# CAL STAR NEWS

# Sunny Greetings from our Worthy Grand Matron!

Hello Sisters and Brothers!

I cannot believe we have just over four months left until Grand
Chapter! You all have been amazing and it has been such an
amazing honor to visit with each of you in my travels! It has been
so wonderful to hear about how you are having fun in your Chapters and this is leading to them
growing. Keep up the excellent work!

I am excited to start the Town Halls between the Grand Line Members and the Chapters. We are looking forward to connecting with you and talking with you. We want to be there for the Chapters of California and hope these Zoom forums will help us to hear you each better and work for each of you. Each Worthy Matron will be receiving an email from a Grand Line member to set up a Zoom meeting with the Chapter. Please try to attend your Chapter's Town Hall. Without hearing from each of you, we can't help to make things better for our beautiful Order.

We are winding down on our Official Visits, only nine more to go! We start the Receptions for the Grand Officers and Subordinate Chapter Officers at the end of June. I hope that you will each come on out and support the Officers. You can find the invitations on our oescal.org website under Grand Chapter > Monthly communications.

I am super excited about our Southern and Northern Senior Living Community events coming up this month. With each of your support and love, it helps our residents. I hope you are friends with the SLC on Facebook. The pictures they post of the residents having fun are AWESOME! Don't forget, you too can become a resident. Please feel free to contact our SLC for more information: 714-577-9281

Our Washington D.C. trip was a huge success! We had 81 in attendance and had loads of fun! The tours were amazing and our bus drivers were great! At D.C. Grand Chapter, our very own Martha Peters, PGM gave the response to the Past Grand Matrons/Patrons being escorted and Kathy Dameron, Grand Representative of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Australia in California gave the response to the Grand Representatives in other Jurisdictions. We were so very proud of them!

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### More from our WGM! Continued from Page 1

Our Grand Chapter is coming up fast! It will be October 18-21, 2023 at the Visalia Convention Center. Housing Forms are already on the OESCAL.ORG website and our Grand Secretary will be sending out the Registration and Meals ordering links very soon! It's never to early to register or send in your housing! Please remember though, go through Grand Chapter for your housing as this helps lower the cost of the rental at the Convention Center.

Thank you all for your continued support of our Special Projects this year, The Purple Elephant – Alzheimer's and Dementia awareness and raising funds to find a cure; Paws for Purple Hearts – Service Dogs; and the J.C. Lee Cancer fund. We still have plenty of silicone bracelets for sale for The Purple Elephant and J.C. Lee Cancer. They are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. All of the Grand Officers and Deputy Grand Matrons have these for purchase. We also have our Paws for Purple Hearts pins for \$5. Sisters Kimberly Shira and Melissa Cronin have a great virtual event to support our Paws for Purple Hearts project coming up on Saturday, July 8th. Keep an eye out for that info!

I am looking forward to continuing to see all of your amazing smiles in our travels! Please don't hesitate to come up and say "Hi". I always love to meet new friends!

With a huge elephant trunk hug and kokopelli kisses,

Kimberlie Kruse Worthy Grand Matron

eriphasize your strong points be patient during the dry spells you will bloom when it is your time always stay sharp

# Our WGP Enjoying Travels on the OES Trail in California and Washington, DC!

Sisters and Brothers,

The 2023 Grand Family has been very busy thus far. In March we continued our Official Visits and celebrated two 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries, one at Scepter Chapter in Orange as well as Gold Ridge Star Chapter in Sebastopol. In March we attended the SoCal Purple Elephant Fundraiser Event for Alzheimer's at the Ventura Masonic Center. Congratulations go out to Sister Lee Anne Kallen for chairing this event.

In April, in addition to more Official Visits, there was the Hands Across the Border event held at the Pioneer Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada, which included California, Arizona, and Nevada Eastern Star members. I was not able to attend due to family obligations, but understand fun was had for all who attended. The NorCal Purple Elephant Alzheimer's Fundraiser Event was held at Springbrook Masonic Center in Vallejo. Congratulations go out to Sister Gina and Brother Michael Vickerman for chairing this event. We also celebrated the 150th Anniversary for Alameda Oak Leaf Chapter in Alameda. It was fun hearing about the history of all the Chapters that have become this one.

The month of May led us to our long-awaited trip to Washington DC. We arrived on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for seven days. There were over eighty people who signed up for the trip and we had two motorcoaches to show us all of the sights of DC. On our first day we toured the International Eastern Star Headquarters of General Grand Chapter, the Perry Belmont House, which was an honor to see. My favorites, as well as bucket list items, were the George Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the John F. Kennedy grave site at the Arlington Cemetery, and Mount Vernon, George Washington's Estate. We also witnessed the changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our tour guide made sure we visited many war memorials, the Whitehouse, the National Capital, and the Ford's Theater where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. We also were able to visit a few of the Smithsonian Museums. I might add that we also attended one day of the Grand Chapter of Washington DC sessions, where Kimberlie and I were escorted to the East.

We are now back at home in California and back to our schedule of attending more Official Visits as well as upcoming Grand Officer Receptions.



### NOTES FROM YOUR CAL STAR NEWS EDITORIAL CONSULTANT = CHERRI WHITELEY

Some "Grand" History on our Grand Representatives

It is very exciting to see several Grand Representative Travel Reports in this edition. Appreciation goes to WGM Kimberlie for her encouragement of those folks to submit. As promised in the last edition, my Editorial will concern the history of the Grand Representative position, which is so much more appropriate with the included reports.

The first mention of Grand Representatives actually dates back to 1881 when it was recorded that four Garand Representatives from "near" jurisdictions visited California and it was thought we should participate in this practice. In 1885, an Amendment to the Constitution and Laws was added regulating this process. By 1888, Grand Representatives were escorted, presented, given Grand Honors and seated in the East. BUT—they were all Past Grand Matrons. 1896 appointments included the first "non PGM", a Past Grand Treasurer. It was in that year that the WGM recommended that the length of the commission in California be three years.

In the way those appointments rotated, in 1900, all commissions had expired but it had been overlooked that in 1897 some appointments were one year, some two years, and some three years to allow all future Grand Matrons to each name a portion. The 1900 WGM approved that process.

The opinion that other than Past Grand Matrons should receive some of the commission s resulted in Past Grand Treasurers and one Past Matron being appointed. By 1917 also included were the Grand Secretary, the Grand Marshal, and an Associate Grand Matron.IT was in 1920 that there was mention that Sisters and Brothers had been commissioned to represent California in other Grand jurisdictions. By 1922, 21 such appointments had been made.

The General Grand Chapter suggested in 1825 that Grand Representatives be4 appointed for only ne year to equalize appointments and that Past Matrons be given the appointments rather than Past Grand Officers. This was not completely honored, for as late as the early 1950's an occasional Past Grand Matron would show up on the list along with wives of Past Grand Patrons and other Past Grand Elective Officers. Commissions were often renewed meaning some served for many years.

Well, space prohibits me from moving forward from that date, so I will continue the "evolutiom" of this position in our next edition. Delving into this historical information has been of great interest to me since I consider myself to be a bit of a "history buff".

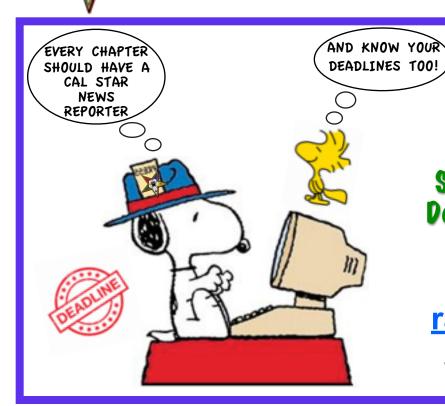
I hope that the interim between the past edition and this edition has been good for all of you and that the coming months hold wonderful OES events as well as great personal memories.

--Cherri









CAL STAR NEWS 2023 DEADLINES

September 1st - FALL EDITION December 1st - WINTER EDITION

SEND ARTICLES TO rainbowpoq@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 publication of the Grand Chapter of California 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!

IN THIS EDITION WE HAVE 11 CHAPTERS REPORTING AND 1 SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE There's Room for You!

Deadlines for Next Edition

Sept 1st - Fall Edition

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



## **Spotlight Feature**

### Sacramento's Historic Eastern Star Temple reborn as a Hyatt Hotel

Article and Photos submitted by Judy Parker, PM, Primrose #385

In the 1920's a group of members of the Order of Eastern Star had a dream. By holding fund raisers and selling stock (20,000 shares at \$5.00 a share), they would be able to have a building designed and built to house their meetings. Five Chapters became the owners of that dream, Sacramento 190, Ada 301, Fort Sutter 420, Columbus 117, and Naomi 36. Today Sacramento, Ada, Fort Sutter, and Columbus have consolidated with Temple Chapter and are now New Hope #117. Naomi consolidated with Rising Star Chapter and is now Rising Star #36. Their dream was realized when the Eastern Star Temple came to life with the cornerstone laying on May 19, 1928.





