

EASTERN STAR Journal

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER

May 2025



Birth of a Chapter

**Colombia celebrates as a
new chapter is formed**

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



The Eastern Star Journal
is the official publication of the
**GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
ORDER OF THE
EASTERN STAR™**

The Eastern Star Journal is published
three times yearly.

Most Worthy Grand Matron
Billie Bradfield, PGM-Arizona

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

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To submit articles, email
oesjournal2427@gmail.com

A Message from Billie...

To my Sisters and Brothers,

Hello! I have missed being out on the road, but I have been attending the Official Visits of the Worthy Grand Matrons and Worthy Grand Patrons in Arizona and Nevada. Now, it is time to resume my travels and reconnect with you all across our Order.

In April, May, June, and July, I will be visiting the following Grand Chapters: Saskatchewan, Minnesota, the Philippines, Massachusetts, Maine, Manitoba, North Dakota, Idaho, and Indiana. Additionally, I will attend the Grand Assembly of Rainbow in June, as well as Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in July with my youngest daughter. I am eagerly looking forward to sharing this time of friendship and fellowship with our members.

Mike and I continue to support the charitable initiatives of the General Grand Chapter. Our committee members are working diligently to advance efforts in Alzheimer's research, Cancer awareness, Community Service, Disaster Relief, Eastern Star Journal, ESTARL, Historical Landmarks, Regenerative Medicine, and Service Dogs.

We are also proud to have joined forces with the National Alzheimer's Association for their "Longest Day" project in June. What is "The Longest Day"? This special event takes place on the summer solstice—the day with

the most light. On this day, participants nationwide come together to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's and all forms of dementia through fundraising activities of their choice. Whether it's a sports tournament, card game, bake sale, chapter dinner, coin march, or any other creative event, every effort helps further the care, support, and research initiatives of the Alzheimer's Association. We encourage you to join us in this meaningful cause.

Additionally, I hope you will continue to support your Grand Chapter's charitable initiatives. Together, our collective efforts strengthen our Order and amplify the positive impact we make in our communities.

We are proud of our newly updated website at easternstar.org and encourage you to explore it. Be sure to check out the refreshed Eastern Star Journal, which now even includes recipes for your chapter potlucks! If you know a fellow member who does not have access to a computer, please consider printing and sharing a copy with them. A special thank you to the Journal Committee for their hard work and dedication.

Excitingly, our Order is expanding in South America—so rapidly at times that it is hard to keep up! Thanks to the recent amendment allowing a Master Mason who is an Eastern Star member and a sister of the Order to provide recommendations, we are seeing wonderful

growth. This progress bodes well for our future.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the Tri-Line Officers for your unwavering commitment to our Order. Serving your Grand Chapter is a significant responsibility that requires dedication and perseverance. While the journey may present challenges, the rewards of service and the support of our membership make it all worthwhile. Please know that we are always here for you should you need our support.

I hope each of you enjoys a wonderful spring and summer, and I look forward to seeing you along the Eastern Star trail.

I leave you with these words:

Believe in You
Because your voice is important,
Because your dreams matter,
Because there is only one you,
Because you are worth it.

With fraternal love and appreciation,
Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron
General Grand Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star



A Message from Mike...

One of the greatest honors that comes to a Most Worthy Grand Patron is the privilege of instituting and constituting new Subordinate Chapters directly under the General Grand Chapter. When a group of new sisters and brothers begin their fraternal journey in places all over the globe, it follows a lot of work by the new members, the Deputies of the Most Worthy Grand Patron and Most Worthy Grand Matron and the General Grand Chapter Office.

Since our Installation, a new chapter was instituted in **Cartagena, Columbia**, on March 28, 2025, named **Costa Caribe Chapter U.D.** The then-Deputy to the MWGP, Evandro Lecey, oversaw its formation and Deputy to the MWGM, Narjara Almeida Souza e Silva Fernandes, conducted the institution and installation ceremonies. There are now five active Chapters in Columbia!

Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Patron for Paraguay, Elizon de Aquino Costa, readied two chapters in **Paraguay -- Nanduti #1** in

Asuncion and **Arandu #2** in **Ciudad del Este** -- for constitution. On March 1, 2025, and February 15, 2025, respectively, he traveled from Brazil and conducted the ceremonies proclaiming these to be chartered chapters under the General Grand Chapter on my behalf. How exciting that we have expanded Eastern Star into Paraguay!

It has also been my pleasure to sign the charters of the following chapters: **Esperanca Forca e Fe, UD (Brazil)**, **Luz e Sabedoria #54 (Brazil)**, **Kinzica #8 (Italy)**, **Avalon #24 (Italy)**, **Turan #29 (Italy)**. Congratulations to these subordinate chapters on receiving the historical documents that represent their fraternal bond with the General Grand Chapter. Special thanks to the Right Worthy Grand Secretary Pro-Tem, Kelly O'Malley, and our very able Administrative Assistant, Laura Babbitt, who make sure that these chapters and members have the resources necessary to grow and thrive.

On a personal note, I want to update you

on my health as I undergo treatment for cancer. That dreaded six-letter word is never a diagnosis we want to hear, yet so many of our members have shared with me their own personal journey fighting this

disease. After six months of chemotherapy, I underwent a successful surgery on January 21, 2025. After a six-week recovery period, I began post-operative chemotherapy in early March which will continue through May. My scans, blood numbers and outlook are all good and I am looking forward to traveling and being back to living my "best life" in June. I credit my prognosis to God, medical advances and the prayers of my Eastern Star sisters and brothers. I am a living example that prayer works...and our Order is filled with prayer warriors. THANK YOU for caring



about someone whom you may not have met or know well, but you thought enough of to ask God to heal and comfort. You are the everyday examples of charity, truth and loving kindness!

Looking forward to June, July and August, I am scheduled to attend the Grand Chapters of North Dakota, Indiana, Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Arizona and New Hampshire. Also, I am excited to help celebrate two milestone events: the 75th Grand Assembly of Kentucky Rainbow and the 150th Birthday of Massachusetts Grand Chapter.

Have your handshakes and hugs ready...I have some catching up to do!

Finally, Sisters and Brothers, the times we are living in are not easy...even as we serve through the Order of the Eastern Star. Many of you are dealing with unprecedented challenges in your personal lives, in your chapters and in your Grand Chapters. We WILL get through this because God has promised good to those that love Him.

*God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through.*

*God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.*

*But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.
(By Annie Johnson Flint)*

Keep Dreaming!
Mike Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron

Who's Who 2024-2027 Book Changes

For your convenience, you can print out this page and paste these replacements in the book.

General Grand Chapter Committee Members

Page 67 - Historical Landmarks Committee:

Please replace Richart Fortier Sr., PGP of New Hampshire with Karen Tuttle, PGM - New Hampshire.



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

Deputies of the MWGM/MWGP:

Page 103:

Evandro Baneira Lecey has resigned. Please replace him with:



Julio Emiro Rodríguez Pérez

Deputy of MWGP for Colombia, Colombia-Bogota
Past Patron - Capitulo Diosas Del Chaira #3
Calle 22 # 1 A -108 –
La Consolata, Florencia, Caquetá
Email: julioemiror@hotmail.com
Phone +57 316 6547127
Cell: +57 316 6547127
Birthday: April 3

Page 87 - "Service Dogs Committee"

Please remove: Russell Bonchu, Jr. - Past Grand Patron - Maryland (Deceased)



William Gunn

Past Grand Patron - Maryland
4143 Webster Road
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
Email: bilgu@aol.com
443-632-5140 (Cell)
410-939-1798 (Home)
Escort: Jeannie M. Gunn

Page 104:

Please add to page 104 beneath Delia Whitfield.
(there is room on page 107 to paste his information, if you print this out.)



Rodolfo Octavio De La Torre Rivera

Deputy of MWGP for Mexico
Past Patron
Ohio 33 C.P. 04330 Coyoacan,
Mexico City, Mexico
Email: rodelatorre0901@yahoo.Com
Phone 555544593
Cell: 555514791215
Birthday: February 8

Tri-Line

Page 126 "Tri-Line of Bolivia"

Amira Barrientos Seborga
Please correct email:
amirambs@gmail.com

Page 151 "Tri-Line of Montana"

Robert Culbertson, WGP, has passed away.

Page 168 "Tri-Line of Sao Paulo"

Gislaine Maria Ribeiro da Silva de Magalhães
Please correct email:
gislainegi@gmail.com

Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron
4473 El Paso Road
Bullhead City, AZ 86429
Cell: 928-542-9155
Email: cbbgo2427@outlook.com



Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron
Post Office Box 75
Glenview, Kentucky 40025
Cell: 502-741-7444
Email: Michael.e.berry@outlook.com

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1876

Sisters, Brothers and Friends:

In recent weeks, there has been much discussion regarding the passage of Resolution 42 during the General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Unfortunately, there has also been misinformation spread about what changes the adoption of this new qualification for Eastern Star membership means for the relationship of our Order to the Masonic fraternity.

The delegates of the 51st Triennial Assembly overwhelmingly voted to expand our membership qualifications; it required a two-thirds majority to change our law, and this threshold was easily met. There was discussion, for and against, during the debate, but no attempt was made to amend or alter the course of the resolution prior to its passage. Our Constitution and Bylaws reserve only a few powers exclusively for the General Grand Chapter, allowing Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters to establish and enforce many of the laws pertaining to their own governance. However, one area where the General Grand Chapter has complete authority is granted in Article VII (d) of the Constitution: “It shall be the exclusive judge of the qualifications of its own members...” As a result, concurrence with any change in membership qualifications is not required or allowed on the jurisdictional or subordinate chapter level.

Prior to the adoption of this legislation in October 2024, those eligible to membership in the Order of the Eastern Star included:

- Affiliated Master Masons in good standing and any female relatives who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption to Affiliated Master Masons in good standing, or if deceased were in good standing at the time of their death; as well as
- Members – either active for three (3) years or majority – in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or in the Job’s Daughters International, each of whom having attained the age of eighteen (18) years.

Resolution 42 added the following:

- Women sponsored by a sister and brother who are members of the Order

Please be aware that one important qualification did not change—any man wishing to join the Order of the Eastern Star must be a Master Mason in good standing. If a male petitioner is not a Master Mason, he cannot join Eastern Star. And if a male member of Eastern Star is suspended from his Lodge (whether for non-payment of dues or otherwise), then he is also automatically

suspended from Eastern Star. In other words, membership in Freemasonry is a prerequisite for any man wishing to join Eastern Star.

The change that was made to the membership qualifications applies strictly to female petitioners for the degrees in Eastern Star and adds only a category for sponsored membership. The gist of sponsored membership is that any woman who wants to join the Order of the Eastern Star and who does not meet the standard requirements for membership can nevertheless petition for membership if she presents with her petition two letters of recommendation, one of which is signed by a female member of the Order in good standing, and the other is signed by a male member of the Order in good standing. In other words, if a woman wants to join Eastern Star as a sponsored petitioner, she must first be vouched for by a Master Mason who is in good standing.

We understand the concern over the foregoing change, especially that it has eliminated the prerequisite Masonic connection for female petitioners. We ask those espousing this belief to remember that before sponsored membership was enacted, the connections between some of our petitioners and their Masonic relations were spotty at best. For example, a young woman who never or barely knew her grandfather but could prove that he was a Master Mason in good standing when he died was eligible to join Eastern Star—but the woman who has been a constant companion to her Master Mason boyfriend for decades could not.

In fact, we see sponsored membership as requiring a much stronger Masonic connection than Eastern Star previously required. While the young woman who never or barely knew her Master Mason grandfather, uncle or stepbrother is still eligible to join, a woman who wants to join but who is not related to a Master Mason must present a letter, signed by a living Master Mason in good standing, in which that Brother vouches for the woman's character. In our opinion, this demonstrates that not only does the Order of the Eastern Star remain deeply connected to Freemasonry, but no sponsored member may join without the express approval of a Mason. In other words, unlike a woman who can prove a direct relationship in her past, Master Masons in the present essentially have direct authority over which women are eligible to join.

There have also been well-meaning suggestions offered that permission to ignore this new membership qualification should be offered or even that the leadership of General Grand Chapter should declare the adopted resolution void due to potential actions that could be taken at the Grand Lodge level affecting Eastern Star within a Grand Jurisdiction. Our Most Worthy Grand Matron is the widow of a Past Grand Master, and as such we are aware of some of the differences between the authority enjoyed by a Grand Master of a Masonic jurisdiction and the authority that she has as the Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter. For example, her husband Bob, as the Grand Master of Arizona, had the authority to make a man a Freemason on sight. As the Most Worthy Grand Matron she does not have the authority to make someone a member of Eastern Star. As another example, Bob, as Grand Master of Arizona, had the authority to suspend an Arizona Masonic rule or statute that he felt undermined the purposes of Freemasonry. As the Most Worthy Grand Matron, she does not have the authority to suspend any of the Constitution, By-Laws, rules and regulations of the General Grand Chapter of Eastern Star. So even though the Constitution states that “the Most Worthy Grand Matron is the highest Officer in the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star,” she does not enjoy the same authorities as a Grand Master.

The directives and edicts issued or being contemplated in the various Masonic jurisdictions have had a major impact, as we have been inundated with calls, emails, and letters of concern from Eastern Star members both in North America and all around the world. Our hearts break for these Sisters and Brothers whose membership may be impacted because for many of our members, particularly those who are in the golden years of their lives, Eastern Star is one of their few opportunities for social interaction and camaraderie.

In closing, we want you to know that Eastern Star always has and always will honor its tradition of giving practical effect to one of the beneficent purposes of Freemasonry, which is to provide for the welfare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Master Masons. We will also continue to share with our Masonic Brothers in promulgating the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As leaders of the General Grand Chapter, we respect the authority of those who govern the Masonic order in the various jurisdictions and stand willing to work with them to address the concerns being currently debated. What we do ask is that our communication as Eastern Star members be civil and held in appropriate places, not solely on social media and in public forums. As Most Worthy Grand Matron (whose husband was a Past Grand Master of Arizona) and Most Worthy Grand Patron (a proud Kentucky Master Mason for over 42 years), we believe that the principles of Freemasonry are integral to the continued success of Eastern Star. We will do everything in our power to honor that tradition through the remainder of our term of office while we serve our world-wide membership.

Sincerely.



Billie Bradfield
Most Worthy Grand Matron
Past Grand Matron of Arizona



Michael E. Berry
Most Worthy Grand Patron
Past Grand Patron of Kentucky

This letter is endorsed by:

M. :. W. :. Michael Dale
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Arizona, F. & A.M

M. :. W. :. Mitchell A. May
Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. & A.M

In Memoriam

Henry S. Martin, 33° Most Worthy Grand Patron 2018 – 2021

Past Grand Patron of Texas

By Marianne R. Shenefelt
Past Most Worthy Grand Matron
Past Grand Matron of Wyoming

It is difficult to express how important Brother Henry S. Martin was to the Order of the Eastern Star and to me. Many fond memories come to mind, such as how glad he was to get home from our visit to Taiwan because he said he knew when he got home, he would recognize what was on his dinner plate because in Taiwan we could never be sure what we were eating: octopus, squid, eel or some other “interesting” foods. While attending Brazil’s São Paulo Grand Chapter, I remember his smiles and laughter as he enjoyed the great music and enthusiastic dancing.

One of Brother Henry’s best qualities was his sincere dedication to increasing our membership and his knowledge of the many different aspects of business, and how they could be applied to improving our organization. We shared common concerns and philosophies about our Order, and we had many plans for the 2018-2021 Triennium. I knew Brother Henry was the best man for the job and this was proven when the COVID pandemic arrived. His support and understanding were above and beyond. His steadfast devotion to his duties and responsibilities helped make our Triennium a success despite the difficult and unprecedented circumstances. It was a great disappointment to both of us to have lost the opportunity

to travel and be with the membership for a full, three-year term.

Brother Henry passed from this earth to his heavenly home on May 16, 2022. He was born on March 10, 1939, in Columbia, South Carolina. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Opal. In his teen years, Henry rode and showed Tennessee walking horses, and three and five-gaited horses throughout North and South Carolina and Georgia. He loved music and was active in music most of his life. I found this bit of information interesting that after college, Henry formed a rock and roll band that played at clubs and dances for several years. In later years, he played with several community bands, two church orchestras, in addition to several groups affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

Henry was raised a Master Mason in South Carolina and received his 60-year Service Award from both Texas and South Carolina Grand Lodges. He was involved in many different Masonic organizations. He was Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1988-89 and served as Secretary for twelve years. In York Rite, he was Past High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons. He was Past illustrious Master of Select Masters Arch Masons and a Past Imminent Commander of Commandry of Knights Templar. He received the Knight York Cross of Honor and was a member of Lyle L. Cross York Rite College. He was active in Scottish Rite and had received his 33rd Degree. He was a member of Hella Temple Shrine, where he played in the Concert Band, and the Drum and Bugle Corps. He was also a member of The Royal Order of Scotland; Rose of Sharon Council of Knight Masons; Alla Grotto; the Red Cross of Constantine; Al-



lied Masonic Degrees; and the Rosicrucian’s. He was awarded the Grand Cross of Color from the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Legion of Honor from DeMolay. His distinguished service and participation in these numerous organizations explains why he and Sister Opal were on the road a great deal of the time.

Brother Henry served as Worthy Patron of his Chapter nine times. He served as Worthy Grand Patron of Texas in 1998-99. He served as General Chairman for the 2012 General Grand Chapter Triennial Assembly held in Fort Worth, where he was elected as Right Worthy Grand Sentinel. He served as Most Worthy Grand Patron in 2018-2021.

General Grand Chapter’s primary and permanent charity of Service Dogs was embraced by the Grand Chapter of Texas, who raised enough money to buy three service dogs in Brother Henry’s honor. He was given the opportunity of naming the dogs and he named them “Bandit,” “Martin” and “Rosebud.”

It was a blessing to have Brother Henry, and Sister Opal, in my Eastern Star life. I will be forever grateful for their genuine support and sincere friendship. I believe we were all blessed by the outstanding service of this fine southern gentleman who lived life fully and in harmony with the principles of our beautiful Order. I read that one should not be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again—be it after moments or a lifetime—and that meeting again is a certainty for those who are friends.

The Birth of a New Chapter:

A Magical Weekend in Cartagena of Indias (Colombia)

By **Narjara Fernandes**
Deputy of MWGM for Colombia

During the first weekend in April, I had the distinct honor of presiding over the founding activities of a new Order of the Eastern Star (OES) Chapter, the Costa Caribe UD Chapter, in the enchanting city of Cartagena of Indias, Colombia, as both Deputy of our Most Worthy Grand Matron (MWGM) and representing our Most Worthy Grand Patron (MWGP). This momentous occasion saw the necessary special meeting of the General Grand Chapter for the institution, then initiation, and installation of officers, all unfolding in the vibrant, tropical scenery that Cartagena has to offer. With immense joy, we now celebrate the cultivation of our fifth OES Chapter in Colombia.

Cartagena: A Jewel of History and Beauty

Cartagena of Indias is not merely a picturesque coastal city; it pulses with a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1533. The city's fortified walls, a UNESCO World Heritage site, tell tales of battles fought and treasures amassed during the colonial period. As we gathered for our ceremonies, the spirit of the city seemed to echo our own joyous

Stay connected, stay inspired, and let the magic of unity propel us toward new horizons!

celebrations.

Through the cobblestone streets of the historic walled city, adorned with colorful colonial buildings and lively plazas, we were enveloped in the same magic that inspired Gabriel García Márquez. A Nobel Prize-winning author, García Márquez's influence is profound, as his tales of magic realism weave the extraordinary into the mundane, transforming everyday life into something enchanted. His celebrated works, such as *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Love in the Time of Cholera*, beautifully capture the Caribbean essence and vibrancy, resonating deeply with the atmosphere of Cartagena. As we embarked on this new chapter in our organizational journey, we felt the inspiration of García Márquez's legacy surrounding us—his idea that reality can coexist with the fantastical resonated with our purpose of fostering community, support, and strong ties among members.

A Celebration of Unity and Growth

The atmosphere was filled with positivity and camaraderie as attendees gathered for two days of festivities. The founding ceremony was marked by heartfelt speeches reflecting the core values of the Order: charity, truth, and love. We were honored to have the strong support of the local Masonic Grand Master,



Lito, whose presence greatly contributed to the sense of unity and commitment within our community.

Furthermore, the installation of our new Chapter officers was a highlight of the event. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Veronica Vallejo, the Worthy Matron, and Alejandro Dornbusch, Worthy Patron, who are poised to lead and inspire our members in the vibrant Costa Caribe UD Chapter.

A Future Full of Potential

The establishment of this new Chapter signifies not only a milestone for our organization but also a powerful expression of the potential for growth in Colombia. With five active Chapters now in operation, our mission is clear: to strengthen our connections, support charitable endeavors, and create a supportive network for members across the nation.



As we continue to build our presence in Colombia, we invite all members and friends of the OES to join us in this exciting journey. The spirit of Cartagena de Indias, a city where magic meets reality, echoes our own beliefs and aspirations in the Order. With García Márquez as our local literary muse, we remind ourselves that the impossible is within our reach when we work together, united by a shared purpose.

In Conclusion

As we reflect on this memorable weekend, let us carry forward the vibrant energy of Cartagena and the joy of our new Chapter into every endeavor we undertake. Together, we can nurture the seeds of magic and growth in our Order, creating a legacy that resonates across borders and generations.

