CAL STAR NEWS

The California Rock Stars

aka Grand Family

Invites you to Join them as they Roll out the Red Carpet in



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WORTHY GRAND MATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH

I'd like to start with some very important thank yous to those who have worked so tirelessly to get us where we are today. First, to my Snowmom Terri and Dad Paul, and my entire 2019 Grand Family, who have given more since I started down this path than I could have ever possibly hoped or imagined. They are the people who are responsible for what you see here tonight in the arena and for a million other details that you can't see but are experiencing. And thank you to Larry and Laura and the entire Orozco family. You bring me blessings too numerous to count and I thank you for saying yes and inviting me into your family.



I'd like to pause a moment here and speak about the two very special "Debbies" that are tied to me forever through the twists and turns of life that could have never been predicted but which have caused our lives to intersect in such significant ways on this journey. First, to my 2019 Grand Marshal, Debbie, our Olaf; thank you my sister, not for putting me on this path but for the constant love and support you've given me every step of the way; and to my Precious DVB, Debbie Von Bima, my sister, my friend, and my escort, who left us too soon but stays close in my heart as I take the steps alone which we had envisioned taking together. I walk with both of you, my special Debbies, by my side every day, and whatever my shortcomings, I know you are With me and For me, wherever you are.



I'd also like to thank Brothers Don and DeAndre and Sisters Arianna and Jamie for the amazing rendition of our Opening Ode along with Sister Pat and the choir, our

Chapters, and to Kimberlie and the 2023s for joining us. And the dearest of thanks to Brother Don for that moving song that spoke to me so deeply and to Brother Eric Throne for all of his amazing music tonight. You all truly helped us carry our theme tonight through the magic and light of your talents.

Thank you Sister Sue White for the meaningful and significant emblem ceremony which spoke so dearly to my heart which captured my intrinsically feminist approach to our heroine's stories. You portrayed them in a way that touches my soul and to Brother Scott and our Past Grand Matrons, thank you for lighting the spark of our imaginations through your reenactments and representations. I believe our members hunger for these moments, and I thank you for bringing them to life tonight.

To the entire installing team and all the other Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons who assisted us tonight; to a person, we have felt your love and support of us as we have taken this next step in our Eastern Star journey, and we recognize with gratitude that we are blessed to have you, all of you, in our corner. We know you sincerely only wish the best for us and our Order, and we appreciate your willingness to help us in any way you can. That is like gold to us.



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WORTHY GRAND MATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH (CONTINUED)

At this time, I would like to introduce my crazy, chaotic, and kinetic family that is the source of my abundant energy and who truly are the lights of my life. Many of you know my slightly sardonic but always "hilarious in his own quiet way", husband Joe. Next is my amazing son, Calen and his wife Courtney, the most wonderful daughter-in-law one could hope to have, and my beautiful grandchildren Charlie and Savanna. I also want to give a shout out to my daughter Jordan and her husband Brandon, who could not be here tonight but hopefully are watching on Facebook Live, and their daughter, my granddaughter Morgan. Hi Morgan, Bubby sees you, lol! And finally, my forever-young mom, Pat Ulmer and my three dear sisters, Cheryll Grover, Cindy Bandrowsky, and Cathy Cline. I am so grateful for the time and trouble you all took to be here to mark this day with me. It just would not be the same without you here.



I also am so grateful to my friends and pages, Shirley and Chuck Fisher who also just happen to be my Chapter's 2023 Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. They have taken such great care of me this week, and as of last night, I really took it to a whole new level for them. They could not have done more to make this all possible for me tonight. And to all of you who have helped me and given me such tender care in the last 24 hours, you know who you are. I thank you and I love you all.

Would my chapter please rise (or raise your hand) and remain standing...my sisters and brothers from Los Cerritos Chapter;And now the members from my District.....the members of what is now District 10; and finally, the members of my Association...the East Bay Line Officers Association.

These sisters and brothers are the people who have helped shape me in my Eastern Star life. They are the ones I first encountered, they are the ones who shared the light of our values and principles as I came in to my own understanding of the magic of our Order. They are the ones who kept me here, tied to our Order, when circumstances may have arisen to cause me to waver or reconsider. They are the "Great Charm Offensive" with boots on the ground, and they truly are the strength and backbone of our Order. My hopes for our Order rest with them and the knowledge that there are so many more just like them, up and down this state.



And what of that hope sisters and brothers? Given the unabated decline in our membership for the last many decades, what right do we have to hold hope? What claim do we have for a future when our very existence hangs in the balance? Are we not taught that, "no one can affirm that another year, or even a single day, will be committed to our trust"?

Sisters and Brothers, we have lost 130,000 members in the last 50 years, over 10,000 of which we lost in the last decade or so. It is not hard to do the calculations and presume that we may not survive to see another decade.

You may be asking why I would give you these numbers while I am speaking of hope? Why would I take a night dedicated to love, light, and new beginnings, and spoil it with statistics that may alarm and frighten us.

WORTHY GRAND MATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH (CONTINUED)

Sisters and brothers, I share these with you tonight because hope is buried in the numbers. It is perhaps slightly beleaguered, but there, nevertheless. You see, I believe that the first way to solve a problem is to name that problem. We cannot hope to solve a problem that we never fully face up to. Change is hard. Let me say that again, CHANGE IS HARD, and so we are unlikely to enter into change unless we are sufficiently motivated to do so. So, when we talk openly with each other about truth and the hard facts, we have reason to hope that our love of our Order and our fervent desire to keep it alive will be the impetus to cause us to examine ourselves; ask ourselves hard questions; and make tough decisions about what we must do to change the equation.



The numbers are hard but the hope is real that we will take them to heart and take serious and strategic action, even if those actions are outside of our comfort zone.

But the numbers themselves tell us something more that is easy to ignore if we were to hide from them. And that is, that this is not a simple proposition of existing or not existing. The numbers tell us that we have two courses that must be followed, neither one more important than the other.

They tell us that in the search for solutions to solve the overall problem, we also have to be serious and strategic about addressing the consequences of declining membership before it becomes a matter of total collapse. We feel the impact today in so many ways, big and small. Sisters and brothers, we must take stock of the changes that come with a shrinking talent pool and mitigate for the effect of those changes, so that the impact doesn't exacerbate the decline.



An example is our desire that everyone memorize and recite their ritual work. When we had multiple people to choose from to fill our stations, that was not an unreasonable expectation. But today, we have Chapters struggling to even fill their offices, let alone fill them with people who have the skills and talents for memory work.

So, does that mean we must lower our standard? Subject ourselves to poor performances of our beautiful ritual and just count ourselves fortunate that there is at least a person to take the seat? I do not think so. I think the answer lies in finding ways to make our performances effective and pleasantly memorable by developing and adopting methods of delivery short of requiring extensive memory work.