The firm of Coffman, Sahlberg, and Stafford were hired and built the Romanesque Revival style building, one of four by the company and this is the only one of them still standing. Past Patron L. Fredrick (Ted) Gould of Naomi Chapter was the supervising contractor. The building now has a new life as a Hyatt Hotel. The firm Hume Developing purchased the building and has spent several years bringing it back to life. On March 9th Primrose Chapter had the extreme pleasure of touring the building. The staff and Roger Hume welcomed us and were enthusiastic hosts. They shared the stories of the many people who have visited to relive their days of proms, weddings, and special events attended in the building. Mr. Hume's Grandmother was a member of the Order and his grandfather was a Mason. His mother played her first violin concert on the stage in this building. Having grown up in the area and having a history with the building caused him to want to preserve as much of the history as he possibly could. We think he did a great job!

Photos of the original building and how it looks today with the additional floors.

The entrance as we remember it and the lobby today. The rug shown in the original entry way is in the Star Lounge today. The mirror at the top of the first flight of steps is now at the top of the second flight of steps on the right (the hallway to the Chapter Rooms). The hallway entrance is a solid wall and behind that are the hotel rooms.

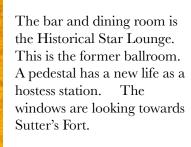
The staircase railing is the original. The door on the mezzanine level used to be the restrooms which are today suites.





# **Spotlight Feature**

### Historic Eastern Star Temple - Continued from Page 6









Many of the original chandeliers have been saved as have many other items. The former kitchen and dinning room are now the exercise room and conference rooms. The meeting rooms are hotel rooms.

The door on the mezzanine level used to be the restrooms which are today suites.

A time capsal has been found behind the corner stone and Mr. Hume plans to open it for the building's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Let's hope we can all be there when that happens.

Even with the many changes, the building is still beautiful. It is a registered historical building and will always represent what a group of Sisters and Brothers can accomplish.







# Senior Living Community

"CONTINUING A WAY OF LIFE"

### Happenings at the SLC....Just TRY to Keep Up with our Residents!

Did you know peanut butter tic-tac-toe is a thing? Seems that the residents of our Senior Living Community are having too much fun with this game! Ping Pong balls covered in peanut butter, tossed onto an oversized tic tac toe board made from white bread slices...... if the visual is too hard, come on over to the Senior Living Community and we'll show you how to play a round or two!

Poker with oversized playing cards isn't just for those that might have an issue with sight. It's just fun!!

Mother's Day Teas......April Fool's jokes and pet therapy. These are all activities that our residents participate in. We love to hear the laughter during a St. Patrick themed happy hour.





# Washington, DC Travel Event "California Eastern Star members visit our Nation's Capitol"



### Submitted by Cathy Valey, Grand Marshal

May 3, 2023 to May 10, 2023 approximately 100 Eastern Star members and friends descended on Washington, DC and attended their Grand Chapter. We started our trip with a visit to our beautiful Perry Belmont Mansion. Our home is a beautiful place, and the staff was very gracious.

Several of us attended the Washington, DC Grand Chapter and were welcomed by all. It was interesting to see the different set up of the floor chairs and we had to remember no clapping.

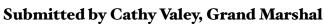
We went to the National Mall for a few days to see all the Monuments and Museums. We were able to go see the White House and honored to visit Arlington and witness the changing of the guards. It was a whirlwind trip, we were always on the go, we even went to Mount Vernon and the MLK Memorial. All of the war memorials honoring our fallen servicemen and women were insightful and left us full of gratitude.

We enjoyed meeting new friends and reconnecting with old friends. The buses were full of song and laughter.











### Northern California Event

### "THE PURPLE ELEPHANT" - ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

What an Amazing Event! The North did an amazing job at raising funds for Alzheimer's Awareness, our Purple Elephant Project. Several of the Grand Officers were arrested, placed in jail by the Sheriff (Mike Vickerman) and had to be bailed out by the attendees. Both silent and live auctions were very successful. Randy Cady donated a refurbished drive-in speaker that went for approximately \$2000. The Northern Districts all donated creative auction baskets along with individual donations. During the event attendees took pictures at the photo booth or played games on the patio having the views and the lights of the Bay Area as their background. After an amazing BBQ buffet dinner, the dance floor came alive. Our DJ Greg Smith kept the music going and had everyone on their feet. This wonderful evening ended with raising approximately \$12,000 for Alzheimer's Awareness.

I felt honored when I was asked to chair this event, however, never having planned an event of this magnitude, it was a bit scary. There were several people who helped with this event, and I could not have done it without them. Denise Whittle of Ariel Chapter did an amazing job of the decorations. My daughter was responsible for all the artworks done on the jail and the signs and was also our bartender. Sandra Betz of Ariel Chapter for always taking amazing pictures. And of course, our amazing husbands who are always by our sides supporting us in whatever we are doing. Thanks to LeAnne Kallen for all her words of support and encouragement. I couldn't have asked for a better partner for this project.

Thank you to all the members who supported this event.

If you are interested in Purple Elephant apparel you can find it at

https://purple-elephant.spiritsale.com





WGP Gary and WGM Kimberlie with Northern Event Chairman Gina Vickerman





AGM Christine's goes on a wild ride and lands in Jail at the Northern Fundraising Event for "The Purple Elephant" Special Project

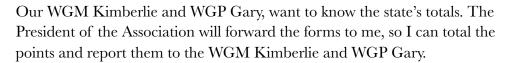


# Travel Service Program

"Hand in Hand - Together We Can!"

Hello and Happy Summer Everyone,

We are halfway through the year and I know many of you have served our Order, served your Chapter and community along with traveled to other chapter meetings for party nights, attended fundraisers, attended OVs and supported our Masonic Youth, so I'm hoping you have your 2023 Travel Service Program, Hand and Hand Together We Can, point sheet filled out and ready to turn in to your local Grand Representative. If you don't have the point or tracking sheet, please visit the OESCAL.org website for them. Once you have filled it out and reached the 223 points, please turn the form in to a Grand Representative, they will forward the form to the Grand Representative Association President who will send the Grand Representative the pin for them to present to you.



The pins are beautiful, and I hope to see many members wearing them at Grand Chapter, but if you do not wish to receive a pin, please either email me or mail me your point sheet with a note, "No Pin" so I can include your traveling and service amounts in the report. Again, only send the forms to me if you do not want a pin.

I hope to hear from the President's that many forms have been turned in. I can't wait to see the totals and how much service has been given this year.

Star Love,

Josette Losurdo, PM Travel Program Chairman

Send to me if you **Do Not** want a PIN email: <a href="mailto:oespmil@gmail.com">oespmil@gmail.com</a>

738 W Gettysburg Ave Fresno, CA 93705-1025



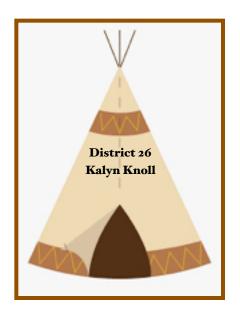




This Beautiful Travel Pin Can Be Yours! It's Simple! Fill out the Point Sheet and return to a Grand Representative near you!



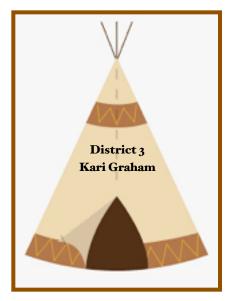
Meet 8 more of our hard working Deputy Grand Matrons for 2023 aka "The Scouts" - Each of the 34 DGMs have submitted an article and we will feature these ladies throughout the year. We have used a random number order by District rather than going from 1-34. In the Winter Edition we met 8 of these hard working ladies and 8 more in the Spring Edition. Don't see your DGM yet? Check back to see who will be featured in the Fall Edition of Cal Star News!



Greetings Star Family! My name is Kalyn Knoll. I started my journey in Eastern Star in 2015 by joining Emerald Star Chapter in Norwalk. I have served as Associate Conductress, Conductress (twice), Associate Matron, and Worthy Matron. In 2023 I will be installed as Associate Matron.

Outside of Star, I have worked for the last 16 years at a school dedicated to the education of students that have severe autism. I also run my own photography studio and graduated college in December with a BA in Business Management.

I look forward to being the Deputy Grand Matron for District 26 this year.



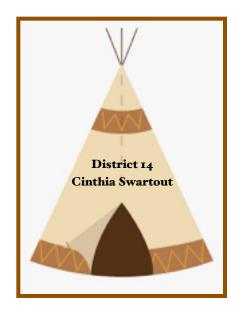
I'm Kari Graham, DGM District #3! I'm a native Californian and a member of River Valley Chapter in Marysville. My Masonic affiliation started as a Rainbow Girl when I was 12 and joined Joy Assembly in Wheatland. I received the Grand Cross of Color and then got active again when my daughter joined Rainbow in Maryland and I served on the Advisory Board. I also served on the Advisory Board for Marysville Assembly.

I joined Wheatland Chapter in 1972, which through consolidation, is now River Valley Chapter in Marysville. I was inactive for several years but became active again about 15 years ago. I served as Worthy Matron in 2017 and am honored to have received the Service Award, the Dr. Rob Morris Award, and the Rob Morris Membership Award. I was also Worthy Matron on the team that won the State Ritual Competition in 2018.