Stay connected, stay inspired, and let the magic of unity propel us toward new horizons!



A Wii bit of fun

Arizona chapter strikes up fellowship state-wide with Nintendo bowling tournament

By Perry Casazza, PGP-Arizona
GGCCM - Jurisprudence Chairman

Arizona Eastern Star's Chapter installation season runs from mid-May to early June. After the first meeting of the new term in June, Chapters typically go dark until September to save on air conditioning costs. When my mother and I were installed as first-time Worthy Matron and Patron of Sunnyslope Chapter #47 in Phoenix in 2014, we wracked our brains for a summer-time social event to get our members together and have some fun. We ultimately landed on a bowling tournament in our lodge room using the Nintendo Wii video game system. Not only does the Wii bowling game mimic the mechanics of real bowling, but a team of 4 players using only one controller between them can bowl a game in about 30 minutes. Furthermore, anyone can participate regardless of age or physical limitations.

The first year I set up two televisions and two Wii systems in the lodge room. My mother provided free snacks for the attendees, I made homemade "trophies" for the winning team, which was determined by which team had a highest combined three-game score. That year, on a blisteringly hot Saturday afternoon in Phoenix, Arizona, three teams competed in the first annual Sunnyslope Chapter #47 Wii bowling tournament.

The following year our in-

coming Worthy Matron asked me and my mother to run the tournament again, and we had three teams compete for the championship. The next Worthy Matron asked us to have the tournament again in 2016, and that year the field expanded to five teams, one of which consisted of an out-of-town Past Grand Matron and three of her appointed Grand Officers. This Past Grand Matron, who is a supremely talented graphic designer, embroidered polo shirts for her team with a lighthouse logo and the name "Guiding Lights." My mother made matching team vests for two other teams. That year pictures of the event made it onto Facebook, which ended up being the tipping point.

When we held the fourth annual tournament in 2017, the field jumped to nine teams. One team drove two hours from Tucson, another team two hours from Prescott. Our little building was packed. We had just enough space in our lodge room for five teams to bowl at a time, with the televisions side-by-side along the south marching line. It got so hectic that I had to escape to the

dining room for a moment of peace. My friend and current Worthy Grand Patron Doug, whose family's involvement in our Chapter goes back more than 50 years, sat down across from me with a big smile on his face and said, "I've never heard this building so full of fun and laughter." He and I then listened for a few minutes, basking in the

joyful noise. Doug and I still talk about that moment to this day.

We knew that our building was too small for more than ten teams, so in 2018 we held the tournament in another Chapter's building. Sunnyslope #47 ran the bowling tournament, and the host Chapter sold snacks as a fundraiser. We had 16 teams that year, each of which paid a \$20 entry fee. It's not much of a fundraiser for us, but the tournament has never been about money. Friendships are reinvigorated at the Wii bowling tournament. Birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated at the Wii bowling tournament. And if you're running for an elected office in Arizona Grand Chapter, you'd better show up to the Wii Bowling tournament because that's your last, best opportunity to endear yourself to the voting delegates before our Grand Chapter session in August.

In 2019 we had 20 teams compete – with spectators we had about 100 attendees. It took 10 televisions and 10 Wii systems to run the tournament, which filled the large multi-purpose room of Sun City lodge. By then we had established the tournament traditions that continue to this day. We hand out small prizes for the best team outfits. We hand out homemade "trophies" for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd





place teams (the “homemade” part is critically important, as I got scolded by the participants for my lack of creativity the two times I handed out legitimate trophies). The top three teams also receive cash prizes because, in the words of our first anonymous benefactor who has since passed away, “People won’t come unless there’s cash on the line.” I never told him that about every other year at least one of the teams quietly returns their prize money “to support the tournament next year.” Amazingly, no one has ever left a homemade trophy behind.

My favorite tradition is our traveling high game pin. Early in the tournament’s history my mother donated a bowling themed lapel pin to the cause, which is awarded to the person who bowls the highest game that day. It is a traveling pin, and the winner is obligated to bring it back the next year and pin their successor – and it has never failed to come back. In 2017 the high game was bowled by

a long-time member of our Chapter who had never participated in the tournament before. She was so proud of winning the traveling pin that she wore it to every Sunnyslope Chapter meeting she attended that term. She was seen crying soon after she pinned her successor.

“I’ve never heard this building so full of fun and laughter.”

We didn’t have the tournament in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, and it’s taken a few years to get our numbers back up. But we had 17 teams compete last July. Like always, birthdays were celebrated, friendships were renewed, and homemade trophies were presented to the winners. Sabrina, an outstanding Past Matron from Yuma who competes with her husband and teenage daughters every year, won the high game pin. Yuma is a three-hour drive from Phoenix.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our 90+ year-old member Pat, who brings multiple generations of her family to the tournament every year. When I first met Pat’s

two great-grandchildren they were in their awkward teenage years. Now they are both fully formed adults who dedicate one Saturday every summer to compete in the tournament with their great-grandmother. Although Sister Pat’s walker may give you the impression that she is not a threat, she is one of our strongest competitors, thanks to the Wii system on which she regularly practices in her retirement center.

So, if you’re looking for a fun social event for your Chapter that everyone can enjoy, either find a member who has a Wii video game system collecting dust in their closet or spend the \$40 to buy one (you can easily find them on eBay or at a used video game store). The Wii Sports game disc (retail price: \$20) is also widely available, and four bowlers can bowl at a time using only one Wii controller. If you can scare up two AA batteries, a television, and someone who knows how to connect a Wii to a television and operate it, you’re good to go. But if you decide to take the plunge and start your own Wii bowling tournament, you should fully commit. Provide snacks. Celebrate birthdays. And above all else, do the right thing and give out homemade prizes, your competitors will thank you for it!



Meet our leaders ...

Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress Sister Susie Roach, PGM-Indiana

Sister Susie Roach, Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress sat down and answered our questions. We hope it will help you get to know here little better.

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

This is an easy question. When I was 12 years old some of my friends were members of something called Job's Daughters and it really interested me, but they told me that I had to be related to a Master Mason. I immediately went home and ask my Mom if there were any Masons in our family. It turned out that my Uncle was a Mason and I immediately petitioned Job's Daughters.

What was your family Masonic history?

As I said, I had to ask if I had any Masons in my family because my Dad was not. The only Mason I know of in my family (before now) was my Uncle.

When and where were you initiated into Job's Daughters? I was initiated into Bethel 81 in Odon, Indiana in 1965 during an inspection with two other Bethels. It was held in Bloomfield, Indiana.

Did you serve as an adult leader for Job's Daughters? Were you or your daughters members and how active? How do you think they or you benefited? I served several years as Bethel Guardian, Guardian Secretary, Guardian Director of Music and Guardian Director of Epochs. I joined Job's Daughters in 1965 and jumped in with both feet. I served as Outer Guard, Jr. Custodian, Sr. Custodian, Chaplain, 1st, 3rd and 5th Messengers, Guide, Jr. Princess, Sr. Princess and Honored Queen. As Honored Queen, I was selected to present the Indiana state flag at the Supreme Session in Anaheim, California in 1972. What an honor and how exciting. My first airplane trip, meeting so many wonderful friends from all over the world. Memories I will cherish for a life time. I learned so much during that time, and thoroughly loved everything ritual. My husband also served as Associate Bethel Guardian. I also served as a Deputy for five years, and served as Grand Second Messenger.

Who inspired you to join Eastern Star?

Another easy question. When I was Honored Queen in Job's our Bethel was invited to perform the living cross at an installation of officers of our local Star Chapter. When

"I would encourage all our members to "love one another" and to think before we speak. Remember your obligation and encourage one another. We need to let our light shine so brightly that people cannot help but notice."

-Susie Roach, RWAGC

I walked out of the Lodge that night, I told the girls with me..."I'm going to be one of those some day." I was so very impressed. Membership was my goal. Unfortunately, when I began asking questions, I did not have the proper Masonic relationship. I had joined Job's on my Uncle, but at that time, that did not work for Eastern Star. After I was married, I again began my pursuit of membership. My husband's Father was very active in Masonry so I politely told my husband that he was going to ask his Dad for a petition and he was going to join Lodge. Thus began his Masonic career which was going to allow me to join Eastern Star. Mother Nature had other ideas, as the blizzard of 1978 shut down the entire state for approximately two weeks and set him back on achieving his Master Mason degree. However, the day after he was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, I literally went in search of a petition for Star, found two members to sign my petition. I was initiated on June 13, 1978

When and into what chapter and jurisdiction were you initiated? I was initiated into Odon Chapter #341, in District 2, in Odon, Indiana on June 13, 1978

When did you affiliate with any Chapters or have you been a long time member of just one? My husband and I hold plural membership with Washington Chapter #210 in Vincennes, Indiana where I have served as Associate Matron and am currently serving as Worthy Matron with my husband as Worthy Patron.

Do you have any particular memories about your initiation? Only that I was thrilled to finally be able to fulfill my dream of being a member.

When did you first get fully involved and where? Immediately, in my Odon Chapter. My first station was Adah, then Martha, from there I was elected Associate Conductress,



Conductress, Associate Matron and then Worthy Matron. I even served one year as Organist, I play a mean recording of the music! I have served as Worthy Matron 13 times, with a pause to serve as Secretary for eight years. I currently hold the station of Associate Matron



Susie, age 4.

When and where did you serve as Worthy Matron? My first time as Worthy Matron was more than 25 years ago in Odon Chapter. During my first year as Worthy Matron my husband, Mike, asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I told him I wanted his petition to join Eastern Star. His answer was an immediate "NO." However, at my December meeting when I announced the order of business "Petitions for Membership and Degrees" and was preparing to rap the gavel, my Secretary informed me that we did have a petition and

she proceeded to read Mike's petition. To which was affixed a yellow sticky note which read "you owe Rex \$20." So basically, I paid for my own surprise Christmas gift.

What Grand officers have you held in Indiana? When and why did you decide to run for the Grand Line in Indiana? I was appointed District Deputy #2 in 1998, was appointed Grand Esther in 2000 and was elected as Associate Grand Conductress in 2001. I served as Grand Conductress in 2002, Associate Grand Matron in 2003 and was installed as Worthy Grand Matron in 2004.

In Indiana after you have served as a District Deputy, you may be invited to serve as a Grand Star Point. The Associate Grand Conductress is elected from the five serving Grand Star Points. So, when you accept the appointment as a Grand Star Point, you know that you are accepting to run for Associate Grand Conductress.

What year did you serve as Worthy Grand Matron? 2004-05

What were your theme and goals as you served as Worthy Grand Matron? Our Grand Family was called the "Footprints in Time" Grand Family. Our aim was "To inspire our membership to action, to inform others of our good works and to encourage friendship and fellowship for the good of our Order."

Our theme was "Time is a sacred gift, and each day is a little life."

What experience or experiences were your most memorable during your time as WGM? Without a doubt, getting to initiate our youngest son and his best friend (the son of my own District Deputy) into our Order at



Susie's Installation as Grand Esther.

my first Official Visit and the Grand Officers exemplifying the work. Also, I was so honored and privileged to present a 75 year pin to Indiana's Senior in Service Past Grand Matron, Sister Mildred Y. Smith, who served in 1944. I declared it "Mildred Y Day" in Indiana and what a huge turn-out we had to honor her. It still gives me goose bumps to think about it.

Have you served on a committee for the GGC and what were your goals? I am assuming this is meant to be Grand Chapter Committees. I have served my Indiana Grand Chapter on the Audit Committee, Phraseology, Fraternal Correspondence, Nettie Ransford Memorial Scholarship. I have also served five years as an elected Grand Trustee. I have served two three-year terms on Jurisprudence. This is my final year of my second term. I have served on the Session Arrangements and Accommodations as the Liaison to the Grand Trustees since 2018. I also established the Ritual Competition for Indiana Grand Chapter and served as the Chairman for the first five years.

Have you served as a GGCCM and what were your best memories? I was appointed by the late Sister Rennie Ofton to serve on her Credentials Committee for her Triennium Session in Fort Worth. There are actually two very special memories. The first was the phone call that I received from this person I did not know (Sister Rennie) asking me to serve on this committee. How could you say no to such a sweet lady. The second, was another phone call. Again from Sister Rennie, informing me that the Chairman of my committee was not going to be able to be at the Triennium, and asking me to take over as Chairman. This was just a few weeks before the session, but again...how can you say no to Sister Rennie. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience not only serving on this committee, but being the Chairman. Boy did I learn a lot that week!!! Sister Alma Lynn Bane was Right Worthy Grand Secretary and a wealth of knowledge. We became very good friends and continue to be today. Another wonderful friend I gained during that session was Brother David DeBrell, PGP of Texas. He was my liaison and support the entire time. A wonderful man and I was so sorry to hear of his passing.

What prompted your decision to run for Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress? As you may or may not remember, I initially



Susie and her family.

ran in Pittsburgh in 2015 and was unsuccessful. I was very accepting of the outcome because I knew if that was not what God had planned for me, there would always be work for me to do in Indiana. And that is what I did, continue working in my Jurisdiction. However, as I was leaving the convention center in Pittsburgh, this very sweet lady stopped me and told me she expected to see me out there and running again. Her words to me were "you get you a blue dress and you get back out there!" Sister Rennie had spoken. My husband Mike, also told me to try again. And then, came a couple of phone calls from out of state asking me to throw my hat into the ring for 2024. After talking it over with my husband, our son, and two very special Past Grand Matrons from Indiana, and remembering Sister Rennie's words, I realized it was time.

What are some highlights of your journey to the General Grand East? Well, I'm not "there" yet, but thus far it would have to be the many friendships I have been blessed with so far in my travels. Not only that, the many people who have offered to do "anything" I need them to, the wonderful words of encouragement. And, of course, hearing the Most Worthy Grand Patron announce the results of the election in Myrtle Beach and declaring me elected Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress.

What are your biggest goals for the next three years? These next three years are going to be very busy for me. I will be traveling and looking at people, making new acquaintanc-



Susie's 2005 Indiana Grand Family.

es...which I hope become friends. Hoping to learn absolutely everything I can over these three years to lay a strong foundation for the next three stations.

If realized, what would you like to see as your biggest accomplishment(s) of the upcoming triennium? Would survival be an appropriate answer? I fully recognize I have a lot to learn and I am asking questions of everyone ahead of me and those who have gone before. And, of course, I must make my selection of a Right Worthy Grand Sentinel.

PROFESSION: Please let us know a bit about your professional life. I retired in 2020 after 40 years of working for the Department of Defense. I was a Management Analyst and I managed annual multi-million dollar budgets for the Navy and the Army. I worked a brief stint for the Drug Enforcement Administration Western Regional Office in Seattle, Washington when my husband and I were first married and he was stationed there in the Navy.

I am a member of the Odon United Methodist Church, I am serving my second term on the Odon Town Council where I am currently Vice-President. I have served two times as President. I volunteer with the United Way Day of Caring, Wreaths Across America, American Red Cross, as well as being a former Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack 481, Frank Roberts Youth League, Past Secretary-Treasurer and Co-Director of League Tournaments and the North Daviess High School Football Parents, serving as Chairman for 10 years.

FAMILY: Please let us know a bit about your family. I was born in the house that I grew up in. I was the youngest of four. I have two brothers who are deceased and one sister who lives just a few blocks from me now.

I met my husband Mike while he was home on convalescent leave from the Navy. I was working with his Father at the time, and he set us up on a date. Mike and I had exactly THREE dates before he had to return to duty.

We continued to talk on the phone frequently after he left and one day he asked me to fly to Seattle, Washington and marry him. We were married June 7, 1974 and will be celebrating our 51st wedding anniversary this year. Mike is a veteran of the US Navy and retired from the Indiana Army National Guard after 17 years. He is a Past Master of Moore Lodge #303 F&AM and a member of Vincennes Lodge #1 F&AM. He is also a member of both Odon Chapter #341 and Washington Chapter #210 OES. He has served 21 times a Worthy Patron...the office he currently holds in both our Chapters.

When you first told Mike what your dream was, how did he react? He was absolutely all in. He was and continues to be my biggest fan, my cheerleader and my driver as well as my travel agent. He is wonderful to bounce ideas off of, and once in awhile he offers me some pretty great thoughts as well!!

Please list your children: We have three sons. Our oldest son, Nathan, is a graduate of Vincennes University and St. Joe University. He is a Physicians' Assistant (PC) with Orthopaedics NorthEast in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is married to Crystal Marie Wagler.

Our middle son, Chad, is a retired Master Gunnery Sergeant, USMC. He is a graduate of Vincennes University, University of Notre Dame, Western Kentucky University and Embry-Riddle FL/AZ. He is a Contracting Officer for Northrup-Grumman in the Aeronautical Division. He is married to Meredith Elaine Craney and they reside in Gainesville, Virginia.

Our youngest son, Sean is a graduate of Vincennes University and is a Surveyor for the Indiana Department of Transportation. He is a Past Master of Moore Lodge #303 F&AM and a member and Past Master of Summitt City Lodge #170 F&AM in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is married to Katrina Elizabeth Sennett, she has her Doctorate in Physical Therapy and they reside in Fort Wayne,

Indiana.

Grandchildren: We are blessed with six perfect grandchildren. Our oldest, Caleb Riley is a manager with Kroger and is getting married this May to his beautiful fiancé, Bella Witte. His brother, Carter Reece graduated from Purdue University with a degree in psychology and also was commissioned a 2nd LT in the USMC. He is currently stationed at Quantico, VA to complete his Officers' Training.

Our first granddaughter is Ashlynn Elizabeth and she will be finishing her first year at Ball State University in Muncie, IN in May of this year. Her brother, Haedon Easton, is currently a junior in high school in Virginia and is an avid ice hockey player.

Our youngest granddaughter, Calynn Vera, is a sixth grader in the honors program at Middleside Junior High. She is a budding artist. Her brother, Drew Michael is a 5th grader at Haverhill Elementary. He is all things sports!! But most especially baseball. He lives for it and plays all year round.

What are your family's thoughts on the installation? They have always, and continue to support me in all the many things I do.

Any inspirational thoughts that you'd like to share with the membership? I am borrowing this from Alberto Casting. "When you find yourself in the position to help someone be happy and feel blessed because God is answering that person's prayer through you. Remember our purpose on earth is not to get lost in the dark, but to be a light to others, so that they may find their way through us."

What goals or ideas would you like individual members, chapters or grand chapters to follow through with? I would encourage all our members to "love one another" and to think before we speak. Remember your obligation and encourage one another. We need to let our light shine so brightly that people cannot help but notice. You just never know when you might run across someone who needs our Order just as much as we need them. Live your life as a beacon to others.

Public Relations Committee hopes to promote visibility and status of Eastern Star worldwide

The Public Relations Committee has an extremely important role in the General Grand Chapter. According to Dr. Sabrina Pack, Chairman, its mission to strengthen the Order of the Eastern Star's visibility and status worldwide by promoting the mission, values, and charitable efforts of OES. She says the Committee is committed to assisting Chapters and Jurisdictions with media and marketing; image and brand management; community outreach and increased community standing.

The goals of the committee are numerous and include the following:

Media Relations and Marketing. Gather, organize and present creative content (photos, videos, stories) that showcase OES's service and fellowship activities, and use this content to develop articles, news coverage, and digital media aimed at promoting key events and projects for all Jurisdictions. This includes using a range of marketing methods such as social media, websites, newsletters, the Eastern Star Journal, and more, to strengthen our organization's message and broaden its reach. It is essential to increase modernization of our digital and printed materials to reflect our branding efforts and stay current with today's marketing trends. A dedicated effort should be made to convey to the Grand Chapters and the public the implementation of Service Dogs as our primary, identifying charity.

Image and Brand Management. Ensure a unified, positive and consistent presentation of our Order's core values, community contributions, and charitable activities. This includes providing clear guidelines to all Jurisdictions for the appropriate use of imagery, logos, and branding elements that easily communicates our image to members, prospective members, and the public.

Community Outreach and Engagement. Work together with local Chapters and Jurisdictions to develop marketing campaigns that highlight our Order's role in community service. Assist in organizing and promoting public events that showcase our Order's charitable work, reinforces our impact in the community and encourages further involvement in the community.

Crisis Management and Reputation Protection. Develop a clear management plan to address public concerns or negative issues associated with OES and its landmarks swiftly and effectively. Protect the Order's reputation by preserving trust and confidence in the organization by ensuring all public responses

Public Relations Committee

Goals:

Media Relations and Marketing
Image and Brand Management

Community Outreach and
Engagement

Crisis Management and
Reputation Protection

Partnership Across Committees
Professional Marketing Resources

Objectives

Assess Current Efforts

Develop a Strategic Plan

Implementation Support

Mid-Term Event

Brand Unification

Collaborative Promotion

agree with OES's values.

Partnership Across Committees. Work closely with other GGC Committees—such as the Website, Membership, Community Service, Service Dogs, Eastern Star Journal and other landmark and service committees—to align public relations and marketing efforts. This includes assisting the Membership Committee with outreach strategies; supporting the Community Service Committee in raising awareness of charitable projects; and coordinating promotional efforts to ensure consistent messaging across platforms.

Professional Marketing Resources. Should the opportunity arise, team up with professional marketing services to increase the effectiveness of public relations and marketing initiatives, ensuring that campaigns are strategic, targeted, and aligned with the Order's objectives.

