



CAL STAR NEWS

Thanks for a FANCACTUS Year!



Hello Sisters and Brothers!

I cannot believe that this is our final Cal Star Newsletter for our 2023 Grand Year! Thank you to each and every one of you for making this year FANCACTUS! It is because of you, the members, that I agreed to take this journey. My travels allowing me to meet so many of you are the best memories that I could ever ask for!

As we wind down to our Grand Chapter, I hope that you have enjoyed this past year. The number of Initiations has been a true testament to your love for our organization! Keep up the great work and continue to grow our beautiful Order!

Grand Chapter is just a few short weeks away. Have you registered yet? Our “Having Fun in the Southwestern Sun” Session won’t be the same without you! You can register at oescal.org or send in your registration to the Grand Chapter Office. I hope that you are coming to our Fun Night on Thursday night as Sister Julie Duty has set up AMAZING entertainment! The Dueling Killer Pianos! Nope, it’s not Don and Dennis, lol! Get you tickets asap!

Another special item that will occur at our Grand Chapter will be our Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron, Sister Billie Bradfield, will be announcing her General Grand Chapter appointments from California! Come find out who will be honored in California for the 2024-2027 Triennium.

Thank you again for all the love and support you have given me not only this year as WGM, but for my entire journey. I love you all!

With a huge elephant trunk hug and Kokopelli kisses,

Kimberlie Kruse

Worthy Grand Matron



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Travel Notes from our Worthy Grand Patron

Sisters and Brothers,

The 2023 Grand Family continues to diligently travel the state and greet our members. In June, we continued our Official Visits and held the SLC Southern Event at the SLC Festival. The Grand Officers were assigned to various stations selling water, fresh popped popcorn, and soft serve ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream. The following day we attended the Strawberry Festival at the Masonic Home in Covina which included strawberries dipped in chocolate. On June 17th, we attended Evangeline Chapter's 150th Anniversary in Grass Valley. The Chapter had a very nice program and, an old miner's favorite, "Pastie" lunch, was provided along with cake. The following day we attended the SLC Northern Event in Roseville. Much fun was had by all with lots of prizes and the event was well attended. We ended the month by attending the first two of our Grand Officer Receptions and attending Grand Bethel in Ontario, California where the Grand Family did a dance routine.

The month of July started with Kimberlie and I attending the Reception of Lynne and Scott Goode's combined Reception. Lynne had been the Grand Representative of Wisconsin in 2022, but we had asked her to be one of our Deputy Grand Matrons in 2023. So, Kimberlie and I appointed her husband, Scott, to fill her appointment. Therefore, we were at this Reception to speak on Scott's behalf. We finished off the month of July by celebrating the Receptions of more of our Grand Officers.

On the first of August we took a road trip to Scottsdale, Arizona for the Arizona Grand Chapter. It was very hot, but we had lots of fun and we saw quite a few members of California while there. We headed back to California to attend the last two of our Official Visits, one in Ontario, and one in San Luis Obispo. On August 19th, we celebrated Jam and Jelly Day at the Masonic Home in Union City where we had a hamburger and hot dog buffet with salads. We had a great time visiting with the residents and members of the East Bay Association, my Association. We finished up the rest of our Grand Officer Receptions during the last weekend of August. Also, Paws for Purple Hearts, a virtual event, was held from August 18–August 25. We are now headed into the home stretch toward Visalia and hope to see many of you at Grand Chapter.

Star Love,

Gary Dunham

Worthy Grand Patron



Tae a Thistle

Tae Scots yer mair than jist a flower
Yer a symbol o' great strength an' power
Wrapped in shades o' purple an' green
Yer the bonniest flower this land has seen

Some folk say that yer jist a weed
But we Scots ken yer a mighty breed
Yer delicate yet strong an' bold
An' worth mair tae us than silver or gold

Aye yer loved by Scottish heart's
An' ye always wur right fae the start
Wi' yer purple heeds and yer spiny stems
Yer the richest o' all oor Scottish gems

**NOTES FROM YOUR CAL STAR NEWS EDITORIAL CONSULTANT - CHERRI WHITELEY***Continuing the History of our Grand Representatives*

Our Grand Year is fast winding down with Grand Chapter only a month away. It is exciting to look forward to a new Grand Year while we cherish the successes and memories of this past year. As we do look ahead, I'd like to encourage our Chapters, Grand Officers, and Grand Representatives to make CalStar News a bigger part of the year. We need to hear from many more Chapters about the occasions and events happening as well as reports on travels and accomplishments. This publication is meant to share with each other all of these things, so please remember to submit to us and - please check the instruction box in this edition for the proper way to do that.

I left off in our last edition reporting on the position of Grand Representative and promised to continue, so I'll briefly do that. In 1956, an amendment to our Constitution was adopted that provided that no one who had held an elective or appointive office in Grand Chapter could be recommended and there could be no re-appointments. It included that a Chapter could not have more than one Representative at a time. This legislation was an attempt to ensure that the appointments be spread more evenly throughout the state. This was reversed in 1967 when a further amendment took away the prohibition against recommending those who had previously held elective or appointive Grand Offices. There was concern that only the finest available persons to represent us at Sessions of other Grand Jurisdictions be appointed.

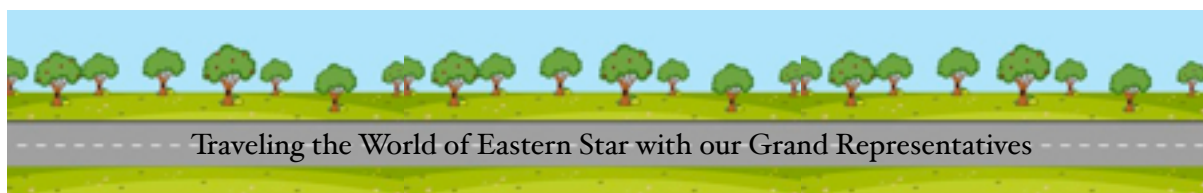
In 1957, Worthy Grand Matron Marguerite Weisheimer gave special recognition to the Grand Representatives by prescribing special dresses and had them escorted and seated in special seats in front of the East. Although special dresses are not always part of the appointment, we still do honor our Grand Representatives with special seating at Grand Chapter. We have obviously moved forward with appointments of Brothers as well as Sisters. At our 2022 Session, we approved an amendment that there now may be two Grand Representatives from each Chapter at the same time. This was primarily due to the many consolidations that are occurring. One other recognition that has been more recently added is the presentation of Grand Honors to the Grand Representatives at Grand Chapter.