Sisters and brothers, this is just one example of areas and ideas we need to explore for adaptation with the objective of keeping our experiences with each other pleasurable and fulfilling rather than strained and painful. We need to give ourselves the freedom and permission to throw off the yoke of a failing status quo and challenge ourselves to innovate, create, and try new things, even if they are not always successful. We must give ourselves permission to fail, and then to try again. And we must be willing to look at ourselves with the eyes of a stranger and see ourselves as we are seen; ever ready to improve that sight if it does not enhance and progress us.

Furthermore, my sisters and brothers, I find hope in the light of your eyes as we meet and greet each other on our Eastern Star path. I see enthusiasm and energy everywhere I turn, especially this week as we took up the issues and business that needed to be addressed to further our quest for continuous improvement, be it to the Order or to ourselves. That enthusiasm and energy is infectious. It must be fostered, encouraged, and rewarded. The numbers tell us that our hopes and dreams can be achieved if continued on page 5

WORTHY GRAND MATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH (CONTINUED)

we put our mind and efforts to it with a willingness to take some chances, make some big moves, and examine ourselves honestly, openly, and without fear.

And finally, my case for hope is bolstered by our own history. I only need to look back another 50 years to find a time when we also had 10,000 members. Twenty years later, the number had grown to almost 50,000. This, my sisters and brothers, is great cause for hope. It tells us that we've done it before. We can do it again. We got this.

Thank you.



WORTHY GRAND PATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH

The following is the Installation speech, complete, **just as it was written and unedited**, given by our newly installed Worthy Grand Patron, Larry Orozco at Grand Installation, October 21, 2023

Greetings to Distinguished and Honored Members, Sisters, and Brothers...And any fans of the Greatest game ever invented.

1st off. I want to thank My Red Snowball Sister, Christine Huff for this adventure into the year of 2024. My Wife Laura, for the next big thing in our Lives. Debbie Sanborn, Julie Duty, My Daughter Jenni, Mario and Shari Orozco. All the 2019's which have vowed to support us no matter what. And the rest of My Kids that have been trying to figure out the term "Fraternal Wife" and what does that mean?

HERE WE GO. Hello! (Loud enough, try again), Good Day!

Such a powerful word. I use it a lot in everyday life. It catches people off guard, especially in today's world where we live with our phones in our hands, due to business, social media or games. Many of You know I am also Sports official for The Greatest game ever invented: Baseball or Softball. Where I get a chance to work with My Brother, The Past Master of Artesia Lodge, Mario.



I use a "Hello, Good Morning or Good Day" as a conversation starter quite a bit when working Ball games. Coaches want Officials to be approachable and this is the "Ice breaker" for any problems or questions that may arise during a contest where 50% of the Participants or crowd is NOT going to like your call. Try doing that at everyday Work.

Right now, some of you are thinking, "GREAT, Larry's going to talk about Character again. Just like he did during his 2019 year as Grand Chaplain". No, I'm Not,... it just happens to be one of My Watch words. But Just a Hello can have an effect on anything in your life, we see it in our Chapters and at Lodge. The one Sister sitting by herself or Brother that came for the Stated meeting or Dinner then came into Lodge for Fellowship time but because no one had seen him there before, also, they are alone.















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WORTHY GRAND PATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH (CONTINUED)

Our Sisters and Brethren stay away. For Me, I find a way to work Baseball into the conversation after a Hello. I find sports do have a connection with All. Or should I just Quote James Earl Jones in "Field of Dreams"

"...Ohhhhhhhh, people will come, Ray. People will most definitely come."

After my Reveal, over a year ago, I was told by a sister. "Nothing against You Larry but You're NOT what Eastern Star needs right now."

PAUSE

This is My Character Moment. This is where I need to push hard for All of Our Team to succeed. We're past the Pinnacle part of Star. We need folks now. PGM Sarahann tells me, "Love yours and Christine's excitement for The Membership push but until we pass Legislation at General Grand, it really is moot."

Guess what? I'm not looking for Sisters. I want you to hit for cycle on this one. I want you to go after The Men. We have 300 plus Lodges versus 110 some Chapters in California. DO THE MATH on that one!

We're gonna do what's right. We're not waiting for next year's General Legislation. I need you to go after the Guys...then go after their Wives. That's Where you NEED to say, HELLO!

My Daughter Jenni had this slogan in her Softball bag of sayings: Don't let the fear of Striking out keep you from playing the game. My Dad, Greg Orozco, told me to be the best in whatever I did in my Life, "ALWAYS be an asset to your community, Lawrence." My Wife. LadyFish, as some of you know her through social media. Set me up perfectly, when she told me, "Larry, think back to when we first got married and you had an open mind... Don't Laugh... Go with Christine on her trip to the East."

I'm a Union Sheet Metal Worker. I ALWAYS hear a co-worker gripe, "We need The Union to do this, we need The Union to do that!" I let them know, "You're the Union! You Are The Organizer", what are You going to do to make this a better Union?

This is the Same!

I can help but I am only as strong as the membership. The Membership committee needs your help. We're here to Compliment Kimberlie and Gary's efforts of 2023. We don't NEED your silence. My Emerald Star (LISTEN FOR THE SOUND) Sister, Karan Mann, told me: "Larry, Is that what our 5 Star Point Heroines did when they were up against a nowin situation?"



Terence Mann (James Earl Jones): Ray. People will come, Ray. They'll come to lowa for reasons they can't even fathom. They'll turn into your driveway, not knowing for sure why they're doing it. They'll arrive at your door, as innocent as children, longing for the past. "Of course, we won't mind if you look around." You'll say. "It's only twenty dollars per person." And they pass over the money without even thinking about it. Whereas money they have, and peace they lack.... And they'll walk off to the bleachers and sit in their short sleeves on a perfect afternoon. And find they have reserved seats somewhere along the baselines where they sat when they were children. And cheer their heroes. And they'll watch the game, and it'll be as if they dipped themselves in magic waters. The memories will be so thick they'll have to brush them away from their faces. People will come, Ray. The one constant through all the years Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It's been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt, and erased again. But baseball has marked the time. This field, this game, is a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good, and that could be again. Oh, people will come, Ray. People most definitely will come.

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WORTHY GRAND PATRON'S INSTALLATION SPEECH (CONTINUED)

I look across to the West and I LOVE the Alice Raymond and Mel Perez Association and Noise they make. Some will argue, not very Ladylike, too bad!

I repeat. Is that what our 5 Star Point Heroines did when they were up against a no-win situation?

We've been silent for quite a long time and their enthusiasm in the West, as well as Our Associates in the East, will complement our Efforts in 2024.

Make some noise! Be excited when your team does a great job!