I have been married to my husband, Dirk, for 47 years and we have one daughter, Melissa, who is also a member of Eastern Star. Dirk retired in 2019 and I finally got to retire this year. We enjoy day hikes and snow shoeing. My hobbies include counted cross stitch, making quilt tops, sewing, and reading.

This is my second term as a Deputy Grand Matron and I am honored to be serving again.



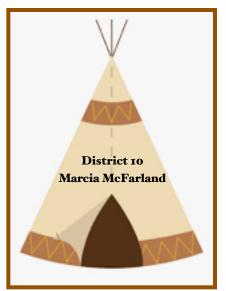


DGM for District 14, Cinthia Swartout was born in Colorado and moved to San Jose, California in 1985 when her husband, Chris, changed jobs. Married to Chris for 46 years, Cindi is the mother of Alan (42), Tirina (37) and Tami (34) and grandmother to Melody (16) and Casper (11).

As a teen Cindi joined the Job's Bethel where her mother had been a member (Lakewood, CO Bethel #8), but was only active for about three years. In December 1999 Tirina and Tami joined Willow Glen Assembly of IROG as friends of a Rainbow Girl. With the encouragement of the OES ladies on the Board for the Assembly, Cindi joined Miramonte Chapter 141 in March 2002. Miramonte has consolidated and became a part of Valley Star 141 in 2008. She has held the following positions: Electa, Esther, Adah; Associate Conductress; Conductress three times (being installed for the 4<sup>th</sup> time); Associate Matron three times and Worthy Matron three times.

Cindi encouraged Chris to join so he could be with her in the West and the East. First, he had to join Los Altos Lodge and go through all the Degrees. Then, in February 2017, he was initiated, elected to Associate Patron and Installed as Worthy Patron. He has been Associate Patron and Worthy Patron three times.

Cindi has received the OES Service Award and for IROG, the Grand Cross of Color. Her hobbies include family history research, sewing, crafting, Disney, quilting, and embroidery. She currently works as Office Manager for an Executive Recruiting company.



North of San Francisco from Mill Valley to Clearlake you will find the five Chapters of District 10 for the 2022/2023 year. I'm Marcia McFarland and you will find me as an active member of Rose Valley Chapter #33 in Santa Rosa for the last twenty years. We are a family District and visit among ourselves often.

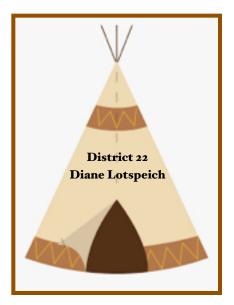
The East found me eventually as Worthy Matron in 2012/2013. I have held all but two of the stations in that Chapter.

I come from a long line of Masons beginning in Scotland. My father and mother were active in many Masonic groups. I was wearing an apron and serving plated dinners at the Masonic Hall when I was five years old. This was the building my father helped build in Sarasota, Florida, my hometown.

My children and grandchildren are my greatest pride and joy.

I am excited and humbled to be your Deputy Grand Matron this year. There are challenges for us and good times too. Thank you for the opportunity to share and learn with my OES Sisters and Brothers. I applaud the kindness you have all shown me in my journey of life.





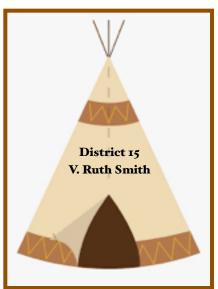
Welcome from Ventura County. My name is Diane Lotspeich and I am honored to have been selected by our Sister Kimberlie to serve as Deputy Grand Matron of her very own District 22 for the coming year. Our District includes Channel Islands Chapter No. 78 in Ventura, Conejo Valley Chapter No. 632 in Thousand Oaks, and Simi Valley Chapter No. 637 in Simi Valley.

I was initiated into Ventura Chapter No. 79 in March 1968, and am a 54-year member. Over the years I have belonged to Santa Paula Chapter No. 185, and Vallecito Chapter No. 523. Through consolidation, these Chapters are now Channel Islands Chapter No. 78. I served as Worthy Matron in 1995, 2002, 2007, 2016, and 2019, and am currently serving as Conductress.

I have served Grand Chapter as Deputy Grand Matron in 2004, Grand Representative of Virginia in California 2013-2014, Chairman of Fiesta at the SLC when still on Sunset Blvd. in Westwood in 1995, Editor of the Cal Star News from 1996 through 2002, a year on the Membership Committee, and have served on the Election Board at Grand Chapter for many years. I was awarded the Service Award by Ventura-Fillmore Chapter in 2003 and by Santa Paula Chapter in 2014.

I have been married to my husband, Jim, for 54 years. Jim is a retired US Navy Reserve having served for 36 years, a member of Channel Islands Lodge No. 214, Channel Islands Chapter No. 78, and Al Malaikah Shrine. He is a Past Patron too many times to count (over 12) and served as Grand Representative of Virginia in California 2007-2008. He will again be serving as Worthy Patron of Channel Islands Chapter in 2023 and if he hasn't already figured it out, again in 2025. We are both retired from Civil Service having worked at Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, for 30 years. Well, Jim worked 31 and I retired at 29 years, but who is countin? We have two sons, one grandson, two granddaughters, and two really old men cockatiels that we have had for over 30 years. My favorite past times are cooking, sewing, embroidery, quilting, and hanging out at our mountain cabin, Kamook Camp, which is located near Oakhurst and Yosemite NP.

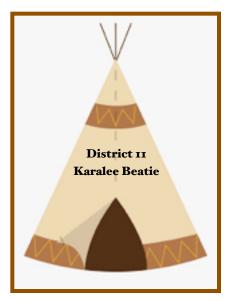
I look forward to traveling this year and meeting all of you this coming year.



I'm V. Ruth Smith, DGM for District 15. I was initiated into Summit Chapter #138 in Knights Ferry in 1987. I am a third-generation member of OES. My Grandmother was a 50+ year member in Colorado but never affiliated with a Chapter after moving to California. My mother was a fifty year plus member in Ione, California. I started in Jobs Daughters in Sutter Creek and received my Majority. I affiliated with Azalia Star in San Andreas and Sutter Creek in March 2022 where I will be Electa. I have served Summit Chapter as Worthy Matron six times and was honored to be appointed as Deputy Grand Matron four previous times 1998, 2014, 2017 and 2018. I was Grand Representative of New Jersey in California 2007-08. In have received the Service Award and the Rob Morris Membership Medallion.

I retired after serving for 32 years as Librarian for Stanislaus County Department of Education, working with K-12 school libraries. I worked with many other counties Departments of Education developing technology for classrooms. I also worked with the California State Department of Education on adoption of textbooks for grades K-12. I have two siblings, a brother, and a sister, and two wonderful daughters both Past Honored Queens of Job's Daughters and I worked in leadership for both Job's and Rainbow. My daughters have presented me with three wonderful grandchildren.



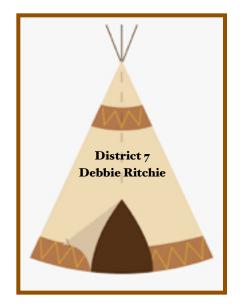


Hi, my name is Karalee Beatie and I am from Concord Chapter #384. I am very honored to have been asked to serve as one of the Deputy Grand Matrons for 2023 with Kimberlie Kruse and Gary Dunham. I have been a member of the Order since 2003 being one of the 100 who were initiated at Grand Lodge of California in San Francisco in June of that year. Linda Bernhard was the Grand Martha. I had the pleasure to serve with her as one of her Worthy Matrons in 2012.

My Masonic journey began when I was 11 years old. I was initiated into Concord Assembly #15 International Order of Rainbow for Girls where I served as Worthy Advisor. Then, two years later I became the Grand Representative of Indiana in California 2004. Currently, I have been elected to serve our Chapter as Conductress. I am the recipient of the Rob Morris Medallion, the Rob Morris Membership Award, and the OES Service award. I also served as Worthy Matron in 2019 with Terri Ewing. Early in 2019 I was appointed as the Grand Representative of Italy, Buongiorno! I look forward to serving again as Worthy Matron with Alice Raymond in 2025.

My family life is busy as well. I am a mother of three beautiful children: Kimberlee, Jeffrey, and Amanda. I also have three grandchildren. I love to camp in the mountains while sitting in the river and letting the water flow over my feet. I have been told I am very creative. I work for the school district as a Paraeducator for a Special-Ed class for elementary students and am also a part time beautician.

I look forward to meeting you all on my travels. Remember, your smile can make someone's day sunny. Keep smiling!



Fancactus greetings from District 7, heart of Gold Country. I'm Debbie Ritchie, DGM, District 7. I found gold 27 years ago when I became a member of Natoma Chapter #233 with my daughter, Joni. She was a Rainbow Grand Officer and we joined so that she could be a member when she attended the Grand Chapter Youth Session. We became the fourth and fifth generations of our family as members of the Order—joining my great-grandmother, grandmother and grandfather, and mother and father. We were joined by my other daughter, Rhiannon, three years later when she joined the Chapter so that she could be a member when she spoke at the Youth Session. My grandmother was a Deputy Grand Matron and I still have her wooden tray that she was gifted for her year.