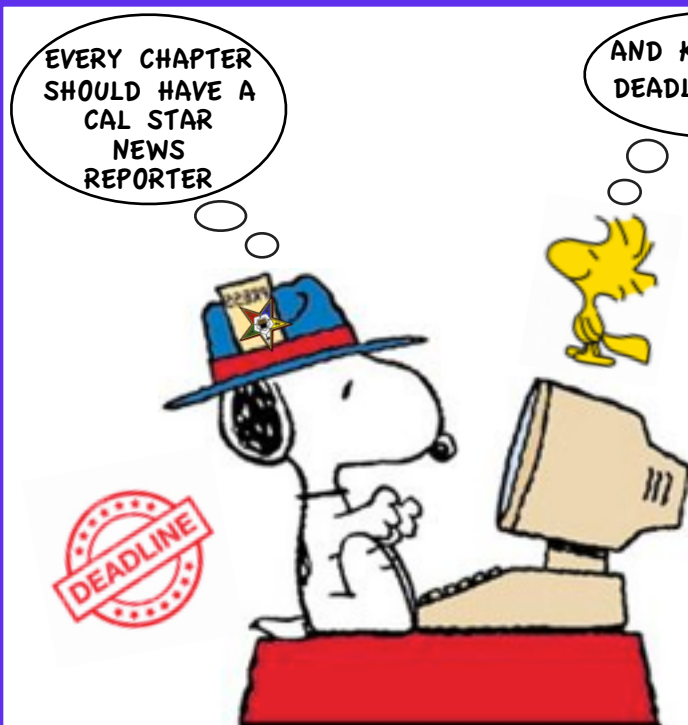
This is very succinct coverage, but hopefully gives some insight from these two editions into a tradition that has existed in some form within our Jurisdiction since 1881. We salute our Grand Representatives and look forward to seeing articles regarding their travels and communication with their jurisdictions.

I am honored to share that Sister Christine Huff, our Associate Grand Matron, has invited Sister Cindy Murphy and me to continue our service to CalStar News and, as already shared above, we hope to be able to include many more articles from our wonderful Chapters and Members. It is always a pleasure to receive, read, and place the informative news.

Editorially,

Cherri





CAL STAR NEWS 2024 DEADLINES

December 1st - WINTER EDITION

March 1st - SPRING EDITION

June 1st - SUMMER EDITION

September 1st - FALL EDITION

SEND ARTICLES TO
rainbowpog@aol.com

Submit as WORD document!

Send Photos as jpg attachments **SEPARATE** from your Article
Please **DO NOT** send photos from Facebook screen shots and
DO NOT crop, edit or alter your photos



**Cal Star News is a
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Order of the Eastern Star**



Cherri Whiteley, PM - Editorial Consultant
Cindy Murphy, PM - Layout Specialist

CONGRATULATIONS
AND MANY THANKS TO
OUR CAL STAR NEWS
REPORTERS!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING FROM MORE
CHAPTERS AND
MEMBERS IN 2024!

There's Room for You!
Deadlines for Next Edition
Dec 1st - Winter Edition

ATTENTION
Grand Representatives
Let's Hear about Your
Travels!!!!



Senior Living Community

"CONTINUING A WAY OF LIFE"

Martial Arts Artists come to visit and show their craft



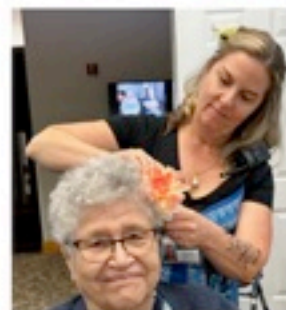
BEACH PARTY!



Arts & Crafts



**Time
for a
Luau!**





Travel Service Program

"Hand in Hand - Together We Can!"

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Can you believe the year is over? WOW, thank you to the members who turned in their Travel Service Program point sheets to a Grand Representative, and thank you to the Grand Representatives for turning those point sheets into the Northern and Southern Grand Representative Association Presidents. Presidents, Julie Wilis and Mike Winford, thank you for your hard work in sending the point sheets to me by mail, email, and Facebook Messenger. I enjoyed reviewing the point sheets and seeing all the traveling the members did, along with service to their Chapter, other Masonic organizations, and to the community.

I would like to thank our WGM Kimberlie Kruse for giving me this opportunity this year. I have enjoyed talking to the members and even had the pleasure of presenting a pin to a member. I know the service to our community, the traveling to visit and help other Chapters, and the service to your own Chapters will continue.

I look forward to seeing those who received a Travel Service Program pin wearing them proudly at Grand Chapter.

Star Love,

Josette Losurdo, PM

Travel Service Program Chairman 2023



Travel Service Pin for 2023





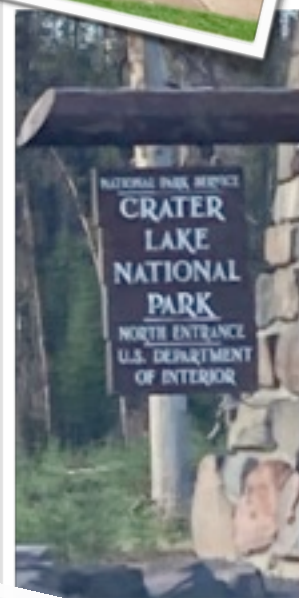
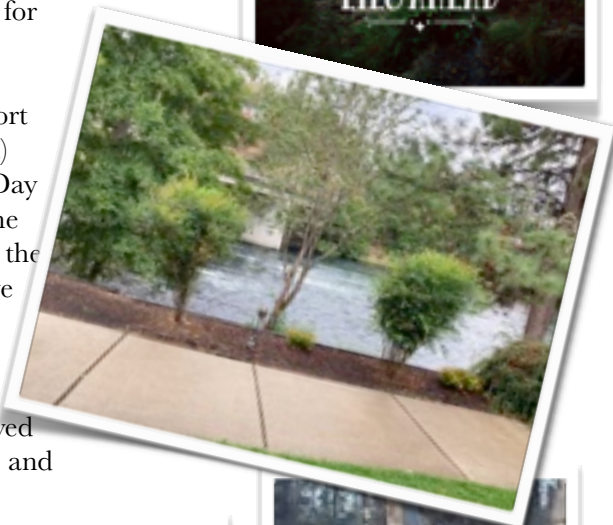
Special Feature

2017 Grand Family Reunion

"The Greatest Adventure is what lies ahead!" is the ending line from the 2017 Closing Ode and continues to ring true for the 2017 Grand Family as they were recently off on another great adventure. Southern Oregon was the destination for this year's annual reunion.

There were 19 of us plus seven-month-old Princess Charlotte (daughter of Escort Amanda Massengill Wilson and Granddaughter of our Queen Beth Massengill) who gathered at the Edgewater Inn in Shady Cove, Oregon during the Labor Day weekend, September 1st through 3rd. Our hotel rooms were situated next to the Rogue River and you could see the rushing water and rafters floating past from the French doors that lead out from the rooms to a lovely patio. On Friday night we enjoyed reconnecting at a Mexican restaurant before getting ready for the adventures planned the next day.

On Saturday we had five cars caravan up to Crater Lake where we had a reserved Trolley Tour around the rim of this beautiful lake and National Park. The lake and scenery were magnificent.