My WGM Christine said it best during a Zoom a few years ago when addressing our Associates, "We get it! We know you're tired" and it seems like we're always up against the wall whether it be. Lack of assistance from some of Our Lodge's or when Debbie Von Bima spoke during that same Zoom about 7 Deadly words, the (QUOTE FINGERS) "ones in charge" Love to say in Chapter. "That's the way we've always done it", THAT needs to be replaced by another 7 Words "Let's try it, It just might work". (HAVE THE GRAND FAMILY SAY THIS WITH YOU)



That MUST be the Lifelong motto for Star. "Let's Try it, It just Might Work".

(HANDS) So may it ever be. As You travel Home tonight Please Keep this thought in Mind as The 2024 Rockstars Travel on Through Our Great State.

In Life, As in Baseball, it's the number of times You reach Home Safely that Count.

Thank You for Your Time and your Love for Our Order. My name is Larry Orozco. I am The Worthy Grand Patron. We're on the Clock!

Let's Play Ball!!!



NOTES FROM YOUR CAL STAR NEWS EDITORIAL CONSULTANT = CHERRI WHITELEY

Sheading Light on the Subject...

We are now embarking on the year of "light"—how appropriate that this year begins with a holiday season that shimmers of all types of light from the stars to the "bulbs". So, I'd like to begin by wishing you a joyfully lit holiday season filled with much love surrounding you and emanating from you as we look ahead. Our Worthy Grand Matron's motto speaks of inner light, inner peace, and inner love. These are qualities we each possess and need only to pay attention for their guidance and transforming power. Let's join together as we embrace these attributes to experience growth personally, fraternally, and within all other aspects of our lives.



As I look back on the editorials of the past year, I see that I spent most of that space covering some historical information regarding the positions of Deputy Grand Matron and Grand Representative. I found it very enjoyable to delve into the history of those assignments. In previous editions, I also shared some "founding" information. As I look ahead, I think I would like to share some history of the Senior Living Community. I've been looking into that and find some interesting background. So—stay tuned to the upcoming editions for that history to be shared.

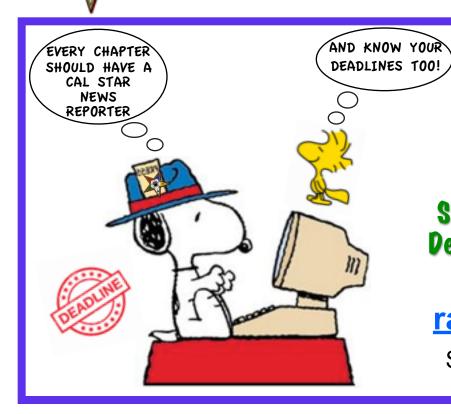
Former editorials seem to also consistently reflect requests for participation in our publication. I'm really feeling a bit like a "broken record" in that regard. However, this edition certainly does confirm that previous appeals have gone unheeded. We truly appreciate the opportunity to share the biographical information on the new Grand Family and certainly appreciate the response from two Chapters and one Grand Representative for this edition, but ponder the future if there does not seem to be the desire to share the happenings of your Chapters—many of which are very noteworthy and deserve to be shared. The deadlines are published in every edition with the submission instructions so they can be found in previous editions on the OES website or Sister Cindy or I can be contacted directly—we'd be glad to help. It is reasonable to accept that a December 1 deadline falls close to the holiday season, but there is no reason to wait for a deadline to submit an article. They can be submitted at any time and held for the next edition—please keep that in mind. Enough said—I hope

On the more positive side, I'd like to share a couple of thoughts in closing that speak of reflecting light, "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world." That actually comes from Shakespeare. And, "A smile is the light in the window of your face that tells people you're at home"—that one is anonymous but well worth consideration.

May you have a blessed and light filled Holiday Season,

Cherri





CAL STAR NEWS 2023 DEADLINES

March 1st - spring edition

June 1st - summer edition

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!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM MORE CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS IN 2024! There's Room for You!
Deadlines for Next Edition
March 1st - Spring Edition

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



The following introductory messages are from your 2024 Grand Officers. They give you a chance to get to know a little about these members who will be serving this year....

WORTHY GRAND MATRON - CHRISTINE HUFF



Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

My name is Christine Huff and it is my honor to serve the Grand Chapter of California as Worthy Grand Matron for 2024. I am grateful to all of you for electing me to this office and for giving me this special opportunity to work in conjunction with the other Line Officers, to chart the course for the future of our beautiful Order so that we may protect and sustain our presence in the world for generations to come. But our future is not a given. We are an incredible force for good in the world, yet our future is at risk if we do not reverse our continued and unabated decline in membership. The efforts we have made as an organization thus far have been sincere and heartfelt, perhaps even successful in slowing the pace of attrition somewhat, yet they have ultimately failed to stem the tide and reverse our course.

If these words sound familiar to you, it may be because, with a slight variation, these were the words I wrote for last year's article. You see, rather than using this space to introduce myself to you for the fifth or sixth time, I am choosing instead to repeat my words of last year because they are all-the-more true and even more relevant today as they were a year ago. I also chose to address this matter in my remarks at our Installation in October because I believe we must prioritize it above all others right now. We must face the facts and take them seriously, as if our very existence depends on it--because it does.

My Installation remarks are included in this edition of Cal Star News, and I encourage you to read them. But if you don't, the key piece of information I would like you to take away from them is that we have *lost more than 130,000 members in the last 50 years, 10,000 of which were lost in the last ten years*, and today our numbers stand at just over 10,000 members. These alarming numbers tell us that we cannot and will not be sustained by the status quo, and if nothing changes, it is unlikely that another decade will be committed to our trust. If there ever was one, now is the time for us to rise to the occasion and increase our exertions for the future. But time is short, so we must be bold and creative in finding and implementing new solutions to address this existential threat.

I am humbled by the awesome responsibility of serving during this difficult time and even occasionally daunted by the enormity of the task before us. But any apprehension I might feel is far outweighed by my love for our Order, my determination to tackle our problems; my faithful trust in you, my Sisters and Brothers, as the source of hope for a brighter tomorrow; and my joyful anticipation of greeting you and hearing your ideas as we travel the State this year. We are so blessed to be part of an Order that provides us the opportunity to come together as family and in friendship, united by love and the virtues of our Order, perfectly positioned to redefine and rebuild ourselves so that we may continue to make a difference in the lives of others as we bring LIGHT to a dark world. An Order such as ours is a privilege and rarity in today's world, and it is worthy of any and all of our efforts to secure its future.

As a part of that effort, you may see or experience some changes this year that we hope you will embrace as we endeavor to open the door to new members, caring friends, and supportive allies that will help us rebuild and recover. I do not advocate change for change's sake, but this is the time that we must look carefully and critically at ourselves to identify barriers to our growth, make changes to address them, and to think and act strategically to increase our opportunities to attract others to our cause.

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WORTHY GRAND MATRON - CHRISTINE HUFF continued from page 10

As we are taught, first impressions are permanent and should be for good, so we have asked the Chapter leaders to make an honest examination of the culture and practices of their Chapters in order to recognize and enhance what is working, and to identify and change those things that may be harmful to the growth and good of the Chapter.