Committee objectives include:

Assess Current Efforts. Evaluate the current state of public relations and marketing at both the GGC and Jurisdictional levels to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement and, with approval of the MWGM and MWGP, share this information

with the GGC and Jurisdictions.

Develop a Strategic Plan. Assist in creating a comprehensive public relations and marketing plan that outlines strategies for improvement of these activities across all Jurisdictions using increased brand building for expanded member recruitment and greater community engagement.

Implementation Support. Help execute the strategic plan by providing ongoing support and guidance to Chapters and Jurisdictions, assuring alignment with the overall objectives, creating success.

Mid-Term Event. Host a large-scale public relations and marketing event (either virtually or in person) to bring together members from around the world. This event will provide training, share best practices, and discuss strategies for strengthening our Order's visibility and impact.

Brand Unification. Work to unify branding and promotional efforts across Jurisdictions for the purpose of creating a consistent and recognizable image for our Order worldwide. This includes updating promotional materials such as the "Follow Our Star" brochure and other member recruitment tools and guidelines.

Serve as a Resource. Become a go-to resource of support for Chapters and Jurisdictions seeking assistance with public relations and marketing by offering expertise, guidelines, and support. This could include development of public relations materials to be shared with Jurisdictions.

Collaborative Promotion. Partner with other GGC committees and GGC leadership to ensure that all marketing and public relations efforts support the broader goals of the Order and the goals of leadership.

According to Sister Sabrina, the Public Relations Committee is charged with advancing the visibility, reputation, and relevance of the Order of the Eastern Star across the globe. Our work is multifaceted and ongoing. The committee meets regularly—at least monthly,



Sabrina Pack,
PGM-New Mexico
Chairman

and often more frequently—to plan, implement, and evaluate PR and marketing initiatives in alignment with our strategic goals.

One of the committee's primary current efforts have been focused on Objective 1: Assessing the current state of marketing and PR across our Jurisdictions worldwide. To do this, the committee contacted all Grand Secretaries and asked them to identify one or two individuals from their Jurisdiction who are actively engaged in efforts to grow membership, particularly through public relations or marketing activities. These individuals were then sent a more in-depth survey to share details about their initiatives, challenges, and successes.

The insights gathered have been analyzed and will be presented during an international Zoom event on April 5th, where we will come together to share best practices, address common concerns, and move forward in strengthening our collective outreach. This event represents not only the fulfillment of a key objective, but also our commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement.

In addition to this project, the committee is also working closely on the enhancement of key digital platforms, including EasternStar.org and OESTools.org, ensuring these sites reflect a modern, consistent, and welcoming image. It is also actively engaged in navigating public relations matters related to new membership standards—an area requiring thoughtful, transparent communication and unified messaging.

The duties of this committee are expansive and require a high level of dedication. Every member is contributing wholeheartedly, and in some cases, we've brought in additional support members to help manage the workload. Together, we are striving to ensure that the message and mission of our beloved Order are shared effectively, honorably, and inspiring with the world.

Member inquiries regarding promoting their own jurisdictions and chapters should be directed to chairman, Sabrina Pack, sabrina-pack@gmail.com.

Sister Sabrina, a Past Grand Matron of New Mexico, does not remember a time when Masonry was not part of her life. Nearly all of her family and extended family for as many generations as trackable have been or are Masons or members of appendant bodies. She started her personal journey in the Masonic Family as a Rainbow Girl. She was encouraged by her family to join Star when she became old enough. She was initiated into a small, country Chapter—Georgetown Chapter #4—in Mimbres, New Mexico, in 1992. Sister Sabrina says, "It is a place full of heart and his-

tory. Georgetown remains the last moonlight Chapter in New Mexico, meaning it meets on or before the full moon. This tradition began long ago when the members would travel by horse and buggy, using the moonlight to find their way. That same light continues to guide them today in fellowship and love."

Sabrina served as Worthy Grand Matron in New Mexico 2022-23. Her goals as Worthy Grand Matron were to bring members together in unity, with the vision of building a stronger, more connected future for our beloved Order—while cherishing the moments we have with one another right now.

Her theme was "Light Tomorrow with Today," inspired in part by the beautiful words of Mother Teresa: "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

She believed—and still believes—that what we do today, even in the smallest of ways, can have a lasting and meaningful impact on the world tomorrow. Every act of kindness, every spark of light, every hand extended in service creates a ripple that can transform lives, communities, and ultimately the future of our Order.

For over 20 years, Sister Sabrina has been with SkyWest Media, a full-service marketing firm and radio broadcast company serving clients across the United States.

She is also proud to share her passion for business as an adjunct professor at Western New Mexico University and formerly at New Mexico State University, where she has taught and continues to teach courses in marketing, economics, management, and research. She holds a Doctorate in Business Management with a specialization in Marketing.

Through both her professional life and her work within OES, she strives every day to lift up the message of our Order—to help members better understand the power of storytelling and marketing so that we may grow stronger, reach wider, and endure the challenges of the world around us.

Sister Sabrina says she is blessed beyond measure by the incredible support and legacy of her family, both biological and fraternal. Her mother, Sabra Humphrey, served as Worthy Grand Matron of New Mexico in 2006–2007. She is a gifted western artist whose paintings have raised thousands for OES charities through her generous donations.

Her daughter, Serina Pack, was Grand Worthy Advisor in New Mexico Rainbow in 2013–2014 and has served as a Grand Officer in OES. She's long been an integral part of their marketing efforts, lending her creative talents in graphic and website design to help

share the story of our Order.

She had the cherished honor of serving as Worthy Matron of her beloved Chapter first alongside her father, Robert Humphrey, and again with her husband, George "Dave" Pack.

Her Masonic family tree is deep and strong—more than 40 members of her extended family share Masonic ties. Among them, her uncle William Homer Young, Jr. served as Worthy Grand Patron in 1978–1979, and her cousin Lisa Wallin Lents served as Grand Worthy Advisor in 2004–2005. Even further back, her great-great aunt Mable Portwood Upton served as Worthy Grand Matron in 1914–1915, followed by her son Forrest Fielder, who served as Worthy Grand Patron in 1922–1923.

Sister Sabrina says that none of this would be complete without mentioning her son, Robert Pack, who quietly and wholeheartedly supports everything she does. She is very proud and grateful for her family's deep-rooted connection to the Order.

Sister Sabrina concluded by reminding us that the Order of the Eastern Star is more than a generational legacy. It is a lifelong bond, a heart connection, and a circle of support that extends beyond bloodlines.

She is blessed by the ties of family within OES—but even more so, she is blessed by you. Each Brother, each Sister she's met along the journey has become a part of her extended family.

The committee also includes:

Donna L. Masterson
PGM of Vermont



Alan Siirila
PGP of North Dakota



Merrill-Lee Warren
PGM of Utah



and **Carol W. Mushnick**, PGM of Massachusetts (*photo not available*).

Additional Assistants: Kurt Johnson, AGP of Minnesota; Debi Huffman, Grand Trustee New Mexico; Larry Sitter, PGP of North Dakota. A special thanks to Richard Naegele, and his committee and Randall Lively, Webmaster.



STRENGTHENING OUR STAR:

SECOND GGC OES MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP GROWTH ROUNDTABLE

If you are actively involved in Marketing Public Relations or Membership Growth for your Jurisdiction/Region or what to know more, please join us

The General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Public Relations Committee **invites you** to a collaborative Zoom discussion focused on marketing strategies, membership initiatives, and resource sharing.

Be part of the movement to help OES grow its membership and share its values with the world



TO REGISTER

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/21jFuRg2S1ysVOBo5Ynl3Q#/registration>

QUESTIONS:

SabrinaPack@skywestmedia.com

(Limited to 100 participants. Pre-register by June 15)
(Chair, GGC Public Relations Committee, PGM NM, Professional Marketer)

**LET'S GROW
TOGETHER – SHARING
EXPERTISE, STRENGTHENING
OUR ORDER!**

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS

- **Date:** Saturday, June 28, 2025
- **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM (MT)
- **Location:** Zoom
(Registration required)

WHAT TO EXPECT

GGC Marketing & PR Updates

- Learn about the latest efforts, including easternstar.org and oestools.org
- Learn about virtual training workshops on marketing
- Gain information on tools and resources available

Breakout Sessions

- Discuss specific challenges and successes with fellow OES marketing leaders
- Get inspired | Share ideas

Strategic Planning

- Help shape future initiatives & meetings

This is a **working session** where we will exchange ideas. A larger, open OES international meeting will be held in **Summer 2026**.

Marketing and membership roundtable held April 5

By Dr. Sabrina Pack, PGM-New Mexico
GGCCM-Public Relations Chairman

As Chairman of the GGC Public Relations Committee, I want to remind every member of the profound beauty and purpose behind the Order of the Eastern Star. We are more than just a fraternal organization. We are a beacon of service, a wellspring of fellowship, and a keeper of timeless values in a rapidly changing world.

Yet even the brightest star must be seen. We cannot assume the world knows who we are. We must show them—through our actions, our words, our stories, and our light.

The truth is, our Order faces undeniable challenges. From 2016 to 2024, our worldwide membership declined from over 350,000 to 220,000—a 37% decrease in less than a decade. If we do not engage meaningfully and intentionally, we risk not just losing members, but losing our legacy.

But I believe this with all my heart: we are not too late. The future is still unwritten, and the pen is in our hands.

Since the relaunch of our General Grand Chapter website in December, more than 600 people have reached out, expressing interest in joining or learning more. That is 600 sparks of hope—600 signs that when we raise our voices, people are indeed listening.

Public relations and marketing aren't just about websites and press releases. They are about making our light visible. They are about helping the world see the heart of Eastern Star through the lives we touch, the charities we uplift, and the communities we serve. Every smiling face in a photo, every story shared, every flyer posted, every thoughtful comment on social media—it all matters.

And we cannot do this alone.

On Saturday, April 5, 2025, we held a vibrant and heartfelt Marketing & Membership Growth Roundtable—a powerful gathering of over 40 engaged members from across the globe. I am filled with gratitude for each person who contributed to the success of this event, especially our distinguished attendees: Mike Berry, Most Worthy Grand Patron; Kelly O'Malley, Pro-tem Right Worthy Grand Secretary; Julie Birrer, Right Worthy Grand Trustee; Marianne Shenefelt, Past Most Worthy Grand Matron

Your presence and support brought not only insight—but inspiration.

Our discussions were energizing and solution-focused. We shared strategies, identified common challenges, and began building a blueprint for our next steps as we develop a comprehensive marketing plan to support



Jurisdictions around the world. A recording of the April event will soon be available, and I encourage those who couldn't attend to view it when released.

But this is only the beginning. Let's keep the momentum going.

Our next roundtable will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 4–6 PM (MT). This Zoom event is open to any OES member involved—or interested—in public relations, marketing, or membership growth. We will continue working together to develop resources, share tools, and strengthen outreach at the local, state, and international levels.

- Register at OESTools.org on the Marketing Meetings page to be part of this vital grassroots movement.

As we move forward, we encourage every member, Chapter, and Jurisdiction to become a storyteller for our beloved Order. The power of our message lies in authentic, heartfelt, visual storytelling—not just in tradition, but in transformation.

A posed photo in our gowns may be meaningful to us, but it may not speak to someone who doesn't yet know who we are. Instead, we must show the world what we do and why it matters:

Capture photos and videos of members volunteering, serving meals, delivering donations, or supporting local causes.

Share stories of how your Chapter is impacting your community, lifting others up, or changing lives.

Post these on your Chapter and Jurisdiction websites, social media pages, and submit them to the Eastern Star Journal.

- To learn how to submit to the Eastern Star Journal, visit the Members Section at easternstar.org.

This is how we build connection. This is how we shine.

The GGC PR Committee is actively developing resources to support your efforts, including:

Ongoing updates to easternstar.org and oestools.org to reflect modern design and messaging

A growing collection of tools, templates, and best practices for outreach

Upcoming workshops on topics like website design, social media strategy, and working with traditional media

We believe in collaboration. We believe in you. If you've created something that works—share it with us. If you need support—we're here to help.

Together, let's craft and share the story of who we truly are:

A global Order rooted in compassion, built on fellowship, and dedicated to service that matters.

Let us tell that story. Let us live that story. Let us share that light. -- Dr. Sabrina Pack, PGM NM

The Order of the Eastern Star is more than a generational legacy. It is a lifelong bond, a heart connection, and a circle of support that extends beyond bloodlines.

Yes, I'm blessed by the ties of family within OES—but even more so, I am blessed by you. Each Brother, each Sister I've met along the journey has become a part of my extended family. Together, we laugh, we serve, we remember, and we build.

Our future is not behind us—it is ahead. Let us cherish what we have and work together to make sure the next generation has the chance to know these beautiful bonds, to feel this purpose, and to create their own treasured memories in the Order of the Eastern Star.

Thank you for every step of the journey, for the joy, the service, and the light we've shared—and will continue to share—together.

A special thanks to Don Sultemeier, PGM NM, and Elisabeth Stowe, Membership & Marketing NM, for their assistance in the virtual Roundtable Marketing event held on April 5, 2025.

Join trip to Hawaii with MWGM and MWGP

By Brenda Stull, PGM-Kentucky
Ambassador to Hawaii

Plans are coming together for an exciting visit to the Hawaiian Islands with the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron! Now, it's your turn to let us know if you'll be joining the fun!

The tentative dates for this unforgettable journey are November 6 (or 7) through November 16, 2025. This trip offers a unique opportunity to visit several Hawaiian chapters, experience local hospitality, and witness the beauty of the islands. The planned chapter visits are as follows:

November 8 – Lei Aloha Chapter (Oahu)

November 10 – Hawaii Chapter (Hilo)

November 11 – Maui Chapter (Maui)

November 15 – Joint Inspections of Harmony & Mid-Pacific Chapters (Oahu)

Some travelers may choose to stay on Oahu for the duration of the trip, while others may wish to visit multiple islands.

Currently, round-trip airfare from various airports to Oahu is available for approximately \$800 or less. Additional flights between islands will be required for those traveling to Hilo and Maui.

We encourage everyone to book their own flights to Oahu based on their personal travel needs. However, for a small fee, a travel agent is available to assist with reservations.

For accommodations, we are currently

looking at hotels comparable to Embassy Suites on Oahu, estimated at \$200 per night. Negotiations for hotels on Hilo and Maui are in progress, with final pricing dependent on the number of travelers.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our Hawaiian chapters, experience the spirit of Aloha, and take in the breathtaking sights of Hawaii. Whether you're drawn to the stunning beaches, cultural excursions, or fellowship with fellow members, this trip promises to be unforgettable!

If you're interested in joining the group, please contact Brenda Stull, Ambassador to Hawaii, at bkayestull@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Nova Scotia sister celebrates 80 years in Eastern Star

Submitted by William F. (Bill) Clark, PGM
Grand Secretary - Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

A historic even took place the last day of January 2025.

Sister Irma Reeves was presented with her 80-year jewel, to my knowledge the First in the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Sister Irma joined what was then Cedar Chapter #3 under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter. Irma was 18 years old when she was initiated on May 4, 1944. The Worthy Matron at the time was her Mother, Sister Annie Langille. Her Father was not able to be there as he was serving our country, Canada, in World War 2.

A number of members of Cedar Atlantic #3 in Wallace, NS and members of her family went to her place of residence in East Cumberland Lodge in Pugwash, NS to make the presentation.

Sister Margie Allen presented the 80-year jewel



to Sister Irma, who is a young 98-year-old member. Brother Lloyd Brown, WP of Cedar Atlantic presenting our 80-year certificate to Sister Irma. Sister Marianne MacMillian presented Sister Irma with a bouquet of Flowers.

The WM, Sister Marion Durling, PGM, was unable to be there but sent a letter of congratulations to Irma. Sister Shirley Blair, did a little homework and revealed the ages of those attending the presentation at the time Sister Irma was initiated. Brother Lloyd was 11, Sister Margie was six, Sister Shirley was seven and Sister Marianne was not yet born. The gentleman in the picture wearing the plaid shirt in the photos, is Irma's nephew Jerry Langille.

Sister Irma was very pleased with the presentations.

Congratulation to Sister Irma and the members of Cedar Atlantic #3 for making this a great day for Sister Irma.





Pound and Yard Sale brings fun and funds to Massachusetts chapter

By Anne Violette

Bethlehem Chapter - Massachusetts

Bethlehem Chapter #24 in Massachusetts holds an annual Pound and Yard Sale fundraiser. Sisters and brothers bring an article relating to a pound or a yard; for example a pound of spaghetti, a hammer, a yard of ribbon, even a yard stick. Dan created a "yard stick"; he took a twig from our yard and put a tag on it saying "it's a stick and it came from my yard!" Its fun to be creative. One person acts as the auctioneer and sisters and brothers bid on the brightly wrapped packages. No one knows what is in the bag until someone wins it and looks inside.



Several years ago Dan and I visited Bethlehem Chapter and found ourselves having a great time. I successfully bid on a shiny bag and it contained a meat tenderizer mallet. When I was installed as a first time Worthy Matron in Stella Chapter, Dan jokingly presented it to me as my gavel, followed by presenting me with a very beautiful Lucite gavel.

This year's auction raised \$300 for the Sidney Smith Toy Fund which has been helping families celebrate Christmas since 1933. The Chapter has been holding this fun fundraiser for several years and has been written up in the local newspaper for their fun tradition.



Chapter brings warm wishes to 70-year member on a cold Vermont winter day

On an extremely cold winter day in Vermont, 9 members of Chittenden Chapter #59, and Temple Chapter #75, descended upon the home of Sister Sandra Lemnah to present her with a certificate for being a 70 year member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Sandra was a very active member of both of these chapters. She was a past member of the Drill team, along with her husband, Robert Lemnah, PGP. She was presented a certificate for 70 years of membership, from Sister Sue Mullen, Secretary of Temple Chapter, and a 70 year pin from Sister Ellie Carpenter, Worthy Matron of Chittenden Chapter. They spent the afternoon sharing many stories and laughs, along with some delicious strawberry cake, made by Sister Ellie. They all promised to return soon, for an afternoon of games, and fellowship.



Celebrate U.S.A. 250th Birthday with the Stars

By Kathy Newman, PGM-Rhode Island
GGCCM-Celebrations in DC Chairman

It seems impossible that it is already 2025! The members of the Celebrations in DC Committee have been working diligently to provide you with events to commemorate the United States' 250th birthday in July 2026, and the General Grand Chapter's 150th anniversary in November 2026, two historical and extremely important times in our history. We are excited as we get closer to our celebrations in 2026. The goal of this Committee is to provide our members and their families and friends ways to enjoy, celebrate, and remember such milestones.

To recognize our nation's 250th birthday, a black tie event is scheduled for July 3, 2026 at the International Headquarters in Washington, DC. The night will be filled with delicious food, drinks, an auction, and amazing music. It will be a very special night. The cost is \$500.00 per person. This is open to all, but it is limited to a maximum of 200 people. All proceeds will benefit the Perry Belmont House Foundation, a portion of which is tax deductible to the purchaser. For your convenience, we have reserved 40 hotel rooms at the Dupont Circle Hotel—very near the Headquarters. A flyer accompanies this letter to assist you in making your hotel reservations. Please be cognizant of the number of rooms available and appropriate deadlines for said hotel. Reservation information to attend the actual event will be coming to you no later than late summer, early fall.

More information on the November 13-15, 2026 event will be forthcoming closer to that date. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to me or any committee member. Contact information for the committee members is listed in the 2024-2027 Who's Who book, is below. Hope to see many of you in attendance.

United States 250th Birthday Celebration

July 3, 2026

Hotel Reservation Information

The Dupont Circle Hotel
1500 New Hampshire Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Rooms have been blocked for this special event.
Reservations can be made beginning
July 1, 2025.

DEADLINE to make a reservation is June 11, 2026. Please call 202-483-6000 and reference
"Order of the Eastern Star July 2026 Room Block."

Don't delay as only 40 rooms are reserved!

Room rates are \$229 (plus any applicable fees and taxes) for single & double occupancy. These rates are only good for July 2 - 5, 2026.

Valet parking is \$55 per night.



Phoenix Masonic Temple 100th anniversary brings out many AZ OES leader

The Phoenix Masonic Temple celebrated its 100th birthday year on February 8, 2025. The festive event was highlighted by the Re-Dedication of the Cornerstone Ceremony led by Michael A. Dale-Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

Sister Billie Bradfield, Most Worthy Grand Matron and widow of Past Grand Master, Brother Bob Bradfield was present for the ceremony. Arizona Eastern Star was well represented at the Ceremony with Sister Candace Leininger-WGM, Brother Douglas Steele-WGP, Sister Billie Bradfield-MWGM, several PGMs and PGPs and current Grand Officers in attendance. Queen Esther #22 had several members present, including Alicia DeLa Cruz-WM and Rady DeLa Cruz, WP. Queen Esther has met at the Downtown Temple since it opened.



(Above) Group shot of the cornerstone rededication at Phoenix Masonic Temple. Our MWGM Billie really is in the picture somewhere!



Arizona's Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron (center of photo), along with other Arizona Grand Chapter officers and members were present at the Cornerstone rededication at the Masonic Temple in Phoenix.

Alzheimer's Committee strives to assist in raising funds for research and to educate members on this debilitating disease

By Judy Covey, PGM-Florida

GGCCM-Eastern Star Journal Committee

The Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron have encouraged the Alzheimer's Committee to reach as many members as possible, to work hard and encourage our membership to participate.