I served the Chapter as Worthy Matron in 2005. The following year, I received the Eastern Star Service Award and our Chapter consolidated, now known as Natoma San Juan Chapter #233. I affiliated with New Hope Chapter #117 in 2016 when that Chapter moved to Folsom. It was like coming home to the Masonic Center where I had been a Rainbow girl and where I joined Eastern Star. I received the Eastern Star Service Award in 2019 and served as Worthy Matron in 2021-2022. I was honored to serve on the Grand Chapter Week Committee Rooms Committee in 2021 and 2022.

Then I received "the Letter" from Kimberlie and Gary. Eureka! I am extremely honored to serve as Deputy Grand Matron for my two Chapters—New Hope and Natoma San Juan in Citrus Heights, plus El Dorado Foothills Chapter in Placerville! These three golden Chapters make up District 7 and I am looking forward to sharing this year with the wonderful members.

# 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!

#### **NEBRASKA - THE CORNHUSKER STATE**

By Jackie Boseman, Former Grand Representative of Nebraska in California 2019-2022

Grand Representatives of Nebraska in California, Sister Charla Will 2022-2024, and Sister Jackie Bozeman 2019-2022, attended Nebraska's 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Session "Rainbows of Kindness" on May 9-11. 2023. Because of COVID, I was unable to attend any of the sessions scheduled during my commission, so I never met my counterpart.

Their session was held at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Worthy Grand Matron Laurie Seig and Worthy Grand Patron Wayne Andreasen presided over a fabulous session. The Most Worthy Grand Matron Glenda Winchester and several of the General Grand Chapter Officers were in attendance. My counterpart, Brother Elmer Huffman, presented the POW/MIA flag at the Informal Opening. I had never met him, so I was excited to finally have the chance.

Sister Charla met her counterpart, Sue Hedges, who will be visiting our Grand Chapter in October. Sister Sue recently retired as the Assistant to the Grand Secretary. From all the comments, she will be sorely missed in the office.

Charla and I participated in the opening formations which formed the Worthy Grand Matron's emblem of a paw print, and rainbow colors, all surrounded by a heart. We had fun comparing Officers in their Grand Chapter to ours. There were the District Grand Supervisors which are compared to our Deputy Grand Matrons, Assistant Grand Warders and Assistant Grand Sentinels who are like the Grand Guards.







Former Grand Representative of Nebraska in California, Jackie Bozeman with Nebraska Grand Chapter Decorations in the Background





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### MORE NEBRASKA - THE CORNHUSKER STATE Continued from Page 18

By Jackie Boseman, Former Grand Representative of Nebraska in California 2019-2022

The Credential Committee reported there were 48 Chapters represented. They allow Chapter Members to carry multiple votes, up to 5, if specific Line Officers are unable to attend. The votes for balloting totaled 310. The tellers used butterfly nets to gather the votes in the room--no way to drop a bucket! They had two members running for Trustee, so we were able to see the balloting. No amendments were presented. There was a total of 408 people registered for the session.

Wednesday brought us the Formal Opening. Each day there were opening formations. We participated in the same formation this morning as we had at Informal Opening the night before. The Grand Officers and Grand Pages have one copyrighted march and music that they use to enter and exit each day. The total of the two marches takes about 13 minutes to complete. Their end of day retiring march is about eight minutes long.

They initiated seven new members in the afternoon. It was interesting to see how they did their work. I think they have an Initiation each year. There is no Ribbon Ceremony, but the ribbons are placed on their pedestals prior to the ceremony. They do not handle the Adah veil or the Esther crown. During their lectures, they do not move their hands to the wording of their emblems but leave them by their side. Starpoint Officers, when they stand at their stations for any reason, always sidestep out from their chair then step back. The Grand Conductress didn't use a pointer but just turned on the lights on for the signet. The Initiates didn't sit until taken to the West for the Associate Grand Patron lecture. All the lectures were impressive.

#### Differences we noticed:

- Grand honors are given with the arms crossed as we do, but they just nod their heads, not with a slight bow.
- No clapping after people are introduced at the altar or escorted through as in Opening. It was very hard for us to not do so.
- No evening song as the Bible is closed.
- They conducted a silent auction for their special project, OES Star Dogs of NE, Inc. which raised \$5,982.50.
- The Installation of the 2023-2024 Grand Officers took place on Thursday evening. The chairs for the Installation are placed in the West by gentlemen in tuxedoes, marching just like ours do. However, these guys are called the Grand Ducks. Not sure why, but it must be a tradition going way back. The line of succession is for the woman who is appointed as Grand Warder to move to Associate Grand Conductress. The appointed Grand Marshal, who doesn't use a baton, is elected as the Associate Grand Patron. The appointed Grand Sentinel moves to the Grand Marshal position. Then the new Grand Warder finds out who the Grand Sentinel is at Installation. That gentlemen will eventually be the AGP with her. The incoming Worthy Grand Matron makes the appointments—The Associate Grand Conductress does not have a choice of her eventual WGP.

We had so much fun. No tornadoes near us, but a thunderstorm overnight that rattled the windows. Everyone was so warm and loving, willing to pick us up at the airport and return us. Many have sent cards to Sister Charla as the Grand Representative. We hope to visit again.



#### **MASSACHUSETTS - THE BAY STATE**

By Pattie Thrapp, Grand Representative of Massachusetts in California

I was very honored to attend the Massachusetts Grand Chapter May 18-20, 2023. What a great experience. Also with me were my Chapter's Worthy Matron Diane Hunt (PGM - MA), Worthy Patron Paul Hunt (PGP - MA), and Karen Fiegehen, PM my Escort ,and our Adah. Susan Long of Chula Vista Chapter also attended. What a great time we had!

Each jurisdiction has its own way of doing things. Massachusetts, for example, does not clap very often. We Californians practically had to sit on our hands! One custom I like is that each Chapter has a banner and those are hung around the room. We found the banner for our Worthy Matron's and Worthy Patron's home Chapter – Cradle Rock (Barre, MA). As Grand Representative, I was in the Cavalcade of Flags in Informal Opening,



carrying both the California and Massachusetts flags (my counterpart could not be there) and all Grand Representatives were later introduced in the Grand East. Massachusetts elects their Grand Sentinel, who then moves up the line to Associate Grand Patron and Worthy Grand Patron. They also have an election for Associate Grand Conductress. This year there were two candidates. For voting, they used a program that allowed the members to vote via their cell phones. If a member didn't have a cell phone, they could go to a designated area with a computer and cast their ballot there. It went very smoothly and took very little time.

Massachusetts is small, with forty Chapters. They have great love and enthusiasm for our Order and are a wonderful group. I

look forward to attending again next year.



Karen Fiegehen, PM, Pattie Thrapp, Grand Representative of Massachusetts, Paul & Diane Hunt, PGP & PGM of Massachusetts and WP/WM of Harbor Lights Chapter in California and Susan Long, Grand Representative of North Dakota in front of the Hunt's Home Chapter's Banner

Karen, David Fournier (WGP), Cheryl Ann Fournier (WGM), Pattie, Diane, Paul & Susan



#### MORE FROM MASSACHUSETTS - THE BAY STATE

By Susan Long, Grand Representative of North Dakota in California
Attending Massachusetts Grand Chapter with Pattie Thrapp, Grand Representative of Massachusetts

"And the Grand Representative of Massachusetts is...Pattie Thrapp from Harbor Lights Chapter!"

I was in the room the day Pattie was announced and was so excited for her. Knowing Pattie, I knew she would enjoy her commission and I wanted to be a part of her experience. I informed my folks, Dave, PGT, and Kathy, PM and Former Grand Representative of Puerto Rico in California, that I intended to go to Massachusetts with Pattie and they decided to go as well. My folks were not able to make the trip though. I know they would have loved the experience.



I drove to Massachusetts from my brother's place in Northern Virginia and I

do not recommend that to anyone unless you have made the drive or have a physical navigator. That is another story! I made it safely to and from Massachusetts. I met up with Pattie, Karen Fiegehen, PM, and Former Grand Representative of Wyoming, PGM Diane Hunt and PGP Paul Hunt and the fun commenced!

Massachusetts Grand Chapter was great! It is a smaller jurisdiction, and the atmosphere is like a family reunion. Everyone sees each other all year long. Grand Chapter makes the reunion more special.

All Chapters of the Jurisdiction were represented! And everyone seemed to have a job to do. They are active in recruiting their sons and daughters from DeMolay and Rainbow to join the Masonic ranks. Everyone was excited to see and welcome us too.

Amongst the interesting things Massachusetts does, a few really stood out to me. This year's WGM and WGP are married...to each other and presided together. It isn't the norm in Massachusetts, nor is it an anomaly. Members running for Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Sentinel actually campaign for office the whole year. The members of the Grand Chapter vote at the session and campaigning also occurs at Grand Chapter.