Continued on Page 8



Special Feature

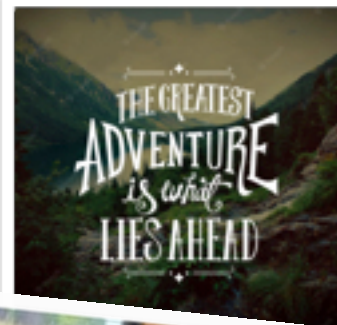
2017 Grand Family Reunion

Continued from Page 7

A surprise was in store that evening for our Bonus Mom, Ris Prentiss, as we celebrated her birthday! We had a fabulous catered barbecue dinner followed by cake and some “special” entertainment. (No pictures will be shared to protect the identity of these crazy Family members!) Needless to say, many laughs were shared!

Our hosts for the weekend were Lynn and Bill Tripler, our 2017 Grand Martha and her husband. They spoiled us all weekend long and it was so great to see them since they had move up to Oregon about five years ago.

So, where is the next adventure taking this Grand Family? Well, in 2024 we will be heading way down yonder to New Orleans! We can't wait for the adventure that lies ahead!



Our Reunion Hosts - Lynn & Bill Tripler -
2017 Grand Martha & 2015 Grand Warder



The 2017 Grand Family waving hello as they set off on another
Great Adventure together in 2023



Happy Birthday Bonus Mom!
Ris Prentiss



Re-cap of SLC Fundraising Event

"Having Fun in the Nor-Cal Sun"

Way to go OES!! Not only did we have fun, but we exceeded our fundraising goal and raised over \$14,000 for the Senior Living Community! New ideas for fundraising were instituted, and as scary as it was at first, it was a memorable and successful event!

In addition to all the attendees, A Big Shout-Out to the following who made this event a huge success:

Platinum Sponsors: Beth Massengill, Bill Prentiss, Bill & Karen Netemeyer, Deborah Osborne, Golden Gate Chapter 1, Jacqueline McDermott, Malinda Caven, and Susi Reynoso

Gold Sponsors: Eric & Kera Dolan, Mike & Rosalyn Litza, and Phil & Cathy Solem

Silver Sponsors: Eric & Kera Dolan and Mary Davis

Bronze Sponsors: Bonnie Sue Gibson, Cathy Veley, Christine Huff, Deane Miller, Eileen Simmons, Jessica & Sandy Jopson, Kelly Padilla, Lawrence Orozco, and MJ Miller

Event Sponsors: Alice Epperson, Cindy Murphy, Dawn Gummer, Elizabeth Whisnant, Frank Vansant, Gwen Douglass, Kendall MacGregor, Kathy Fowler, Mario Palestini, Mike & Marlene Holton, Paul & Jennifer Carroll, Susan Lemon, and Teresa Gemignani

Business Supporters: Bennett's Kitchen Bar Market (Susan Bennett), Colusa Casino Resort, Dogtopia Rocklin (Diane Foos), Hair By Brittney Jamie, Ling Bling by Missy Jane Keeton, River Cats by Ashley Magdaleno, Freeport Blvd Starbucks by Ryan Shomers, and YogaSix by Erica Finkes

Event Coordinators: Bill & Karen Netemeyer, Chairman

Auction Coordination: Jacqueline McDermott, Kera Dolan, and Tim & Renee Blagg

Decorations: Cathy & Phil Solem and Jessica Jopson

Entertainment: Paul & Jennifer Carrollt

Evening Prayer: Guy Benjamin

Public Relations: Rosalyn Litzza and Susi Reynoso

Refreshments: Jobs' Daughter Bethel #3, Debbie Osborne, Dickey's Placerville Dave/Valmarie Duncan

Security: Tim McDermott

As you can see, it takes a village to have a successful event, and we have the best village!!!



Thank you one and all,
Susi Reynoso, PM, Primrose Chapter





Grand Officer

A Message of Thanks from our Grand Martha

Note: Thanks to ALL of our 2023 Grand Officers for their time and dedication to our Order this year and their contributions to our Cal Star News. We wish to thank Kelly for submitting this article and sharing her personal feelings on the experiences of this year, which we believe are echoed by all those who shared the journey with her this year.

Your Cal Star News Staff - Cherri & Cindy

Everyone said that this year would fly by. Everyone said to enjoy every moment. Everyone said that it would be the best time ever. You know what... everyone was right about it ALL!

It is hard to believe that in a few short months we will be in Visalia attending the 2023 Grand Chapter Sessions and the journey of the 2023 Grand Family will come to an end. This has truly been the journey of a lifetime. Thank you again to Kimberlie, Worthy Grand Matron and Gary, Worthy Grand Patron for this memorable opportunity.

I have been blessed to meet, spend time with, and fellowship with some truly amazing Sisters and Brothers. I have been humbled by the sheer generosity of our members and am forever grateful for the work they do. Not just in their Chapters, but in their communities, for the WGM/WGP Special Projects, and for each other. You are all an inspiration.

The Marthas of California hold a very special place in my heart as I have had the privilege to spend time with some, hear them do their work, and hear what this station means to them. They all give a bit of themselves when telling the story. They all lend their faith and hope when needed. They all emulate the strength and love of Martha. For those that have sat in this station and for those that will, remember, Martha is unfaltering in her hope and faith. Lean into her charge when you need it. It will lift you; I promise.

This year has blessed me beyond words, and I want to thank you all for opening your hearts, homes, and Chapters to us this past year.

Faithfully,

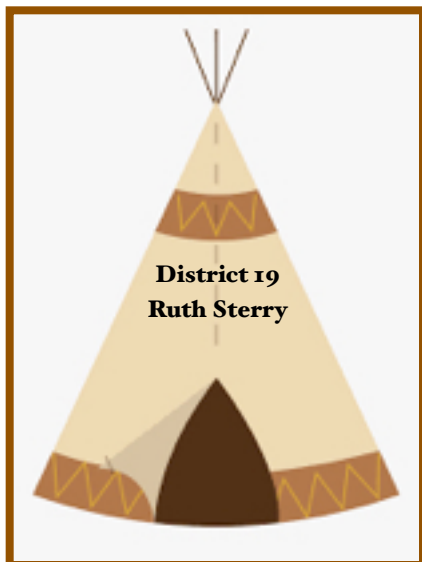
Kelly Padilla, Grand Martha 2023





2023 Deputy Grand Matrons

Meet our final 9 hard working Deputy Grand Matrons for 2023 aka "The Scouts" - 33 of our DGMs have submitted an article and we have featured these ladies throughout the year. We have used a random number order by District rather than going from 1-34. In the Winter Edition we met 8 of these hard working ladies, 8 more in the Spring Edition and 8 more in the Summer Edition. Thanks to our Deputy Grand Matrons for submitting an article and for the work they did in 2023!



