohio, Kentucky, Hawaii, Aruba, and the Philippines and strives to help make our publication not only one that highlights what is happening, but also possibilities that will help us grow and flourish as well as be fun.

She is a retired elementary educator of 40 years, married, is a grandma to 7 grandchildren ranging in ages from 21 to 8, and love to play the guitar and ride her own Harley Softail Deluxe Motorcycle. Now that her Eastern Star responsibilities have lessened, she may go back to substitute teaching and trying some ventures to boost their revenue.

She has been in Eastern Star since 2001 but was a Rainbow Girl in her teens. She and her partner Harless used a western theme that incorporated their guitars and their patriotic hearts.

She looks forward to hearing from many of you over these next three years. She loves to leave her listeners with something fun,

so here goes: Experience is something you don't get until after you need it and the worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades. Until later, smile, shine, and be kind!

Fran Goodman is Past Matron of



Fran Goodman

Arkansas and Worthy Matron of her Chapter.

She was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and moved to Wisconsin and moved back to Arkansas when she was 16 years old. She joined Eastern Star in 1985.

Fran has served Worthy Matron several times at my Chapter. She was Grand Representative of Ohio in 2004. Her primary Chapter is Hot Springs National Park #635 and her other one is Glenwood #396.

She has three daughters that live close to her, and seven grandchildren. Her husband passed away 24 years ago. She is very excited about my appointment, and hopes do a good job for everyone.

Emily McCarthy, Past Grand Matron of



Emily McCarthy

Pennsylvania is a 51-year member of Order of the Eastern Star, Harrisburg Chapter # 552 and served as Worthy Grand Matron in the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania in 2017-2018.

Her journey started in the Order of the Rainbow for Girls. In 1969-1970 I served as Grand Hope and attained my majority. Because she was unable to join Eastern Star, my father joined the Masons which allowed her to follow her dreams. She became a member in 1973 serving as many officers within the chapter and served two terms as Worthy Matron.

In 2017, she ran for Associate Grand Conductress and was elected. Today she the honor of serving on the General Grand Chapter Eastern Star Journal committee.

She and her husband Michael have been married for 51 years, and have a son Patrick who is a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy.

Currently, Emily works part time as a nurse case manager and she loves helping people. She also had been a longtime volunteer for a no-kill animal shelter. She has rescued many dogs and cats that have given her unconditional love.

She am certainly thankful for this opportunity to serve for our General Grand Chapter.

Diane Tracy, Past Grand Matron of



Diane Tracy

Vermont, was born and raised on a farm in Addison, Vermont. She graduated from Vergennes Union High School in 1975, and then graduated from Fanny Allen School of Nursing in 1977. She worked as a nurse for 43

years, retiring in 2021.

She joined Union Chapter #21 in Middlebury, Vermont in June of 1998. Her mother finally convinced her to join. Diane's mother was very active in Eastern Star, as was her father in the Masonic family.

Joining Star was one of the best decisions she ever made! It enriched her life immensely. She went through the chairs pretty quickly, and became Worthy Matron for the first time in 2003. Unfortunately, her Mom passed away unexpectedly in December of 2002, and never was able to see her obtain that title. She has served as Worthy Matron in several different Chapters over the years. She served as Grand Esther in 2013-2014 in Vermont. In 2014, She was appointed Grand Lecturer, which is a first step in Vermont to being elected to the Grand Line. She became Worthy Grand Matron for 2018-2019, serving with Brother Jody Small, P.G.P., in the Grand East. This has been an incredible journey for her, and she is looking forward to the next three years, serving on the Eastern Star Journal Committee. She is very grateful to have been chosen, and is looking forward to reporting the news in her assigned Jurisdictions.

Eileen Howells, Past Grand Matron of



Eileen Howells

British Columbia and Yukon was born in 1956 in Usk, South Wales,

After she graduated from school in 1975, she went to the Polytechnic of Wales to study for her Bachelor of Education Degree in Physical Education and Art. On finishing her degree, she obtained a position in Community Education, Sports and Leisure and studied for a Postgraduate Degree in Management. I received several promotions over the next sixteen years and in 1993 when she married Brother Kevin Howells, they immigrated to Canada.

She obtained a position at a nonprofit agency working with children who were classified at risk by the Ministry of Children and Family or had special needs, Within

eighteen months, she was promoted to Program Director for Children and Family Services and managed nine community programs.

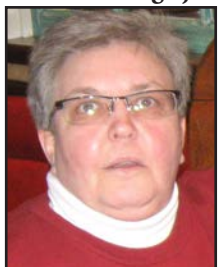
During this period Brother Howells encouraged her to join Eastern Star and in February 1996 she was initiated into Thornhill Chapter #85. Her journey in Eastern Star had begun, and in April 1996 she was appointed as Adah. She was elected Associate Conductress the following year and when Brother Howells was initiated in 1997 he joined her in the journey to the East and they became Worthy Matron and Patron in 2001.

They moved to the Okanagan in 2003, and she joined Foster Chapter #46. Three months after the move an opportunity came up to set up an education program for adults with developmental disabilities. After eighteen months the board of directors offered her the position of Executive Director, which she held until she retired in 2018.

She was elected to the position of Worthy Matron of Foster Chapter in 2004. Foster Chapter amalgamated with Lansdowne #72, where she was elected Worthy Matron in 2011, and again in 2015.

In 2010, she was appointed Grand Martha by Sister Marjorie Pettigrew and in 2017 she was elected AGC and served as WGM in 2022-2023.

Paula A. Poglajen, Past Grand Matron of Utah, was born in Price Utah in 1954.



Paula Poglajen

She graduated from Carbon High School in 1973, the College of Eastern Utah (now Utah State University-Eastern) in 1975, from the University of Utah in 1979 with a degree in Psychology, minors in Chemistry, English and Biology. She worked for 13 years with the University of Utah renal/heart transplant team in tissue matching for appropriate donor-recipient matches. She was invited to attend the first artificial heart transplant of the Jarvik 7 into Dr. Barney Clark.

For the last 23 years, she has worked for Myriad Genetics as a DNA analyst. She looks for genetic markers (variants) for breast, ovarian, cervical, pancreatic, liver, lung cancers.

Her journey started in November of 1968 when she joined Bethel 3 JDI in Price, Utah. She was Honored Queen from June-December of 1973 and received her Majority Degree in November of 1976. She joined Eastern Star in June of 2009 becoming a

member of Martha Chapter 7. She demitted into her home chapter of Mountain 2 in Bountiful, Utah in May of 2010, and the same year was elected up the chapter line, becoming Worthy Matron in 2014. From there she accepted a Grand Officer appointment from Raelyne Estep, WGM to be her Grand Marshal. That was an absolutely fantastic experience for her.

She was elected Associate Grand Conductress for Utah Grand Chapter in October of 2016 and Installed as WGM in October of 2019. She was WGM for Utah Grand Chapter during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is very proud to have been asked to be part of the Eastern Star Journal committee for MWGM-Billie and MWGP-Mike.

To Paula, Eastern Star has been one of adventure, travel, education, and discipline. Most of all it has provided her the opportunity to learn and become friends with some of the most fantastic women and men in the world.

Barbara Gaskell, Past Grand Matron of New Hampshire, was born in Hillsboro, NH and attended local schools. She got a degree in Library Science and worked in local small libraries for many years.



Barbara Gaskell

She and her husband Larry, got married 1984 and they have two children, each of whom has gifted them with a granddaughter.

She was introduced to Masonic life by her husband and his family and they joined Eastern Star together in 1993. Since joining, they have held an office every year and served together in the East for the first time in 2001. She has served the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire as Grand Electa, Grand Marshal and worked her way through the chairs to serve in the Grand East in 2018-2019.

Judy Covey, Past Grand Matron of Florida, was initiated at age 18 into Accacia Chapter No. 211, located in my hometown of South Haven, Michigan.



Judy Covey

After joining, as a Navy wife raising three children, she lived in several areas of the United States. Eventually, she became an affiliated member of several Eastern Star Chapters in Florida.

She served as Grand Esther in the Newton/Benham Grand Family in 2005-2006. After

being elected Associate Grand Conductress in 2010, Judy served as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Florida in 2013-2014.