They have an Emblem Placing Ceremony before each session. The ceremony was beautifully written by B. Judith Fenner, GGCCM Registration Chairman of Deputies, Brazil. It is one of those ceremonies you have to see, as words will not do it justice. Every year, the Grand Chaplain writes a Memorial Ceremony. The altar cloth flip is epic and the AGC and GC practice it until they get the flip, just right.

During Installation of the Worthy Grand Matron, she recites the Obligation while kneeling at the altar. I took this as a remembrance that God is in charge overall and the understanding of the Worthy Grand Matron that He is in charge.

If you get a chance to attend the Grand Chapter at another Jurisdiction, do it! Your love for the Order will deepen and you will gain a greater understanding for what we and others in the Order do and how all those puzzle pieces fit together to make us the International Order that WE are.

Thank you to Paul and Diane Hunt for their insight and explanation of the beauty we observed, to Karen for being a Sherpa when we needed a free hand, and to Pattie. What a fantastic journey with all of you!

And now, it is my turn as Grand Representative of North Dakota to attend another Grand Chapter at Fargo, North Dakota. This will be my second one with them. And like Massachusetts' family reunion, I look forward to seeing my North Dakota family.









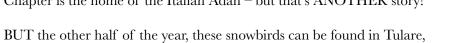


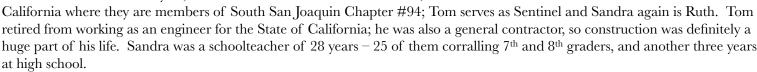
# IDAHO - THE GEM STATE By Pat McDonald, Grand Representative of Idaho in California

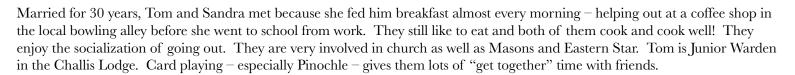
**GREETINGS** and **CONGRATULATIONS** to <u>Tom Luce</u>, who is the newly appointed Grand Representative of California in Idaho!!! I will be meeting him and his wife Sandra in the next couple of weeks, and I want to tell you all about him.

Tom and Sandra live half the year in Salmon, Idaho – that mid-Idaho spot that is surrounded by beautiful forest and is on the verge of the River of No Return Wilderness. It is an area for those who love adventure – river rafting, fishing, and hanging with the locals. As an avid outdoorsman, Tom had a young man's dream of living in an area like Salmon – and look at him now!

Members of Florence Chapter #79 (an hour away in Challis), Tom is currently Associate Patron and Sandra tells the story of Ruth. Florence Chapter is the home of the Italian Adah – but that's ANOTHER story!







I asked them to tell me about a memorable event in their life and they spoke of being evacuated this last March!! I, too, was impacted by the flooding in California, but they live on an Idaho dairy farm and not only did THEY have to be evacuated, but so did the 3,000 cows that lived there! That definitely gives you another slant on our human-kind disaster problems!

I'm looking forward to meeting these two at Idaho Grand Chapter which is the second week of June in Burley, Idaho. And, you never know – I just might surprise them with a visit next year when Tom receives his 50-year pin from Tulare's Olive Branch Lodge #369!

That's all for June -- I am the Sister of the Traveling Palazzo Pants so you just never know where you will find me!





### **SOUTH CAROLINA - THE PALMETTO STATE**

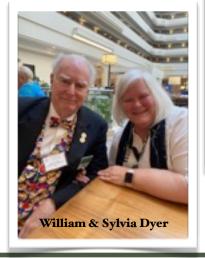
By Jim Kamariotis, Grand Representative of South Carolina in California

The California connection in South Carolina!

In 2009, our family accompanied our daughter, Jasmine, on her journey to South Carolina as the Grand Representative for California's International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG). We were welcomed with warmth and generous hospitality. Thirteen years later, I followed in my daughter's footsteps as my wife, Marina, and I traveled to South Carolina to attend South Carolina's 2022 Grand Chapter Session, "Angels Among Us" (June 20-June 22) as California's Eastern Star's Grand Representative. South Carolina's warmth and generous hospitality are ever present!

And whom did we meet on the first day of registration? Our very own Sue White, Worthy Grand Marshal of the General Grand Chapter 2021-2024, Past Grand Matron of California! Sue introduced us to Glenda Winchester, the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Right Worthy Grand Treasurer, Emeritus and Past Grand Matron of South Carolina. As Marina and I were visiting the vendor section (yes, Marina dragged me along), we met Joanna "JP" Swank, President of the International Grand Representatives Association (IGRA). Joanna and her husband, Cecil Swank, a Past Grand Patron of South Carolina, are San Francisco Bay Area transplants from Santa Clara. Cecil also worked for the utility company, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), the same company that I retired from in 2020. In fact, Cecil and I worked in the same department for the same boss just before Cecil retired from PG&E. Cecil and I reminisced about our time with co-workers we both knew. At Joanna's insistence, I also became a member of the IGRA. Marina found more California transplants, Sylvia Dyer, a 2018 Camp Counselor DGM for Past Grand Matron Alyson Grant, and Sylvia's husband, William. William serves as the Webmaster for South Carolina's OES.









Sue White, Worthy Grand Marshal and PGM of California with Jim Kamariotis, Grand Representative of South Carolina in California and Marina Kamariotis, PM at South Caroline Grand Chapter

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### MORE SOUTH CAROLINA - THE PALMETTO STATE Continued from Page 23

By Jim Kamariotis, Grand Representative of South Carolina in California

South Carolina's Fun Night, the Grand Representative's Luncheon and All Members Banquet are scheduled before the actual start of the Grand Chapter Session. Patriotic songs were sung at the Fun Night and we were gifted the table centerpiece of miniature flags of the five military branches of service. There is no mad scramble to place your state gifts on the tables because volunteers do this for the Grand Representatives! At the banquet, we were entertained by Minnie Pearl, AKA Marlene Wilds, Worthy Grand Electa of the General Grand Chapter 2021-2024, Past Grand Matron of South Carolina.

We had a wonderful reunion with Dedra Hart, whom we met in 2009 when she was a Grand Deputy for the IORG in South Carolina. Mrs. Hart is a member of Supreme Assembly, IORG, as Supreme Charity and will be the Supreme Worthy Advisor in a few years. We had another wonderful reunion with last year's Grand Representative of California in South Carolina, Kathy Bailey, and who now serves as Grand Electa for the 2022-2023 term. Kathy also made me an Honorary Member of the "South Carolina Club". We spent time with Ruth Carr, the current Grand Representative of California in South Carolina, who is also the beloved Editor of the Palmetto Star News, South Carolina's equivalent of our CalStar News. Ruth attended our 2022 Grand Chapter, and she was moved and impressed by our members and proceedings.

Now just some of what we learned at the Grand Chapter Session: there are 64 Chapters and about 3,000 members; District Deputies are the equivalent of Deputy Grand Matrons and each District Deputy has an assistant called the Deputy Grand Marshal; each Chapter is graded on a "point system" at an Official Visit; the WGM, WGP, GC and PGM divide the work to inspect the 64 Chapters for an Official Visit; the WGM and WGP speeches are written and included in the registration packet; \$300,000 was raised and distributed to 12 charities; there is no clapping after Honors are given; and the WMs and WPs are installed in their Chapters before the start of Grand Chapter.

I am honored and thankful to Past Grand Matron Sharon Jazwiecki and Past Grand Patron Bob Hovorka for recommending my appointment to South Carolina. Marina and I had always planned on returning to the beautiful state of South Carolina and this

special appointment made it possible!





Jim with his counterpart, Ruth Carr, Grand Representative of California in South Carolina

#### WISCONSIN - THE BADGER STATE

By Scott Goode, Grand Representative of Wisconsin in California

Firstly, a big thank you to our WGM Kimberlie Kruse and WGP Gary Dunham for appointing me as Grand Representative of Wisconsin. I have had a wonderful time traveling with our District 8 DGM Lynne Goode who just happens to be my wife and best friend. Together we have attended many fundraisers, Receptions, Official Visits, Installations, Initiations and meetings.

Most recently we attended the Wisconsin Grand Chapter. Right after the Washington, DC trip we headed for Milwaukee. We had a couple of days before Grand Chapter started, so we decided to see some sights such as the bronze statue of the "Fonz" on the River Walk. We also visited Lake Geneva for a beautiful day by the water, as well as a day in the city of Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, that included an amazing stroll through a botanical garden.

As we drove from Milwaukee to Point Stevens where Grand Chapter was held, we marveled at all the beautiful and iconic dairies with their red barns, black and white dairy cows, and rolling hills of corn that feed them.



When we arrived at the Convention Center where Grand Chapter was held, and after checking in, we went directly to the Hospitality Room where we were warmly greeted and offered refreshments and information on each day's events.

WGC ceremonies were beautiful, and business was conducted professionally. Tammy Hundhausen was the WGM and Doug Moorhouse was the WGP. Many gnomes and penguins could be observed throughout the day's events. There were 318 members and guests in attendance. Their theme was "Pathways to Joy". The charity for this term was for the Wisconsin USO.