The mission of the Alzheimer's Committee during the 2024-2027 triennium is to inform all the members of the Order of the Eastern Star of the need to educate and help those with this dreaded disease. Our organization has not only many of our members suffering from Alzheimer's, but our family, friends and other loved ones. Our assistance is very much needed.

The Alzheimer's Committee will raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association. The committee will also assist caregivers to take care of themselves and learn how to get the assistance available to them. The committee is currently asking chapters in every jurisdiction to donate \$1 per year for each member (a total of \$3 per member for the entire Triennium).

The committee is also suggests events such a birthday party for someone who forgets their own birthday and donate a monetary birthday gift in that person's honor. Other ideas are a luncheon, selling pins, having a speaker on Alzheimer's. These functions would be, not only a fundraiser for this fund, but a good way to let the public, family and friends know the good work that Eastern Star is performing.

The Chairman of the Alzheimer's Committee is Ellen Glass, a Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Georgia. Sister Ellen first learned about the Masonic family organizations when she was a teenager and saw ladies going into her father's Masonic Lodge in beautiful formals. Since she loved to dress up, she inquired as to what they were doing. In 1997, she joined Blakely Chapter No. 282 in Blakely, Georgia. She earned her gold proficiency card prior to serving as Worthy Matron of her Blakely Chapter. She went on to serve as Worthy Grand Matron at the 2008-2009 "Colors of Love" session.

As Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Ellen encourages members to do their "home-

Alzheimer's Committee



Ellen Glass,
PGM-Georgia
Chairman

work" – study the Ritual - enjoy Eastern Star meetings – enjoy the fellowship that manifested in those gatherings. While her experiences as Worthy Grand Matron were varied and many, she says that her Worthy

Grand Patron and her Grand Family were wonderfully supportive and went the extra mile. She was honored to have 25 members of her Grand Family make all of the official visits for her year.

Sister Ellen lost her very supportive and loving husband, Joe, in 2015 after 53 years of marriage. Ellen and Joe were blessed with a daughter and a son. The family has now extended to in-laws, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sister Ellen was a cosmetologist for 50 years. She says that she lives in a small southwestern Georgia town where family is very important. This is where people help one another. Her children were blessed to have the support of so many in her community as well as her Eastern Star members. Eastern Star taught Sister Ellen the true meaning of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Sister Ellen wanted everyone to know that she has made life-long friends through her Eastern Star travels, people she would never have met otherwise. She invites others to travel with her and to visit subordinate chapters, Grand Chapters, General Grand Chapter and otherwise promote our beautiful order.

Sister Ellen reports that she is fortunate and blessed to have committee members that are so knowledgeable and excited about doing a good job and who are working together to become better Eastern Star members.

Alzheimer's Committee Members



Jane M. Blackwood, PGM-Wisconsin. Sister Jane served as Worthy Grand Matron during the 2014-2015 Grand Chapter of Wisconsin year.

Jeannie Brown, PGM-Montana. Sister Jeannie is a Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Montana.



Deb Buxton PGM-Alberta.

Sister Deb has been married to Tom for 47 years. They have a daughter and three grandchildren. Tom and Deb met on a blind date in 1975. Sister Deb says that they love to cruise and have been on more than 50 cruises, totaling almost 700 cruise days, since their first cruise in 2001. Sister Deb and Tom are looking forward to joining the MWGM & MWGP on their cruise to Aruba, and Aruba's Official Visit in 2026.

Sister Deb is retired now, but worked in IT with AGT/Telus in Edmonton and Calgary from 1977 through 2006 and Devon Energy in Calgary from 2008 through 2014.

Sister Deb joined Edith Cavell Chapter No. 25 in Calgary in April 2000. She served as Worthy Matron in 2006, Elected Member of the Board (AB 2008-2010), Grand Representative of Arizona in Alberta 2012-2014. Elected Associate Grand Conductress in 2014 serving as Worthy Grand Matron in 2017-2018 for the "Believe" Session. She has also served as Grand Lecturer British Columbia & Yukon 2024-2025.

Currently, Sister Deb belongs to 3 chapters: Edith Cavell Chapter No. 25 Calgary, Alberta; Sunset Chapter No. 44, Duncan, British Columbia; and Sebastian Chapter No. 204, Sebastian, Florida.

As a member of the Alzheimer's Committee for General Grand Chapter, she has already given a short PSA/education on Alzheimer's risks at chapter meetings in FL and BC/Y, given 2 Alzheimer's education sessions at her complex in FL, and put an article in the AB newsletter.

Alzheimer's Committee, continued



Arthur Bruce Condle
"Bruce," PGP-Ontario. Brother Bruce served as Worthy Grand Patron in the 2021-2022 Session, the "Wonders of Winter" year of Ontario.

**Shirley Day, PGM-Col-
orado.** Sister Shirley served as Worthy Grand Matron in the 2017-2018 year of the Grand Chapter of Colorado.



Cheryl Ann Fournier
**"Cher," PGM-Massa-
chusetts.** Sister Cheryl is a Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts.

Glenn R. Hanna,
PGP-Tennessee. Brother Glenn is a Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee.



Sherri Hodges,
PGM-Arkansas. Sister Sherri served as Worthy Grand Matron during the 2019-2021 years of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas.

Sharon Jazwiecki,
PGM-California. Sister Sharon is a Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of California.



Jeanne Jennings.
PGM-Idaho. Sister Jeanne is a Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Idaho.

Anita Jo Johnson
PGM-Oklahoma. Sister Anita presided as Worthy Grand Matron over the "Circling the Wagons in God's County" session of Oklahoma in 2022.



Madge E. Jones
PGM-Maryland. Sister Madge served as Worthy Grand Matron in the 2017-2018 year of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

Nelson E. Lugo, PGP-Puerto Rico. Brother Nelson is a Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Puerto Rico.

**Darrell A. Mann PGP-
New Brunswick.** Brother Darrell is a Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of New Brunswick.



William E. Murphy
"Bill," PGP-Ohio. Brother Bill is a Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

**Sue Paugh, PGM-British
Columbia/Yukon.** Sister Sue is a Past Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon. She served as Worthy Grand Matron for two years during the COVID pandemic.



She has been married to her husband, Doug, for 54 years. They have two grown children, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Sister Sue has been a member of Eastern Star for almost 30 years. Sister Sue has also served twice as Queen for Daughters of the Nile.

Sister Sue and her husband do homestay for international students. In her free time, Sister Sue loves to bank.



Janet Schmidt,
PGM-Illinois. Sister Janet served as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Illinois in 2018.

Bret W. Shifflett,
PGP-Virginia. Brother Bret is retired Maintenance Controls Technician for Merck & Co., Elkton Virginia.



Brother Bret has been married to his wife, Sister Vickie Shifflett, Past Matron, for 41 years. They live on a farm in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and are members of Milnes Chapter No.3 in the town of Shenandoah. They have two sons, Christopher and Michael, a daughter-in-law, Adrienne, and two precious grandsons, Bodie and Emmett. They enjoy traveling in their RV with their two Mini-Schnauzers, Lea and Mia.

Brother Bret served as Worthy Grand Patron for the Grand Chapter of Virginia in 2022-2023 with his Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Laura Babbitt, GGCCM, and is honored to serve on this committee.



Linda E. Watson,
PGM-Pennsylvania. Sister Linda is a 33-year member of Hershey Chapter in Hershey, PA, where she was born and raised. Sister Linda and her daughter

joined Eastern Star together, and since Sister Linda's mother was already an Eastern Star member, the chapter had three generations of the family.

While she served as Grand Electa in 2008, her Grand Family initiated her husband, who is now a Past Patron of his primary chapter, and currently serves as Worthy Patron of his plural chapter. Linda and her husband have five children, one grandson and five granddaughters.

Sister Linda served as Worthy Grand Matron of Pennsylvania in 2021-2022.

After 35 years, Linda retired as an Administrative Secretary from General Pediatrics in the Penn State University College of Medicine in Hershey. She says that currently her main focus is her Eastern Star General Grand Chapter and Pennsylvania Grand Chapter duties, her church obligations, and singing in her community chorus.

Linda is so honored that Sister Billie asked her to be on this committee – Linda's father also passed with Alzheimer's.

Madeline R. Weidner,
PGM-Quebec. Growing up, Sister Madeline was the older sister to three brothers. Her parents, Brian and Ruth Yourdon,



took an active role in her education as well as her church life. Currently her husband, Robert and she attend the local Wesleyan Church and are blessed that they understand the importance of their Eastern Star commitments. Their family consists of four sons, one daughter, four grandchildren and two adoring cats.

Sister Madeline's Eastern Star journey began over 26 years ago. A family friend was asked to become a member and she did not want to join by herself so she asked if Sister Madeline was interested. She had the honor of serving as a first time Worthy Matron in 2002 and was installed as Worthy Grand Matron of Québec in 2022.

Before Sister Madeline began her career within the New York State Supreme & County Court, she worked at the Center for Neurobehavioral Health for the SUNY Research Foundation. With funding through the Department of Health the Foundation was awarded a \$7.5 million grant for the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Initiative. As a fiscal intermediary she worked closely with the staff at the Alzheimer's Association and the Foundation was collaborating partners for

many events. It was extremely rewarding for her to assist families in receiving much needed support and services, all at no charge. Sister Madeline considers it both a great privilege and a great responsibility to be a GGCCM for Alzheimer's. Supporting the Alzheimer's Association is vital because it is a leading organization dedicated to ending Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. She hope to share the message that O.E.S. CARES (Committed to Alzheimer's Research, Education and Support).

Darlene Wiggins, PGM-Washington. Sister Darlene served as Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Washington during 2021.



Michelle Wise "Mickey," PGM-Florida. Mickey was born in Orange Park, Florida, to Jim and Charlotte Moore, the third of four children. A close

family unit Mickey's family enjoyed the Florida lifestyle, including camping, boating and football, but most of all Masonic activities. She still enjoy all these activities today, especially Star Life.

Mickey is a majority member of both the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters International. She was initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star in April 1976, just after her eighteenth birthday. She is a Past Matron of Bellaire No. 1021 in Houston, Texas, and DeSoto No. 201 in Riverview, Florida. Mickey had the honor of serving as Grand Adah in the Mock/Hargrove Grand Family 2011-2012 and Worthy Grand Matron 2021-2022, presiding at the "On the Wings of Hope" session of Florida Grand Chapter in April, 2022.

Mickey thanks Sister Billie Bradfield, MWGM, and Brother Michael Berry, MWGP, for selecting her to serve as a member of the Alzheimer's Committee. As a caregiver of an Alzheimer's patient, she has first-hand knowledge of the impact this disease and how important research, innovation and information are to the patients and their families living with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Dementia.

Generations and Job's Daughters are ties that bind in Idaho



On January 25 at the Official Visit at Rob Morris, we had the honor to initiate Mary Lynne (Pete) Nealis' granddaughter. She makes the 4th generation being initiated in Rob Morris Chapter #63 Kuna, Idaho. Dana's great grandmother was also a member of Rob Morris and served as Secretary for the chapter for many years. In the picture below is Pete Nealis (grandmother), Angie Nealis(mom), Dana Chambers, and Teri Nealis(aunt). Dana is Miss Idaho Job's Daughter. It is noteworthy to point out that Dana and her mom, Angie were both Miss Idaho Job's Daughter at their initiations into Rob Morris, many years apart. Dana's Aunt Teri is also a Past Miss Idaho Job's Daughter.



The same day we also initiated Morgan Case (above) who is the 2nd generation as her mom(Nikki) was the 1st generation to join after being an active Job's Daughter. It is so great to have so many active Job's Daughters!!

Meet our leaders ...

Right Worthy Grand Sentinel Brother Mike Cornell, PGP-California

Brother Mike Cornell, Right Worthy Grand Sentinel, and Past Grand Patron of California shares a bit about himself in this interview.

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

I remember being involved with Masonic organizations at a very young age, because my Grandparents were members of the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows. My father and mother were also involved with the Masons and Eastern Star at about the same time. I can remember going to the third floor of one of the older buildings where the Masons met, when my father was an officer.

What was your family Masonic history?

I know that my Great Grandmother was a member of the Eastern Star in Reinbeck, IA. I don't know of any other family members in Iowa that were members. My maternal

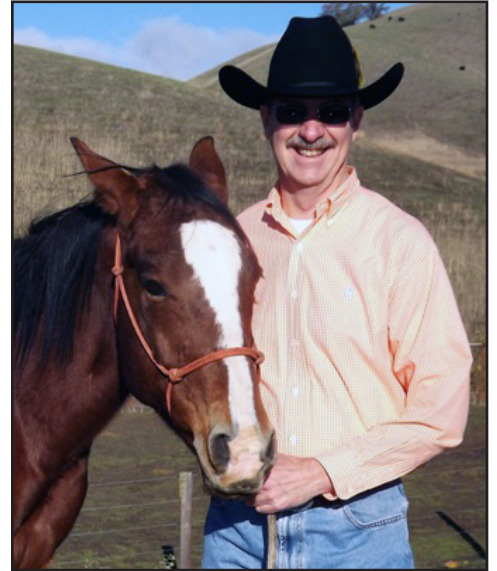
Grandparents were Eastern Star members as was my mother. My mother and Grandmother were both Past Matrons

I know you were State Rainbow Dad of California several years ago. How did your involvement in Rainbow begin? I met Norma after I became a member in California. After we were married and she joined my Eastern Star Chapter, she became friends with members that were active in Clayton Valley Assembly. She eventually became an active member of the Board for the Assembly. At that time, both the husband and the wife could not be members of the Board at the same time, so I helped her with her activities and attended the meetings.

Who inspired you to become a Mason and when did you join? I had many Masons that played a large role in my life while I was growing up. My Scout Master was a Past Master of the Lodge. He gave me a Petition six years before I finally joined. I had other things happening in my life at the time and was not ready to become a Mason.

Who inspired you to join Eastern Star?

My older sister is the one who inspired me to become a member of Eastern Star. She had just been installed as the Conductress of her Chapter. She approached me a little later and asked me to be her Associate Patron. I thought about it for a while and then told her that I would do it for her. Of course, that meant that I first had to become a Mason. I petitioned my local Lodge and was made an Entered Apprentice in June of 1982. I took my time and eventually



Brother Mike Cornell, RWGS

was passed to a Fellowcraft and then raised to a Master Mason a few days later in September. Two weeks later, my petition was read at the Chapter meeting; two weeks later I was voted on; two weeks later I was Initiated into the Chapter; two weeks later I ran for the Office of Associate Patron; and two weeks later, I was Installed as the Associate Patron.

When and into what chapter and jurisdiction were you initiated? I was Initiated into Golden Star Chapter in Genoa, Illinois in October, 1982. This Chapter consolidated with Dustin Chapter in DeKalb, IL in the late 90's. I am still a member of Dustin Chapter.

Did you and Norma join together, or was she already a member when you joined? Norma grew up in Denver, CO. She really did not know anything about the Masons until she was transferred to California and became friends with a Masonic family. I met her at a Masonic dance. A few months later, we got married in June and she joined Eastern Star in August 1984.

Do you have any particular memories about your initiation? Yes, I do. I remember that Sister Esther was very short and she had to look up at me during her speech about Queen Esther. She commented after the Initiation about how tall I was compared to her. We all had a good laugh.

When did you first get fully involved and where? I actually got involved in Golden Star



Sister Norma and Brother Mike.

Chapter in Genoa, IL. I was installed as the Associate Patron, but only served 6 months, because I got a job in California and moved in early 1983.

When and where did you serve as Worthy Patron? The first time I served as Worthy Patron was in Clayton Valley Chapter in Concord, CA, in 1987. I have served as Worthy Patron in this Chapter which is now Concord Chapter several times.

Do you still serve your chapter in any capacity? Yes, I am currently the Associate Patron of Concord Chapter.

You were Grand Sentinel for Eastern Star in California which is an appointed position. When and Why did you decide to run for the Grand Line? The system in California is different than most states. The current Grand Conductress decides who she wants to run with her. She approaches that couple and then they decide if they want to run for the Associate Grand Patron. He always runs unopposed.

What year did you serve as Worthy Grand Patron? I served as Worthy Grand Patron in 2006.

What were your goals as you served as Worthy Grand Patron? Our goals for that year were to support the Scottish Rite language clinics; to grow the membership in California; and to work closer with the Grand Lodge of California.



Aldo is the 13th Service Dog Mike and Norma have helped train.

What experience or experiences were your most memorable during your time as WGP? I was fortunate to Institute the first new Chapter in California in 25 years.

What prompted you to serve Eastern Star on a higher level (as RWGSentinel)? I really had no idea that I would ever seek an elected office in the General Grand Chapter. Until 2022 at our Grand Chapter session, when I was approached by Sister Barbara Ann

Holmes. She caught me at the end of our morning session and asked to speak to me. I assumed that she might be asking me to serve on some committee. I was a little surprised, when she asked me if I would be interested in running for the office of Right Worthy Grand Sentinel. I asked her one question in return. She responded with an answer. Once I heard her response, I said that I would think about it and let her know my answer. I discussed this over lunch with my two Normas (my wife and PGM Norma Stilwell) and also some other PGMs. After some thoughtful conversations, I let Sister Barbara know that I would be willing to serve as the RWG Sentinel. A couple of weeks later, she called me and told me that she had vetted several other

gentlemen and had decided that she wanted me to submit my name for the office of RWG Sentinel.

Please list the committee(s) you served on in the General Grand Chapter: I was Chairman of the Regenerative Medicine Committee in 2015-2018 and the Ambassador to the United Grand Chapter of Australia in 2018-2021.

What are your biggest goals for the next three years? To attend as many events as I possibly can to meet the members of the Eastern Star; to hear their concerns and successes; and also to hear what changes they might feel would help reinvigorate our Order.

If realized, what would you like to see as your biggest accomplishment(s) when you are MWGP? To see our membership continue to grow outside of the United States and also see the membership in North America begin to stabilize and gain members

You have worked extensively with Service Dogs, please tell us a bit about that: In 2019, the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron adopted Dogs4Diabetes as one of their state projects. The facility is about 15 minutes from our home, so we decided to help the organization. We went through their training to become Certified Training Partners. We got our first dog in October of 2020. These dogs are being trained to be placed with a Type 1 Diabetic. They are able to detect low sugar about 20 minutes before the patch. We now have our 13th dog, Aldo, that we have fostered over the last five years. We hope to continue to do this for a few more years before our schedules get too hectic.

Please let us know about your education: Northern Illinois University with a B.S degree in Chemistry.

Please let us know about your professional life: I served in the U.S. Army for three years in the Chemical Corps. Most of those three years was spent working in Health Physics/Radiation Protection. I spent eight years at Amersham/Searle Corporation in Arlington Heights, Illinois preparing Liquid Scintillation Standards. I then moved to California to work for the U.S. Navy at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard for eight years as a Radiation Control Technician/Supervisor. Once the Shipyard closed, I was hired by the U.S. Department of Energy. I worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory overseeing the Radiation Protection Program for 10 years. After 9/11, I transitioned to managing the Radiological Assistance Program for the last 10 years of my career. I retired in 2011.

Please let us know a bit about your family: I had an older Sister who passed away in Eastern Star Journal | May 2025 | 27



Baby Mike with his sister.

2023. I also had a younger Brother and Sister who were adopted. My brother died in 1983. My younger sister has retired and lives in Janesville, WI. Norma is my wife and we have been married 40 years.

What are Sister Norma's thoughts on your desire to serve Eastern Star at this level? Norma fully supports me in serving at this level of the Eastern Star.

Do you have inspirational thoughts that you'd like to share with the membership? These are two of my favorite quotes that have inspired me. "Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." — Jack Welch "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." — John Quincy Adams

Jack Welch was the CEO of General Electric.

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

For individual members – get involved with your Chapter. Serve as an Officer and if you do not want to do that help in other ways. You will only get out what you put in.

Chapters – get involved in your community. Let the community know who we are and what we stand for.

Grand Chapters – Adopt programs in your states that will inspire the chapters to take action and get involved in growing our Order again.



Mike and Norma welcome visitors from Australia.



Generations celebrate at Quad-State in Nevada

At the Quad State event with Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming in Reno, NV March 21-23, generations were celebrated as there were two groups of three generations present from Idaho.



From left to right is, Grandmother Hazel Sutton GGCCM, PGM, mother Keri James Grand Guardian Job's Daughter, and Elizabeth James, Honored Queen Bethel #47 Idaho Falls.

Next is Nicole Campbell, Honored Queen Bethel #8 Caldwell, ID, mom Kim Campbell, Grand Esther, grandmother Michelle Smith. We are so happy to have both active Job's Daughters active in Eastern Star as well! We also had the honor of having our MWGM Billie present with us as Mary Poppins!

In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Culbertson Worthy Grand Patron of Montana

The Stars above are shining brighter as they have gained our beloved Worthy Grand Patron Brother Robert "Bob" Culbertson who left us on January 16, 2025. Bob passed away surrounded by his family to join his Lord who he so dearly loved. He fought a hard battle to try and stay with us all year, but it was not meant to be, God has a greater purpose and called him home.

Bob chose this scripture Philippians 4.8 – "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things."