During the 2018-2021 Triennium, she served as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee of General Grand Chapter. Currently she serves the Grand Chapter of Florida as a member of the Finance Committee as well as a member of the Subcommittee of the Jurisprudence Committee.

While she was never a member of any Masonic youth organizations, she has been Chairman of the Rainbow Board in my local assembly for several years. She also currently serves as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for Florida Grand Assembly, International Order of the Rainbird for Girls. The Girls honored me by voted to award her the Grand Cross of Color during her year as Worthy Grand Matron.

She retired on December 31, 2024, from a more than 40-year career as a Corporate/Franchise Paralegal.

She is extremely honored to be serving as a member of the Eastern Star Journal Committee of General Grand Chapter and looks forward to getting to know you not only personally, but through your stories, recipes and experiences reported in the Journal.

Setha Bennett, Past Grand Matron of Virginia was born in West Virginia. She attended schools in Kanawha County, graduating in 1964 from DuPont HS.



Setha Bennett

She a BA degree in Education from Glenville University in 1968 and received a MEd in 1972 from the University of Virginia. She was a teacher for 37 years.

Setha married Charles Bennett in 1968. They have two daughters, Kerrah and Brandy and three grandchildren.

Her Masonic affiliation began on June 8, 1977 when she was initiated into Nelson Chapter No. 95, where she served five times as Worthy Matron. In 1996 the chapter merged with Amherst Chapter No 115 in Amherst, VA where she served as Worthy Matron 11 times and is currently serving as Secretary.

Setha began working with Job's Daughters in 1986 when her daughter KC joined Bethel 36 in Lynchburg, VA. In 1990, she served as Grand Second Messenger for Virginia. and was elected in 1993 as Grand Marshal and advanced up the line to Grand Guardian in

1996. Her daughters both served as Honored Queen of their Bethel.

Her Eastern Star involvement continued and she served as Grand Electa in 1989-90 and was Grand Representative of Nevada in Virginia in 1985-87. Seta was elected in 2002 as AGC and served as Worthy Grand Matron in 2005-06, with Brother Steve Brundage as Worthy Grand Patron in "The Beauty of God's Creation" session. In 2018-2021, she served on the ESTARL Committee of the GGC.

Seta says that the Order of the Eastern Star has afforded her many new friendships worldwide, as well as travel and opportunities to serve her Chapters, its projects, my community, charities of the Grand Chapter and GGC. She is passionate about OES.

Seta loves to shop, cook and create. I collect cookbooks and OES memorabilia.

Wayne Stacey, Past Grand Patron of



Wayne Stacey

Delaware, was born in Washington, DC in 1950. He graduated from Suitland High School in 1969,

Shortly after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. He enjoyed the many missions that

the Coast Guard was responsible to perform for this great nation. Therefore, he remained on active duty, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander with 30 of active-duty service. He served all over the United State and in several foreign countries. Pakistan and Hong Kong were eye opening.

Wayne spent 15 years at sea embarked on numerous Coast Guard Cutters. In 1990 while stationed in Seattle, Washington, he completed and received his B.A. in Business Administration from Columbia College, MO, a satellite campus located at Sand Point Naval Station. He finished his military career at the Coast Guard Headquarters' Command Center in Washington, DC.

Upon retiring from the Coast Guard, he was hired by DHS and was assigned to the boating safety division, where he spent the next 14 years working for the federal government.

His Masonic journey began 1972, where he was raised a Master Mason in Portsmouth Mid-day Lodge 132 in Portsmouth, Virginia as they agreed to perform courtesy work for Camp Springs Lodge 227, Camps Springs, Maryland.

He is a member in perpetuity of the National Sojourners. He is a 32-degree

Scottish Rite Mason in Washington, DC.

Wayne was initiated into Unity Chapter #112 O.E.S., Camp Springs, MD in 1977. In 1992 while serving as the Commanding Officer of CG Station Indian River Inlet, Delaware, he affiliated with Georgetown Chapter #9 O.E.S. in Georgetown, Delaware. He has served as their Worthy Patron for many years. With the support of his sisters and brothers from Georgetown Chapter, he served as the Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Delaware in 2021-2022

He is very happy to have been asked to be a member of the Eastern Star Journal committee for MWGM-Billie and MWGP-Mike. Wayne says, "I will do my best to move the needle in promoting our great order. Remember the acronym, "TEAM", Together Everyone Achieves More."

Kathy Livings, Past Grand Matron of



Kathy Livings

Indiana, was born in Iowa City, Iowa and moved to Northern Indiana when she was 6 years old. She and her Joe and have been married for 52 years and they have two daughters, Melody and Anna. They each have

two grown children.

Kathy and Joe live in Bristol, Indiana on a 5 acre "Hobby" farm and just retired from their offset printing company that they started in 1979. After 45 years of so many changes they thought it was time to relax. (Whatever that may be). They have been active in many organizations but the dearest to their heart is Eastern Star. They joined Starlight Chapter in Elkhart, Indiana in October of 1996 and have always been active.

Kathy is a past deputy of our District and past Grand Esther. In 2007, Kathy was elected to the position of Associate Grand Conductress and served as Worthy Grand Matron in 2010-2011 after which she was elected as Grand Trustee and served six years.

In 2012, I served General Grand Chapter on the ESTARL committee, which was dear to her heart. She is hoping to travel and meet others in this wonderful "Sisterhood/Brotherhood".

Rosy Guastafierro, Past Grand Matron of Italy was born in Naples, Italy, in 1964.

She completed her education, including a degree in Economics and Commerce, at the University of Federico II in Naples. She is a licensed journalist registered with the Campania Journalists' Association in Italy.

She began her professional career working in her family's business as the Administrative



Rosy Guastafierro

Director and Head of Human Resources. In 1991, she married Sergio Tavormina. Their son, Giuseppe, was born in 1995, followed by their daughter, Sara, in 1997.

In 1982, Rosy was initiated into the Mediterranean Chapter #1 in Naples, where she held various offices. In 1986, she was elected Worthy Matron. In 1988, she attended the Triennial Assembly in Atlantic City for the first time, where she was appointed as a Page by MWGM Helen Roquemore Cox, who introduced her as the youngest Worthy Matron in the world.

In 1991, she participated in the Triennial Assembly in St. Louis. In 2002, MWGM Dorothy M. Dewing appointed her as Deputy in Italy, and in November of that year, she attended the Triennial Assembly in Portland with my entire family.

As Deputy for MWGM Patricia Rasmusson, she participated in the 2006 Triennial Assembly in Minneapolis and, in 2009, traveled to Tulsa in the same role for MWGM Barbara Benton. In 2012, she returned to the United States to Ft. Worth as Deputy for MWGM Rennie Ofton.

In 2014, appointed Deputy by MWGM Bobby White, she founded the Grand Chapter of Italy, serving as Associate Grand Matron. In 2016, Rosy was elected Worthy Grand Matron.

In 2022, I wrote and published a book in Italian about the history of the Order of the Eastern Star, from its origins in America to its establishment in Italy. I dedicated the final chapters to detailing the introduction of the Order in Italy and the founding of the Grand Chapter of Italy.

Rounding out the committee is **Lynne Atkinson, PGM of Ontario**.



Lynne Atkinson

Her bio will be in the next edition.

The Eastern Star Journal is YOUR publication, let your committee member know if you have anything you'd like to share. Email

addresses of all the committee members are in the Who's Who book or email the editor: oesjournal2427@gmail.com. ■

Home for the holidays



Federal Lodge #1, Grand Chapter of DC join forces to decorate Perry Belmont House for the holidays



In a holiday tradition going back around 30 years, Federal Lodge No. 1 helped to decorate the Perry Belmont House, this year with the help of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia.

Lawrence von Weigel, Worthy Grand Patron of D.C. and International Headquarters administrator said the Lodge started assisting with the decorating of the Headquarters in around 1995 when Paul Dolinsky was the Worshipful Master of Federal Lodge No.1. Betty Briggs (Iowa) was the Right Worthy Grand Secretary and knew the Headquarters needed help from dedicated brethren.

The brethren of the lodge helped decorate for nearly 30 years, but most importantly, they implemented the “Belmont Balls” that took place during the 1990s.