At the Grand Chapter level, we are also making a similar assessment and implementing changes to support the work of the Chapters. These changes may come in the form of relaxation of the pomp and circumstance to which we have become accustomed, but which others find puzzling and frustrating. You may see it in a de-emphasis or elimination of unofficial dress codes and other demands that have been allowed to be imposed on others even though the Order has not adopted them. You may see it in a new intolerance for the subtle yet palpable peer pressure and group judgement that some have messaged to others, often in the nicest yet most offensive way, in an effort to get them to comply with their own personal set of standards and vision of what we should be; behavior that has been tolerated and has gone mostly unaddressed heretofore, even though it has been known to cause some members to never return to a Chapter or for prospective members to take a pass.

You will also likely experience some changes in our Official Visits this year, which we have asked to be made open to all and planned as an event filled with fun and entertainment that will entice the public to attend and encourage them to come back for more. We have asked our Chapter leaders to try new and unexpected things and not to be discouraged if something is not an immediate success; sometimes it takes multiple attempts in which to be successful. And we are asking each of you, our members, to step out of your own comfort zone to join them in this endeavor, fulfilling your pledge to support them in the performance of their duties this year.

And finally, while I am an ardent supporter of the efforts made by our Membership and other Grand Chapter committees that have been working strenuously for years to solve our membership woes, I believe that now is an all-hands-on-deck moment and that the Grand Chapter itself must lead from the front and be actively engaged. As a body, the Grand Chapter took the first steps to do so at our Session this year by approving a \$10,000 allotment for Marketing in our budget. Much to my surprise, these are the first funds ever earmarked for Marketing in this Grand Jurisdiction, which makes it a very important first step indeed. I thank and hope that each of our current 10,000 dues-paying members are proud and grateful to have contributed a dollar each to this endeavor this year. To honor your contributions, I have appointed a special committee that will begin work at the first of the year to assist me in exploring ways to put that money to good use by laying the foundation for a long-term Marketing strategy to support the recruitment of new members this year, and in the years to come.

In addition, in an effort to increase the satisfaction of our current members and leaders, thereby helping to retain such members, I have appointed an additional special committee to evaluate our use of iMember to determine if we are providing the access and tools for our members to use it to its best and highest potential. This committee will also assess Chapter operations to identify any outdated systems or unnecessary burdens that Grand Chapter rules and procedures may be placing on our Chapters, members, and leaders, with an expectation that all systems should be fact-based, standardized, modernized, efficient, and user friendly.

I believe that the recommendations from both of these committees will potentially help us reach a carefully identified and targeted outside audience with an effectively branded, well-honed, and well-placed message while simultaneously addressing operational issues that, once resolved, will ease some of the burdens on our Chapters and bring greater satisfaction to our current members and leaders. These are but a few of the efforts we will be making this year, and hopefully in years to come, to turn the tide on membership. It will not be an easy task, but given what is at stake, it is one worthy of our utmost care and labor.

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WORTHY GRAND MATRON - CHRISTINE HUFF continued from page 11

Now, if you really turned to this article to read my letter of introduction, I will refer you to the Winter 2022 edition of this journal which can be found on the Grand Chapter website. But in a nutshell, I will tell you here what I said there. If you really want to know me, you must know this: I was born a rebel and have fought peacefully for various causes throughout my life, sometimes by unconventional means. I can be stubborn, persistent, and demanding (not always the most positive traits but true nonetheless, so I try to use them for good, and I have an inexplicable amount of boundless energy which makes me believe that almost anything is possible if you just give it enough time, effort, and thought. I love crafts, music, musical theater, dancing, reading, political activism, over-the-top event planning, doing the unexpected, and decorating anything and everything ala Pinterest. It is my greatest pleasure to "Wow" you.

For me, life is a bowl of delicious cherries just waiting to be devoured. I hope you will jump in and join me to do just that as we join forces to preserve and revitalize our beautiful Order.

With warm Olaf hugs and Precious Penguin kisses,

Christine















IMPORTATANT DATES TO REMEMBER

ALL MEMBER INSTRUCTIONALS (AMIS)

2024

January 13 - Morgan Hill, January 14 - Martinez, January 20 - Escondido, January 21 - So Cal TBD, January 28 - Lodi, February 3 - Ontario, February 4 - San Pedro, February 17 - Chico, February 18 - Roseville, February 25 - Ferndale (mini), March 9 - Bakersfield



WORTHY GRAND PATRON - LARRY OROZCO



I would like to tell you about Myself and My Family--

I am a Sheet Metal Journeyman for SoCal SMW Local 105 and have been for the last 30 years. I have been asked by our six kids to stop looking at Building Architecture—it's a thing I do.

I have lived in the city of Artesia with my wife, Laura, for all of our 39 years of marriage. Laura is a Former Grand Ruth of 2022, a Past Matron of both Manchester #449 (2016, 2023) and Emerald Star #143 (2013) and was a Deputy Grand Matron in 2018. We were just serving in the East at Manchester in 2023. Phillip, Shawna, Alexandrea, Mychella, Jennifer, and Troy are our kids. Alex, Mychella, and Jenni are all Majority Members of Buena Park Rainbow Assembly #143. Alex and Jenni are also Past Grand Officers for Rainbow and members of Eastern Star. Troy is a Past Master Councilor of Excelsior Chapter of DeMolay. Our grandkids are Anakin, Aiden, Adalyne, and a baby in Heaven, Allyssa.

The saying is, "The Lord finds work for Idle hands". Well, he has found ways to keep this former umpire busy ALL the time: Fortunately, I don't have to go far to support our area Chapters or Assemblies. I still attend and have been a Past Rainbow Dad of Buena Park Assembly #231 and a Trained DeMolay Dad.

I am a Past Patron of Manchester Chapter. (2016, 17, 20-21, 23). My home Lodge is Golden Trowel Norwalk #273. I have held the Jr. Deacon office but have told my Lodge I will not be advancing until I'm done focusing on my Worthy Grand Patron year. The plan is to be in the Masonic East in five years, but we shall see! My Lodge has me as the yearly Chairman for the Masons 4 Mitts Project. Last year's was a banner year for M4M as they recorded their best year yet! Baseball is something close to my heart as I am a Registered Little League Umpire and work local games, as well as an Umpire for USA Jr. Olympic Softball, and a High School Umpire for the Long Beach Unit. In 2011 I was selected to "work" a CIF Finals game, something I hold as a high honor.

USE YOUR CELL PHONE OR COMPUTER

Eastern Star website - oescal.org

Grand Chapter Masonic Page - caoes.grandview.systems/public_lodges/landing_page

Greatest resource of our Order!!!