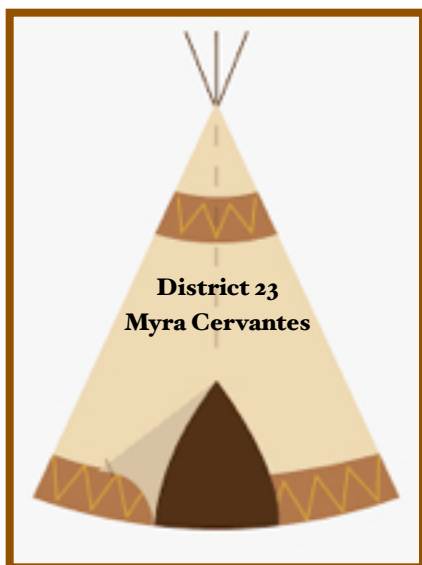
My name is Ruth Sterry, I have the honor to have been appointed Deputy Grand Matron of District 19 for 2023. I'm eager to start this new portion of my fraternal life.

Originally from Arizona, I have lived in Fresno since 1971 when my husband was discharged from the Air Force. I have been married to Jim for 54+ years, we have two children and six grandchildren.

I retired from a local credit union after 32 years. I enjoy gardening, crocheting, embroidery, crafting, and I am a beginner quilter.

I was initiated into Eastern Star on February 27, 1990. I am a member of Legacy Chapter #555. I have served as Ruth and Martha, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron, Worthy Matron in 2018 and for the last several years I have served as Treasurer.

I'm looking forward to traveling and meeting many of you this year.



My name is Myra Cervantes, the Deputy Grand Matron for District #23. This District consists of five Chapters: Glencrest #237, Desert Rose Star #327, Van Nuys #338, Burbank #352, and Old West #642. I would like to share that I attended Deputy School. This is where the Deputies had the opportunity to learn floorwork from some of the best, the Grand Officers. This was an experience I will never forget! Three days of full execution, non-stop learning, and I couldn't have asked for more.

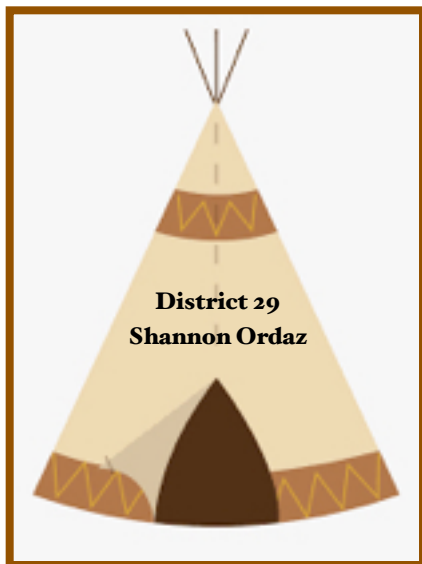
Raised in the Masonic Family, this appointment only brings me honor and joy. I hope that you too one day have this opportunity. I was initiated into Job's Daughters International in Bethel #5, Anaheim and became a Past Honored Queen of Bethel #43, Los Angeles. I joined our beautiful Order thanks to my mom. I am a Past Matron, the current Secretary, as well as a Mentor for my Chapter. My husband, my father, and my brother are active members of the Burbank Masonic Lodge, where I get the opportunity to meet and make new friends as part of the lady's group. Experiencing new challenges within our Order and creating long lasting friendships is what I look forward to.

Now, on to help my Chapters and share with them our WGM Kimberlie's and WGP Gary's vision! It is my honor to be serving our Order along with some of the best Brothers and Sisters an Eastern Star member could ask for! See you on the road! #23oes23



2023 Deputy Grand Matrons

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers! My Name is Shannon Ordaz. I am the Deputy Grand Matron for the Fabulous District #29, which consists of Star of Claremont #110, West Covina Chapter #202, Stardust Chapter #145, and Upland Chapter #346!



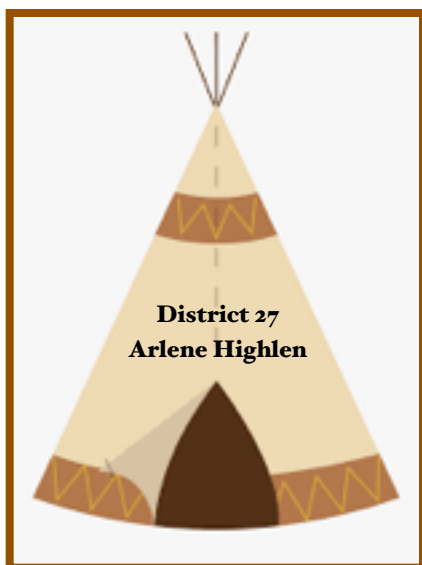
Here is a little information about me: I started my Masonic journey at the young age of 11. I was initiated in Job's Daughters, and served as Honored Queen for three terms. While I was in Job's Daughters I was elected to be DeMolay Princess for the Chapter in Riverside.

At the age of 20, I joined Eastern Star in January of 1998 (I'll be a 25 year member in January 2023) I have held the offices of Warder, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron, Worthy Matron, Esther, Chaplain, and Electa. I served as Worthy Matron in 2003 & 2006 and Deputy Grand Matron in 2007 & 2008

I am a Full-Time Cast Member at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim California. Most days you will find me working behind the embroidery counter in Disney's California Adventure Park.

On my days off I enjoy spending time with my two sons, Matthew (21) and Joshua (17), and my two awesome Pugs, Maggie and Phoebe.

I am excited to meet all of you throughout my travels this year and it will be an honor to serve as a 2023 Deputy Grand Matron.



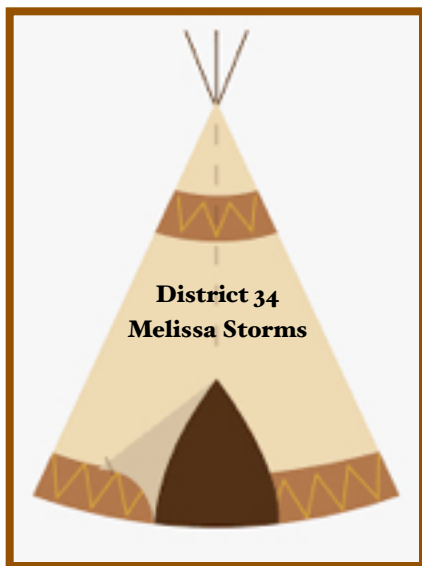
My name is Arlene Highlen, and I am a first-time Deputy assigned to District 27, in Northern Orange County (home of Disneyland!). I am a two-time Past Matron from Ami Tai Chapter #147 and have been a member of the Order since 1978. I am also finishing up my commission as the Grand Representative of New Brunswick in California and for just over a year I have served as the President of the Southern California Grand Representatives Association.

My husband Doug and I are very active members; he has been on the Scholarship Committee for four years and I will be entering my second year as a member of the Board of Trustees for our Senior Living Community. We are also members of the Grand Chapter Week Committee and will be General Chairs during Alice Raymond's year in 2025.

I am a retired special education teacher and look forward to "teaching" my three Chapters this year: Whittier Star #144, Yorba Linda #347, and my own Chapter, Ami Tai #147. I am excited to have been chosen by Sister Kimberlie to advise these Sisters and Brothers and look forward to meeting new friends out on the trail!