Over a dozen Federal Lodge Members were on the planning committee for the ball, along with OES members from DC who planned for a year to do the fundraising balls. They raised more than \$200,000 for various children’s charities.

This year, encouraged by Brother Larry and Sister Vie Auber, WGM of DC, many Star sisters also assisted.

Those who helped this year were: Vie Auber WGM-DC, Larry von Weigel WGP-DC, Priscilla Bacon, Adelaide Pucci, Dylan Rawlings, Vickie Starr PGM-DC, Bob Starr PGP-DC, Grace Rawlings, Tameka Watt, Liam Watt, Loyain Watt, Nemo Ferman, Lauren Pazienna, Ashley Blackburn, Lynda Kinder PGM-DC, Chip Mahaney, Shawn Garren PGM-DC, Brad St. Arnold, Jacob Choe, Juan Carlos, John Offinan, Rachel Babbit, Laura Babbit PGM-VA, Marilyn Haroutunian PGM-DC, Stephenie Lowe-Gordon, Frederick Cheeseborough, Larry Villegas-Perez, Tolga Neleben, Oscar Viera, Soren Ashmall, Tammie Ashmall, Stephanie Kreider, Victor Manzueta, Christian Umbria Smith, Abigail Zapote, Raquel Romero, Gustavo Gutierrez, Bernardo Peres and Raul Rodriguez.



Top photo: Many of those who assisted gather around the beautifully decorated staircase Center left: Helpers decorate the tree. Center right: Vie Auber, WGM of DC and Larry von Weigel, WGP of DC admire the fireplace. Bottom left: More of the helpers assemble around the tree

Cooking with the Stars

This mac and cheese a crowd pleaser in Arizona

In Arizona, this mac and cheese dish, prepared by our Associate Grand Matron, Donna DiCola, is always a welcome addition to any dinner or pot luck.

It's prepared in a roaster and serves 50, so is great for any dinner your chapter is preparing.

If there are leftovers, people scramble to take them home because it's almost better reheated the next day!

If your chapter is looking for an excellent side to have at one of your meals, you can't go



Donna DiCola

wrong with this recipe.

It's easy to make, and very popular with the dinner crowd.

Mac and cheese for a crowd

Submitted by

Donna DiCola

Associate Grand Matron, Arizona

Prep Time: 30 mins Cook Time: 2 hrs 30 mins Servings: 50 servings Source: plowingthroughlife.com

Ingredients

3 pounds elbow macaroni uncooked
1/2 cup vegetable oil
3 sticks butter
4 1/2 cups milk
72 ounces evaporated milk
2 tablespoons Kosher salt
72 ounces Velveeta cheese
2 pounds sharp cheddar cheese

Directions

Cook macaroni in an extra large stock pot of boiling water. Cook to al dente and drain.

Generously coat a roaster pan with non-stick cooking spray and add pasta.

Add vegetable oil and slices of butter to the pasta and stir well.

Add milk, evaporated milk and salt. Stir well and turn roaster to 200°F.

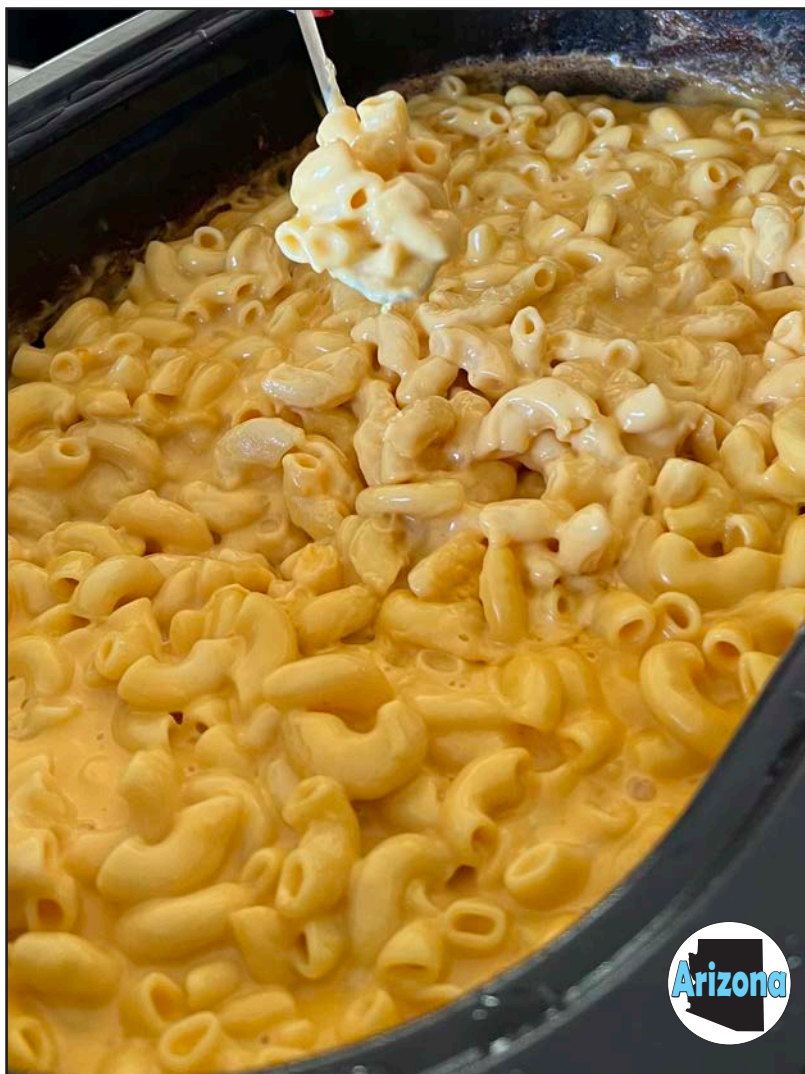
Cut Velveeta cheese into cubes and stir into milk and pasta mixture.

Cover and cook for 45 minutes to an hour; stir well.

Stir in shredded cheddar cheese.

Continue to cook covered and stir every 20 – 30 minutes.

Continue cooking until firm, about 2 hours total. Turn to keep warm to serve and continue to stir well.



This ooey, gooey cheesy goodness tastes great as a side, and even better heated up the next day!

Nutrition

Fat: 20 g
Calories: 383 kcal
Saturated Fat: 12 g
Trans Fat: 1 g
Sodium: 1142 mg
Fiber: 1 g
Sugar: 9 g
Carbohydrate: 31 g
Cholesterol: 64 mg
Unsaturated Fat: 5 g
Serving Size: 1 serving
Protein: 19 g



Before cooking, it will look like this.

**INTERNATIONAL GRAND REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION
 "IGRA" MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ~ 2024-2027
 (Former & Current)**

President:
 Molly Veile, PM
 13369 S Avenue 14 1/2 E
 Yuma, AZ 85367-9259
 marching@frontiernet.net

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Secretary/Treasurer:
 Laurel Wadley, PM
 8867 N Majestic Mtn Dr
 Tucson, AZ 85742-4503
 strawberrystar@sisna.com

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

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 Mailing Address: _____
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 Jurisdiction of _____ In: _____ Years: _____ to _____
 (State You Represent) (Your State/Province)

NOTE: When you are ONLY paying Dues: Mail entire form, along with a **SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE**, to the Secretary listed above. Make checks payable to **"IGRA", in US FUNDS (CHECK or MONEY ORDER)**.



The IGRA Full Color 16"x72" Chiffon Scarf/Wrap was custom designed by President Molly Veile. It represents a marriage of Arizona Sunrises and Sunsets and the Kentucky Rolling Hills. The outer edge includes the names of the Eastern Star Jurisdictions and Grand Chapters. Also, notice the Arizona Spirit Bear and Kentucky's Thoroughbred horses.