It is in Bob's name we praise now, for he will truly be missed not only by his family, but all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Robert was born in Bellevue, Ohio on October 19, 1954, to Carl and Jean Culbertson, he was the youngest of three children. Bob's father was a civil engineer and worked on freeway construction, so the family moved a lot, thirteen times by his 12th birthday. The family lived in several places in Ohio, Nebraska, New York, and finally ended up in California. Although Bob enjoyed every place he lived, Montana was the first state he chose to live in. His

work took him to live in Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula at various times and he enjoyed them all.

Bob met his wife of 40 years Catherine (Cathy) Lauwers at church. They welcomed to their union two sons, Joshua of Billings and David of Broadway, North Carolina.

Bob and his wife Cathy have been very involved with their church and the Masonic organizations. Both Bob's and Cathy's families were active in Easter Star so belonging to this organization was a natural fit. In 2009 Bob was initiated into Billings Lodge No. 113, and in 2011 into Billings Friendship Chapter No. 124. He served in the chapter as Warder, Chaplain, Marshal, Associate and Worthy Patron (both 3 times) and was currently serving as Associate Patron for his 4th time. Bob served as Grand Chaplain in 2019-2020, and was elected as Associate Grand Patron in 2023 and was currently serving as Montana's Worthy Grand Patron in this "Gazing at Stars" year.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Architecture from MSU in 1981 getting his first job in Billings. He then became involved with the Presbyterian Church, teaching Sunday School and children's Bible study plus a variety of adult Sunday School and Bible Study classes over the years. He served on



the Yellowstone Presbytery Higher Education Committee for seven years, and the last three as Chairman. Bob was elected to the MSU Billings United Campus Ministries Board of Directors where he was an active member the last 14 years and was the President the last 8 years. Bob also served as a volunteer for Eagle Mount in Billings, an organization to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. He served this group in various positions over the years. Eagle Mount was very special to Bob, that is why he selected it as his special project this year.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife Cathy, sons Joshua (Katie Sutton) and David (Madison) and two grandchildren Edward and MacKenzie, sister Paula (Bob) Yost of Florida and brother James of Virginia.



New Hampshire Star, Shrine square off in membership challenge

For the second year in a row, the Potentate of the Bektash Shrine in Concord NH challenged the Worthy Grand Patron of NH Eastern Star to see who could get more members to attend the Valentine's Ball.

It was agreed that the loser would join the other's organization. Last year, the Eastern Star won, but both men joined the other's organization.

This year the Potentate Even McIntosh of the Shrine won by one member. At this time, it is unknown when Worthy Grand Patron Wil Nemchick's initiation will be scheduled.



Italy chapters celebrate rebirth at gathering in Pisa

By Rosy Gustafiero, PGM-Italy

GGCCM – Eastern Star Journal
Deputy of the MWGM in Italy

Our beloved MWGM, Sister Billie Bradfield, and MWGP, Brother Mike Berry, on November 5, 2024, sent a letter to all Italian members to officially confirm the return of the subordinate chapters under the General Grand Chapter.

At the same time, they announced the appointment of Sister Rosalba Maneri and Sister Rosy Guastafierro as Deputies of the Most Worthy Grand Matron and Brother Giuseppe Labita as Deputy of the Most Worthy Grand Patron.

From that moment, with tireless dedication, the three Deputies began working to support all the members who, with loyalty and a sense of belonging, chose to follow the new directives and return under the GGC's jurisdiction.

These past months have been a period of intense work, faced with determination and hope, supported by the invaluable advice of the MWGM and MWGP, the constant commitment of Sister Kelly L. O'Malley, Right Worthy Grand Secretary pro tem, and the collaboration of Sister Laura Babbitt.

Thanks to this collective effort, the reconstruction is progressing successfully and satisfactorily.

To celebrate and strengthen this rebirth, on February 22 and 23, a memorable gathering took place in the splendid setting of Pisa, Italy, at the Hotel Duomo. A large representation of members from the subordinate chapters under the GGC came together in a climate of renewed brotherhood.

On Saturday afternoon, the administrative meeting opened with an emotional online connection with the MWGM and MWGP, who expressed their enthusiasm and full support for this revival, announcing the names of the reactivated chapters. Immediately afterward, the three Deputies answered the attendees' questions with clarity and passion.

The evening concluded in a magical atmosphere with a splendid rooftop dinner, where the members, united by a deep sense of brotherhood, held hands, forming a single, unbreakable chain of love.

The following day, with solemnity and great participation, the installation of the officers of Kinzica Chapter #28 took place, marking another significant step in this journey of rebirth and strengthening of our wonderful family, toward a brighter future.



Jurisprudence Committee acts in advisory capacity on questions related to GGC constitution, law and regulations for MWGM/MWGP

By Donna Parrish, PGM-AZ
GGCCM-Eastern Star Journal Chairman

The Jurisprudence Committee of the General Grand Chapter acts in an advisory capacity to the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Most Worthy Grand Patron, and other officers and the General Grand Chapter on all matters pertaining to, or referred to it, involving questions relating to the Constitution, Law and Regulations or regarding Eastern Star law and practice.

Brother Perry Casazza, PGP of Arizona, and an attorney in Arizona has been chosen to lead this committee for this triennium. He said, "Our primary duties are to review, research, and answer all questions of Eastern Star law, custom, and usage that are posed to us during our term. We may also be asked at times to provide our perspective on an issue that our Most Worthy Grand Matron and the General Grand Chapter may be grappling with."

His goal for the committee is to respond to all questions posed to us in a timely and intelligent manner, and to fulfill the Committee's duties as set forth in the Red Book.

Brother Perry said that the committee looks to see if proposed legislation is worded in such a way that it will actually put into effect what the proponents want the legislation to do. We also look to see if proposed legislation is thorough, i.e., that it addresses every relevant section in the Red Book. As to our duties at the triennial session, we are to work with the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Most Worthy Grand Patron, and Parliamentarian to ensure that proposed legislation is presented to the floor effectively, any confusion about a particular piece of proposed legislation is eliminated before we vote, and discussion and voting occur in accordance with our session rules and the rules of parliamentary procedure.

Brother Perry said that Brother Mike Berry, MWGP, is a former Chairman of Jurisprudence himself. He is also a living, breathing encyclopedia of Eastern Star knowledge, so there's very little that he does not know about the history of Eastern Star and how General Grand Chapter has functioned over the past several decades. Therefore, when Sister Billie and Brother Mike present a question to the committee, they already know what the "standard answer" to the question is, and they are looking for any differing perspectives that could exist based upon the language of the

Jurisprudence Committee

"There is a saying that I learned during my years in DeMolay that always helps me maintain perspective on both Eastern Star and life in general – If you're not having fun, then why are you doing it?"

—Perry Casazza

Jurisprudence Chairman

Red Book, and what interpretation makes the most sense to us today.

According to Brother Perry, any questions that the committee receives from the membership, Jurisprudence does not speak for General Grand Chapter or for our elected leaders, and it does not dictate what can or cannot be done—the committee is an advisory council whose job it is to help make sense of what is required by the Ritual and the Red Book. Therefore, Sister Billie and Brother Mike have instructed the committee that it is to quickly acknowledge receipt of any questions, research them, draft a proposed response with its analysis, and present the proposed response to Billie and Mike for their review and consideration.

Brother Perry first heard about the Freemasons when he was 12 years old. At that time his grandfather sat him down at his kitchen table and taught him how to play cribbage because, as he told Perry, "All good Masons know how to play cribbage."

Perry, a former State Master Councilor of DeMolay in Iowa said, "I first heard the word 'DeMolay' from my mother. After we moved from Alabama to Burlington, Iowa in the mid-80s, she inquired as to whether a DeMolay Chapter existed. As it turns out, a young man who was in my youth group at church was a member of the local DeMolay Chapter, and he was the first-line signer on my petition."

Even though his grandfather talked Masonry when Perry was growing up, the real inspiration for him joining the Lodge was his DeMolay Chapter Dad, Rod Cary. Perry said that Dad Cary was a truly decent man, and he was the Master of the Lodge when Perry was initiated, passed, and raised. Perry was raised in Malta Lodge #318 in Burlington, Iowa

in May of 1992 and currently belongs to Wayfarers Lodge #50 in Phoenix, Arizona.

When asked what inspired him to join Eastern Star, Perry said, "Funny story, I joined Eastern Star kind of on a dare. When I was State Master Councilor in 1993, a nice lady named Sandy and I

worked at the same grocery store in Ames, Iowa. She asked me to join Eastern Star numerous times, and I really had no interest in it—so to stop her from asking I told her that I would join if the Worthy Grand Matron personally asked me to. When I spoke in my role as SMC at the Thursday night banquet at Iowa's Grand Chapter session a couple of months later, Sandy introduced me to Sister Betty Shoup, who invited me to join. I asked Sister Betty if she was the Worthy Grand Matron (I knew that she was the Associate Grand Matron at the time), and she said 'No, but I will be on Sunday.' I half-jokingly responded, 'then I look forward to hearing from you.'

"Three days later I received a phone call at my apartment. I answered with the typical 'Hello,' and Sister Betty wasted no time on pleasantries. She said, 'Perry, this is Betty Shoup, your Worthy Grand Matron—and I'm asking you to join Eastern Star.' I had no response other than to laugh, because Sister Betty so expertly called my bluff. I soon thereafter handed my petition to Sandy at the grocery store. I was initiated by Sister Betty, Worthy Grand Patron Don Crowe, and the rest of the Iowa Grand Officers the following May." Perry was initiated into Nevada Chapter #296 in Nevada, Iowa. He affiliated with Sunnyslope Chapter in Phoenix, Arizona in May of 2012 and first served with his mother Lois Griffin as Worthy Patron during the 2014-2015 Grand Chapter year.

That year's Worthy Grand Matron encouraged Perry to run for Grand Sentinel. He did the following year and was elected. He served as Worthy Grand Patron of Arizona during the 2017-2018 year.

Perry's goals as Worthy Grand Patron were to raise a ton of money for Masonic Youth;



Perry Casazza
PGP-Arizona
Jurisprudence
Chairman

and have fun. Perry said, “My Worthy Grand Matron (Sister Tori Loll, our current Worthy Grand Martha) and I achieved that goal and then some. We had the most awesome year in the Grand East together!”

His time as Worthy Grand Patron brought many memorable moments to Perry. The things that stand out are: so many amazing skits by Chapters at the Official Visits; going to the Grand Chapter sessions in Nevada, California, and Iowa; honoring both Sister Billie and his mother as 50 year members at their Grand Chapter session; the State Master Councilor of Arizona DeMolay presenting the Flower Talk at that session; socializing after the Official Visits (roller skating, bowling, mini golf, ice skating, etc.); the Creepy Cat Guy Calendar and the “Calendar Girl” video; seeing our Masonic Youth Stars across the country on Facebook; and making hundreds of new lifelong friends, including a Senior DeMolay from Texas (who happens to be an A&M grad and college football fan extraordinaire) and his awesome wife.

Perry is a civil defense attorney and have practiced law for over 20 years.

Perry’s mother, Lois Griffin, is a 50+ year member of Eastern Star, a Past Grand Secretary of Arizona, and one of his best friends. Sister Lois served as Perry’s escort during his year as Grand Patron and, according to Perry, they had a blast traveling the State of Arizona together. Perry says his stepfather Ken is an amazingly decent man and the one person who Perry can definitively say is the most Masonic non-Mason he knows.

Another blessing of Eastern Star for Perry is that he found love through Star. He recently got engaged to Kassie Parrish, who he first met at Mike Berry’s honor night in Kentucky in August of 2018. Perry said, “She is the Supreme Deputy of Kentucky Rainbow, an amazing human, and the love of my life.”

Perry added, “There is a saying that I learned during my years in DeMolay that always helps me maintain perspective on both Eastern Star and life in general – If you’re not having fun, then why are you doing it?”

Brother Perry encourages all members to tour the Perry Belmont House in Washington, D.C. He said, “If you are able to go, make it a priority in your life. That building is stunning. And while you’re in town there just happens to be a bunch of other amazing stuff to see.”

Other members of the Jurisprudence Committee

Joyce Murphy,

PGM-Kentucky.

Joyce comes from a strong Masonic family background. Her dad and brother were both Masons in Kentucky, and her husband is a member of the same lodge. Her grandmother, great aunt and mother were members of the Eastern Star.

Her brother and husband both served as Masters of their lodge and my dad was a Past Patron of the Eastern Star Chapter.

Joyce was initiated into Job’s Daughters at the age of 12 and served as Honored Queen of Bethel #5 in Covington. She remained active through my majority degree.

At the age of 18, she joined Covington Daylight Chapter on June 1, 1971, five days before she graduated high school. Covington Daylight Chapter #375 eventually merged with Rosebud Chapter #39.

She has been a member of the Order for almost 54 years. She has served as Worthy Matron of her chapters a combined 15 years. She and her husband Ray are currently serving as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Rosebud Chapter #39.

She served as Grand Martha in 2003-2004 under Worthy Grand Matron Debbie Dreier (who is currently serving the General Grand Chapter as Worthy Grand Marshal).

She received the Grand Cross of Color from Kentucky Rainbow in June of 2021 at their Grand Assembly.

She served as Worthy Grand Matron of Kentucky from 2019-2021 during the COVID era.

As Worthy Grand Matron, some of her goals were focused on our “Homes”. We had a project called “Quarters for the Quarters” where members and chapters were challenged to fill a Mason jar of quarters throughout the term and turn in the jar a month before our Grand Chapter session.

The donated money was divided equally between our three “quarters” or “homes”; the Rob Morris Home, the Eastern Star Home of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Grand Chapter Home/Office to help with continued maintenance. Our theme was “Live Life in Full Bloom” and our emblem was a Tree Of Life.

She and her husband Ray, have a blended family of six children and 11 grandchildren

She has a Bachelor of Science in 1975, and a Masters Degree in Education. In 2010, she retired after teaching and coaching 35 years. I then served four years on the Covington



Board of Education.

She enjoys spending time with family. She also enjoys reading, baking, traveling, sports, craft projects, crocheting and I am currently taking a quilting class.

Carol A. Newman,

PGM-Maryland.

Carol became interested in becoming a member of the Order of the Eastern Star through the involvement of her in-laws, Don

& Ruth Newman at Mountain Chapter #15, Frostburg, MD. She and her husband, Donald “Lynn” Newman were initiated on October 6, 1986, and now are members of McKinley Chapter #12, Cumberland, MD due to consolidation this February 2025.

As Sister Carol was elected to the station of Associate Grand Conductress, the climb to Worthy Grand Matron became a reality during 2022-2023.

As with any WGM, Sister Carol had so many hopes and dreams. Membership was the biggest dream of spreading who and what the Order of the Eastern Star was throughout the state of Maryland. Maryland’s membership has been declining drastically over the past years.

The most memorable event of Sister Carol’s year was the 125th celebration of the Grand Chapter of Maryland. Many events had taken place, but the number one memory was placing an OES wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Washington, DC with her Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Richard P. Naegele, Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda Winchester and Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Lon Lowery. What an honor for all of them.

Sister Carol has tried to remain community oriented. She has served on many boards throughout her county. Not only is Sister Carol active in OES, but she and her husband are busy running five funeral homes. She is the office manager of Newman Funeral Homes, P.A., co-owner of Newman Funeral Home, Inc., Newman Real Estate, LLC and Newman Cremation Services, LLC. When not working and not attending OES meetings, one can see Sister Carol around the area and state donning her University of Maryland gear. She and Brother Lynn have had season football tickets for over 35 years. She said, “this is their relaxation”! As Sister Carol says, “Go Terps.”



Nebraska Star Dogs float shines bright in Shrine Bowl parade



Submitted by Allen Straub
Nebraska

In the photos, you'll see our Star Dogs float from the Shrine Bowl parade in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 1st of 2024.

We love the opportunity to celebrate the spirit of Star Dogs and share the joy these special dogs bring to our community. Thank you for your ongoing support of the OES community, and we hope these photos capture some of the warmth and enthusiasm of the day!

Sheli Rice, Nebraska's Worthy Grand Matron and Keith Lindvall, Worthy Grand Patron rode the "spider" motorcycle in the Shrine Bowl Parade in Kearney, Nebraska in June of last year.



In the "Doghouse," Allen Straub (past Patron of the Narcissus Chapter, NE) is pictured with his Sheltie, Scout, who was truly the "star" of the day. Allen, the companion to our Associate Grand Conductress Kerri Straub, has been a dedicated supporter of Star Dogs, and Scout's charm and energy brought smiles to everyone

'Random Acts of Kindness for Brittany Byington' Assists Hurricane Helene Victims

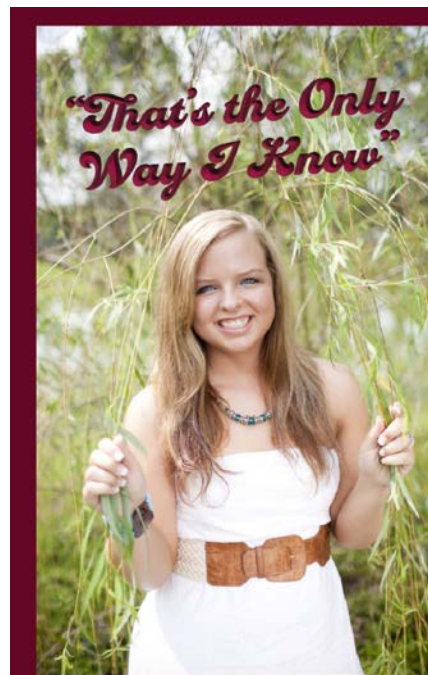
By Deena M. Yale PM,
Grand Trustee Grand Chapter of Delaware

Each year since February 26, 2014, the passing of Brittany Byington at the age of 19, a group of ladies keep her memory alive with "Pay Kindness Forward" in her honor. Each year, this group of ladies has been able to help someone or a group that needs a Random Act of Kindness.

Brittany Byington was a member of the Sudlersville, Maryland Volunteer Fire Company and had recently earned her EMT certification when she passed away. Brittany was employed as a Patient Care Technician at Chester River Hospital and attended Chesapeake College in pursuit of her nursing degree.

This year one of our group's mothers suggested in November that we assist the Hurricane Helene victims, and everyone jumped on board. As her Bonus Mom and the Worthy Matron of Georgetown Chapter No. 9, Georgetown, Delaware, I decided to make this project a part of my charities, a good project to include in our Disaster Relief program for the Order of the Eastern Star. I wrote a letter asking permission from the Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Rosemarie Vanderhoogt to involve all Delaware Chapters in this effort; without hesitation, she granted this permission.

A total of \$150.00 was collected. I matched this amount and we purchased over \$300.00 in items needed. This purchase was added to the over \$6800.00 worth of



*In Loving Memory of
Brittany E. Byington*

1/15/95 ~ 2/26/14

Pay it Forward Brittany's Way.

*"That's the Only
Way I Know"*

Keep Her Love Alive.

Take this tag and pass along
with your random act of kindness.
Please make a Facebook entry on
her page stating where you live
and received this card.

Thank you

items purchased by random supporters of our mission. The trailer was loaded with all the items and left Delaware on February 6, arriving in Swannanoa NC, to the God's Way Baptist Church, on February 7.

The residents of the devastated area were grateful for the donations that were so desperately needed. Along with the items delivered, monetary donations to the Rescue's Veterinary Account were made to assist in taking care of displaced

or injured animals. Brittany's Mom and I, along with the rest of our group, would like to thank everyone who made any contribution to this effort.

Without the support and kindness of such good people, we would not be able to do the things we do each year, to make the lives of others better.

The card you see here is passed along to those that receive the Random act of Kindness so they know the help is given in her Honor.

Rob Morris Home an important landmark for Eastern Star



By Cheryl Maslowski, PGM-Ohio
GGCCM-Eastern Star Journal

Even though I've never been to the Rob Morris Home in LaGrange, Kentucky, after covering this important landmark for the Eastern Star Journal, going there is on my bucket list.

Several articles are published in this Journal to highlight the historical value of the Rob Morris Home where our founder, Dr. Rob Morris, lived the last twenty-eight years of his life. Our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron decided that featuring our four Landmarks was of great importance and established the Historical Landmarks Committee to do the job.

Within this committee, headed by Brother Scott Smissen, there are subcommittees. The co-chair of the Rob Morris Home is Sister Susan Miller. Having Susan in this position is key as she is a Past Grand Matron of Kentucky and has had many dealings with the preservation of the Rob Morris Home. She is happy to see this landmark brought to the attention of our world-wide Eastern Star family.

One annual event for the Home is a pilgrimage held on the third Sunday of August. The day starts with a memorial service at Rob Morris' gravesite which is located within walking distance of the home. After the memorial service, a picnic lunch and special program are enjoyed by everyone in the yard of the home. Tours are given by the trustees and board

of directors. Several other fun activities are planned for the weekend of this pilgrimage, including a golf scramble tournament on the Friday before. This year the weekend will be August 15th through the 17th, 2025.

Donations received by our members will be used to supplement the upkeep and maintenance of the home and grounds. Being deemed an historical site, it is key to make repairs within the Historical Agency's standards and as close to age and period specifications as possible. This can be a higher cost for these renovations. Some of the proposed projects include removal and replacement of the front porch and stairs at the entry of the home. This will be completed with western red cedar lumber as was in the original porch at the cost of around \$5500. A new roof, gazebo, house gutters and downspouts will cost an additional \$28,000. The house needs painted, and bids for that will soon be acquired. It basically costs around \$16,000 annually to maintain the home and its grounds, and this figure does not include the cost of renovations. So, you can see that our donations are greatly needed. Another way to support the home is to purchase a brick for the cost of \$50. This is an on-going project with bricks displaying the names of groups or individuals placed around the perimeter of the house. What a great way to honor or be in memory of those who love Eastern Star!