Social Media... I love It!! I have had the pleasure of reuniting myself with former classmates of my high school. I use it quite a bit for events and wonderful get-togethers. I am on Facebook as Lawrence Orozco and on Instagram as Umpireonfire.. I do not "Friend" just anyone. I have my ways of making sure you are the person that is making that attempt. I feel there is no such thing as being too cautious. I ask ALL to please use Social Media as a source to keep in touch. I am eagerly looking forward to seeing you at the AMIs, OVs, or Receptions held throughout the State in 2024.

Have a Blessed Day and Hit the Ball Out of the Park!!!

Larry Orozco Worthy Grand Patron 2024 LarryoWGP2024@gmail.com









ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON - ALICE RAYMOND





Some of you may have traveled this road before; for others, this might be your first journey.

Either way, I assure you we will be looking towards the future and exploring how we can move our Order forward.

We have an obligation to search and seek out new and exciting ways to keep all of our members engaged. So, with that, I am excited to spend the next two years by your side.

To those of you who will serve in the West...

Welcome! Congratulations to those of you who have been elected to the station of Associate Matron of your Chapter in 2024. I am incredibly honored to serve with you this year and I look forward to meeting you as I travel with our Grand Family.

It's hard to believe our third year together has arrived! To those of you just coming aboard, **welcome**! I am excited to have you join us. There are lots of fun and interesting things ahead for us this year. We have All Member Instructionals (AMIs), Official Visits (OVs), Receptions, and our *very important* AM / AP Workshops in July (South and North).

As you start to serve in the West, this is your time to begin to work in partnership with your Associate Patron Communication is the key to becoming a great team. Listen to each other, encourage each other, plan together, and work together as your year begins to take shape. You can never be too prepared. Encourage your AP to take on tasks. By including him, you will find that he will be more supportive and invested in both his Associate Patron and Worthy Patron years. I am looking forward to our "2025 Embracing the Journey Together" year.

Now, a little bit about me...

I have been a member of Eastern Star for 45 years. I was initiated into Harbor Star Chapter No. 521, Newport Beach in September 1978. I was honored to have been able to walk beside my mother, Doris Parrish, PGM, when I was initiated (she was Conductress). Our Chapter consolidated with Scepter Chapter No. 163, Orange in 2005. I have held the offices of Esther and Martha several times before and after being elected to the Line in 1990 and had the pleasure to serve as Worthy Matron in 1993 with my father, Richard Parrish. My Chapter honored me with the Service Award in 2003 and I served as Deputy Grand Matron in 2018. I am a Past Honored Queen of Bethel No. 313, Newport Beach, Job's Daughters International. I have also served on several Grand Chapter Committees, including Courtesies to Dignitaries, Appeals and Grievances, Grand Page in 1998, 1999, 2016, 2017, and 2018, as well as Co-Chairman of the Grand Pages in 2000. I also served as the Personal Secretary to Sister Sharon Jazwiecki, PGM, as well as Chairman for her Grand Marshal and Grand Conductress Receptions. I was appointed to serve as Grand Marshal in 2020ne, elected to serve as Associate Grand Conductress in 2022, Grand Conductress in 2023, and now Associate Grand Matron in 2024.

Hugs, Alice



... SAVE THE DATES ...

AM / AP WORKSHOPS



July 12-14, 2024 (South) Orange ~ July 16-18, 2024 (North) Vallejo



ASSOCIATE GRAND PATRON - MEL PEREZ





Greetings California!!! I am humbled beyond words to have been elected to represent all of YOU this year as your Associate Grand Patron. Together, we can make this a year none of us will forget. The journey that we are undertaking will be hard at times, joyful at others, but it will ALWAYS be worthwhile.

Firstly, allow me to tell you a bit about myself. My name is Mel Perez, Jr., I am a member and Past Patron of Fort Millerton Chapter #557 in Fresno, CA. Through a just completed consolidation, I am now extremely proud to say that we have now become a part of Legacy Chapter #555 and I can't wait to see where the road takes us. I've been a member for roughly 16 years and a Master Mason for 17 years. I am also a Past Master of Welcome Lodge #255 in Lemoore, CA. Aside from an uncle of mine, I am the first of my family to get involved with Masonic life. I do, however, have two sons, Eric, 25 and John, 27 who are both Past

Master Councilors in DeMolay. I had the pleasure of serving Grand Chapter as Grand Chaptain in 2022 as well as on several committees; most will remember me as the "safety guy in the red vest" at Grand Chapter sessions over the past few years.

I spent most of my life in the service of others, whether as a member of the Armed Services, as a civilian contractor teaching for the Army, or as a Paramedic (which I can tell you was one of the most fulfilling careers I could have ever hoped for). So, as you can see, I'm very passionate about being able to help others. My two sons, my pride and joy, have been leading very successful lives for some time now. John lives in the central valley and Eric works up in the frigid state of North Dakota. John has blessed me with my first grandson Teddy who just turned five! If you want to see pictures, I've got plenty!!! This year I will be traveling with my fiancé, Shawna Strong. Most will remember her as the beautiful Queen in the center of the arena floor when she served as Grand Esther in 2020-2021. She has been the angel at my side for the past five years, my best friend and confidant. And despite it all, has agreed to undertake the monumental task of keeping me in line, so please wish her luck!

Lastly, let's not forget that this is just the beginning of the journey for us. Alice and I will be sending out lots of information to help all of us get ready for our time in the East in 2025. If this is your first time as an Associate Patron, congratulations! If this is your second, third, or even tenth time, thank you for bringing your wealth of experience to the team. Always remember, on this great big tandem bike of Eastern Star, we steer TOGETHER, we pedal TOGETHER, we move forward TOGETHER. If you ever need me, don't hesitate to reach out and I'll be here.

Please stay safe out there, have a blast, have a hug or a handshake always at the ready, and I'll see you soon.

Always yours, Mel & Shawna







GRAND SECRETARY-TAMMY KINZY





I am very honored to serve our Beautiful Order as Grand Secretary for nine years and love to share with you my story:

I was initiated in August of 1978 into Star of Palmdale Chapter, I moved to Bishop and affiliated with Mt Whitney in 1995 which, through consolidation, is now Eastern Sierra Chapter 197. I was proud to serve our Order in 2007 as Grand Esther and Deputy Grand Matron in 2004, 2005 and 2014. After 24 years in Bishop, I relocated back to Southern California when I was elected Grand Treasurer for the 2016 Grand Chapter year. A month later I was honored to be asked to assume the position of Acting Grand Secretary. That was the start of my journey as Grand Secretary, officially being elected for the first time as Grand Secretary in 2017.

For my Chapter service, I have gone thru the Line to be Worthy Matron three times, held the office of Secretary for six years, and the offices of Marshal and Electa.

My professional career has been in the accounting field for over 35 years and Office Management for 28 years, along with being a sole proprietor of a Bookkeeping and Tax Service for 10 years.