Please Note: Billie & Mike would like you to know that All OES members can purchase & wear this beautiful Scarf/Wrap.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| IGRA Dues (2024-2027) | \$10.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| IGRA Scarf/Wrap | \$50.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| President's "Spirit Bear" Lapel Pin (2024-2027) | \$ 5.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| Large IGRA Lapel Pin (for members only) | \$10.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| Small IGRA Lapel Pin (for members only) | \$ 6.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| IGRA Handbook | \$ 7.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| Button Cover w/"Spirit Bear" emblem | \$ 5.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |
| State Association Membership | \$20.00 X _____ | \$ _____ |

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS. For ALL US deliveries add \$8.00 for Postage.
For shipping outside of the USA, FIRST email your full address to the Secretary at strawberrystar@sisna.com, to be sent the shipping costs to your Jurisdiction..... \$ _____

* **TOTAL DUE** \$ _____

You can find this application, and more information on IGRA, at the following websites:
 Arizona Grand Chapter: <https://www.azoes.org/>
 General Grand Chapter: <https://easternstar.org/>

OFFICE USE: Rec. Date: _____ Ck Number: _____ Mailed Date: _____ Deposit Date: _____

International Grand Representatives Association rolls out plans for the 2024-2027 Triennium

By **Molly Veile, President**

International

Grand Representatives Association

Greetings from the International Grand Representatives Association! (IGRA)

The months of January and February will be super busy getting our plans for the next three years rolling. It takes lots of members, suggestions and time to get plans organized. Some plans work – and some don't. We have our listening

ears on – offer your suggestions we appreciate input from members.

Submit an article to the OES Journal sharing your travel experiences to visit your Grand Representative counterpart. Or if you are unable to travel you may be an email “Grand Representative”. We love to hear about all of these experiences.

We no longer offer the Traveling Gazette. Information on IGRA

can be found in the OES Journal, General Grand Chapter web site, Arizona Grand Chapter web site and the soon to be IGRA website.

If you have an interest in becoming the liaison for your Jurisdiction, please contact me at marching@frontiernet.net

Editor's Note: To join IGRA or to purchase IGRA merch, please print out the order form on the opposite page.



Molly Veile

A question through the ages is answered: What kind of Hot Wheels® car would Queen Esther be?

Editor's Note: In Arizona, the Worthy Grand Patrons emblem this year is Hot Wheels® cars. His speeches all center around those cars, plus the theme or topic of the Official Visit.



Here is the speech he gave at Queen Esther Chapter #22 in Phoenix. I thought it was both clever and thought provoking and asked if I could share it in the Eastern Star Journal.

Submitted by

Doug Steele

Worthy Grand Patron, Arizona

Today, I'd like to try and answer the question that has intrigued women and men alike from time in memoriam. What if Queen Esther, one of the Bible's most inspiring figures and name's sake of this Chapter, was a Hot Wheels®?

Now, we all know that Hot Wheels cars come in all sorts of exciting designs—some are sleek and fast, others are bold and adventurous, and a few are built to overcome extreme challenges.

If Queen Esther were a Hot Wheels®, I believe she would embody several key qualities that make her such an inspiring figure. Let's take a moment to explore what kind of Hot Wheel she would be.

First and foremost, Queen Esther would be a car of courage. As we know from her story, Esther faced one of the greatest challenges in history—standing up to King Xerxes and confronting the villainous Haman to save her people. She risked her life to speak truth to power.

If Esther were a Hot Wheels®, she'd be a car built for speed and precision, able to race

through tight loops and navigate dangerous jumps with grace. Her courage would shine through in every twist and turn, much like how she took on a risky journey, unsure of the outcome, but driven by a sense of duty and love for her people.

This Hot Wheels® would have sleek, golden paint—symbolizing Esther's royal status, her inner strength, and the beauty that came from her character, not just her appearance. The gold would also represent the wisdom and grace that Esther demonstrated throughout her story. Her gold finish would be eye-catching, but not just for show—just as Esther's beauty caught the king's eye, her true value was in her wisdom and heart. In the same way, this Hot Wheels® would not only be beautiful and fast but would capture attention because of its inner strength.

Esther's Hot Wheels® would also have smooth, powerful wheels, built to tackle any challenge—whether it's racing through a loop or making a daring leap over an obstacle. Just as Esther navigated the complexities of the Persian court and the danger she faced, this Hot Wheels® would be designed to handle tough situations, gliding over difficulties with smooth precision. It's a reminder that, like Esther, we can overcome the obstacles in our lives with the right tools—whether that's courage, wisdom, or faith.

One of the most defining characteristics of Queen Esther is her ability to inspire others. She didn't act alone—she sought help from her cousin Mordecai and encouraged the Jewish people to fast and pray before she took action. If Esther were a Hot Wheels®, she would definitely be part of a larger collector's

set, symbolizing the importance of community and unity. Just as her success relied on the strength and faith of her people, this Hot Wheels® would come with a track that encourages collaboration and connection.

Maybe it's a track that requires teamwork to complete—a reminder that, like Esther, we are never truly alone when we stand up for what's right.

Lastly, Esther's Hot Wheels® would have a touch of sparkle and luster, something that sets it apart from the rest of the cars on the track. This represents her unique role in history—her story continues to inspire and remind us of the power of selfless leadership, compassion, and bravery. It's not just a regular car—it's one that stands out, just as Esther's actions made her stand out in the history of her people.

In conclusion, if Queen Esther were a Hot Wheels®, she would be a car built for bravery, strength, and the ability to overcome obstacles. She would be sleek, golden, and fast, with a powerful ability to glide through life's challenges. And just like the story of Esther, this Hot Wheels® would inspire others to act courageously, to stand for what is right, and to work together for a common cause. Rest assured that the racing number on Queen Esther's car would definitely be #22, and would be one cool car.



Doug Steele

"Haunted Milton" a unique fundraiser in Vermont

Submitted by

Stephanie Child

Chittenden #59, Milton, Vermont

Chittenden Chapter #59 hosted a Haunted Milton walk through haunt event on November 21-23. We have been the host location for this event for the last three years.

We usually hold the event in the dining room of the Lodge from Thursday through Saturday on the weekend before Halloween. This year we moved the timing due to many members who were planning to attend the Myrtle Beach Triennium.

We did not want to have the time pass without the event because we wanted to keep the community engaged. This year we performed November 21-23 and since postponing put us closer to the holidays we decided to do a Scary Merry Christmas walk through instead.

The dining hall was turned into a large barn with "animal" stalls housing scary creatures from around the world with stories about each creature. The tales were typically told to make children behave during medieval times -- think of "*Grimm's Fairy Tales*."

The "barn" was decorated as a cross between Halloween and Christmas and each individual stall and creature had its own theme. The stories were written by a member of Chittenden Chapter and designed and directed by Haunted Milton.

The show participants received the following letter after the event: "We had a very successful run this year as it exceeded our expectations. We introduced a very new and unique show and we had no idea how the community would receive it. We did however entertain 197 guests, most of whom bought their tickets online, with only 35 being purchased at the door.

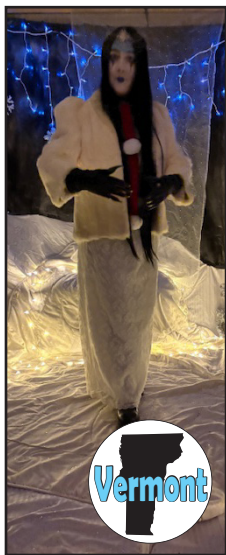
"For comparison, last year we entertained close to 600 guests. So, considering this was an unknown story and calendar date with long cold guest wait times, we feel like we did very

well. We were able to give a substantial donation to the Lodge for building repairs and upkeep. This is much more generous than we thought it would be and a happy surprise! The ladies in the snack shack sold out of all the food and the drinks did fairly well. We will definitely keep our snack shack active for next year.

"We are so thankful and appreciative for the participants who braved the cold outside the building, they all did a fantastic job and for that we are very grateful! All of the inside actors and helpers (including the freezing cold Mummies) did a wonderful job.

"We were so pleased with the work everyone did for set up and tear down of decorations and pallet walls, you have no idea what a gift to Mike, Tiffany and Stephanie that was. As for the performances we couldn't have asked for a better group. Everyone did exactly as they were directed and seemed happy to be doing it. We hope that is true, all of you are what makes this so special to all of us at Haunted Milton! Keep up the great work and we are already looking forward to next year's Creepy Carnival!"

We are looking forward to next year right before Halloween as usual!





“Bark at the Stark” fundraiser nets \$1000 for New Hampshire service dog group

On Saturday, November 9, members and friends of Eastern Star in New Hampshire met at the Stark Brewery in Manchester, NH, for our third annual “Bark at the Stark” fundraiser for service dogs.