I found many differences and similarities between our Grand Chapter meetings. Most notably is that Grand Representatives get Grand Honors. One thing that Lynne and I could not get used to was that Wisconsin does not clap after giving Grand Honors, so we were frequently getting caught being the only ones clapping. Wisconsin does all of their introductions on the first day, but they do not have a flag parade like we do. Also, everyone knows who the appointed Grand Officers will be, but not their stations until the appropriate dinner.

At the Grand Representative Luncheon, I got to meet my counterpart Brenda Konemann, who I look forward to meeting again at our Grand Chapter. We also got to meet and eat with the Associate Grand Matron and Patron who explained a lot about how things work and of course all of the good gossip. It is not uncommon for surrounding states like Illinois to have dual membership with Wisconsin Chapters. The most important take away from the conversation was that cheese curds are only good when they are fresh and most likely to squeak when you chew them. We also ran into Sue White, one of our Past Grand Matrons and also the Worthy Grand Marshal.

Lynne and I had a wonderful time at WGC and wholeheartedly recommend that any California member attend if possible. Everyone we met was warm and inviting, always ready with a handshake and a hug.

As we rushed off to catch our plane back home, we did not say goodbye; instead we shouted "HELLO WISCONSIN!".









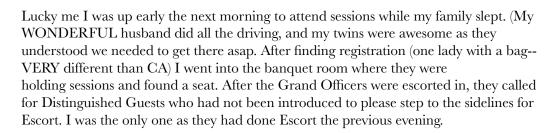




### **BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON - THE TRUE NORTH**

By July Duty, Grand Representative of British Columbia & Yukon in California

On Sunday, May 28th, after my area put on the First OV for Rainbow, my family and I loaded up our car and headed north. We drove for six hours and decided to spend the night in Redding, CA. The next morning, we got up early to finish our drive to Richmond, British Columbia. Yes. We planned on doing the remaining 12 hours in one day. First let me tell you, if you have not traveled to see Mount Shasta area, you are missing something beautiful. All I could think was this is God's backyard. Just breathtaking! We continued our journey through Oregon and Washington seeing many things as we drove, like Mount Hood, Mount Saint Helens, and the Seattle skyline, finally arriving late in the evening to the Canadian Boarder. We were questioned a bit and I do think the Boarder Agent was debating on letting us through, but he finally approved, and we finished the last 30 minutes of our drive to our hotel. We arrived at 10:30 pm, after 14 and a half hours on the road with very few stops. We were in bed by 11 pm, falling asleep from complete exhaustion.



What an honor it was to be escorted to the altar, introduced by the Grand Conductress, and then brought to the East, presented by the WGM and WGP, and given Grand Honors! While I know these honors are for our Sister Kimberlie and Brother Gary, it's special to know I got to receive them on their behalf.





As I went back to my seat, I got tons of comments on my dress. Then I showed them my shoes and bag. I was decked out in red with white maple leaves. They loved it! When I got to my seat I was waved over by some ladies and it turns out it was my counterpart, Narda Finlayson! We talked for a minute, and she asked me where in California I live. Assuming most in California don't know my town, I didn't have high hopes someone from Canada would know it. Well not only did she know it, but she also says it's her third stop on her way to BLYTHE! She comes to California regularly and parks her camper at the casino down the street from me! How crazy is that?!

The rest of the day was standard things like we do in California. They had Elections for their Grand Officers (the new AGM and AGP are actually husband and wife.) The new WGP is actually a PGP as last year's AGP sadly passed and so this PGP filled in the remaining year and then was the only one to run for WGP.

I did chuckle when a woman in the audience yelled from the back of the room to the WGP to use the mic. She said, "It's okay, I'm his wife!" (And turns out a PGM as well!)

One interesting thing I discovered is that they have a Proficiency Test they have to pass to be allowed to be in the Grand Line. Not only the signs and passes, but they have to know their C&L!

### MORE BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON - THE TRUE NORTH Continued from Page 26

By July Duty, Grand Representative of British Columbia & Yukon in California

Tuesday evening, I was invited to attend their All Member Dinner. I had originally planned on hanging out with my family, but someone had an extra ticket and my family told me to go and enjoy myself. So off to their dinner I went. It was a lovely time. The food was AMAZING. I think this was done on purpose because all the meals were wonderful. I think it was to try and trap me from leaving. We played a couple of table games and then had to do a few toasts: 1. to the King. 2. to the office of President of the USA. 3. to General Grand Chapter. 4. to the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon. 5. To the visitors of their Grand Chapter. It was definitely different but nice.

Thursday morning, we finished up with the Memorial Service, Legislation, and Closing. Then it was off to the Grand Representative Luncheon. Again, amazing food. I'm not a fan of tomato soup but I could have easily gone back for more. And at every meal they have fresh fruit. Seriously, I think they don't want us to leave!

Thursday evening was Installation. The Officers were in all different black dresses but had beautiful silver scarves. They had a small British Columbia tartan to hold their pins on their shoulders. Installation was very short (they were shocked to hear how long it is in California!)

Next year their Grand Chapter will be held in Olivier, BC...which is their wine country. My family is already asking to come back and even want to consider coming every summer as we have enjoyed our time here and the people have been so welcoming!

My counterpart, and her sister, already have not only our Grand Chapter on their calendar but my Installation this fall when I will be Worthy Matron again. I can't wait to share California OES with them and others that may be coming to our Grand Sessions. If anyone would like to join us next year, please let me know. I would love to have a big delegation to come visit them. They really are wonderful!

Now I only hope they let me back into the USA because we bought so much Canada stuff my car is ready to burst! And in case you're wondering, no, we will not drive home quickly. This time we will stop and see all those things we passed on the way up!

Sister Kimberlie and Brother Gary, I can never thank you enough for this honor. I never would have thought to ask to represent California to British Columbia &Yukon, but it is a perfect match. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!



Julie Duty, Grand Representative of British Columbia & Yukon at the "A Garden of Friendship" Grand Chapter Sessions





#### LA PALOMA STAR CHAPTER #96

We have been very busy way out West! We got our year off to a good start by welcoming two new members. Then, at the end of May, we will welcome two more, this time with a potluck dinner before our special night Initiation. What a nice way to make our Candidates feel like part of the Family!

Speaking of family fun, some of our Chapter Members put on quite a show for the Christine Huff Association Fundraiser Event. "Peri's garage" was host to a "punny" fashion show on the runway. The results were hilarious to say the least!

In contrast, our recent annual High Tea Event was, as always, graced by a beautiful and unique tea service at each table. The food is always outstanding. The menu included homemade roasted tomato gorgonzola soup, chicken curried salad wrapped in jicama, cumber sandwiches, of course, fresh home-made scones with Devonshire cream, and our very own handmade lemon curd. It's a delicious and delightful way to welcome new members into our Fraternal Family,

You might have gathered by now, that we have several accomplished chefs in our fold. They are generous with their time as well. They put their skills to work making meals for two local charities, Mamma's Kitchen, an organization which delivers medically tailored meals to San Diegans in need, and Rachel's House, a local women's shelter.

As a large city, San Diego has its fair share of challenges. Providing services for our unsheltered neighbors is one challenge in particular these days. Our Chapter lends a helping hand at "Showers for Blessings" which provides a mobile shower unit complete with not only a hot shower, but also a hot meal, free veterinary services, new socks and underwear, and toiletries for the long road ahead. Providing this free service is just one way to "give generous aid" to those in need. We donate clothing, art supplies, and personal items to the 'Storefront", a local youth emergency shelter. We also have Chapter Members collecting blankets and towels for the Humane Society and clothing for our local Indian reservation. These are all on-going needs to be met. We sometimes forget how fortunate we are indeed.

We were reminded how lucky we are to be a coastal city. We took part in two beach clean-ups in Spring of this year. One was hosted by the Surf Rider Foundation in Imperial Beach and at Ocean Beach at the Famosa Slough. I have to say, it was a wonderful way to spend the day at the beach! And one of our new Candidates joined us. As we picked up trash, we also discovered some treasures. I think this is one of the things I am looking forward to as our Chapter grows and evolves this year. Finding new ways to be part of the community, discovering ways to get members both old and new involved, engaged, and excited about being a member of our OES Family and friends is truly rewarding.

Submitted by Diane Lowrie, AM



### DIABLO STAR CHAPTER #214

Submitted by Maria Jo Miller, 2023 Grand Warder & The Former Grand Warders

Diablo Star Chapter #214 presented Sister Janet Nadol, Grand Warder 1992, with her 50 Year Membership pin on April 10, 2023. We were so honored to be part of the celebration of her special evening.

Congratulation Janet, we are so proud of you!





WARDERS RULE! Marina Kamariotis (2018), Marty Andrews (2020/21), Janet Nadol (1992), Fred Loeser, PGP (2014) and Maria Jo Miller (2023)



GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER #1

Submitted by Carol Feiner, PM

Golden Gate Chapter #1 in San Francisco had a wildly successful Trivia Night fundraiser and Membership Appreciation Night on April 21. There were over 70 people in attendance, including several Grand Officers. We had a delicious taco bar dinner and a variety of cakes for dessert. We raised \$1100.00, to be divided between Paws for Purple Hearts and Purple Elephants for Alzheimer's. It was so much fun we plan to do this every year!