My hobbies are music, scrapbooking, reading, race cars and spending time with family and friends. Yes, I have a bucket list, which I really started concentrating on a few years ago, two things are now off my list, a hot air balloon ride and ziplining! I cannot wait to see what this 2024 year will bring!

My son Terry, daughter in-law Angela, daughter Gaylene and granddaughters Kayla and Lillian are the loves of my life! Spending time with my family are my most cherished moments! Thank you for letting me share my story!







GRAND TREASURER- R. STEPHEN DOAN





Thank you for agreeing to serve your Chapter as Treasurer for 2024. Whether this is your first time or you have served one or more times in prior years, please do not hesitate to contact the Grand Secretary or me if questions arise during the year. Please review the Instruction Book and Constitution and Laws for a list of your duties: receive the money of the Chapter from the Secretary, deposit the same in the name of the Chapter in bank or banks as designated by the Chapter, and issue all checks for bills approved by the Chapter. It is important to remember that two signatures are required on each check (Worthy Matron, Secretary or Treasurer). The Deputy will advise you with respect to your role in opening, balloting, and the Golden Chain/Prayer Circle.

The Worthy Grand Matron has scheduled ten AMIs this year. A list of dates and locations will be published in this edition, on the website on the monthly communications tab, as well as on flyers distributed prior to those events. I hope that you will attend at least one of the AMIs. Don't forget your dues card! The Grand Secretary and I plan to have six workshops this year, three of them will be in person and three will be on Zoom. A list of dates and locations or log in information will be posted on the Grand Chapter website and your iMember dashboard.

Now, some background on me. I have been a member of the Order for forty-four years. I am currently a member of Dr. Rob Morris Chapter No. 651 in Santa Monica and San Pedro Harbor Chapter No. 174. I have been Worthy Patron seven times. In Grand Chapter, I served two years on the Jurisprudence and six years on the Finance Committees. I was the Grand Representative of New York in 2021 - 2023. Some of you may know that I was Grand Master of Masons in California in 1992 - 1993. My wife, Donna, is a Past Matron and has served as a Deputy Grand Matron. Our daughter, Stephanie Bezner, is also a Past Matron and has served as a Deputy Grand Matron. Our son, Robert, is a Past Patron.

Please mark on your calendar the Reception for all of the Treasurers of California, which will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, in Santa Monica. Please plan to attend this special occasion. More details will be provided as the date gets closer.





GRAND CONDUCTRESS-TERI BAUGHMAN



I'm honored to be serving as your Grand Conductress, and I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new Conductresses while traveling throughout California this year. It's going to be a fun and exciting year as we continue our journey to the East in 2026.

We each have a unique story of how we became a member of Eastern Star. My story began even before I was born. My grandparents were installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Fallen Leaf (now El Dorado Foothills) Chapter the month before I was born, and I was destined to follow in their footsteps. As an active Rainbow Girl, I naturally joined Eastern Star shortly after my eighteenth birthday. Like many of us, I went away to college, started my career as a structural engineer, got married, and had two wonderful children. I attended Eastern Star occasionally, but my Chapter was no longer in the same town where I lived and family and work consumed most of my time.

I returned to being an active member of Eastern Star simply because someone asked. My Rainbow friend, Cindy Murphy, and her husband, Bob, were going to be installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. They asked if I would affiliate with their Chapter and be one of their officers. With my kids preparing to leave the house and a desire to be more actively involved with my community, the timing finally aligned and I said YES! All it took was a question and I was immediately reminded of the reason I joined in the first place: the fellowship, service, and joy of being part of something bigger than ourselves. I encourage each of you to think about friends who might belong to Eastern Star but are currently inactive, or maybe there's a childhood friend who is looking for the next chapter in their life. Share this fraternal bond of friendship with them and others; maybe all it takes is a simple invitation.

As I journey throughout California, I look forward to hearing from each of you about where your Eastern Star journey began. As I think about new members and the next generation of Eastern Star, I'm excited to share that I became a grandma this year to a wonderful grandson, and am anxiously awaiting the arrival of my granddaughter. I'm happy to share pictures when I see you in my travels, and I look forward to sharing this year with you.



ASSOCIATE GRAND CONDUCTRESS - CATHYVELEY

2024 Grand Officers





What an honor and blessing it is for me to start my trip up the Grand Line and share it with my ladies. I look forward to a year of fun, meeting new people, and working with my Associate Conductresses. I hope I will get to meet each of you at one of the AMIs (All Members Instructionals) or at an OV in your area.

My family has always been a part of the Masonic Fraternity. I joined Atascadero Assembly in 1975 and I started my journey as a Rainbow Girl, attaining my Past Worthy Advisor status as well as my Grand Cross of Color medallion. I joined Atascadero Chapter on January 23, 1982, just after I turned 18 years old. I have served on the Rainbow Advisory Board, been Grand Deputy and also served on the Temple Association Board. My Eastern Star service to my Chapter includes serving as Adah,

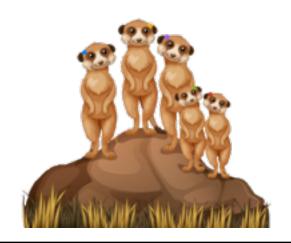
Ruth, Esther, and then starting through the Line in 2007, serving as Worthy Matron in 2010 and then served 12 years as Secretary. I had the honor to serve my district as a Deputy Grand Matron in 2014. I was honored to represent all of the Marshals in 2023 as Grand Marshal. I have served on the Election Board for Grand Chapter for 15 years. The Fraternal Order has been, and will always be, in my heart.

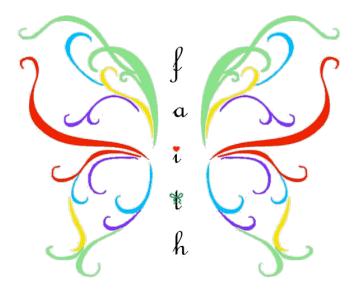
Let me tell you a little bit about myself, I am a fifth generation California native. I enjoy reading, Stephen King is my favorite author, I have all of his books. My favorite movie is "Wizard of Oz". I enjoy cooking, baking and doing crafts. I love spending my free time with my family. I have four children, four grandsons, and two granddaughters.

I am humbled by the great opportunity that I have been given to serve you and this order and am enthusiastically ready to work with the membership.

God bless all of you, our country, and the beautiful Order of the Eastern Star.

Butterfly kisses and Meerkat hugs, Cathy Veley Associate Grand Conductress 2024





GRAND CHAPLAIN-JEFF ANDERS





I would like to take this time to tell you a little bit about myself and my family. I have been married for 40 years to the same wonderful and supportive woman. My wife Debra and I raised two amazing children, Amie and Matthew, who have grown up and started families of their own giving us four incredible grandsons, Leonard, Levi, Marshall, and Walter.