Sixty-two people came to taste the Stark beer or bourbon, eat delicious snacks, buy a “puppy in a box”, take a chance on winning one of the 18 mystery pound bags and snuggle service dogs in training.

Hero Pups of NH brought three brand new recruits to their program of training dogs for service members. People were able to snuggle the puppies and hear about the program from the people who train the puppies. Worthy Grand Matron Beth and Worthy Grand Patron Wil were pleased to present Hero Pups with a check for \$1,000.



“Not home alone” Thanksgiving tradition continues in Ventura, California

Submitted by

Diane Lotspeich, WM

Channel Islands #78, California

Channel Islands Chapter 78 believes that no one should be home alone on Thanksgiving so has, for the past several years, hosted a “Not Home Alone Thanksgiving Dinner” for the members, family, and friends of the Masonic Family in Ventura. This year we served 24 hungry diners.



Several of the Chapter members including Diane Lotspeich and Sue Reese, chief cooks, get together on the morning of Thanksgiving to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of roast turkey, dressing, baked ham, baked potatoes and gravy, yam casserole, green bean casserole, corn pudding, baked squash, and homemade cranberry dressing for all to enjoy. The traditional pies are purchased from Fidelity Assembly Rainbow Girls who bake five different types of pies as a fundraiser for the holidays.

If you are alone for the holidays, plan to join us next year when we once again host our “Not Home Alone Thanksgiving Dinner.”



Memorable Meeting for Maple Leaf Chapter in Quebec

Submitted by

Louise Smith

Maple Leaf #2, Quebec



On Monday, November 11th, the regular meeting of the Maple Leaf Chapter no. 2 of the Order of the Eastern Star, met at the Memorial Hall in Stanbridge East. The evening became special because of three reasons.

The province of Quebec has a tartan, which still has yet to be formally adopted by the Quebec province. All other provinces have an official tartan. The Quebec tartan was designed in 1965. Its colors are derived from the province's coat of arms. The Quebec tartan is worn by both the Quebec members of the Order of the Eastern Star and Quebec members of the Women's Institutes of Canada.

Monday's Maple Leaf meeting was dedicated to the Quebec tartan. Members were to wear items made in the tartan. Quite a few members showed up with tartan clothing. Brother Robert Weidner even had a pair of shoes made with tartan highlights.

The second special aspect of the evening was the acknowledgement of Louise Wilkinson's fifty-five years as a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was given a pin and certificate by Maddi Weidner, the Worthy Matron of Maple Leaf.

At one time, Louise had been the Worthy Grand Matron of Quebec, Order of the Eastern Star.

The night was topped off with the showing of items gathered by members of the chapter for the HUGS program. Janet Patch and Robert Weidner posed with the collection. Each year a special project was selected by the Worthy Grand Matron and Patron of Quebec. When they were the Worthy Grand Matron and Patron, this was their project. Its support has continued at Maple Leaf Chapter, by collecting items at one meeting a year. For men, 16 hats, 5 neck warmers, one pair of mitts, 8 pair of gloves, 38 pair of socks, 13 pair of underwear, and six t-shirts were gathered. For women, 3 scarves, one neck warmer, 4 hats, 2 pair of mittens, 3 pair of gloves, 6 pair of underwear, and 20 pairs of socks were collected. To top off the donations, five toothbrushes and a wide variety of small toiletries were brought in.

It was a busy evening in the continuing history of the Maple Leaf Chapter.



Members of Maple Leaf #2 proudly wear the tartan of Quebec at their meeting.



Janet Patch, PGM-Quebec and Robert Weidner, PGP-Quebec continue support for the HUGS program with donations of cold-weather gear.



Greenville, Tennessee chapter feeds National Guard, donates care bags to those affected by Hurricane Helene

Submitted by
Deanna Branham
 Greenville #223, Tennessee



Greenville OES #223 Officers and members were humbled to serve dinner to the Army National Guard members who helped clear debris from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The chapter also donated items and assembled care bags for those who lost everything in the path of the flooding from Hurricane Helene.



Back row, left to right: Nathan Babb, Jackie Dixon, Alfreda Dixon, Audrey Conn, Fran Deakins, Deanna Branham, Mary Ann Thomas, Grand Instructor District #35, and Doyle Skinner. Front row, left to right: Vicie Motz, Carol Branham, Sandy Peterson, Sharon Skinner, Worthy Matron, Lisa Babb and Freddie Deakins.

Grand Lodge of Colombia welcomes new Luvetones with the hope they will become Masons and Stars

Submitted by
Evandro Lecey
 Deputy of MWGP for Colombia, Colombia-Bogota

In a beautiful Luvetones adoption ceremony, the Serenissima Grande Loja Nacional de Colombia, headquartered in Cartagena de Indias, received the new Luvetones. Luvetones are young relatives of Master Masons in Colombia.



The Most Serene Grand Master Lito Luiz Porto Porto led the proceedings, welcoming all the brothers, sisters-in-law, family members, nieces and nephews who would be received into our Masonic Order as Luvetones this evening.

Past Grand Master Brother Rafael Betancourt entered the ceremony carrying the official sword. The nephews and nieces had their hands purified. All the nephews received their apron and glovetone necklace, so that in the near future they will be brothers, we hope.

The nieces received the jewel from Luvetone and in a fantastic initiative by Gran Logia, a pin from the Order of the Eastern Star was delivered, symbolizing that we expect them in the Order in the future.

It was a beautiful ceremony where the Masonic family was present, with great joy on everyone's faces.



Cardinal Chapter in Ohio assists in holiday projects

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, Cardinal Chapter #140 of Ohio participated in Wreaths Across America. Three years ago, Brookside Cemetery in West Chester, OH, started the W.A.A. Program with 150 wreaths and Cardinal Chapter was there to help. In this, our third year, we helped place 465 wreaths on the Veteran's graves.



On November 24 and December 15, Cardinal headed to the Yellow Ribbon Support Center to pack several pounds of Halloween candy to send overseas to our Troops. The candy is donated by local Dentists and Elementary Schools, and we package the individually wrapped candy into sandwich bags for easier shipping. We packed over 30 boxes of candy for our brave women and men serving our Country.



Fort Myers, Florida chapter and lodge join to donate \$4,500 to underprivileged students for Thanksgiving dinner

Fort Myers Chapter No. 31 joined Tropical Lodge No. 58, F&AM, Fort Myers, Florida, raised \$4,500 to purchase 300 gift cards to assist underprivileged students and families at Tice Elementary School in purchasing groceries for their Thanksgiving dinner.



Reflections from a first-time General Grand Chapter attendee travelling from Ontario to South Carolina

Submitted by
Ingrid Wimmer
Grand Chapter of Ontario

The weather was perfect as Marilyn Taylor, Dawn Forbes, Dianna Smith and me for our trip, to attend the 51st General Grand Chapter Triennial 2021 - 2024, Order of the Eastern Star, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, hosted by the Members of South Carolina and Ohio.



The Session was called the "Worldwide Family of God" – At The Shore in 2024

Sister Dawn was an able driver, and we leisurely navigated our way through New York State, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and finally South Carolina. The weather was beautiful, and we took opportunities to enjoy landmarks and small towns along the way.

The weather was deliciously warm and sunny. Once we crossed the Mason Dixon Line, we quickly realized that the landscape was also changing, as we drove past sizeable cotton fields, ready for harvest. We did make a stop to get a close-up view of how cotton actually grows and looks prior to harvesting. The cotton is then baled, much like our round hay bales, only the covering is pink plastic.

We arrived at our hotel on the afternoon of October 25th. Dianna and I stayed in a Hampton Broadway Hotel, a 19 minute walk away from the convention Center. Marilyn and Dawn were at the host hotel, the Sheraton. The Myrtle Beach Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center was a perfect location to host the number of members attending with its large meeting rooms and proximity to the ocean and beach.

Registration and Credentials desks were very efficient, and everyone was prepared to spend some time visiting old friends and making new ones. The vendor location was large, and shopping was plentiful.

Most days, members of Ontario sat together in the stands, proudly wearing our red jackets, sprinkled with many in the green plaid of the Ontario Tartan.