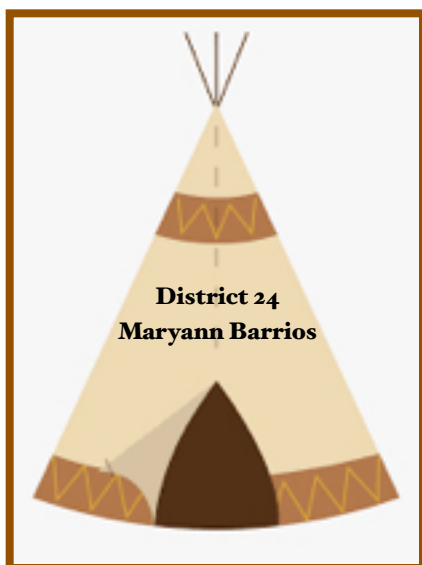
2023 Deputy Grand Matrons



Hello to all my Sisters and Brothers out there. My name is Melissa (aka Missy) Storms. My Masonic journey started in 1986. I joined Job's Daughters Bethel I El Centro when I was 11. That Bethel consolidated with Calexico, which is where I met Paula Remington. I went through the Line two times in Job's Daughters. I was honored to be a Grand Bethel Girl in 1995-96 as Representative to Oklahoma and South Dakota. When I turned 20, I stayed involved with the Bethel, serving on their Council. I knew of Eastern Star because my grandmother had belonged to the San Miguel Chapter. So, I talked to Paula and asked, "How can I join Eastern Star?"

And so began my journey in Eastern Star. I was the first of my family to join Eastern Star. A year or two later, my mom and two sisters joined. My father has since become a Mason so he could join Eastern Star with us. In October, I initiated my only daughter into our Chapter. My first time as Worthy Matron was in 2018. I had Tom Remington by my side. I then went through the Line again in 2022. I am a first-time Deputy from Chapter 276 in Imperial Valley.

I have been assigned to District 34 which is in the southern part of California. It has been a few years since anyone from my Chapter has been a Deputy and they are excited for me. I have been a part of this Order for 24 years and can't wait for many more to come. I am very excited for this new responsibility and the fun times ahead getting to know my fellow Deputies and the Grand Officers. It is a pleasure and honor to have this opportunity to serve as a Deputy. I hope to see you in my travels.



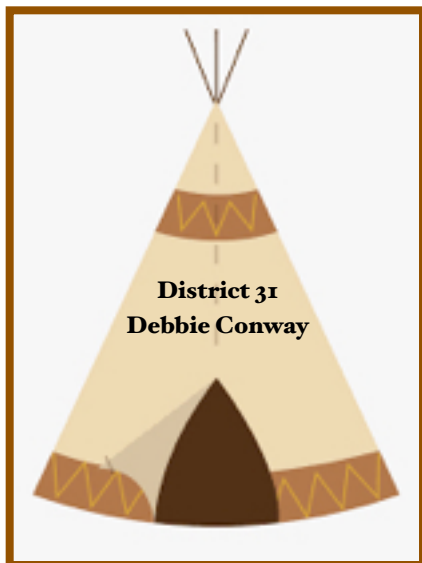
My name is Maryann Barrios, and I am DGM for District 24 this year, which includes South Pasadena #21, Arcadia Pasadena #108, and Dr. Rob Morris #651.

This article is a bit tough to write as most of you remember me from my nine years as Grand Secretary. Here's just a bit of background for those that may not have met me: I joined Star in 1999 and have served as WM in 2004, 2012, and this year am serving again. I served as DGM in 2018 and am honored to have served as your Grand Secretary.

I have recently retired and am keeping busy with OES and local community groups and events. I am looking forward to serving our Chapter and District and hope to travel a bit this year renewing old friendships and creating new ones!



2023 Deputy Grand Matrons

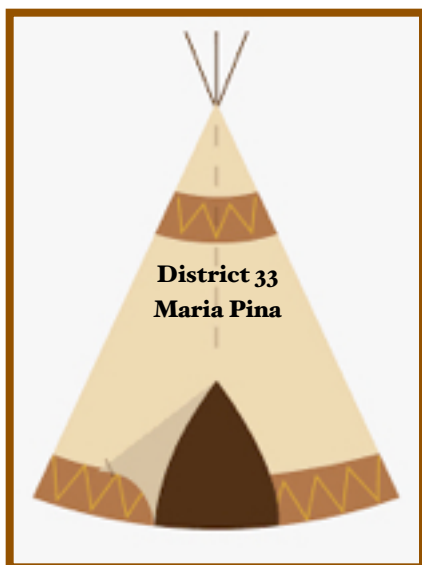


Hi, my name is Debbie Conway. I am a 15-year member of Tahquitz-Victoria Chapter No 241, in Hemet.

Let me tell you a little about my Masonic history. My family has been active in the Orders all my life. I joined Job's Daughters at the age of 11. I am a Past Honored Queen, Majority Member, Past Bethel Guardian of Job's Daughters Hemet Bethel No 145. I am a Past Sweetheart from Centennial Chapter of DeMolay. I am currently the Assistant Mother Advisor for Foothills of Heaven, Rainbow for Girls.

I have held the offices of Marshal, Adah, Ruth, Martha, Electa, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron, twice and Worthy Matron four times.

I enjoy serving our Order and look forward to the newest adventure as Deputy Grand Matron for District 31.



Hello, my name is Maria Piña. I am honored to be appointed as Deputy Grand Matron for District 33. I've been a member of the Order since 2010 and served as Worthy Matron in 2016 in La Paloma Star Chapter No. 96, San Diego.

I have served as Electa and Sentinel and have received the Service Award. I have also served as a Grand Page.

My husband Alex and I have called the city of Imperial Beach our home for the past 23 years. I'm originally from New York and grew up on Long Island.

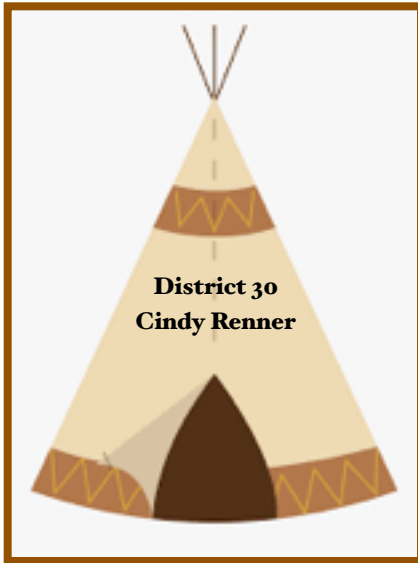
I received a bachelor's degree at State University of New York and followed that up with graduate studies in Counseling Education at San Diego State University. I am retired from working as a Healthcare Administrator.

In joining Eastern Star, I have found gratitude for the many ways we participate in community service and charitable activities in our local communities.

It is a joy to discover new friends through our work and fellowship together! I look forward to being of service as Deputy this year and providing assistance to our members!