Ways to help maintain this historical site

Bby Scott Smissen, PGP-California
GGCCM-Chairman, Historical Landmarks Committee

The Rob Morris Home in LaGrange Kentucky is one of the Historical Landmarks of the Order of the Eastern Star. Dr. Rob Morris, the founder of the Order of the Eastern Star, lived the last twenty-eight years of his life in this home. His memory is honored annually on the third Sunday of August with a memorial service at his gravesite which is located within walking distance of his home and then a picnic lunch and special program in the yard of his home. Many fun and fund-raising activities are always planned for the weekend of this annual pilgrimage including a golf scramble tournament.

The Rob Morris Home is owned by the Grand Chapter of Kentucky Order of the Eastern Star who is responsible for all upkeep and maintenance of the home and grounds. Any upkeep is subject to approval by the Historical Agency. Replacement of the picket fence, roof, porch and painting of the house, etc. has to be within the agency standards and as close to age and period qualifications as possible. This can be a higher cost for these renovations.

Recently, the picket fence was in such disrepair that a brand-new fence was installed and painted. Removal and replacement of the front porch and stairs at the entry of the home is the current project. This will be completed with Western Red Cedar lumber as was in the original porch. A new roof and painting of the house is also in the near future. The porch project will cost around \$5500 and the painting of the fence was around \$2500. Costs continue for preservation of this beloved home of our founding father.

The annual cost of maintaining the home is around \$14,000 per year plus any preservation projects. This triennial projects planned are the replacement of the front porch, roofing and painting of the house.

Donations for the upkeep of this beloved home are welcomed from Individuals, chapters and groups. The Rob Morris Home Foundations, Inc. was recently developed in order for your donations to be a qualified tax deduction.

Visiting the Rob Morris Home

By Ray Dennis, Worthy Grand Patron,
Grand Chapter of Ohio

Visiting the Rob Morris home in LaGrange, Kentucky, is one of the most rewarding experiences for an Eastern Star member. The visits I have had over the last twenty some years have been, to me, a necessity to understand the workings and reasons for our Order.

My first visit in 2004 came about from the need to know the history of our Order. The visit came on a week end trip to see and tour the home. We were met by the Grand Secretary who graciously gave us the guided tour and permission to stay as long as we wished to read the old books and maps that are stored and decorate the home. We found it to be set with some original furniture and decor and replica from research the Trustees and volunteers had gathered. Pictures of the Morris daughters were in place along with artifacts from the family, and Mr. Morris' travels around the world in his quest of information. The library has many of the early rituals and other books and documents from the establishing years. The show cases include very early personal items from his travels.

The home is strewn with family information and gatherings of his travels both home and abroad as he explored the Masonry that he loved. In my 10 visits to the home and the annual pilgrimage, I continued to learn and realize more of his research, dedication and contribution. This includes the LaGrange Masonic Lodge, the church he attended, and the many interesting places in the city where he had lived.

The structure of the city is interesting in that a regular schedule of transportation of goods by train travels through the city. Be careful parking downtown as the train tracks are in the middle of the street.

Following our visit, we arranged a bus tour for our District #27 the following year and scheduled it during the annual Rob Morris Pilgrimage - the third weekend of August. Having heard about the event during our previous visit, we shared the information and that created an excitement and desire for our bus



load of members. As we began the pilgrimage from the home to the cemetery, where a beautiful Masonic-identifying spire is placed in his honor, we were joined by a large gathering from Kentucky and other areas to observe the most beautiful work displayed by "heroines" from Kentucky chapters.

Upon return-

ing to the home, for a picnic on the grounds, we learned more about the Morris family and were honored to meet the great grandson of Robert Morris, Robert Fitch. His insight and stories gave the group more insight and discovery.

As time passed over the next few years, my wife, Susan R. Dennis, Ohio WGM 2007, who passed away in 2016, became close friends with Bob Fitch, and we returned several times to LaGrange and his home in Carrollton, Kentucky, to learn more and share a wonderful personal friendship. Mr. Fitch surprised Susan with some carvings he had made from a tree that had aged out on the Morris property, and she held these mementoes from that friendship, and I am proud to have them in my possession.

This past July as Worthy Grand Matron Marla Barber along with Associate Grand Matron Debbie Somerlot, Grand Conductress Amy Young, and my wife Soni and I returned from the Triennial in Louisville, Kentucky, we had discussed stopping since the three Grand Officers had not visited there before. We called ahead where we met a board

The Rob Morris Home

By Cheryl Maslowski, PGM-Ohio

The Rob Morris Home in LaGrange, Kentucky
Is one landmark of our Eastern Star story.
The treasure surrounding this home and monument
Is one of historical glory.

Although I've never been to this place
It holds great significance, I'm told.
To preserve its history for others to share
Is important for us to behold.

Though the structure's the second to house our founder
Knowing that the first was burned for a cause
To promote freedom for all the children of God
Should give us a reason to pause.

If the walls could talk, what a story they'd tell,
Tales of struggle, of joy, and of grief.
Our founder, Rob Morris, had courage and hope
That our Order would hold fast a belief

In the historical heroines, in bringing together great friends
In the charitable ways that we serve.
So, if you have a chance to visit this place
You'll find that it's important to preserve.

member of the home. She generously opened the doors and gave us a guided tour and answered questions for the first time visitors after which I took them to the cemetery where the spire is located.

I encourage all members to visit the home and learn about our beginning and the desire Robert Morris had in our foundation. Above all, the pilgrimage in August is inspiring and beautifully presented at the spire in his honor. It is a must see. I hold dear the friendship of members and many friends I have made in Kentucky and for the hospitality shown on each visit.

An ongoing fund raiser for the home with a personal or a chapter-identifying brick may be ordered and then placed around the property for landscaping. This fund assists the trustees in maintaining the property, which is immaculate but aging, and encourages members to be part of our great history.

Contributions and information for the Rob Morris "Brick" project may be sent to: Janet Varon, Board of Directors, 10526 Glenmary Farm Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40291 502-762-0637

Meet the Historical Landmarks - Rob Morris Home subcommittee

Susan J. Miller,
PGM-Kentucky,
Rob Morris Home
Co-Chairman.

Susan is a 37-year OES member of Somerset Chapter #23 and Fidelis #545 in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

She has been Worthy Matron six times. She served as Grand Adah in 2006 - 07.

She has a master's degree in social work from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor of Science in social work from the University of Evansville, Indiana. Susan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is the founder of the Pulaski County Alzheimer's Disease Respite Center which began in 1986.

Susan is married to Denny Barker. They were married in Somerset, on September 15, 1988. Denny and Susan had a second residence in Georgetown where he was employed by Tiffany & Company, Inc. until his retirement in 4 years ago.

Susan served on the Eastern Star Home Board of Directors from 2010 -2015. She is a member of First Christian Church in Somerset and is an elder.

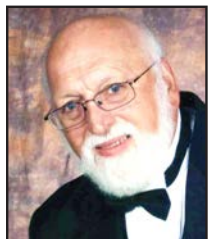
Susan was born to Joseph C. and Theda Miller of Ridgway, Illinois, on July 11, 1958. She was a member of 4-H, Beta Club, FHA, Choir and Marching / Concert Band. She studied oboe and piano from 1966 to 1976. She was the County Popcorn Queen in 1975.

She has been a member of the Daughters of the Nile, Akielo Temple in Lexington, Kentucky since 1994 and has served as an advisor to the local Rainbow assembly.

Denny and Susan have 3 daughters, 2 sons-in-law, and 10 grandchildren.

Susan's hobbies include scrap booking and motorcycle touring on her own Tequila Sunrise Harley Davidson Street Glide. Denny and Susan used to deep sea scuba dive in Florida and fish on Lake Cumberland. They also enjoy Mustang car shows.

As a member of the Historical Landmarks Committee of the General Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Susan would like to see the knowledge of these landmarks and the financial wellbeing of each be strengthened in this triennium.



Tom Huis,
PGP-Michigan. Tom Huis started his Masonic path by being raised to a Master Mason in Nahe Temple Lodge #824 AF&AM Neubruke Germany in 1969 while



stationed at the 98th Army General Hospital. After being discharged, his wife, Shelia, and he returned to Hastings MI where he transferred his membership to Hastings #52 F&AM.

Shelia and Tom joined the Hastings Chapter #52, Order of the Eastern Star, in Hastings Michigan in September of 1974. Through all the years, he served as Worthy Patron 24 times along with many other offices. Through Consolidation, they are now members of Brookfield #352 in Pottsville MI.

Tom's family consists of his wife Shelia, their son Dray, daughter-in-law Betty, and their beautiful 6-year-old granddaughter Amara.

He retired from General Motors, moved to a second career with Phillips Corporation, and retired yet again. He is currently serving on the tech team for his church and maintains an active role with his Lodge. During their spare time, they are avid campers and active in a lot of local community charitable organizations.

He served many years with the Michigan Grand Chapter in appointed positions before being elected to the Grand Line in 2015-2016. During his year of service as Worthy Grand Patron (2017-2018), they sponsored a "Socks and Shorts" program in all of the Chapters in Michigan. He also recognized and honored veterans in his state with brief talks about the value of their service whenever and where ever they had served.

John "Mike" Reeder,
PGP-Missouri.

John is a 50-year member of both Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star. He served two years as WGP during the pandemic, from 2019-2021, for Missouri. He also has served as Grand Representative of Nebraska from 2015-2017. He had the pleasure of being the escort to his wife as she traveled to the Grand East from 2011-2015.

Personally, Mike retired in 2010 from the City of Independence, Missouri, after 40 years working in the Engineering department.

He and his wife have been married for 58 years and have twin sons, seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.



Krystine Sandstrom,
PGM-Utah. Here's a little bit about her. She has been a member of the Order of Eastern Star for 45 years! Kristyne was blessed to be Worthy Grand Matron in 2022



- 2023 for her Spread a little Sunshine year. There were so many wonderful memories of the year. She was lucky to have her family be a part of the year. This included her mom as a grand officer, and her husband was the official hugger for Grand Chapter who handed out wooden hearts with Eastern Star hug engraved on it.

Utah's first event to benefit the historical landmarks was held April 12th, at the Salt Lake Masonic Temple. They are holding a pinewood derby and lunch and is going to be so much fun.



Lynda Williams,
PGM-New Brunswick. My jurisdiction is very small with only 12 Chapters remaining, some of which are struggling to continue."

Lynda has been a member of the Order

of the Eastern Star in New Brunswick, for over 44 years, having joined, along with her husband, in Nov. 1980. She became active almost immediately, holding an office in her chapter every year.

She became Worthy Matron for the first time in 1991, Grand Marshal in 1992, Grand Treasurer in 1997 and part of 1998, but she relinquished that position due to her husband's work move to North Carolina in the fall of that year. They quickly sought out a chapter in the Raleigh//Durham area to visit and affiliated with one, soon after. Once again, she and her husband became active members and took offices in their new OES chapter. They returned to their beloved New Brunswick in 2003. Since then, she has been Worthy Matron twice more.

In 2008, she was elected as Grand Treasurer once again and remained in that office until 2017, when she decided to take the plunge and was elevated to the office of Associate Grand Conductress.

She was installed, by her husband (PGP), as Worthy Grand Matron. All the hard work culminated with an amazing "Angels Among the Stars" Grand Chapter session in 2022.

Lynda and her husband, Don (also currently a GGCCM), will celebrate 55 years of marriage in July. They have been blessed with 2 daughters, Stacey and Jennifer; 2 granddaughters, 1 grandson and one great-granddaughter. She loves reading about the history of people, places and events of long ago. Genealogy is another passion. Crocheting, knitting, sewing, dabbling in creating jewelry and other crafts, help keep her creative side busy.

Pinewood Derby in Utah benefits Rob Morris Home

By Kristyne Sandstrom, PGM-Utah

GGCCM-Historical Landmarks-Rob Morris Home

I want to thank everyone for supporting our Eastern Star Landmarks!!

To all who made donations and came and raced, thank you so much.

The event was a big success!

For those who were unable to make it, let me tell you a little about it.

The races were conducted by Rush Valley Racing, they did an amazing job.

The racers were given the task of making a car that was 12 ounces or less for the open class rules. The cars all turned out great, super paint design, fast, cute and very creative. I

loved seeing everyone grinning as their car passed the finish line. It was a great time.

If you want to see the races and the stats you can go to rushvalleyracing.com.

Fastest car Lex Sandstrom

2nd Bob Cook,

3rd Paul Albertson.

Cute Car Kristyne Sandstrom

2nd Sylvia Hokins

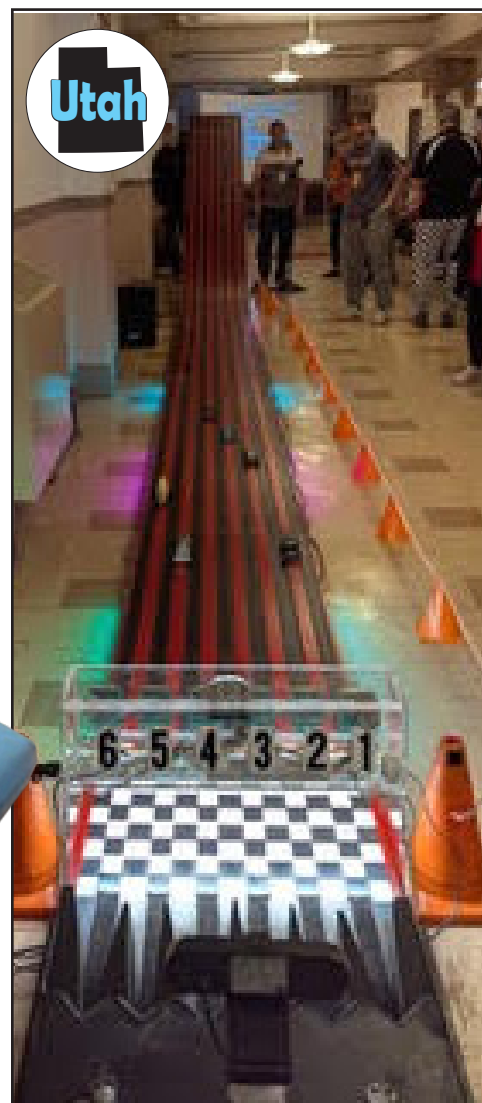
Wild car Paul Albertson

Slowest car Winnie Moulton

2nd Zach Lose

After racing we had a lunch catered by Kneaders followed by a tour of the Salt Lake Masonic Temple. A big thanks to Lon Tibbetts for conducting our tour. We had special guests join us. Mom (Deanna Phillips) invited her counterpart Pamela Croden and friend Cindy Brock from Missouri to come for the event. They made the long drive. Thank you for coming, It is so nice meeting new friends.

This event raised \$750 for the Rob Morris Home project.



Annual Can-Am celebrates Eastern Star ties across the US-Canada border

By Barbara Gaskell, PGM-New Hampshire
GGCCM-Eastern Star Journal

The annual CanAm Weekend was celebrated February 21-22 in Nashua, NH. This annual event is a Grand Family Exchange between the jurisdictions of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. Grand Officers from each jurisdiction are randomly chosen to participate in the exemplification of the degrees.

The event rotates around the 10 jurisdictions (although the time of year prevents NS/PEI from hosting). Over the years, this event has become popular, not just in the northeast, but country wide.

This year the 420 attendees represented 15 jurisdictions, with 9 members from Michigan making the journey as well as MWGM Billie and RWAGC Barbie attending.

The theme this year was "Trek to NH" and was cosmic fun. Friday night was a chance for everyone to explore their inner Trekie or Star Wars fan. Members were encouraged to dress up. There were lots of Trek Officers and quite a few aliens. A couple of well-known Star Wars characters appeared as well. After dinner, a fun space themed movie was shown.

Saturday morning everyone convened in the Chapter Room for introductions. It was a very full room, and old and new friends enjoyed the morning. Introductions were done expeditiously and there was plenty of time to visit the General Grand



We are thankful that neither MWGM Billie Bradfield, above right, nor Right Worthy Grand Conductress, Sister Barbie Holmes, below right, were wearing red shirts to the Star Trek-themed banquet at the Annual Can-Am Event.





Chapter Committee Members with information to share, take chances on the mystery raffles, visit with the Hero Pup puppies that came to visit and shop at the vendors area.

In the afternoon the multi-jurisdiction degree team presented a beautiful rendition of the degrees of our Order. It is with opportunities like this that we learn about the different ways other jurisdictions perform the ritual and

yet, we all perform the same ritual. Speeches were kept to the minimum and members were free to spend the afternoon visiting.

The Saturday Formal banquet was enjoyed by all. The winners of the mystery raffles were drawn. Visiting jurisdictions had been asked to bring a bag full of items from their area, but to keep it a mystery. Over \$3000 was raised for service dogs which would be shared

equally with all the jurisdictions who donated a raffle prize. The entertainment after the banquet was well known comic Justin McKinney.

It was a wonderful weekend of visiting with old friends and making new friends. Counterparts got to chat about their upcoming years. We look forward to next year's CanAm in New Brunswick.



The Degree Team is made up of randomly chosen Grand Officers from each participating Grand Chapter.

California chapter walking club benefits charity, members

By Maggi Baum,
Worthy Matron

Elk Grove Onisbo Chapter,
California

The Star Steppers are on the Move Again

What started out as a onetime desire to help support a local Elk Grove charity has become a full-fledged Walking Club and opened up to our Masonic Family, family and friends.

After walking in the Thanksgiving Gobble Wobble, to raise funds for Chicks in Crisis, the group had such a good time they didn't want to quit.

Our next challenge was Running of the Elk on March 30th. This 5k race

supports the Elk Grove Youth Sports Foundation. The

weather caused a different kind of challenge that day! But we all agreed that we had a great time with our Masonic Family Team, and we have all become much closer if not just a bit healthier.

Members meet on Tuesday evening at 6:45 and Saturday morning at 8:00. Under the guidance of our coach, Katherine Booth PM and her assistant Jaime Clark.



Northern Virginia Eastern Star Joins Together for Shriner's Hospital Patients

For the second year, Unity Chapter #201, Order of the Eastern Star, has spearheaded a Christmas toy drive for the children at Shriner's Hospital in Philadelphia. Sumner Lyddane, PP has been the chair person. The first year, three other Chapters participated with Unity.

This year, eight Northern Virginia Chapters participated. Brother Sumner provided each of the Chapters with a collection box decorated in Christmas motif.

The Chapter members were given a list of desired toys and the choice to either donate a toy and/or make a cash contribution.

Then when the collection time was up, Brother Sumner gathered up the boxes and the cash donations from each Chapter and drove them to Philadelphia.

No one knows how he got all these toys into his vehicle. Although the photo shows cash donations of \$650, more donations came in and the cash donations totaled \$850.



Australia's Most Worthy Grand Matron makes special visit to Alberta chapter



On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, St. Hilda No. 27, Order of the Eastern Star in Alberta was honoured to have MWGM of the United Grand Chapter of Australia, Sister Barbara Hartman visit our Chapter for its Stated meeting. It was truly a very special evening as Sister Nicole Chorny PM was giving her Report as Grand Representative of Australia in Alberta. Sister Nicole received a partial appointment after the passing of Brother Malcom Hough PGP of Alberta, who was then the Grand representative of Australia in Alberta. Sister Nicole is a plural member with St. Hilda No. 27 and Mountainview No. 1. Then when that Commission was finished, Sister Gail Anderson WGM appointed her as Grand Representative of Australia at Mountainview Chapter No. 1, in Olds, Alberta, until March 30, 2025. She gave her Report at St. Hilda Chapter No. 27, in Didsbury, Alberta, as Mountainview No. 1 is dark for the months of January and February. MWGM Sister Barbara was so pleased that she could be present to hear Sister Nicole's report.

She will give her report again at Mountainview Chapter No. 1 at their May Meeting.

This Appointment has a special meaning for Sister



Officers, Members and Special Guests at St. Hilda No. 27



Sister Barbara Hartman MWGM of Australia, Sister Nicole Chorny Grand Representative of Australia and our Worthy Patron Brother Warren Wright, WP.

Nicole. She lived there with her parents and also went to live there for a year by herself many years later. She attended two General Grand Sessions, one in Adelaide in June 2019 and the other in Cairns in 2024 with her Mother, Sister Marlene Chorny PM. She met her counter-part Sister Linda Waycott from Queensland in 2024.

At the Installation of MWGM Sister Barbara Hartman, Sisters Nicole and Marlene were invited to sit at the family table with Sister Barbara's immediate family. They were her "Alberta" family.

A genuine bond of Star Love, friendship and respect formed very quickly between Sisters Barbara and Nicole. At the Banquet following her Installation as MWGM Sister Barbara passed the table where Sister Nicole was seated. Sister Nicole was wearing a lovely scarf of the Albertan Tartan. As she walked by, Sister Barbara exclaimed, "I'll be borrowing that!" She quickly removed the scarf from the neck of Sister Nicole and proudly wore it. Later, Sister Nicole gifted it to her.

We do believe that it was the first

time, in Alberta, that a MWGM has been in attendance to hear a Grand Representative Report about her own Country. It was an Honour for St. Hilda No. 27 to welcome MWGM Sister Barbara to our Chapter. Her roots go back to Hanna, Alberta. She still remains close friends with PGM of Alberta, Sisters Gail Anderson and Jacquie Charlton.