On Sunday, we attended the Bible and emblem ceremony, the worship service and necrology service. 2021 – 2024 General Grand Chapter Ambassadors, committee members and deputies were introduced. Monday afternoon was the informal opening, and presentation of distinguished guests, representatives from the local, political and Fraternal organizations.

Most Worthy Grand Matron Glenda Winchester and Most Worthy Grand Patron Lon Lowry brought heartfelt greetings, as did all the dignitaries. The presentation of flags with Brother Bill Chatwell bearing the Canadian Flag with great distinction was indeed a special moment.

The formal opening on the evening of Monday October 28th began with the call to order by Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, and Past Grand Matron of West Virginia, Sister Bobbi White, the entrance of General Grand Chapter Officers and then the Cavalcade of Flags. How proud we all were as we applauded our special Ontario Members, Past Grand Matrons Jane Zimmerman and Bernice Guiler, escorting the Ontario Flag!



Ingrid Wimmer and Dianna Smith enjoy the shore in 2024.

Tuesday October 29 through Thursday October 31st, Delegates to General Grand Chapter were requested to sit in the "Designated" areas on the floor of the arena, nonvoting delegates, sat in the stands. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the resolutions were presented, one by one, and as we had no voting privileges, we were there to witness the process and discussions. The discussions often became quite passionate, and seemed to take longer than usual, as voting delegates, often left the room before the results had been announced. During elections, delegates also left the room. Their departure left this writer confused. They had the votes and were leaving before results and completion of their delegate duties.

Thursday afternoon ended with a wonderful video inviting everyone to attend the 2027 Triennial Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, Dream, Imagine, and Believe, August 27th to September 3, 2027 themed "Desert is Heaven in '27."

At 7 p.m. on Thursday was the installation of the 2024 2027 General Grand Chapter Officers, led by our new Most Worthy Grand Matron Billie Bradfield, and Most Worthy Grand Patron Michael Berry.

How proud we all are of our own Right Worthy Grand Trustee Helen Delaney as she begins her new term, and of General Grand Chapter Committee Members of Ontario and we wish them all safe travels as they carry out their duties in the next Triennial.

Our Ontario Sisters and Brothers are: Brother William (Bill) Chatwell, Ambassador to New Jersey; Brother Bruce Condie, Alzheimer's; Sister Lynn Atkinson, Eastern Star Journal; Sister J. Marshal Taylor, ESTARL; Sister Barbara J. Ward, Historical Landmarks - International Headquarters and Sister Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe, Necrology.

On a personal note, Dianna and I spent a morning visiting a member friend from North Carolina. Sister Moyra Gunter is Grand Adah of North Carolina. We had a wonderful morning with her, and then we played hooky in the afternoon enjoying the sun, beach, the sand and the surf at Pier 14.

Our trip home was done with only one night stop and wonderful weather, and we all shared wonderful comments and questions about the proceedings. Luckily, we were traveling with Marilyn Taylor, PGM and she was always happy to answer our queries. Well, almost always.



Ohio Eastern Star Home opens new Pine Hill Apartment Complex



On Thursday, December 12, 2024, the Eastern Star Home in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, marked the completion of the new Pine Hill Apartment Complex with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Many OES members and the surrounding community were in attendance to view the new facility. This project is the first phase of this new addition and soon the building of individual condos will follow.

The Eastern Star Home has served the central Ohio area since the 1950s.

Ohio Eastern Star members support the Home each year as various projects to improve its facilities and service to the elders are part of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron's agenda.



Breakfast with Santa a huge success for Tracy, California chapter

Submitted by

Janet Robinson, PGM-California
Joaquin #348, California

Every year Joaquin #348 in Tracy, California has a Santa breakfast.

This year it was just a couple days after Thanksgiving, and we wondered if it was going to work but it was a fantastic success. I think people were ready to put their turkey away and have a pancake.

We had around 150 attend, and tickets were sold prior to and at the door.

We had a lot of kids. We had face painters, clowns, Santa, and they thoroughly enjoyed it. We had a table full of goodies that were available that people loved and thought they could use as gifts.

Friends and members of the community attended and sold their wares. Our members made wreaths the

night prior, and we hung those around, and they were also available for anyone to purchase.

We had a couple of gentlemen who worked in the kitchen. They were fantastic as were the eggs, sausage, pancakes, orange juice, and milk along with some hot coffee for that cold morning. In the end we made several thousand dollars.

Of course we had some flyers for people that wanted more information about our organization, and we hope to maybe see them at an event coming up soon.

As I said prior, this isn't a new idea, but that doesn't mean it's not a good idea. We also had a lot of Christmas decorations around the dining room, which made for a very festive morning with Santa and his elf!



On the very cold afternoon of December 14 at 3 PM Chittenden Chapter #59 in Milton, Vermont, held on initiation. We were pleased to initiate four young ladies who are very anxious to join in all of our meetings and other activities. We are a very active chapter, and they will be part of our activities.

Cooking with the Stars

Triple Coconut chocolate dipped Macaroons a hit in Vermont

By **Claudia McLain**
Coral Chapter, Vermont

I first saw this recipe on America's Test Kitchen in 2000.

After a few batches, I have been making these Macaroons just a bit differently, so I added some tips for making the recipe easier to understand.

Now I want to pass on this wonderful recipe on for everyone to enjoy.

I have been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 25 Years.

I bring these Macaroons to many events as well as special occasions when requested. You may have tried some at Vermont Grand Chapter in our Hospitality Suite.

This is the perfect opportunity for me to share this recipe with my Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers whom I love beyond words.

Thank you all for being such great fans!

When I am asked "did you make macaroons?", it fills my heart with joy.

Please try this recipe and share it with your friends and family.



Claudia McLain

Chocolate-Dipped Triple Coconut Macaroons

TIP: TIPS added to recipe. From my experience...to make a simple recipe workable.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup cream of coconut
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 4 large egg whites
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 3 cups unsweetened, shredded, desiccated coconut (dried)
- 3 cups sweetened shredded coconut
- 10 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped

DIRECTIONS:

Adjust oven racks to upper-middle and lower-middle positions and heat oven to 375 degrees F. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.

TIP: Hold off on preheating the oven until after you chill the dough...preheat oven when you decide to start forming the macaroons on your parchment-lined baking sheets. Also the dough can keep in the fridge for a week. I use a small scoop to form the macaroons.

Whisk together cream of coconut, corn syrup, egg whites, vanilla, and salt in small bowl; set aside.

TIP: Be sure to use Cream of Coconut for the expected result. I use Goya...Cream of Coconut. Egg whites should equal 3/4 cup...I use egg whites already prepared from the dairy case at the grocery store.

Combine unsweetened and sweetened coconuts in large bowl; toss together, breaking



up clumps with fingertips.

Pour liquid ingredients into coconut and mix with rubber spatula until evenly moistened. Chill dough for 15 minutes.

TIP: Try not to let the coconut mixture get too wet. That would make sticky puddles when you bake them...and fuse the bottoms together on the baking sheet.

Drop heaping tablespoons of batter onto parchment-lined cookie sheets, spacing them about 1 inch apart. Form cookies into loose haystacks with fingertips, moistening hands with water as necessary to prevent sticking.

TIP: You will need to rinse off your fingers, because you will get "coconutty".

Bake until light golden brown, about 15 minutes, turning cookie sheets from front to back and switching from top to bottom racks halfway through baking.

TIP: Convection oven will give you tasty toasted coconut macaroons...go buy a convection oven...if you are a baker, all your products will come out better!

In a conventional oven you may not get a golden brown over the whole macaroon and

you will have to watch that the bottom of the macaroon does not get too dark.

Cool cookies on cookie sheets until slightly set, about 2 minutes; remove to wire rack with metal spatula and cool to room temperature, about 30 minutes.

TIP: You can easily...but carefully slide all cookies from baking pan onto a rack after they set, by pulling parchment paper onto the rack for cooling...it is okay to let them cool that way and easier and less messy to work on the next step.

Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper. Melt 8 ounces chocolate in small heatproof bowl set over pan of almost-simmering water, stirring once or twice, until smooth. (To melt chocolate in microwave, heat at 50 percent power for 3 minutes and stir. If chocolate is not yet entirely melted, heat an additional 30 seconds at 50 percent power.) Remove from heat; stir in remaining 2 ounces chocolate until smooth.