The Grand Officers have ring power!











The winning team, also known as the Decade Chicks. From left: Sue Froomin, PM; Maureen James, Jane Sharp, Cheryl Li, PM, Pam Lyau, Andrea LoSchiavo, Dorothy LoSchiavo, PM, and Carol Feiner, PM

GOLD RIDGE STAR CHAPTER #161



WGP & WGM present 125th Anniversary Certificate to WM & WP





Hard at work in our community



Members enjoy a prime rib dinner celebrating Gold Ridge Star 125 Years

Submitted by Becky Herzog, WM

We are still a busy, little Chapter in Sebastopol, helping in the community, raising funds to support our Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's special projects, and celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Chapter.

March 25th was the special day for our BIG celebration. Our Lodge Brothers prepared a Prime Rib dinner, including baked potatoes, green beans, a green salad, and for dessert, an Apple, Coconut, and Pecan Bundt cakes served with whipped cream. It was delicious! We had close to 100 guests in attendance. Vivian Bens-Hower and Robin Bens put together a slide show of Chapter happenings through the years for attendees to watch during dinner. They planned a trivia game (with no prizes) based on the Sebastopol area history, our OES District, and the activities leading up to our Sister Linda Hoeser advancing in the Grand Chapter Line to become Worthy Grand Matron in 2017. Tables were numbered and members raised their hands to be acknowledged for the answer. If they were correct, the table received a balloon. Worthy Matron Becky Herzog and Worthy Patron Don Herzog were presented with a certificate honoring our Chapter's 125th Anniversary by Sister Kimberlie, WGM, and Brother Gary, WGP.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Sister Vivian Bens-Hower and Marsha McFarland, DGM for District 10, participated at the Apple Blossom Fair at Ives Park in Sebastopol with a group of other service club members to put their clubs' information out to the public.

April 30<sup>th</sup> found members in the kitchen assembling ENCHILADAS to put into boxes to sell to friends and members as our fund raiser for the Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's special projects. We also had a Mexican Dinner before our meeting, celebrating Cinco de Mayo. This money was split three ways for these special projects.

On May 13th, Becky Herzog, Don Herzog, and Vivian Bens-Hower participated with another service club in Sebastopol to spread wood chips around the swings, slides, and jungle-gyms in the enclosed children's playground at our community park.



WISTARIA CHAPTER #531



Submitted by Mary Ella Williams, PM

Wistaria's Mary Ella Williams, PM and Dean Williams, PP were on duty to greet passersby at their Chapter's first-ever booth at Turlock's 2023 Farmers' Market



This year has been an amazing year at Wistaria Chapter #531 in Turlock! Our website oeswistariachapter 531.org was brought online and is allowing us to share with others how Eastern Star is "Paying Goodness Forward" into our community and our world.

At a booth in our local Farmers' Market, we are inviting passersby to see examples of, and to hear about, the various activities they can participate in with us. We are sharing a picture from our first day at this event with this article. Since then, we've made upgrades to include tablecloths that proudly display the Eastern Star and Masonic logos!

Upcoming events will find Wistaria members ...

- Donating 350 backpacks filled with school supplies to local students (in partnership with our Masons),
- Sponsoring a community drive-thru drop-off of school supplies in early August (our 7<sup>th</sup> year),
- Donating wish-list items to Shriners' Hospital for Children (lovey blankets for infants and sketch pads, instructional art books, advanced dot-to-dot coloring books, colored pencils, cards, card game instructions, Rubik's cubes, Yahtzee games, and nail polish for teens)
- Donating numerous personal items needed by local homeless Veterans to a local Stand Down event.

Recently completed projects find that Wistaria members have ...

- Created and distributed 350 Valentine's Day treat bags to local Veterans in recognition of their service to our nation (included were valentines and letters from local students and yummy cookies created in a Family & Friends Cookie Decorating Class)
- Created and distributed huge quantities of fidget quilts, port pals, adult and kids' meal aprons, kids' comfort pillows, rice pillows, seat belt covers, Cathy caps, knitted hats, and crocheted lap quilts to neighbors, friends, family, and others who are suffering with stressful life events or ongoing medical conditions
- Donated sufficient monies to Shriners Children's Hospital to fund the purchase of two hand-held dynamometers that were requested by their doctors.

Although we work hard, our members, family, and friends have lots of fun participating in these wonderful projects.

Not to be overlooked, these worthy efforts carry over when it's time for our members to perform Ritual work. It's then when we focus our efforts, our respect, and our love for Eastern Star into self-improvement. Our results are a devoted and thriving Wistaria Chapter. We are blessed, we love our Star, and we enjoy "Paying Goodness Forward"!



ROSE CHAPTER #292

My wife Karen and I joined the Eastern Star Grand Family May 3-10 on a trip to Washington DC for a week of exploring the sights and monuments.

On the first day of the trip, we headed over to the Perry Belmont house for a tour of that beautiful house. While we were there, Sister Mary Davis, Grand Organist for 2023 was invited to play the piano. Attached is a picture of Sister Mary Davis tickling the ivorys on the piano in the Belmont house.







Submitted by Bill Netemeyer, WP



As the plaque said, he donated enough money to make a ramp at the entrance of the George Washington Masonic Memorial, which made it much easier to enter the building for those of us who have difficulty negotiating stairs. Brother David was also a member of Rose Chapter #292, Order of the Eastern Star in Roseville. In our Eastern Star Chapter, he usually sat in the back of the room, and acted as the "Lamp Lighter", and his job was to dim and raise the Chapter lights as needed.

attending Roseville Lodge #222, that does not mean he did not attend.

Brother Hanisch was a very generous man. While we were at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, I asked one of the docents working there if he knew about

Brother David Hanisch, and his donating money for the ramp at the entrance to the building. This man was more than happy to talk about all the things that Brother Hanisch did for the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Not only did he donate the money for the ramp at the entrance of the building, that made it easier for everyone to enter the building from the front, but some of the money he donated went to repair a priceless painting that was deteriating and needed repair. The painting was of George Washington laying the cornerstone to the United States Capital. The picture I took does not do it justice. The picture takes up the whole wall. The worker said that without the donation from Brother David Hanisch, the painting most likely would not have been repaired for everyone to enjoy.



So, there you have it, the story of Brother David Hanisch, his generosity, and the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Thank you, Brother Hanisch for all your generosity!!!



### PALO ALTO CHAPTER #203

Submitted by Maria Jo Miller, 2023 Grand Warder

Palo Alto Chapter No. 203, Order of the Eastern Star, presented their Annual Floral Degree on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. This Degree was first conferred in June 1912. This is over 111 year old tradition in the Peninsula! The evening was dedicated to the many people who have played the music for their lovely Floral Degree and Drill over the years. Fran Groat was the Director and we were very blessed with Don Snyder, PGP, who played the piano. What an incredible evening to witness the amazing ritual and floor work. A job well done!



The Floral Degree and Drill Team Members were:

Worthy Matron, Donna Josue, PM
Association Matron Drill, Becky Bianchi, PM, DGM
Conductress, Rachel Mariel, PM
Marshal, Kristie Bianchi, PM
Adah, Bernice Smith, PM
Ruth, Heather Curry WM, GG #1
Esther, Maureen James
Martha, Joanne Gibson, PM
Electa Laurie Chesnutt
"G" Chuck Grech, PP



Peace, Nancy Schubert, PM
Prospectity, Ruth Kernan, PM
Cross, JoAnn Vaars, PM
Epiloge, Fran Groat, PM
Ruth, Mary Ann Confar, PM
Naomi, Cinthia Swartout, PM, DGM
America the Beautiful – Tom Ellison
Choice Director – Donna Wilson and members of
San Jose 31, Santa Clara 195, Valley Star 141, and
Polsbro, WA.

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM



The Chaplains of San Diego County at Escondido's Guest Night



"Aunts/ants" Dress & a "Light Jacket" with "Hush Puppy" shoes modeled by Escondido members



Spring 2023 has been about starting fresh after unusually cold temperatures and bouts with the winter blues. Escondido Chapter #154 has been right in the middle of the Spring buzz, going all in with energy and renewed activity.

Our March Stated Meeting brought one of the most fun party nights, which is called "Guest Night." In San Diego/ Imperial County, we have a grid that tells each appointed officer which Chapter to attend as a "Special Guest Officer" to perform the Ritual during Opening. During Good of the Order, the area Deputies call on each appointed officer to introduce their Special Guest Officer and all others who serve as that office in their local Chapters. Whichever office has the most representatives gets a point, and points are accumulated throughout the Guest Night season. At the end, the office that had the most attendees at the most Guest Nights receives a special prize to present to their Grand Officer at Grand Chapter in October. This season, Guest Nights have been the party night that has brought back the most attendees since the long Covid dry spell. The photo shows all six of the installed Chaplains in San Diego/ Imperial County this year, and they were the winners of the night's point. In August, at the last Guest Night, we will find out which office accrued the most visitation points and which Grand Officer will receive the special prize!