She talked about the subtle differences between the Ritual Work in both the Chapters in Australia and Alberta. We had other distinguished guests and members that evening. WGM of Alberta, Sister Kim McMinis, Sister Donna Sanders – GGC Ambassador to Quebec, and our very own WM Sister Lorna Richmond – GGCCM Community Service and Brother Tim Cameron – GGCCM Registration.

Sister Nicole has made St. Hilda No. 27 and Mountainview No. 1 very proud. She visited many Sister Chapters during her tenure. As MWGM Sister Barbara said so joyfully to Sister Nicole, "You are my best Australian!"

Two Arizona chapters join together for fun poker game day

By Donna Parrish, PGM-Arizona
GGCCM-Eastern Star Journal Editor

Two chapters in Arizona, although separated by 90 miles, still have a tie that binds them together -- the Associate Grand Matron, Donna DiCola, belongs to both.

For the second year, the chapters have joined together to have a joint fun and fundraiser.

Golden Rule Chapter #1 is in Prescott, which is in the central highlands of Arizona. Queen Esther #22 is in downtown Phoenix. Many miles separate these chapters and members, but when members meet, they are as one.

Last year, it was a poker run where members drove to various locations to

pick up a card. This year, the members played games to "win" a card. The one with the best hand won cash prize. The one with the lowest hand also won cash.

Last year, members of both chapters ended up at the home of Tony and Donna DiCola in Chino Valley, Arizona. This year, the entire event took place at the DiCola home. Both ended with a hamburger and hot dog barbecue. Chino Valley is a good 100 miles from Phoenix, yet many members of Queen Esther drove up the mountain for the day.

Donna and Tony lived in the Phoenix metro area when they first joined Eastern Star, and joined Queen Esther. But a few years ago, they moved to Chino Valley, about 15 miles north of Prescott, and then became plural members of Golden Rule.

Susann Holland, a Past Matron of Queen Esther coordinated the event with the assistance of other members.

It was a fundraiser, so members paid a fee for each poker hand, and also for lunch. Yes, money was raised and split evenly between the two chapters, but the most successful aspect of this event was the laughter and camaraderie shared by all in attendance.



Wisconsin chapters continue to find ways to work with local lodges

By Linda Schreier

Grand Conductress of Wisconsin

We have a few chapters in WI that continue to find ways to work with their lodge. It may be working a carshow, going to Mystery dinner, tour of brewery or doing a joint fundraiser. These are the Chapters that are growing.

In the last few months one chapter has read 11 petitions, another one has three with two more coming and reinstatement and others that are initiating before our Grand Chapter in May. I am currently the Grand Conductress but previous membership Chair for WI. These efforts need to be celebrated and we need the membership of Freemasons to recognize with this joint cooperation the organizations will be strengthened and grow.

You are welcome to share it with your friends, family and membership committees.

I was reading "A Place in the Lodge" updated edition by Nancy Sterns Theiss PhD

On the Chapter (7) Order of the Eastern Star it is noted that on July 19 & 20, 1848 the First Women's Rights Convention was held in New York State. The Declaration of Sentiments was signed by both men and women on July 20, 1848.

The Author of our ritual for the Order of the Eastern Star was being penned by Rob Morris at the same time as these Sentiments were signed and published. One the most important visions of Rob Morris was to broaden the opportunities for the women in the work force. The Order of the Eastern Star offered a network for women whereby "many methods would be opened to women for self-support

that are now sealed up."

Here is a quote from Rob Morris: "And there is another practical result of the Eastern Star movement, the credit of which I am in wise incline to give to others; this is the boarder opening that is offered to females for self-support. The deadly needle, the unwomanly washtub, the unwholesome country school, the sinew-weary kitchen are not now the only fields on which women, old and young, who are wrestling with the perplexities of human life, can win bread. Thousands and tens of thousands of places, cleanly, womanly, easy, and fairly profitable, have been opened to them since the story of the "Five Heroines of the Eastern Star" was first disseminated in 1850. In almost every post office and courthouse throughout the lands-in a great number of banks and libraries- at the desk of cashiers of mercantile houses-behind counters- but the catalogues need not be extended. Long as it is, it is daily lengthening, and every year the salaries of women are brought more nearly to those of men, as it is found they are equally accurate and expert in business, and that the defalcations, forgeries, and general rascalities with which our morning papers are defiled are commonly the work of men, rarely of women.

At the time that The Order of the Eastern Star was created it was a time that finally allowed women to belong to an organization with rich traditions and respect history while giving them a voice. It was one of the first organizations that put women in the leadership role and the men as only advisors. This was groundbreaking in a period of history where women were not allowed to complete their ed-



ucation, to work outside the home and were expected not to have a say in anything.

In today's society women are still working to find equality. Sometimes I believe that women are thinking if they are "joiners" they are not striving to be the strong individuals they know they can be.

I have found that being a part of The Order of the Eastern Star that I have seen women who would have always stayed in the background gain confidence. I have seen mentoring, team building and support to help each other become the best person they can be.

If you are not a member of The Order of the Eastern Star I would encourage you to read about it. Please consider asking the questions you may have concerning the Order of the Eastern Star. I have been a member since 1984 and cannot imagine my life without all the wonderful women and men that I have met. I have traveled throughout the United States and Caribbean meeting members who have been nothing but gracious. I know of other members who have traveled to other parts of the world and have experienced the same thing.



Linda Schreier

Ohio chapter donates towels to Special Olympians

At our December Chapter meeting, our own Adah, Melanie Payne, who we are fortunate to have as a dual member from Knox Chapter #236, shared her involvement with the Special Olympics Knox County Swim Team, as she is one of the coaches. The Chapter was moved by such an important organization and the need to support these Olympians. The Chapter voted unanimously to provide towels with the name of each team member.

The following month, at our January meeting, Melanie shared an emotional, yet joyful update. The gift of the towels made a huge impact, inspiring it's members in recognizing their own special skills, and how they are now united as a "TEAM". She

shared that several of its members qualified for the OSU state meet. For anyone wishing to cheer them on, it will take place Friday and Saturday, March 7th-8th at OSU pool located at McCorkle Aquatic Pavillion, 1847 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. Both meets start at noon.

After Melanie's update, an additional contribution was presented which will go towards purchasing deck shoes for the team.

Anyone looking for a good time, please come and show your support.



Romanian chapter celebrates one-year anniversary

By Elena-Ana Iancu, Worthy Matron
EMERA U.D., Romania

In the Western side of Romania, crossed by the river Mures, is the city of Arad, the seat of the county of the same name. Relevant city both from a historical perspective, because it unites two historical regions, Crisana and Banat, implicitly the Northwest and Southwest parts of Romania, and administratively, because it is an important university center, located on the state border.

The starting point in the process of building the EMERA UD Arad Assembly is connected on the date of 2nd February 2024 following the Ceremony of its establishment, as a result of obtaining the Dispensation, being allowed by the goodwill of the Most Worthy Grand Patron and by the authority conferred by the Constitution of the Grand General Chapter, Order of the Easter Star (OES).

The activities we carry out are possible because we rely on dedicated members to the missions undertaken in earthly life, seekers of Truth and keepers of mysteries who act to initiate, preserve and increase Good both in local communities and in the world.

The trust, the authorization to operate from the GGC as well as the support provided by the Deputy to the MWGM Aruna Ionescu, doubled by our permanent concern to learn and tripled by our care for our fellow men ensures our spiritual growth, the development of the EMERA UD Arad Chapter and increases the good in society.

During the year, we implemented projects following four directions, namely:

I. Projects for the elderly and housing. In December we visited the seniors who live in an elderly care center in Arad. Thus, during the project "Out of concern for grandparents", we donated non-perishable food, goods necessary for everyday hygiene and we took donated some of the necessary things for the center's kitchen for the period of the winter holidays.



Chapter members visited seniors in a care center.



The "Arad Elites Gala" recognizes the elite members in the Arad community.

II. Projects for school and education in the local communities. Among the projects carried out for the local community, we will exemplify the "Arad Elites Gala" project, which was at the 3rd edition in 2024. This cultural event is an occasion where members of the local community, entrepreneurs who are active in the area of Arad county and not only, researchers from Arad country and abroad met again in a festive setting to celebrate the remarkable representatives of the Arad community. The project was based on a partnership to support the Arad communities (23.03.2024). The aim of this project is the recognition of the Arad Elites and their positioning in the Arad landscape, in order to constitute a source of inspiration for the following generations, in times when performance and personal sacrifices towards the progress of the community are becoming increasingly rare. Through this project we desired to promote culture by building a context in which valuable people, with common values and the desire to be involved



in the development of the Arad community, come together, participate and at the same time benefit from an environment that supports, recognizes and rewards performance in six fields of interest (six prizes were awarded).

In this sense, we mention the "Renaissance" project that had the format of an artistic cultural event held in



the Cultural Palace in Arad, through which we aimed to support the artists of Arad. The visualisation of the beginning of the path of a young artist endowed with divine grace, empathy in relation to the emotions of the author who breaks into the sacred or profane worlds, doubled by our intention to bring to the attention of young people a moment of creative energy generated by the artist's mastery and materialised in the lines, colours, as well as the artist's vision that challenges us to discover possible dimensions of the rebirth process, preceded by the transformation of known forms. Thus, 12 works from the collection of the plastic artist of Arad, Bogdan Tigan could be admired in an artistic vernissage, who communicated with guests during the exhibition of the collection and provided details about the technique used in his works, about the central elements of each work that externalise his vision. At the same time, a catalog was created with this collection and



The chapter came together to benefit several group and to celebrate with peers during the Christmas season.

through interactive communication, questions were formulated that generated debates and encouraged the participants to search for the mysteries between the sacred and the profane.

In November, in partnership with the Arad County Council, we implemented the project "Public safety and the need for high social capital" in partnership with the Cultural Center of Arad County and SARA Law Research Center, in which our members were involved both in moderating the conference carried out through the project, and through the debate panels and communications carried out. The topics presented by our members were: "Legal Rules And Technical Standards In The Process Of Integration Of Artificial Intelligence In Law", "Considerations Regarding The Need To Regulate Artificial Intelligence In The Light Of The Evolution Of The Regulatory Framework At The International Level", "About Taxation: Tax Incentives Vs. Tax Amnesty".

Also, in September and October, through the project "Education For The Future", we carried out activities for students from two school units in Arad, by purchasing an interactive whiteboard and four programmable Blue Bot robots in order to increase and improve the quality of the instructional-educational process, to ensure the best possible start for students in the higher school cycles, to modernize the teaching-learning techniques and encourage digital skills.

At the same time, we recall the ANTI-DRUG project that is being carried out under the aegis of the National Grand Lodge of

Romania in which the EMERA Association was a partner alongside the Associations: Fraternitas37, Concordia, Preparandia, Milan Tabacovici, Aurel Ardelean Academica, SF 6020, Casa cu lacat, together with the School Inspectorate of Arad County. The conference took place at the Cultural Palace in Arad. The presentations were addressed to the over 800 children from Arad County who were present on the day of the conference.

The Sever Frențiu Conference, edition 20, organized by Orientul Arad created the occasion in which the EMERA Chapter was present through members at the conference in November 2024.

III. Projects for health. For dental health, we donated the Dental Unit to a young dentist from a rural dental office.

IV. Projects for poor families, disadvantaged, vulnerable children.

For children with special educational needs, we organized activities through the "Love And Colour" project, the first edition was in June 2024, at a high school in Arad. When on a planetary level the Red Rose Day is celebrated, which is not just any flower, but one of the oldest in the world, associated, most of the time, with the beauty born of unique love, with multiple facets compared to what surrounds us in earthly life, we went together with children to discover together new dimensions of love. The shades of red in roses described in books on religion, philosophy, geography, history inspire us, showed us that together we are strong, indicated us in invisible ways that we are under Divine protection and

that from the creative force springs the energy that helps us to open our hearts, to offer love.

The passion shown also in the profession, including by initiating some extracurricular activities marks our path towards discovering the mission we have on earth. We offered the children a red rose on the day we celebrated each child who participated in the chalking contest on the ground in the schoolyard. The instruction was to offer it further on to mothers, to the dearest people in their lives, multiplying this way the love, keeping it in their souls and then, giving and sharing the love with the teaching staff as well.

For children from less privileged backgrounds, we carried out the project "Workshops Of Love" in which, together with 25 students registered with the County Center for Education and Social Assistance in Arad, we carried out: the workshops, serving the meals, thematic games in nature, gifts, materials necessary for carrying out the activities, water, juices, fruits.

At the initiative of the Caiac Smile Association under the aegis of the National Grand Lodge of Romania, the EMERA Arad Association is a partner in the „Caiac Smile” project together with the Associations: Fraternitas37, Concordia, Preparandia, Milan Tabacovici, Aurel Ardelean Academica, SF 6020, Casa cu lacăt, in the project dedicated to people with disabilities for mobility. Among the activities carried out until January 2025, two elevators were purchased that assist people with disabilities for movement. Other partners are the Arad County School Inspectorate and the

County Center for Resources and Educational Assistance, which will manage the equipment both for the accessibility of the premises and, if necessary, on request in other places. Photos 30 and 31

For children with disabilities, we carried out the project “The Joy Of Being Together!” in which 15 children with special needs were involved. We aimed to improve access to special education services by providing advice, guidance and engagement in interactive activity. At the same time, we were concerned with ensuring logistic support adapted to the special requirements of children with disabilities and providing three lunches for the 15 children with disabilities, as well as the purchase of a water dispenser that was installed in the Center where the meetings, on a voluntary basis, and the educational activities will take place.

Also, through the project “Smiles, Magic And Joy”, we donated for the children living in poor families from the rural areas included in an NGO foundation: clothes, toys, books, trying to offer smiles and joy to children who often do not have access to the minimum necessary things for their age.

The month of December 2024 was also an opportunity to meet in the EMERA community through projects brought together in

the context of the winter holidays: “Christmas Joy”, “Keepers Of Romanian Traditions”, “Gift From Gift With Love” through which we wished to increase the Good in the EMERA community and in the local communities, in this sense we invited several groups of children from The Cultural Palace in Arad to carol us, offering them, at our turn lovely gifts and spending an evening in which we caroled, in which tradition and gifts united most of us in EMERA, as well as some of our peers. Conclusion.

Participating in the activities of the ceremonies, fulfilling the financial obligations that express the assumption of membership and involvement in the process of supporting our fellow men, reflection on moral values, continuous inward-oriented dialogue in the process of internal investigation to find the resources that can ensure a life in which we change universes, the understanding the moral duties related to the OES, implicitly to the Chapter community, respecting the OES val-



ues and awareness of the virtues of OES-specific heroines, by serving our fellow men and essential for the construction of the EMERA UD Arad Chapter.

On the eve of the anniversary of one year as part of the Order of the Eastern Star, on behalf of the EMERA UD Arad (Romania) Chapter, our gratitude goes to the dear and beloved OES members, wherever you are, for having us by your side, because we join your common thought to increase the Good in the world through the labyrinth of life, giving love.



Bunco “Family and Friends” a unique event for Ohio chapter



Goshen Chapter Order of the Eastern Star has developed a unique fundraiser titled “Bunco Family and Friends”. We do not make a lot of money, but as you may often hear, “money is not everything”. This little get together has turned into a wonderful social and relationship building event, which was the main reason for its start. At first, we only charged to cover our expenses, but we did raise a small amount of funds, so it became a fundraiser. Since we do this on a quarterly basis a theme is usually chosen and appropriate decorations, prizes and snacks lend to the party atmosphere. The most recent themes were Patriotic on July 7th and Halloween on October 10th and Mardi Gras on March 2nd, which turned out to be the best one yet. The delicious food, interesting prizes, cool Mardi Gras shirts, colorful beads and masks, provided and made for a fun party. Here comes the question asked quite often, “What is Bunco”? Here is a brief explanation for those who are curious.

It is a dice game that depends on luck, requiring no specific skills, no deep concentration, no complex strategy to learn and anyone can play, even children. It is easily adapted to the size of the group of attendees. One of the logistics of the game is to move from table to table after a complete set is played, which allows

you to play with or against everyone. This is the social and get acquainted part that is so rewarding. Many of you may be familiar with the game but using it as a fundraiser has been quite rewarding for our chapter. Providing fellowship building with members and non-members, team building with our members as they plan and prepare for the event, an entertaining afternoon for all, and a small addition to our treasury. There is no need to go into a deep description of “Bunco” as to how to play, the rules, and the various options available. If you are interested everything you need to know is available on the internet. You can even purchase game sets with directions and everything you need to play. However, here is the opportunity to see how things worked for Goshen Chapter at the last Bunco Event we sponsored with pictures. Pictured with our giant Mardi Gras man is the DGM of District 22, our masked member wearing her theme shirt, and some tables of



play. Not everyone is into wearing costumes, but they came and enjoyed the fun. We continue to increase attendance as the word spreads. We are now planning the next “Bunco” event in May. Looking forward to what we can do to make it a more exciting event and encouraging more people to attend. One good thing is that adjustments can be made to accommodate all that attend and wish to play. We owe a vote of thanks to the special member of Goshen Chapter who came up with the idea of “Bunco Family and Friends” to bring the members with their families together. Because of the increased membership over the past few years, it was a great idea to have the opportunity to meet and greet members of families, we would not get to know. These “Bunco” events have truly been successful.



Spring greetings from IGRA

By Molly Veile, PM, President
International Grand Representatives
Association

Spring Greetings from the International Grand Representatives Association!

Our Spirit Bear is busy telling everyone about the International Grand Representatives Association (IGRA). Have you heard about IGRA? To date we have 300 members. I extend an invitation to all former and current Grand Representatives to become a member of IGRA.

Grand Secretaries of each Juris-

diction have been given information regarding IGRA. The information has included membership applications. Information can be found on the General Grand Chapter website and Arizona Grand Chapter website.

Are you wearing one of the special scarf/wraps? Maybe one of the spirit bear pins or button covers?

Do you have any questions or suggestions for IGRA? Send an email to me at marching@frontiernet.net and I will get back to you with an answer.



A Tale of Two Generations

By Angela Oleskiw,
PGM-Saskatchewan
GGCCM-Eastern Star Journal

We are a fraternal organization where we can become like a family. We cherish our ties with our sisters and brothers. An even stronger relationship is formed when two past Grand Matrons simultaneously serve their jurisdictions in North Dakota and Saskatchewan for their Grand Chapter Sessions in 2018-2019. Sister Evie presided over North Dakota's 125th Annual Grand Chapter Session, Preserving our Heritage. Sister Angela presided over Saskatchewan's 103rd Annual Grand Chapter Session, Legacy of Love.

The mother of the North Dakota Past Grand Matron, Sister Darnell Woodall and the Father of the Saskatchewan Past Grand Matron, Brother Richard Charrier served the North Dakota Grand Chapter as Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron fifteen years earlier for their Everyday is a New Beginning Grand Chapter Session (2002-2003).

The North Dakota Past Grand Matron Sister, Evie Woodall Johnson, might be known as the little baby in her mother's arms when her dad was elected Grand Sentinel or as a three year old singing "This Little Light of Mine" when her dad, Brother Doug Woodall was installed as Worthy Grand Patron of North Dakota in 1990 for the Hearts in Harmony Grand Chapter Session with Sister Karen Tankersley as Worthy Grand Matron.

Sister Evie who was serving as Grand

Drill Leader for North Dakota's assembly of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls brought greetings on behalf of the Rainbow Girls in North Dakota during her mother's Grand Chapter Session. The Saskatchewan Past Grand Matron, Sister Angela Charrier Oleskiw, who happens to have been born in North Dakota, was an active member and served as Grand Patriotism in the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. She remained active until reaching Majority membership at the age of twenty. Angela was honored to serve as a Special Page for her dad, Brother Richard Charrier at his Grand Chapter Session.

A very special friendship between Sister Angela and Sister Evie was strengthened by the knowledge that they would be leading their respective Grand Jurisdictions during the same year. It was a pleasure for both to carry out reciprocal courtesies in 2019 for each other's Grand Sessions.

The journey continues for both Sister Angela and Sister Evie, who were greatly honored to receive General Grand Chapter Committee appointments for the 2024-2027 Triennium. Sister Angela serves on the Eastern Star Journal Committee and Sister Evie serves on the Membership Committee. These appointments assure them of continuing their Eastern Star heritage and legacy, strengthening their strong and meaningful friendship.



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

President:
Molly Veile, PM
13369 S Avenue 14 ½ E
Yuma, AZ 85367-9259
marching@frontiernet.net

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

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

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

First Name: _____ Initial: _____ Last Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip+4: _____
Telephone/Cell: _____ Email: _____
Jurisdiction of _____ In: _____ Years: _____ to _____
(State You Represent) (Your State/Province)



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.

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)**.

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 _____	\$ _____

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: Date Rec. _____ Check #: _____ Date Mailed: _____ Date of Deposit: _____



Vermont chapter asks whodunnit?

By Stephanie Child

LaPlotte Chapter, Vermont



In January 2025 the LaPlotte Chapter #64 held a murder mystery evening in the lodge in Hinesburg. The evening was very well attended with people coming from all over the state to participate. The theme was Pasta, Passions and Pistols. The premise was that the owner of an Italian restaurant with gangland ties, was murdered in his very own restaurant kitchen! Who killed him? The wife? The son who didn't want to inherit the business?