TIP: I use a double boiler and melt chocolate morsels over barely simmering hot water or turn off heat and use residual heat. Your favorite brand of semisweet chocolate morsels is more convenient and less dangerous...

Holding macaroon by pointed top, dip bottom and 1/2 inch up sides of each cookie in chocolate, scrape off excess with finger, and place on cookie sheet. Refrigerate until chocolate sets, about 15 minutes.

TIP: Unless you plan to eat all of these yourself...use a spatula to spread chocolate on just the bottom and drizzle tops with chocolate, too. Better presentation and fewer burned fingers...who wrote the first version of this recipe, anyway?



Massachusetts chapter holds successful community event

Submitted by

Jessica Polvere

Pilgrim Chapter 89, Massachusetts

On October 27th, 2024 3-5pm, Pilgrim Chapter #89 in Easte Bridgewater, Massachusetts, held a trunk or treat that was attended by more than 200 children and their parents.

We had 26 vendors/trunks set up their tables or decorated cars. We also had a raffle table with 20 prizes donated by some local businesses.

There was a craft table that Pilgrim members Dayna Harford and Jessica Polvere that benefited Autism. Dayna and her husband own a printing company. They donated signage for the event (parking signs, concrete foot traffic directionals and vendor booth IDs).

Many brothers from Puritan Lodge helped with parking and handing out booklets. Puritan Lodge also had its own trunks.

Pilgrim Chapter had a table, as well.

The chapter created a booklet with over 50 businesses featured and many articles about autism, autism resources, and a directory for parents to turn to for important information. Every family recieved a booklet at the Trunk or Treat.

This was truly a great event, kids enjoyed the day we had great weather. We were able to



The Trunk and Treat event put on by Pilgrim Chapter was attended by more than 200 people and benefited a local Autism charity.

give to a cause that needs more awareness.

We raised more than \$3,000 and after subtracting some expenses are donating \$2,300 to the South Shore Autism Foundation.

The chapter printed 500 booklets and

continue to sell and hand out more after the event to doctors offices, speech and occupational therapy facilities and to parents who reach out looking for more information.

The vendors/trunks received certificates of recognition



Kuna, Idaho chapter initiates sister and brother with mom in the East and dad in the West

On September 7, 2024 Rob Morris Chapter #63, Kuna, Idaho initiated a sister and brother with their mother as Worthy Matron and their dad as Associate Patron.

The chapter was also honored by the presence of Idaho

Worthy Grand Matron Deidra Votaw and Idaho Worthy Grand Patron Will Votaw.

Nevada's then Worthy Grand Matron Sonya Newton was also in attendance that evening.





A Family Affair

Arizona Grand Officers related by the dearest ties

Ed Gordon, Grand Sentinel and Sandy Gordon, Grand Organist, who are husband and wife; Marsha Young, Grand Lecturer and Crystal Thompson, Associate Grand Conductress who are aunt and niece; and Kathy Bailey, Grand Electa, and her daughter Amanda Bailey, Grand Adah, keep it all in the family in Arizona.

By Donna Parrish, PGM Arizona
Eastern Star Journal Committee
Chairman and Editor

This year, the Arizona Eastern Star grand family is not only a family in name, several of the grand officers are related to each other. Although, in the past there have been two relatives serving at one time, having six is unique.

Two of the officers were elected, therefore, before Grand Chapter, they didn't know they'd serve together until the election of officers, however Grand Adah and Grand Electa are daughter and mother.

Crystal Thompson is Associate Grand Conductress and her aunt, Marsha Young, is

Grand Lecturer.

Sister Crystal and her sister Susann Holland were initiated into Eastern Star in 2014 in a somewhat unique initiation orchestrated by Sister Marsha. They were initiated at the same ceremony, but into two different chapters. They joined different chapters because of the location of the chapters. Crystal joined Peoria #59 in Peoria, and Susann joined Queen Esther #22 in downtown Phoenix.

Officers from each chapter filled stations, but the most special thing to Crystal was that her Aunt Marsha was Conductress for the ceremony. According to Crystal, "It was very special and at the time I did not realize how different it really was."

Crystal and Susann wanted to join Star to be closer to their Aunt Marsha. Marsha had supported them on their journey as Rainbow Girls. They met her for breakfast one day and she had two petitions in her purse just for them. Sister Marsha is a member of both chapters. Regarding the initiation, Marsha said, "It was absolutely amazing to have them be initiated together as they always came as a matched set when they were around me."

Crystal and Susann went on to become Worthy Matrons of their respective chapters at the same time. They served during the COVID years, so their terms were for two years. The following year, Crystal served as Grand Adah, while Susann served as Grand Electa.

Sister Marsha felt Star was the next logical step to take when she was a Rainbow Girl

in Holbrook – a small town in Arizona.

Marsha especially loved the service projects as a Rainbow Girl and subsequently served as Grand Outer Observer in Arizona, while attending Arizona State University. One of her dorm mates was also an Arizona Rainbow grand officer and they'd attend meetings together in the Phoenix area. She was later appointed Grand Recorder, but six months later, joined the Navy, so resigned as a grand officer. She says she met other former Rainbow Girls all throughout the Navy.

This isn't the first rodeo for Marsha. She served as Grand Warder for the 1978-1979 term. She also served as Grand Treasurer of Arizona from 2008-2014 and is currently Grand Treasurer Emeritus.

Marsha is extremely proud of and excited for Sister Crystal and says, "She thought long and hard about the opportunity and I know she'll be a fabulous Worthy Grand Matron when the time comes."

Sister Sandra Gordon serves as Grand Organist this year and her husband, Brother Ed Gordon, was elected Grand Sentinel at the session in August. In Arizona, the Grand Sentinel is elected and the first step in the Grand Line for men, followed by Associate Grand Patron, then Worthy Grand Patron.

Brother Ed was raised a Master Mason in September, 1978. At the time, he was fairly new to Arizona and had no friends. Some of the men he worked were great to be with and it turned out they were Freemasons. He was sponsored into Masonry by a Past Grand



Crystal's Aunt Marsha was there when Crystal was installed Worthy Advisor of her Rainbow assembly.

Master. Ed's uncle was a Mason, but Ed didn't find that out until after he was raised.

How did Ed and Sandy meet? Ed says he was sitting in church and a woman came up to him and told him he was sitting in her pew. He said he was a bit taken aback because he'd been sitting in the same spot for about a year, but to be polite, he got up to move. Sandy told him she was just kidding. Sandy says they both had a good laugh and he got her phone number. Sandy says they went for coffee the next weekend. They got married in May of 1993.

Sandy joined Acacia Chapter in Avondale in 2003. She was looking for something to do and Ed encouraged her to attend some open chapter events. She felt welcome, so joined. Ed didn't join Star until 2007. It was after his second term as Worshipful Master. He then felt he had the time to be involved and was glad it was something they could do together. He didn't know at the time that it would become his new passion.

Ed served as Grand Marshal of Arizona last year, and did realize Sandy would be Grand Organist when he put in his letter of intent to run for the office of Grand Sentinel. Both are now members of Peoria Chapter #59 and Ed is also a member of Acacia #46 in Avondale.

When Ed was elected Grand Sentinel, Sandy said she was thinking how much busier they both would be in the next few years.

Appropriately, Grand Adah and Grand Electa this year are daughter and mother. Sister Amanda Bailey, Grand Adah says, "I knew my mom was going to be a Grand Officer after send-off (Arizona's first official visit of the year) because she was the first

one Candy and Doug asked. She had to act calm, cool, and collected the entire time, and she wouldn't tell me until after we were in the car going home because she knew I was going to freak. And I did." Amanda didn't know until later that she would also be asked. When Brother Doug, the then-Associate Grand Patron, called her and asked, she said her response was "shut up." She said her dream was that she would be Grand Adah and mom Kathy would be Grand Electa. She was thrilled when that ended up being true.