As most fairytales start, this one is no different. Once upon a time in 1983 Debra and I got married and four months later, I enlisted in the Air Force where I served for 25 years, giving Debra, Amie, Matthew and I the opportunity to travel the world together. We have been stationed in California, South Dakota, England, and Germany, where we took full advantage of the opportunity to travel, when I wasn't deployed. For the nine years we lived in Europe, we visited such places as Italy, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Luxemburg, Spain, France, Liechtenstein,

and many more places. This gave us the opportunity to witness, and in some cases experience, the different lifestyles, customs, and courtesies of different countries, religions, and ethnicities around the world, and I hope a greater appreciation for what we have right here at home and a better understanding and tolerance to those who may be a little different than us.

After retiring from active duty in 2008, I went back to work for the Air Force as a civilian, working in the U2 program at Beale AFB where I still work today. During the last 15 years, I finished my Bachelor's Degree in 2015 from William Jessup University. I completed my Master's Degree in 2016 from Golden Gate University, and became a Mason and a member of Eastern Star. I was raised in Harding San Juan Lodge #789 and transferred to Nicolaus Lodge #129 in Wheatland where I am currently the Lodge Secretary. I joined Eastern Star shortly thereafter in Natoma San Juan Chapter #233 where I have served as Marshal, Associate Parton, and Worthy Patron (all twice). Debra has served as Ruth, Esther, Marth, (Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron and Worthy Matron (all twice) and she now serves as Secretary of our Chapter where we have both received the OES Service Award.

I belong to our local American Legion Post where I served as Commander for 2 years, 1st Vice Commander for 3 years and now 2nd Vice Commander for the past year. I am also a Board member of a local non-profit organization, "Wheatland Street Fair Foundation" where we raise monies through an annual Christmas fair and tree lighting and give right back into the local community to deserving nonprofit groups. I am also on the National Night Out planning committee for our local community.

When we can find the rare weekend or time off from our many endeavors and commitments, Debra and I love to take our boat out with the kids to ski, tube or just relax, kayak, hike, RV, or ride our motorcycle (day trips or really long trips), our longest ride 4 years ago was 1800 miles in 13 days, and I have actually ridden my motorcycle to Sturgis, South Dakota. (Motorcycle riders should know what that is, if not, ask me when we meet) That trip was 1400 miles in 2 days. We also love to go to our local Rivercat's (triple A team for the SF Giants) baseball game where we have season tickets.





GRAND MARSHAL- MARINA PINEDA-KAMARIOTIS





I am extremely honored and humbled that WGM Christine and WGP Larry asked me to be their 2024 Grand Marshal. I met Christine in 2015 when we were Deputy Grand Matrons and I met Larry and Laura when their daughter, Alexandra, and my daughter, Justine, were appointed Rainbow Grand Officers for the 2005 Tenacious Turtle year.

My Eastern Star history begins when my husband (my high school sweetheart), Jim Kamariotis, and I were initiated into Pacific Star Chapter No. 252 (now Golden Gate Chapter No. 1) in 2003. Up to that point, we were "just" parents of San Francisco Assembly No. 1 Rainbow members, Justine and Jasmine, both of whom served as Rainbow Grand Officers in 2005 and 2010, respectively. I served as Electa, Ruth, and Martha before entering the Line to become Worthy Matron. Jim and I served as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron in 2012 (our daughters served with us as Star

Point officers), 2016 and 2017. I am back in the Line to serve as Worthy Matron again in 2025. I had the honor to serve as Deputy Grand Matron for 2015 and as Mother Advisor of San Francisco Assembly No. 1 for eleven years. Jim is a Past State Rainbow Dad (Charming Cheetahs 2016). Jim and I were quite busy in 2015 traveling together for DGM and State Rainbow Dad activities. I also hold the honors of the Rainbow Grand Cross of Color and the Dr. Rob Morris and Service Awards. I am a Former Grand Warder 2018, peace out!

Jim and I have been married for over 38 years and we celebrate two anniversaries: our wedding and our first date 47 years ago! I graduated from the University of California, Berkeley (Go Bears!) where I majored in Social Welfare and thereafter graduated from law school at the University of California, Law, San Francisco (formerly Hastings). Although I am an attorney in private practice, I am a social worker at heart and my work as an immigration attorney for the past 30 plus years has certainly fed that side of my profession.

I enjoy doing crossword puzzles and sudoku. I listen to music of most genres, though I'm a 70s classic rock/Elton John/Motown kind of gal. I've taken up pickleball but finding time to play is now more difficult, so sad, since it's a lot of fun. I enjoy Looney Tunes (who of those of a certain age remember Saturday morning television fare?) and my absolute favorite character is Gossamer. My Gossamer slippers are a crowd favorite!

I am known to ALWAYS feel cold. You'll often see me wearing sweaters and/or a jacket while indoors. How apropos that this 2024 Grand Family is all about penguins and huskies. I couldn't help but christen myself the "Chilly Willy" of this pack. I'll be "Rockin' Down the Highway" (Doobie Brothers) traveling up and down the state with my 2024 Rockstars Family to meet you all!





GRAND ORGANIST-JON OLSON





Happy New (OES) Year! I am Jon Olson, the Grand Organist for 2024 and a Worthy Patron of Star of Claremont Chapter #110. Masonry has been a part of my family for over 100 years with me being the third of four generations of membership (my maternal grandparents were members of Eastern Star in Moline, Illinois, as well as my paternal great aunt). While I was busy in DeMolay, my parents were also busy in Claremont Chapter #324 (prior to consolidation) and my dad in Claremont Lodge #436. My dad was Master in 1976 followed by my oldest brother in 1977 and at the same time, my parents were installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Claremont Chapter, serving in 1977. I joined OES when my mother was Conductress in 1975 and I served as Worthy Patron for the first time in 1979 (2024 is my 11th time!). My sister and escort, Susan Shaw, has been a member for over 25 years, as well as a sister-in-law (who is a Past Matron), two nieces (one serving

with me in 2000), and my son (Past Master of Claremont Lodge #436, 2015) all being members of Star of Claremont #110.

Although I have been a member of OES for over 48 years (and a member of Claremont Lodge #436 for nearly 50 years; to receive a Golden Veterans award in February 2024), I have served in various offices. I have only been installed as Organist in my Chapter twice but have played for many of the Chapters in the District and have a busy schedule during the Installation season. My paternal great aunt was Organist in her Chapter in South Gate, and my mother was Organist in our Chapter for a number of years. Thus, being Organist is a family tradition. My dad, my oldest brother, and my son are Past Masters of the same Lodge (#436) where I am Secretary. My oldest brother is also a Past Master of Rim of the World Lodge #711, where I am Organist.