His brother who has just reunited with him? Maybe his brother's fiancée who appears to be a bit of a gold digger! Would you be able to guess?

I am thankful for the brothers and sisters, who volunteered to set up, keep the food and drinks coming, as well as those who agreed to take on speaking parts.

Brave character actors were; Bob Weidner, Mike and Dale Wood, Heather and Howard Hinckley, Natalie Billings, and Alex Morano.

All attendees seemed to have a great time. Worthy Matron Michele Bushy shared her photo booth and the photos that were taken as people exited the party were hilarious! The evening lasted about 3 hours and only 1 attendee guessed correctly who the murderer was! It was Bo Jalais aka Bob Weidner! The sneaky devil! The chapter even managed to make a little profit after all the bills were paid. If you haven't attended a murder mystery yet, I highly recommend, they are a fun filled evening's entertainment.



Breakfast with Santa a hit in Ohio

A Breakfast with Santa was held on November 16, 2024, at Guernsey Chapter #211 in Cambridge. A total of 22 children attended to visit with Santa and enjoy all the pancakes and sausage they could eat for a donation. Parents were also permitted to take all the pictures they wanted. This was our first attempt at a fundraiser of this type, and we hope to make it an annual event. We only netted about \$60.00, but we had a lot of fun.



Associate Patron, Lee Patton, flipped pancakes while eight other members/officers helped with decorating, cleanup, handing out freebies, talking with parents (giving them a pamphlet about Eastern Star), assisting in child "round up" and encouraging the little ones to get closer to Santa.

Gary and Nancy Hoskinson, dual members of Clarington and Woodsfield Chapters, portrayed Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each child received a stuffed toy (from Santa) and other freebies from Guernsey Chapter.



Worthy Patron Dave Milligan tells Santa his Christmas wish list.

The Roaring 20s are back in Delaware

By Nancy K. Davis, WM
Unity No. 16, Delaware

It is March 8th, 2025. You receive an invitation to travel back in time to the 1920's to the grand reopening of the Four Deuces Saloon. You dress in your best roaring twenties attire. Flappers, cigarette girls, ladies of the evening, newsmen, Al Capone toting a tommy gun, mob men, card sharks, royalty with their family, and hustlers, all in attendance.

Upon entering the doors you say the password, receive your

dinner card, and are

frisked to be sure you aren't concealing anything. I was shocked when the owner of the club offered me a job on the second floor, but laughed and politely turned him down.

The tables were decorated with empty bottles of flashing lights, which were topped with flowers. A delicious dinner was served by Victory Chapter No. 15, Dover, Delaware: a garden salad, your choice of baked ham or broccoli/cheese stuffed chicken, mashed

potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, a roll, and dessert. To drink you could order gin (water) or (noodle juice) iced tea.

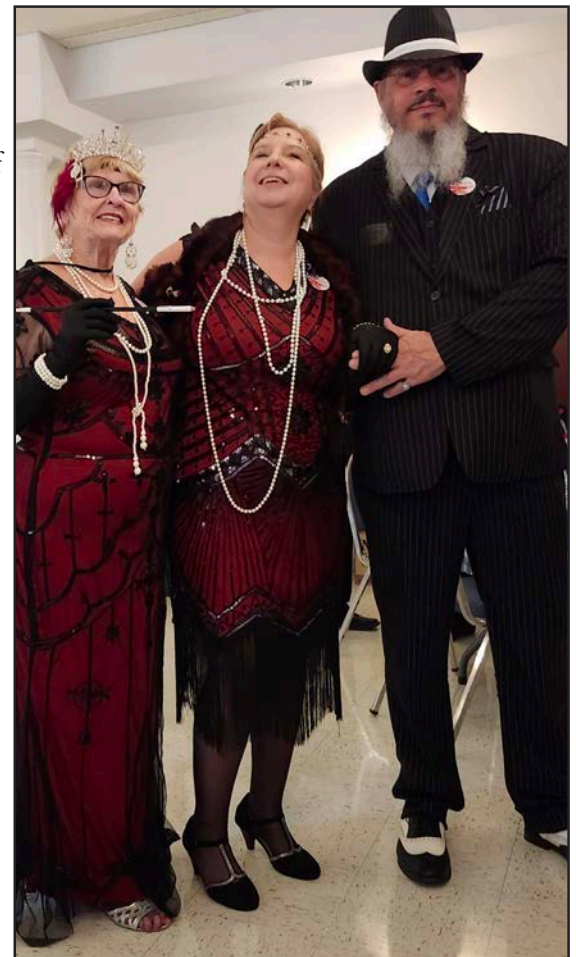
You could feel the tension in the room after dinner. Suddenly, you heard shots fired and witnessed the death of Big Don Wannabe.

Immediately, Chief Inspector Neville Nutella, aka "the nose" from the 4th Precinct of South Chicago, vice squad took charge. The morgue was called to pick up the body. The area where the body lay was marked.

All present were questioned as to their whereabouts at the time of the shooting. Some had an alibi as they had been on the second floor (where the ladies worked) partaking in what was offered. Others were found to have motive to have killed Big Don.

Those attending dinner at the saloon balloted for the best dressed actor and actress, and for the best performance. Then, they had to choose the person who they felt was guilty of the murder. No one guessed the real culprit!!!

Many thanks to the Service Dog Committee of the Grand Chapter of Delaware (Linda Morganstern, Jean Nicklas, Kathleen Trombly and Sara Quinby) for all of their hard work in putting together such a wonderful fund raiser. And many thanks to all of those who attended and participated in raising funds for Service Dogs.



From childhood dreams to protecting democracy

One man's journey of service and brotherhood

By Lieutenant Allen Straub
Nebraska

As a young boy in Southern California, I spent countless hours playing with toy police cars, imagining myself as one of the officers I admired in my community. To me, they were larger than life—symbols of honor, strength, and courage. They were the ones I knew I could turn to in times of trouble, the guardians who stood tall against uncertainty. While others might have seen only uniforms and flashing lights, I saw heroes, and I dreamed of one day becoming one of them.

As I got older, life took me and my family to Omaha, Nebraska—a place I now proudly call home. I embraced the change, thriving in this Midwestern community. After graduating high school, I earned my business degree and began my career in the corporate world. It was a promising path that offered stability and success, but deep down, I felt something was missing.

No matter how far I advanced professionally, I couldn't shake the sense that I was meant for something different, something bigger than myself. My dream of serving my community, inspired by those officers I admired as a boy, never faded. Eventually, I made the decision to step away from a comfortable career and follow my true calling.

Joining the Omaha Police Department wasn't easy, but it was everything I had hoped for. Through hard work and dedication, I rose

through the ranks, learning with every step what it meant to protect and serve. The badge wasn't just a symbol of authority to me; it was a promise—to stand for my community, to uphold the values of integrity, and to make a difference.

Throughout this journey, my Masonic background has played a vital role in shaping my character and guiding my sense of duty. The principles of Freemasonry—brotherhood, integrity, service, and a commitment to something greater than oneself—are values that have influenced every step of my career. The teachings of the Craft reinforced the ideals of honor and service, reminding me that leadership is not about personal gain but about lifting others and protecting what is right. The Masonic pillars have been my guiding light, helping me stay true to my purpose as both a police officer and a servant of my community.

Then, history called.

I had the privilege of traveling to Washington, D.C., on multiple occasions to help protect the incoming President of the United States. Each time, the sense of responsibility was profound. Standing on Pennsylvania Avenue, shoulder-to-shoulder with others entrusted with the safety of the President-elect, I realized the weight of the moment. It wasn't just about safeguarding one person—it was about standing on the world stage, representing my community, and ensuring that history unfolded safely.

This time, however, was different. Not only was I part of the security detail, but I was in charge. The men and women under my command worked together seamlessly, representing Nebraska with pride and professionalism. Leading them was an incredible honor, and as we fulfilled our mission, I felt the magnitude of what we had accomplished—not just as officers, but as a team.

The significance of these moments wasn't lost on me, especially



as I thought back to an earlier encounter with the President-elect. Just a year earlier, during a campaign stop, I met him at his plane as he was preparing to depart. As we walked toward the staircase of the plane, he turned to me and asked my opinion on a personal matter. It was a brief exchange, but one that stayed with me. In that moment, I wasn't just an officer or a leader—I was part of something larger, part of a system that ensures the safety and continuity of democracy itself.

On inauguration day, standing on Pennsylvania Avenue, I felt a swell of pride as we watched history unfold before our eyes. The motorcade carried the newly elected President from the White House to the Capital building, embodying the hopes and dreams of a nation. When the President elect was sworn into office, the gravity of the moment truly set in. It wasn't just an inauguration; it was a celebration of democracy and the peaceful transfer of power.

At that historic moment, as the President prepared to step into the White House, I





couldn't help but reflect on my journey. From that young boy who once played with toy police cars to standing on Pennsylvania Avenue, leading a team tasked with protecting the highest office in the land, it had been a remarkable path.

I've stood on the sidelines of history, with the world watching, but more importantly, I've stood as a servant of my community—a role I cherish above all else. For me, the badge is more than a job. It's a commitment to protect and serve, to lead with honor, and to represent the values that make Nebraska and this nation great.

But beyond the badge, my Masonic journey has been a cornerstone of my life's mission. Freemasonry teaches that we are builders—not of stone and mortar, but of character, of community, and of a more just society. The lessons of the Craft have reinforced my duty to be a guiding light for others, to uphold truth in all things, and to always seek the path of wisdom. Just as Masons have stood as defenders of liberty and justice throughout history, I too have had the honor of standing as a guardian of democracy, ensuring that its most sacred traditions endure.

The working tools of Freemasonry—the square, the compass, and the trowel—have been more than just symbols to me; they have been guiding forces. The square reminds me to act with morality and fairness in all my decisions. The compass teaches me to set boundaries for myself, ensuring that power is never wielded recklessly. And the trowel, the emblem of brotherly love, reminds me to bring people together, to unite rather than divide, to strengthen bonds rather than break them.

As I walked away from Pennsylvania Avenue that day, I carried with me the weight of history and the strength of brotherhood—the understanding that service is not about standing in the spotlight, but about standing firm when it matters most. Service is sacrifice, a willingness to put the needs of others before oneself. It is knowing that true leadership does not come from rank or position, but from character, from actions taken when no one is watching.

In the end, to serve with honor is the highest calling of all. And as I continue my journey, both as a police officer and as a Mason, I do so with the knowledge that every step I take must be guided by the light of truth, the pursuit of justice, and the unwavering commitment to my fellow man. Freemasonry has taught me that we do not simply exist to make a living—we exist to make a difference.

Bee and Dandelion Starpoint Ceremony

**By Corley Anne Byras, PGM,
Grand Secretary Emeritus**

Electa Chapter #2, Bowdoinham, Maine

One of the most beautiful times of the year is the season of Spring, when the earth awakens, buds and blossoms burst forth, and the air is filled with the joyful chorus of birds. Nowhere is nature's renewal more breathtaking than in one of the first signs of Spring—the resilient and faithful dandelion.

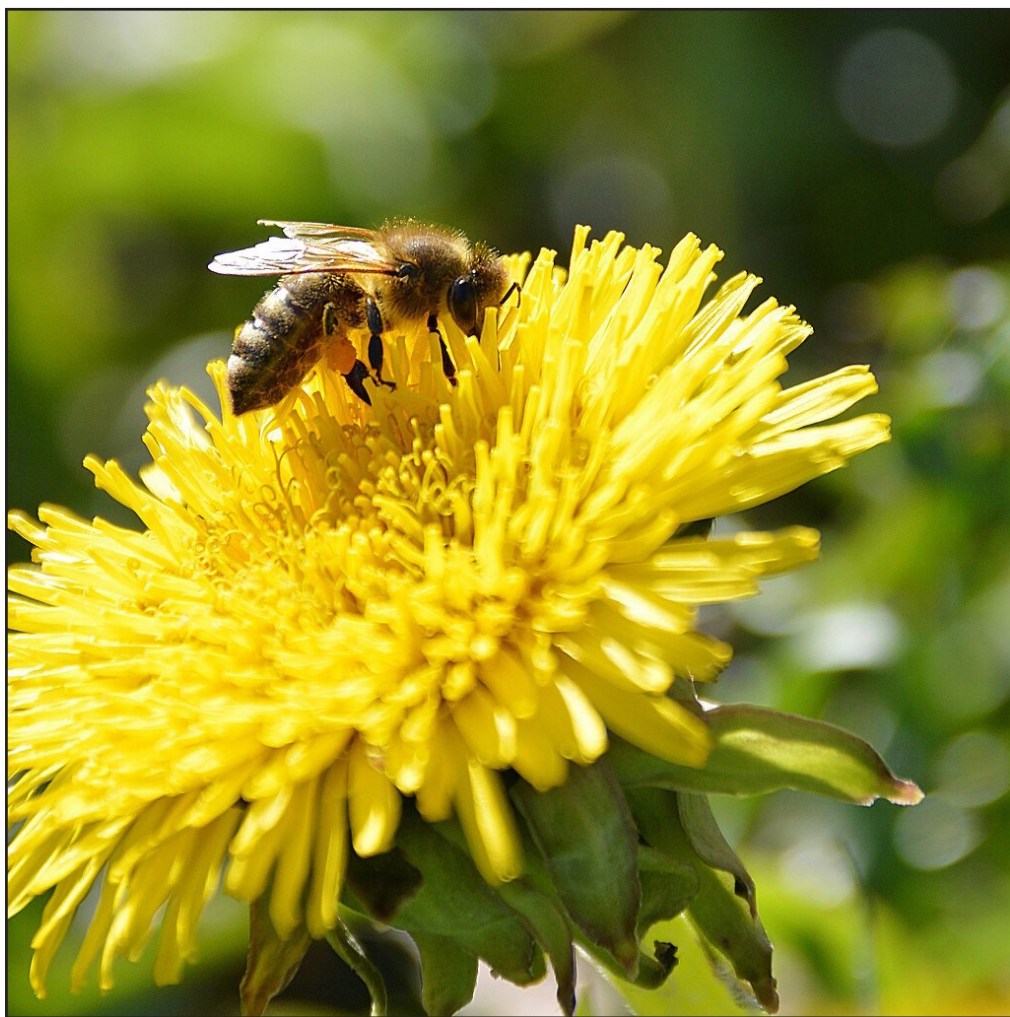
Nature provides us with a beauty that words can scarcely capture. Listen to the whisper of Maine's tall green pines. Do you hear the chirping of a baby bird in its nest? Look up at a peaceful, cloudless sky—it is almost like catching a glimpse of Heaven itself. Even the gentle buzzing of a tiny bee brings joy as nature comes alive in the Spring. Bees, particularly worker bees, are known for their tireless dedication and service to the colony.

Like the bee, the dandelion is often dismissed, regarded merely as a weed. Yet, the dandelion is a symbol of resilience, hope, and the ability to flourish even in the harshest conditions. It reminds us to never surrender the fight of faith. Just as the dandelion plants itself wherever the wind carries it, so too do we, with the faith of our Star Points, grow in the soil of life where we are planted.

Sister Adah, in those long and lonely hours on the mountainside, you searched your soul for the strength to make the right decision. As you descended to meet your father, the glow of your young face reflected the warmth of your Heavenly Father's care. You are the devoted bee at work, proclaiming the lesson of faith at each meeting.

Sister Ruth, every mile along the dusty road from Moab to Bethlehem, and every long, backbreaking hour gleaning in the harvest fields, was eased by the assurance of your Heavenly Father's care. You are the steadfast bee at work, proclaiming the lesson of constancy at each meeting.

Sister Esther, down the long corridor



Simon Walther, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

past royal guards and officials, you courageously approached the King, fortified by the certainty of your Heavenly Father's care. You are the fearless bee at work, proclaiming the lesson of loyalty at each meeting.

Sister Martha, as you ran from your home in Bethany to meet your friend Jesus, your sorrow transformed into faith in the presence of your Heavenly Father's care. You are the unwavering bee at work, proclaiming the lesson of hope at each meeting.

Sister Electa, with each bold step toward the Roman soldiers, as you steadfastly refused to renounce your faith, you felt the unshakable strength of your Heavenly Father's care. You are the amazing bee at work, proclaiming the lesson of love at each meeting.

My Sisters and Brothers, each day we face challenges, striving to live as we are called to do. These burdens become lighter

when we remember that, like the bee and the dandelion, we are sustained by a Heavenly Father who watches over us with love and care.

Worthy Matron, your officers have been installed, and you stand at the threshold of a new year of service to your chapter. As you lead, you and your officers will embody the spirit of the diligent bee, working together to strengthen the Order.

Recently, my calendar posed the question: Why do bees hum? The answer? Because they don't know the words. But I know that you, Worthy Matron, do know the words—and that under your leadership, Madonna Chapter will hum with purpose and dedication, like a hive of faithful bees at work. Thank you for the honor of sharing this ceremony today. May this year be filled with faith, constancy, loyalty, hope, and love as you carry forward the work of our beloved Order.

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

ITINERARY - JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			OV-North Dakota, June 4-7, Fargo			OV-Idaho
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
OV-Idaho, June 7-10, Post Falls					OV-Indiana, June 13-15, Muncie	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
OV-Indiana					Kentucky Rainbow 75th Grand Assembly, June 20-22, Louisville	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Kentucky Rainbow						
29	30					

NOTES: Other GCs in June: Vermont, June 4-6, Essex; Alberta, June 6-8, Olds; North Carolina, June 9-11, Durham; Montana, June 11-14, Helena; Georgia, June 12-15, Macon; Oregon, June 14-18, Pendleton; South Carolina, June 15-17, Greenville; Pennsylvania, June 23-25, Erie

ITINERARY - JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
OV-Nova Scotia & PEI, July 6-8, Truro				OV-New Brunswick, July 10-12, Fredericton, Honor WGElecta		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Job's Daughters Supreme, July 23-26, Glendale, AZ			
27	28	29	30	31		

NOTES:

ITINERARY - AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
GGCTrustee, August 3-5, Washington DC			Arizona, August 6-9, Tucson, Honor WG Martha			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				OV-New Hampshire, August 14-16, Concord		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	NOTES: Other GCs in August: Wyoming, August 7-9, Location TBA; Texas, August 11-15, Waco; Ontario, August 24-27, Toronto.					

ITINERARY - SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				OV-Kentucky, Sept 4-7, Louisville, Honor-MWGP		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
OV-Kentucky						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				OV-Colorado, Sept 18-20, Denver		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			OV-Ohio, Sept 24-28, Sharonville, OV			
28	29	30	<i>"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." – Walt Disney</i>			
OV-Ohio						

NOTES: Other GCs in September: Illinois, Sept 30-Oct 1, Springfield

The Last Word...

Donna Parrish, Editor, Eastern Star Journal

Hello sisters and brothers!

"Sisters and brothers"--what a great title to have! It's better than any other title we might be given. I found out seven years ago just how important sisters and brothers were when I went through the worst time of my life.

My dear husband of just four years had a massive heart attack and died, then a week later, I had a heart attack, almost died myself, and spent almost a week in ICU.

I met Morey at the local Masonic installation six months before we married. We kept things very low-key--think how awkward it would be if it didn't work out--until we decided to get married. And boy did we surprise a lot of people, including the entire jurisdiction of Arizona Eastern Star.

He was not in Star then, but since he married the AGM of Arizona a month before I was installed WGM, he knew it was in his future. He was welcomed warmly and learned very quickly about Eastern Star and fell in love with it.

When he suddenly and unexpectedly passed away, and then I almost died the next week, my Star sisters and brothers were truly there for me, not only in those weeks, but in the years following.

First they planned and carried out Morey's

memorial service. It was held a week after I got out of the hospital, and almost 200 of my sisters and brothers were there to say their final goodbyes to him and to help me through that day.

Then they constantly called and texted to check on me and to make sure I didn't need anything, and if I did they were there with it. I learned the true meaning of fraternal family during those dark days.

That is what we're about. Right here, right now, some members are going through tough times. Pick up the phone and give them a call, or if they're like me, text them (some of us are texting kind of people).

Social media is great, if you're a friend of mine, you know mine strongly leans toward making people laugh or smile, but sometimes, if I'm sick, I'll give an update. Not because I want sympathy, but because I think it's important that my friends know to check in case I go completely silent.

But sometimes, we put too much out there. Too often we air our grievances. I've seen that a lot lately, especially in certain OES groups. I'm as guilty as anyone else, although I try to be mindful.

Thankfully, most of the groups are private ones, but other members of the order really

don't want to see squabbling or negativity. We especially don't want to project Star in a negative light to those who aren't in and haven't seen the beautiful side of the Order, or the family side as I mentioned earlier.

In the article about the jurisprudence committee, the chairman, Brother Perry Casazza says this: "If you're not having fun, then why are you doing it?"

Have fun, my sisters and brothers. Enjoy. Don't let the little things bother you -- and they're all little things.

On another note, thanks to all who submitted articles. Until a month ago, I was worried because I had maybe a dozen articles, then BOOM!

As a note: we don't run articles about an individual chapter's term plans. That's better for a chapter newsletter or a jurisdiction newsletter.

We got a couple articles that had no context--the basic who, what, where, when, why.

Please, always put the name and location of your chapter, and jurisdiction. A few I had to do an internet search, and they came up, but if they hadn't, I wouldn't have run the story.

I hope you enjoy this edition and please feel free to submit articles and photos! Hugs to all!