Amanda was a Rainbow Girl and knew she wanted to join OES because her family had a Masonic history and were in OES, she had received her majority from Rainbow and wanted to continue service. She said many of the Masonic people she loved were in Star and she wanted to continue that fellowship with them after she received her majority. She joined Star in 2008. Her dearest moments from Rainbow were the assembly events and meeting special people in her life.

Sister Kathy, Grand Electa, joined Eastern Star in 2003. Amanda was a Rainbow Girl and Kathy knew Star would be a worthwhile organization. She had family members who had joined Star in New York and after moving to Arizona, joined Chandler Chapter, where both Kathy and Amanda are now Past Matrons. Amanda now lives in the Flagstaff area and has served as Worthy Matron of Grand Canyon Chapter #4 in Flagstaff. Kathy, who still is in the Phoenix area, also is a Past Matron of Sunnyslope #47.

These three sets of family members enjoy their travels this year and make this grand family truly a family affair for Arizona ■



Kathy holds her young daughter Amanda in a pose they recreate in the photo of them in the present day.



Sandy and Ed's wedding photo.

Serving Ohio communities by ringing the Salvation Army bells

Submitted by
Cheryl Maslowski
PGM, Ohio Grand Chapter

This year our Worthy Grand Matron, Marla Barber, and Worthy Grand Patron, Ray Dennis, of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, chose to support the Salvation Army as one of their service projects. On or close to December 7, 2024, Eastern Star members throughout Ohio spent several hours ringing the bells with proceeds going to the causes supported by the Salvation Army.

Not only was this a wonderful opportunity for service to our communities, but it was also a great way to get our name out there for others to see the good we are doing. I especially enjoyed greeting those who came into the store where we were standing and seeing the smiles on their faces. Many were

very generous with their giving. I have yet to hear how much money was raised, but the real treasure was helping others and making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than us.



Romanian deputies send greetings to associates

Submitted by
Aruna Ionescu
Catalin Tohaneanu
 Deputies to Romania

For 2025, I wish you everything that I wished for myself...

I wish you health first of all, united family and honest people around you.

I wish you to be happy and live beautifully.

I wish you to take care of yourselves and to be healthy and with a zest for life.

I wish you to fulfill part of your dreams because the feeling of fulfillment fills the soul.

I wish you arms to hug you warmly and shoulders to rest your tired head

on.

I wish you peace of mind and I wish you to be reconciled with yourselves.

I wish you to have sincere and unconditional love every day of the coming year.

I wish you to love in turn and to communicate more.

I wish you to have everything you missed this year or to have exactly what you need.

I wish you a better, happier, luckier new year, more as you wish!!!

Have a New Year With Joys And Achievements!

Happy New Year!



Philippines to hold first Grand Chapter session in May

Thanks to the efforts of PMWGM Sister Glenda Winchester and PMWGP Brother F. Lon Lowry and all the dedicated Chapter members of the Philippines, this brand new Grand Jurisdiction will hold its first Grand Chapter in May 2025.



This will also be the Official Visit of our Most Worthy Grand Matron Sister Billie Bradfield and our Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Mike Berry.

It is our hope that many of our members will be able to plan on attending this groundbreaking event.

We know our Philippines' Sisters and Brothers are excited to share this event with all who are able to come.

To register, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/5YpQocjwvvrpXn1RJ9>

Lorraine Chapter #20 in Payette, Idaho visits shut-ins for the holidays





Operation Santa a Caldwell, Idaho tradition for 22 years



Hermosa Chapter #32 Caldwell, Idaho started Operation Santa 22 years ago. We help less fortunate families who are barely making it just keeping a house, food etc. for their family and no extra money for Christmas gifts.

This year we adopted 15 families for a total of 43 children. Every child was adopted by Eastern Star members, Bethel #8 Job's Daughters, DeMolay and community members.

Each child receives items off their wish list along with Nike shoes, a blanket and clothes.

The day of the party is the Saturday before Christmas with crafts for the children, breakfast, and a visit from Santa. The families leave with gifts, tote filled with household items etc. and a \$150.00 "friends and family" gift card for WinCo.

As the families leave, they leave with tears. They are so thankful!

We could not do this without all the help from Eastern Star members, Job's Daughters, DeMolay and members from the community!



ITINERARY - JANUARY 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

ITINERARY - FEBRUARY 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| GGC Trustees, Feb 16-18, Washington DC | | | | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

ITINERARY - MARCH 2025

| ITINERARY - MARCH 2025 | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

NOTES: GC - Louisiana, March 22-25, Alexandria

ITINERARY - APRIL 2025

| ITINERARY - APRIL 2025 | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|--|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | | | | OV - Saskatchewan, April 24-26, Moose Jaw | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| | | | OV - Minnesota | | | |

NOTES: Other GC Sessions in April: Florida, April 8-10, St. Augustine; Tennessee, April 13-15, Sevierville; Mississippi, April 14-16, Olive Branch; GC-Kansas, April 23-26, Topeka; GC-Maryland, April 27-30; Date and Location to be announced: Connecticut, Scotland

ITINERARY - MAY 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---------|-----------|---|---|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | OV - Minnesota, April 30-May 4, St. Cloud | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| GGC Trustees, May 4-6, Washington DC | | | | | OV-Philippines, May 9, 10, The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oasis, Davao City, Philippines | |
| OV - Minnesota | | | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | | | OV-Massachusetts, May 15-17, Boxborough, Honor WG Esther | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 16 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| OV-Maine, May 18-21, Bangor, Honor WG Organist | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | OV-Manitoba, May 26-28, Winnipeg | | | | | |

NOTES: Other GCs in May: Minnesota, April 30-May 3; District of Columbia, May 1-3, Falls Church; Delaware, May 12-13, Rehoboth Beach; Nebraska, May 13-15, Kearney ; Virginia, May 18-21, Hampton; Wisconsin, May 18-22, Stevens Point; British Columbia/Yukon, May 26-28, Prince George; Puerto Rico May 26-28. Session date and location to be announced: New Jersey

A message from the editor ...

It's both an honor and an new adventure for me as we begin this journey publishing the Eastern Star Journal for the 2024-2027 Triennium.

When Sister Billie and Brother Mike asked me to take on this task, I was both excited and scared. I told them I needed a great committee with me and that I'd like them to be contributing reporters to the Journal. And that's exactly what I got -- a great team. Together, we would like to make the Eastern Star Journal informative and interesting.

More than that, we'd like to make it YOUR publication -- something the members of the General Grand Chapter can read, learn and share ideas from.

The beauty of publishing only online is that we are not limited by the constraints of space and page count.

Each edition will feature various General Grand Chapter committees, their mission, goals and a little about each member.

We will also feature the officers of the General Grand Chapter in each issue, this issue we kick that off with profiles of Sister Billie and Brother Mike.

We will also have various articles showing happenings in the jurisdictions and the subordinate chapters around the world. This is where we will need the assistance of you, the members.

If you look on page 11 of this edition, you will see a list of the Eastern Star Journal committee members and the jurisdictions and subordinate chapters they will cover. Please contact them with stories, not just stories on the jurisdiction level, but stories on the chapter level. The story doesn't have to be about a chapter or jurisdiction event, it can be about a member who has done something unique or distinguished. Just make sure you have their permission.

The email address of your contact is in the 24-27 Who's Who book, or you can email me at oesjournal2427@gmail.com, and I will forward your info on to the proper person.

Feel free to submit articles you think might be of interest to other members, as well. We prefer Word documents. Photos are also important, but they need to be emailed, not as an attachment to a Word document, but as their own photo file. They need to be jpgs, of

good quality and submitted electronically. Please make sure they're not copyrighted. A few photos submitted this time were taken by the official photographers at General Grand Chapter. We were unable to use those due to copyright issues.

Articles and printed photos received via "snail" mail will not be accepted. All articles must be able to be cut and pasted - so nothing scanned, please. We will not retype articles and we will not print a scanned article. Photos of children under 18 won't be used if the child is recognizable or able to be identified, without written permission of a parent.

Please keep in mind, when submitting articles, that the Eastern Star Journal will be available to anyone through the General Grand Chapter website.

We will publish three times a year - January, May and September. The deadline for the May 2025 edition will be April 15, So if you're in the U.S., just remember to submit your article when you submit your taxes!

Donna Parrish, Editor and Chairman
Eastern Star Journal
PGM of Arizona