Spring also means fundraising, and our Chapter Members have been working on both our Chapter's moneymakers, such as Spring Flower Deliveries and an Irish Stew Dinner, as well as our county's Line Officer Association moneymakers. The Associate Matrons held a Perri's Garage "High Octane" luncheon, where we "fueled up with some good eats" and enjoyed a fun fashion show, which included a "can-can" skirt, "baggie" pants, "pencil" skirts with "eyecatching" "fishnet" shawls, and an actual tent dress. Two of our Chapter Members were models that day for a picnic with the "Aunts/ants" and a summer's day "Light" jacket ensemble (see photos).

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ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154 - Continued from Page 35

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

Administrative Professionals Day in April brings much-needed recognition to some of the hardest workers around, and our Chapter's Secretary, Patti Neumann, is the hardest worker in our Chapter! Worthy Matron Barbara Smilko and Worthy Patron Tracy Reynolds recognized her at our Stated Meeting with a special miniceremony extolling Patti's work ethic and love for our Order, plus an escort to the East, yellow roses, and a framed Service Award. The whole Chapter clapped for a long time because everyone is so grateful for Patti's work, care, and personal attention to every Member.

Our State Membership Team's "The Tie that Binds," is an exciting program that focuses on sharing with Masons how Eastern Star can benefit them and their Lodge. Our Chapter got a wonderful view of this exciting program when Brother Art Weiss, Past Grand Master, Masons of California, and Past Grand Patron of our California Grand Chapter, came to our center and presented the Masonic Walkabout. He engaged everyone who attended by sharing connections involving the history, symbols, ritual work, tenets, beneficent aims, and activities of our orders. Everyone has been buzzing about it and the "Better Together" message.

What's better than being with people we care about while creating something that helps others? To top off our Spring events and lead us into Summer, our Chapter worked on service to our community by holding another Port Pals evening. Several of us met to enjoy each other's company while matching patterns, pressing labels, stuffing, and stitching squares of fabric with pieces of fluffy stuffing inside and Velcro on the outside. Everyone chose their favorite task when it came to Port Pal assembly and, of course, we all had stories to share about our lives since we last met at our meeting a couple weeks before. This fun night resulted in a couple more bags of puffs to distribute to people who will feel a bit better because of our efforts.

Reawakening with energy and activity is what Spring is all about. Escondido Chapter members have done everything from visiting other Chapters and helping with fundraising efforts to celebrating outstanding service, to learning more about our Order and serving those in need of a little extra care. Our WGM's motto says, "Extend your hand in friendship and love, help others each day, and make a difference in someone's life." Our Chapter's Spring has been full of energy and activity, resulting in even more friendship and love as we head into a Summer that we hope is filled with fun, joy, and good California weather.



DGM Marylou Curtis, Patti with Service Award, WM Barbara and WP Tracy



Port Pals made by Escondido members



### FUCHSIA CHAPTER #425

Submitted by LeAnn Holsapple, PM

Fuchsia Chapter #425 in El Segundo has been busy! Five Fuchsia members attended Hands Across the Border in Laughlin on April 15<sup>th</sup>. They all enjoyed meeting new people from the three states (CA, NV, AZ). There was good food, great fellowship, and such fun times singing and dancing.

On April 29<sup>th,</sup> we held our annual Progressive Dinner. Proceeds went towards our Port Pals project. The menu was appetizers, salads, three types of homemade soups, and dessert. We had live jazz music from Andrea's (WM's) husband. This event is always open to all, and everyone had a wonderful time!

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we held a Paint Party. It was a guided paint session with all the necessary supplies provided. It was such a fun and relaxing afternoon of creativity and fellowship. We're planning another one in the fall—please join us! This is an open event, and we love having not only our Masonic friends and family attend, but anyone interested in being creative with us.

We're also continuing our Port Pals community service project. Members gather every second Monday of the month at 11 AM and after our Lodge's dinner on the first Tuesday of the month for fellowship and to sew Port Pals. This is open to everyone, and we'd love to have you drop by! No sewing experience needed. If you know of anyone that could use a Port Pal, please contact us. We're on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/fuchsia425oes">https://www.facebook.com/groups/fuchsia425oes</a>











#### ALAMEDA OAK LEAF CHAPTER #8



Submitted by Ruth Serini, WM and Grand Treasurer 2023

Great things can be accomplished by a few when there is great enthusiasm. It can be a stressful time, but with a plan and people working together for a common goal, success will be achieved with wonderful feelings of accomplishment, pride in yourself and your Chapter, and joy as we all come together.

Such was the day of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Our guests were greeted at the Lobby door upon their arrival where they signed in, courtesy of Carla Ross and Ann McClain. From there guests were directed to the elevator, operated by David Ewing, to the third floor where Mimosas were served. At the appointed hour, all guests were directed to the fourth floor and seated amongst our Alameda Oak Leaf #8 Members for an epicurean luncheon of salad, champagne chicken, roasted potatoes, and buttered carrots. Each place setting included our program with a pin-on attached, a souvenir candle, and a signature quilt block for each attendee to sign. Each of our three courses were served by the girls from the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Carla Ross spent many hours collecting photos from our past to display in the Banquet Room, but unfortunately, we were not able to view it properly in that room. Michele Jawad-Luy completed the decorations with floral displays throughout the building and balloons in the Banquet Room and other locations throughout the building. The centerpieces on each table in the Banquet Room, and also within the Chapter Room, were quilted banners emphasizing the Acorn and Oak Leaf which embodies our name. Chris Ross, designed and created the stands for the table banners as well as the wind chimes, suggested by Cyntra Giboney, made with OES jewels from consolidated Chapters. These were sold on the third floor.

Cake was served as we finished luncheon and then everyone proceeded downstairs for the 150<sup>th</sup> Ceremony. Our presiding Hostess for the afternoon, was Joan Jessen, who welcomed all in attendance. Five Officers/Members of Island City Lodge performed a "Masonic March" as they set the room's paraphernalia to ready the Chapter Room for OES. It was phenomenal to have our Brethren participate in this momentous occasion, and greatly appreciated by our members. Many of our members and guests wore period costumes. Which period, you may ask--whichever you wished! Our many Dignitaries and Honored Members were introduced throughout the afternoon, interspersed with four sections of our History which was laboriously written by Jerry Journeay and greetings were read by Michele Jawad-Luy, Martin Carlson, Cyntra Giboney with Fred Loeser, and a surprise addition of John Morrison. Unfortunately, Jerry Journeay was unable to attend that day to contribute to the oration. Following each section of history, Karen Kindla, a member of Los Cerritos Chapter, and her partner, David Parsons, performed a dance which represented each period of time. Honorary Memberships were presented to the WGM, WGP, and their spouses.

As each guest was departing from the Chapter Room, they were presented with decorated sugar cookies, in the shapes of an oak leaf and an acorn, with a note of thanks for their attendance. Everyone appeared to have had a great time! Bill and I truly appreciate all the time, effort, and talents shared to make this auspicious day such a great success! Thank you!

In May, some of us were able to venture out to Filoli Garden Estate located in Woodside, California. It was a beautiful day with so many historical rooms to view and the gardens were phenomenal! It was a wonderful surprise to have Murium Hoppe, a member from Golden Gate Chapter, join us, to everyone's delight.

We have several new members on the rise, which is very exciting. They would be delighted to meet each of you. So much more will be coming soon. Please join us if you are able.



#### EL DORADO FOOTHILLS CHAPTER #8

### A CHAPTER IS NOT A PLACE...

Submitted by Cherri Whiteley, PM

Like some other Chapters in California, El Dorado Foothills #62 is currently without a "home". The Placerville Lodge building was sold and as of March, we are in a challenging situation for continuing our meetings. BUT—we have a temporary location at the El Dorado Community Center and we have adapted well. We have received permission from WGM Kimberlie to adjust our schedule as necessary and have changed our meetings to first Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm. Meetings for March, April, and May have been held in this location with great support of our Officers and Members and we totally realize that it is not the building that matters, it is the wonderful fellowship with our Sisters and Brothers—the beautiful companionship that bonds our Family.

We currently have all we need—a large room that serves as both Chapter Room and dining room in a place that is accessible to all our members. And, it even has a nice kitchen so our fellowship can continue in all ways. We do have our paraphernalia stored in a nearby storage facility, so there is some "commute" with that, but thanks to Worthy Patron David Duncan and Associate Patron Jim Whiteley with a bit of assistance from their wives, that duty gets accomplished the morning of each meeting and at the close of the meeting, there is wonderful help by Chapter Members to reload for transport back to storage.

We bid farewell to the Placerville Masonic Center following our February Friendship meeting which was a fun and wonderful Mexican Dinner and themed evening followed the next morning by us hosting the Superior Association meeting. We continue to plan fundraising and social activities that can happen away from our current facility, and we look forward to again sharing our location with the Placerville Lodge when it is ready for occupancy—likely the original Masonic Center in downtown Placerville.

I think we all know that it is the Members that make a Chapter, and not the building. But we can easily become attached to a location. Some of us are learning that firsthand and being reminded of what really matters.







### **ANNOUNCEMENT**