2023 Deputy Grand Matrons



Cynthia (Cindy) Ellen VanArkel was born in Des Moines, Iowa. I moved to California in 1963. I graduated from Paramount High School in 1970 and attended California Baptist College in Riverside where I graduated in 1974 with a BA. I went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas receiving a MRE in 1978.

I returned to California Baptist College again in 1978 to obtain my teaching credential. This is where I met my husband, Keith Renner, and we were married in 1980. We have three children together.

I was initiated into Riverside Chapter #622 on November 13, 1989. In 2009 I affiliated with Ungava Chapter #106.

I received the Rob Morris Award in 2001 and the Service Award in 2018. I received my 25-year pin in 2014. I have been Adah ten times, Ruth once, Esther three times, Martha twice, Electa twice, Warder and Marshal twice and chaplain three times.

In 2014 to 2016 I was Grand Representative to Sao Paulo, Bazil and was lucky enough to go twice to that Grand Chapter.

I have been Worthy Matron in 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2020one.

After Riverside Chapter consolidated with Ungava Chapter I affiliated with Stardust Chapter #145.

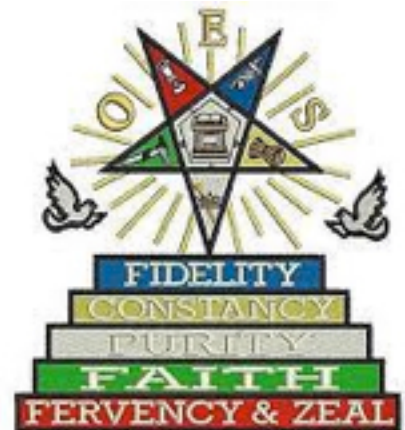
I have enjoyed this year as Deputy Grand Matron of District 30 with all my travels and making so many new friends.

From the Fraternal Correspondence Committee

This year has really gone by fast. Many of us have been traveling to many other Grand Chapters and have made many new friends. We have learned and seen how other Grand Chapters do things just a little differently. Each has opened their arms with warm greetings and new fellowships. We hope that many will be able to visit our Grand Chapter.

It is such an honor to have been selected and to represent our Order.

Lynn Carter
San Clemente/Saddleback Chapter
Fraternal Correspondence Chairman





Calling All Grand Representatives



California Eastern Star wants to Hear from You!

Tell us about your Grand Jurisdiction and your Travel Adventures!

We want to see your pictures too!

Send your articles and pictures to Cal Star News: See Page 4 for the deadlines for submissions and all the information on where to send your article, etc!

We look forward to hearing from YOU!



Print a copy of the Cal Star News and keep in a binder at your Chapter for those that don't have internet capability so they can also enjoy the newsletter!



Grand Representative

ARIZONA- THE GRAND CANYON STATE

By Gwen Douglass, Grand Representative of Arizona in California

Arizonia's Grand Chapter was held August 1 - 5, 2023 in Scottsdale, Arizona. I attended with Debbie Osborne along with 4 others from District #6, Bill and Karen Netemeyer from Rose #292 and Bonny Sue Robbins and Beverly Stillwater from Evangeline #9.

The week began with a fundraising banquet for Billie Bradfield, the Right Worthy Associate Grand Marton and PGM of Arizonia. We also had the pleasure of having the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Glenda Winchester in attendance for the week. The theme for the evening was Halloween costumes. Debbie and I dressed up as members of a bowling team. Our shirts said, "You don't have to be crazy to bowl with us, we can train you." We also wore hats with bowling pins on top and even had bowling pin bottles to hold our liquid refreshments. They had almost 100 people dress up for the event.

Wednesday August 2, 2023, began the "Lights, Camera, Action" Grand Chapter with Mitzi Loughridge, WGM and Jim Wadley, WGP presiding. This night was the all-member dinner with a theme of "Movie, Musicals & Paparazzi". Debbie and I dressed up as the ladies from the "Jailhouse Rock" 1957 movie starring Elvis. Some people thought we were from "Escape from Alcatraz"! Great fun was had by all.

Thursday, August 3, 2023, began the first night of sessions which included formal escort. A noticeable difference between Arizona and California is that during the escort, they do not clap after giving Grand Honors as we do. I kept wanting to clap! Some habits are hard to break. Another difference is that they have Ada and Electa's chairs positioned at an angle toward the altar.



Debbie & Gwen having fun!



Gwen Douglass, Grand Representative of Arizona and Debbie Osborne, PM enjoying Arizona GC Sessions



Arizona has a Grand Organist Emeritus, similar to our Grand Secretary Emeritus. They have 22 Grand Officers, which includes 3 people elected to the Board of Trustees and an appointed Grand Lecturer. Other notable differences were: The Star Points charges include the emblem within a triangle and pentagon; For every session they have a different Opening Ode and Closing Ode that they sing; They did not have any legislation to vote on for this year; The WGM & WGP have their emblems, colors, flowers, and songs; however, the Chapters may choose their own decorations for their Chapter Installations; The chapters hold their Installations in May and Grand Chapter in August; The members in Arizonia can belong to more than 2 chapters.

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Grand Representative

ARIZONA- THE GRAND CANYON STATE Continued from Page 17

By Gwen Douglass, Grand Representative of Arizona in California

The Grand Representatives Luncheon had more in attendance than ever before with 186 former or current representatives from 30 different states. After the luncheon we had the Cavalcade of Flags by the Grand Representatives of Arizona and their counterparts.

Friday, August 5, 2023, they held elections of the Grand Line Officers. The ladies run for Associate Grand Conductress and the men coming up in the line are WGP, AGP and Grand Sentinel. These are all elected positions. So the man elected Grand Sentinel will be WGP with the newly elected Grand Conductress when she is WGM. My Representative counterpart Linda Marriott's husband was elected Grand Sentinel this year. I am super excited for her and husband Gil.



Saturday, August 6, 2023, morning session included the announcement of all their scholarship winners and they were able to present a member with her 75-year pin. They also introduced all the 50 and 75 year members present.

For the first time at Grand Chapter they did not do a silent auction, instead they had a room called "Box Office" (to go along with this year's theme). This was where members could go and play some games like a Plikco game to win tickets, 2 or 3 different backdrops to have pictures taken for a small fee, Prize Walk (like cake walk but no cakes) and a Ring Toss game where you could win wine, soda, a jar of candy and or adult beverages. Debbie Osborne was very good at this game! This being their first year of trying something new they profited over \$1,500.

Saturday evening consisted of Installation of Grand Officers. The WGM's flower is Pink Tipped Roses, and Carnations (all colors), her colors are Black and White and colors of the rainbow. WGM's emblems are Penguins and Unicorns. The WGP's flower is Yellow Roses, colors are orange and green. WGP's emblems are Disney's Goofy and Otters. I really did like their Watch Words: "People see our deeds; God sees our motives". The projects for Arizona this year are OES Scholarships, Service Dogs, & Scottish-Rite Children's Learning Center in Tucson.





Chapter Reports

SAN CLEMENTE-SADDLEBACK CHAPTER #524

Submitted by Charlene Norris, PM

Welcome to South Orange County California, Home of San Clemente-Saddleback Chapter. Our First Time WM Staci and her WP Bruce have been great at keeping us laughing this year, with wonderful and quirky themed meetings, business casual dress, and humorous escort sayings. We also had an Initiation of a wonderful member who is already actively participating in Chapter activities. Our fundraisers have been consistent successes and although not all monetarily over the top, brought an element of fellowship and camaraderie back to our small but mighty Chapter.

We celebrated the DGM Jennifer Bjordahl at our July Meeting with a Hawaiian style Honor Night that was enjoyed by all. With a Script written by none other than Sister Susan White, Worthy Grand Marshall and Past Grand Matron of California, it was sure to be a success.

We invite you to join us in the fun and friendship of San Clemente Saddleback if you are in Lake Forest area on the third Monday of each Month at 7:30 PM. Look for our fundraising fliers posted on the OLA Family and San Clemente-Saddleback Chapter Facebook Pages.



Deputy Grand Matron Honor Night
Sue White, Worthy Grand Marshal & Jennifer Bjordahl, DGM



Chapter Reports

JOSEPHINE CHICO CHAPTER #104

Submitted by Kyna Hendra, WM

Josephine Chico Chapter ended their Summer Break with a fun “Members Dinner” combined with an Honor Night for the Deputy of District 5, Kari Graham.

After Dinner, Kari was seated in a special extra comfortable arm chair created for her for the evening then introductions and presentations, followed by the Mizpah which finished our evening.

We are looking forward to the rush of the Autumn season, Grand Chapter, and the Installation of our new corps of Officers.



One of a Kind “Arm Chair”



DGM Kari Graham Relaxing in her “Arm Chair”!





Chapter Reports

OLD WEST CHAPTER #642

Submitted by Laura Kelley, PM

Old West Chapter is grieving the loss of our Worthy Matron, Sister Norma Shannon. This was her third time to the East for our Chapter, and she served our Order in many other ways, including on the Endowment Committee and former Grand Representative of South Dakota in California.

Norma was born a twin, both prematurely. Her brother did not survive, and Norma was placed in a new piece of hospital equipment, an incubator. Due to the oxygen that was pumped into the incubator, she completely lost her vision. I know many people experienced thinking that she was not fully blind. It was just that she could pay extraordinary attention to detail.

Norma was one of the most fully developed and capable people I have ever known. She attended a school for the blind in her early days, but then fully integrated into mainstream classes. She was a Majority Member of Job's Daughters, graduated from college, lived on her own, married, had children, and had a very successful career with the California State Department of Rehabilitation. When her husband, Tom, was incapacitated due to cancer, she stepped into the role of breadwinner without missing a stride. Her work took her all over, including solo travel to Sacramento for business meetings.

When Norma joined Eastern Star, she was eternally grateful to Brother Bill Bray, who went to pains to get a Braille Ritual for her. It enabled her to fully interact with the Chapter. After serving in several offices, she began up the Line and was successful in leading our Chapter in 2008 for the first time.

From the first time we met, I felt that Norma was a kindred spirit, and our friendship was amazing and broadening. We shared so many adventures, whether traveling or attending local events or just driving around. I know credit for this feeling was due to Norma, as many other people have expressed having a similar experience with her. She never met anyone who wasn't instantly a friend and always had a kind word or laugh to share. Everywhere we travelled, she knew someone, and they would make their way over to say "Hi". She was almost always able to identify them by voice.

Sister Norma's liver failure came on suddenly and she was lost to us on July 8. The light of our Order is dimmed with loss of this amazing, shining Star. May we go forward with the memory of her kindness and humor in our hearts.



**Old West Chapter 2023 Installation
Doug Kelley, WP and Norma Shannon, WM**



Chapter Reports

WISTARIA CHAPTER #531

Submitted by Mary Ella Williams, PM

Since our last edition of CalStar News Wistaria Chapter #531 in Turlock has been busy completing various projects that were on the horizon in last quarter's issue. Our delivery of over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to our local school district was met with overwhelming appreciation. The school district informed us that they will distribute these backpacks to the neediest of students in Turlock--children who are in foster care, are homeless, and are recent refugee arrivals from Afghanistan. Immediately after the donation, we staffed a community-wide drive thru drop off of school supplies to encourage our neighbors to "Pay Goodness Forward" as well.

Several days later, we loaded up an SUV with eight Wistaria Members and delivered wish-list donations to the Shriners' Hospital for Children in Sacramento. We were able to go on a tour of this AMAZING facility. *How can anyone not be impressed by all of the "goodness" our Masonic Family supports after visiting a Shriners' hospital?* Our group mentioned being very impressed with the Prosthetic Orthopedic Lab, the 3-D X-ray machine that allows children with spinal injuries to stand up while being scanned at super low radiation dosages, the Motion Analysis Center, the rehabilitation sample apartment, the onsite school classroom, and the staff's overall friendliness, helpfulness, and thoughtfulness as they care for the children.

Just a few days later we delivered our collection of donations for displaced Veterans to the agency that is hosting a local Veterans Stand Down in October. These items were collected to match their wish list. If you haven't heard of a Stand Down, it is an event that provides services and goods for displaced Veterans; for example, medical exams, haircuts, dental checkups, and packages filled with basic necessities such as first aid kits, flashlights, and emergency blankets. (These are the types of items Wistaria donated).



Wistaria's Workday to Pack Supplies into Backpacks for Local Schools
(Left to Right) Kathy Koester, Mary Ella Williams, Wanda Ray, Pat Neu, Gene Cripe, Sue Chambers,
Janet Fredericks, Gail Womack, and Carrol Lowe

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Chapter Reports

WISTARIA CHAPTER #531 **continued from page 22**

Submitted by Mary Ella Williams, PM

Wistaria's Patient Comfort Station continues to create wonderful items and deliver them into our community. We donated several more deliveries of comfort bear pillows to our first responders along with fidget quilts to a local classroom for primary-grade students. Then, we took on a new project. We are making bags to affix to walkers so that persons with walkers can carry their necessities more easily. Did we mention that our scraps and unwanted material are being repurposed into dog blankets for a local pet adoption agency? With canine service animals being an identifying Eastern Star charity, we felt this local connection could lead us into more conversations about how our Chapter and OES is "Paying Goodness Forward" into our community and our world...and it has done just that!



Wistaria's Donation Delivery Day to Shriners' Hospital
(Left to Right) Linda Davis, Wanda Ray, Tamara Yost, Janet Fredericks, Gene Cripe, Sue Chambers, Dean Williams, and Mary Ella Williams

Additionally, we spent a day organizing the clothes closet for our local Haven House for women and children; however, with temps hitting the 100's, we had to postpone plans for a subsequent workday until the weather cools down a bit.

Do you think we are busy and that it gets hot in the Turlock area? Apparently, not too busy and too hot for us to go to a local cannery to sort through their culls to obtain the best items that could be paid forward to our local kids in Westside Ministries. We have partnered with these organizations to help underprivileged kids in our neighborhood. The mission provides them a safe and enriching haven after school and during the summer. We delivered over 700 fruit cups that will last them for the month, all of which were in excellent condition but considered imperfect because of the fruit portions inside. Our plan is to do this again at the start of October. The director is over-the-top happy for our continued faithfulness in these deliveries, and recently told us that the kids enjoy them so much that they want to know when more are coming when they run out.

At Wistaria's Friendship Night, we filled the room with Courtesy Officers, and after our Stated Meeting ended, our Mizpah circle stretched around the entire room. Many of our members travel to other Chapters to visit throughout the month and we reaped the rewards by having guests from Yosemite Gateway, Redding, Linden, Elk Grove Onisbo, Joaquin, Linden, Ceres, Patterson, Summit, Pentalpha, and Azalia Star Chapters. WOW!

Wistaria members work hard and have loads of fun along our journey. We respect and love our Sisters, our Brothers, and our Order. We practice our Ritual Work faithfully, and recently nine of our members attended training classes and became Eastern Star Certified Mentors. Our Chapter is thriving and we are blessed! We are always looking for new members to join in helping us to "Pay Goodness Forward" and hope to meet our next Eastern Star Candidate in the next few minutes.

I'm so proud to be counted among you and invite you to take a look at our website (OESWistariaChapter531.org) to see more pictures of our activities and to check out our monthly newsletter.



Chapter Reports

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

Hot temperatures didn't deter Escondido Chapter from activity this summer; we soaked up good times with Sisters and Brothers, enjoying each other's fellowship as we worked to support our Chapter and community.

In June, our annual dinner fundraiser was such a success that we brought in enough to finish our yearly budget needs! Everyone enjoyed a German-style Christmas in June dinner with great-smelling and great-tasting food, along with shopping opportunities, including beautiful baskets and vendors who brought everything from custom steel tumblers with Masonic Order logos to zippered everything bags, greeting cards, calendars, jewelry, friendship bread, bowl cozies, bath soaps, and purses.

In July, we gleaned items from our homes for a Chapter Yard Sale. Set-up the night before turned into a social event as we chatted and told stories with Sisters and Brothers who dropped off items, and a couple of members brought breakfast snacks bright and early for everyone working the yard sale. Of course, our busiest time was the last 15 minutes before we packed leftovers and delivered them to our local Salvation Army. It seems that every member of our Chapter participated in this event, whether donating, setting up, hefting tables and clothes racks, working the sale, packing up, or delivering. It was one of our most supported events this year, which made it worth all the effort! We also enjoyed a Third Tuesday Ice Cream Social in our air-conditioned dining room. What a great way to beat the heat.

August is "Back-to-School" at Escondido Chapter. Our annual project is collecting school supplies for our local middle school, which gives us the opportunity to shop for all those Star-Point-colored folders, composition books, and notebooks, plus pencils, pens, white board markers, erasers, scissors, rulers, lined paper for students, and colored copy paper for teachers. One of our members searched and found protractors requested by a 7th grade math teacher and another donated art and science lab fees. Middle School comprises some tough years, and most just want to forget about them, so our Chapter enjoys supporting Bear Valley Middle School, which is a welcoming place for our local preteens. We also enjoyed a Third Tuesday Members' Dinner provided by our WM & WP. The tasty spaghetti sauce, made by our Chef Secretary, caused lots of second and third helpings, and the sherbet dessert gave us a cool ending to an evening of relaxation and sociability.

We've had "Fun in the Southwestern Sun" this summer (and this whole year). Soon, we will head into Fall, Installation season, and a new year. Escondido Chapter will remember the good times and continue to "help others each day and make a difference in someone's life."



Some of the school supplies collected



Barbara Smilko, WM and Bear Valley Middle School Principal Jason Wrzeski



August "Third Tuesday" Member Dinner



Member Reports

Submitted by Cindy Murphy, PM

Friendship from California's Golden State to New Hampshire's Granite State

What do you do when a California member moves to another State? You go visit them at their Grand Chapter! Cindy Murphy, PM from Crystal Chapter and Joanne Gibson, PM from Semper Fidelis Chapter traveled to New Hampshire for the 132nd "Roots in Granite" sessions held August 18th and 19th in Concord, New Hampshire.

So which California member did they go to visit? Well, it was Sister Casey Rainey, who was serving as Grand Esther in New Hampshire. Casey is a member of New Hope Chapter in California and also a member of Pilgrim Chapter in New Hampshire. She had moved back home to New Hampshire about four years ago to be near her family. She was born and raised in New Hampshire and began her Masonic affiliation as a Rainbow Girl there.

Casey was very happy and excited to have visitors from California attend their Grand Chapter session. Cindy and Casey began a friendship when they both entered the Line and served as first time Worthy Matrons together in 2011. That friendship grew over the years and remains strong today. It's one of the blessings we receive as members of this great Order-- lifelong friendships that can span across the country.

New Hampshire's Grand Chapter was held in a conference room at a Courtyard by Marriott hotel. The sessions only lasted a total of two days, and this included Escort, Legislation, and the Installation of the new officers. There were approximately 300 in attendance with approximately 90 of those as visitors. Neighboring states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont were well represented. Sessions were fairly brief with lots of time for meals and fellowship in between.



Casey Rainey, Grand Esther of the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire



New Hampshire Grand Officers - The "Granite Stars"



Cindy Murphy, Casey Rainey & Joanne Gibson



Member Reports

Friendship from California's Golden State to New Hampshire's Granite State

Continued from Page 24

The Worthy Grand Matron had called her Grand Officers the "Granite Stars" in honor of the Granite State and she focused her sessions on the historic Masons that have shaped New Hampshire's history. She is a historian and genealogist and shared the research she had done on New Hampshire's history with those in attendance. During her year she had encouraged members to visit the "Historic Landmarks" designated places throughout their state.

One of the interesting differences was a Masonic Entrance Ceremony prior to the Call to Order and Ritual Opening. The Masons brought in the Star Point chairs, followed by the pedestals and then the emblems. All of this was done with a beautiful narration. Another interesting difference was the office of the Grand Marshal. This officer does not advance but is a very special appointment and carries out similar activities as our California Grand Marshal in making travel arrangements and keeping the Grand Officers informed and offers instructions. She is afforded time after the WGM and WGP farewell to give her own farewell and at Installation she gives her own remarks. The Grand Sentinel is elected and is then in line for Associate Grand Patron the next year. There were two gentlemen running and the fellow that was selected won by one vote!

We enjoyed our brief visit to New Hampshire and the members we met and especially enjoyed our visit with Sister Casey Rainey. She was a beautiful Queen Esther!



Casey and Cindy - 2011 First Time California Worthy Matrons - Cindy surprised Casey and is wearing her 2011 Worthy Maron formal!



State bird
Purple Rock

State flower
Purple lilac

State tree
White birch



Casey Rainey, Grand Esther with her Crown and Scepter and wearing her New Hampshire Tartan Grand Officer Travel Outfit