Professionally, I have a background in microbiology and immunology and did preclinical research for over 40 years before retiring earlier in 2023. Now I have time to do the chores around the house, but no longer have a valid excuse for procrastinating. I do manage to get a couple of sudoku puzzles done, get in some practice time on the piano, a bit of house cleaning, and putzing around in the kitchen. I maintain an active membership at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona, assisting with worship services and busy on two boards, but I have needed to take a hiatus on a live-streamed morning devotional for this coming year. Once this coming year is completed, I will have more time (and I hope the energy) to once again do more traveling for pleasure. I spent many years traveling for work related activities and have seen many convention centers and a number of museums and art galleries, castle ruins, cobblestone streets, and enjoyed good foods and wines in Europe. Now I want to take road trips and spend time touring our great country! I love to travel and talk with people, as everyone has a story to tell, we just need to take the time to listen. Keep a song in your heart!





GRAND ADAH- ANNETTE HOVORKA





Hello Sisters and Brothers! I am Annette Hovorka and I have been appointed as the 2024 Grand Adah. I am happy to have the opportunity to share a bit about myself.

I was born and raised in the Sacramento area. I am married to Bob Hovorka, PGP. We got married at his Grand Sentinel Reception a little over six years ago. (Fun fact: you can watch it on You Tube.) Together we have five children and seven grandchildren. I am retired after 35 years with Caltrans, where I worked as a Land Surveyor. Currently, I grandma, work part time for a private engineering/land surveying firm, and quilt.

As part of the Order, I belong to Linden and Heritage (Lodi) Chapters. In my journey, I have been Worthy Matron (five times), other Line Officers, Chaplain, Marshal, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, and Warder. I

have been a Deputy Grand Matron three times and the Escort for Bob's many adventures. Of all those adventures, I look

forward to this new one with great hope and enthusiasm.

If you are one of the Chapter's Adahs or a GAFFY, I have set up a Facebook group for us. It is a private group. Please send a message and I will send an invite for you to join. I have also created a new email address to help with communication this year. It is Estrellitaazul2024@gmail.com.

Of course, I am looking forward to seeing you in our travels. I hope to see you at the AMIs, OVs, and other opportunities throughout the year. This year is short, and I hope we can embrace these chances to meet in person as something special.





GRAND RUTH- ROBERTA "BOBBIE" ALLEN





My name is Roberta "Bobbie" Allen. I was born in Batavia, New York, and was a member of Batavia Assembly #21 International Order of Rainbow for Girls. My parents, Genevieve and Robert Miley, were the "Mom and Dad" of that Assembly. Our family moved to Vista, California in 1967 after being snow-bound for two weeks. I joined Job's Daughters, Vista Bethel #190 and was Honored Queen in 1972.

I was initiated in Poinsettia Chapter #287 in Oceanside, CA February 8, 1994 and have been active for 29 years. I have held the offices of Worthy Matron in 1999, 2007, 2014, and 2017. I was a Deputy Grand Matron in 2005. I have held every female office except for Secretary, Treasurer, Esther, and Martha.

I received my dental assisting license on February 27, 1977 and have been

working in the same profession for 47 years. I am currently working remotely from my home.

In 2005, while a Conductress and a Deputy Grand Matron, I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and in 2007, while I was Worthy Matron, I received my Master's Degree in Business Administration. I wanted to prove to my three daughters that you are never too old to finish your education.

I have served Grand Chapter on the Membership Committee from 2007-2017. I was the Grand Representative of Oklahoma in California from November 2021 until October of 2023. I served as the Arts and Crafts Chair 2019-2021, and the Co-Chair of Photography 2022-2023. I received my 25-year pin and certificate in January of 2019 and Chapter Service Awards in 2006 and 2022. I have also served as Queen of Mecca Temple No.34, Daughters of the Nile in San Diego for two terms 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

As of June 27, 2024, I will have been married to Phil Allen for 25 years. I have three daughters Allison Aquino-Becker, Stephanie Hernandez, and Amanda Hartzell, and four grandsons.

I am looking forward to serving as Grand Ruth for 2024 and would like to thank Christine Huff, WGM and Larry Orozco, WGP for this appointment.







GRAND ESTHER-ELENI ROSS





I was thrilled and so honored to be selected by Sister Christine and Brother Larry to serve Grand Chapter as their "Queen" in 2024. When I found out I was chosen to represent Esther, it was a dream come true. My name Eleni is Greek and means light or "Sun Ray", both of which are represented by the third point of our star. It seemed like a perfect fit for me!!

My Masonic history goes back to before I was born. Both my Grandparents on both sides of my family were members of Parnassus Chapter in San Francisco. They introduced my mother and father. I literally wouldn't have existed without Eastern Star.

I am a Past Honored Queen of Bethel #246, Larkspur, CA, Job's Daughters International. I also served as Grand Bethel Representative to Washington in 1991-92. I was Sweetheart of Mill Valley Chapter,

Sweetheart of the Redwood Empire Division, and in 1987-88 I was Northern California DeMolay Sweetheart. As you can see, I really like crowns!!!

I have been a member of Eastern Star for 32 years. I was initiated into Mill Valley Chapter #219, Order of the Eastern Star in March of 1991. Mill Valley Chapter consolidated with Marin Star and is now Star of the Redwoods. I have held the offices of Sentinel, Marshal, Chaplain, Associate Conductress, Conductress, Associate Matron and Worthy Matron. I have been Worthy Matron three times: 2009, 2019, and 2023. I received the Chapter Service Award in 2000. I have helped with Fun Night at Grand Chapter, the Special Duties Committee, and am currently serving on the Appeals and Grievances Committee. I was also one of the official photographers for Grand Chapter 2022 and 2023. You also may have seen me running around at several Eastern Star events as a photographe





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GRAND ESTHER - ELENI ROSS continued from page 25



I have been married to Robert Ross for the last 30 years. He is an auto technician. I graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. I have been working in the auto insurance industry for the last 27 years and I am currently an Auto Estimatics Appraiser for State Farm Insurance. Rob and I have one son, Theodore Jack, "TJ", who is 23. He is mildly autistic, which didn't always make life easy, but he continues to amaze us with all he has accomplished. His dream is to work in sports broadcasting and is currently going to community college taking classes in that field. TJ is a senior DeMolay. He was a member of San Francisco Chapter DeMolay and just had his First Degree with Mill Valley Lodge F&AM #356.

Besides my family, my true passions are professional sports, photography, and music. I love music, especially hard rock music, I also have been known to listen to musicals, ("Fiddler on the Roof" is my favorite) and I frequently go out to live music shows where you will find me taking photos or dancing and singing (sometimes on stage).

I am a breast cancer survivor, and I am very vocal about it. I like to share my experiences in order to help others who are going through it. My motto is "Faith over fear".

I am so looking forward to meeting all of you, making memories and new friendships as I travel this beautiful state in the coming year with the Grand Family. Please come and introduce yourself to me at any event you attend. This year is going to ROCK!!!



Follow the "Rock Stars" (aka The Grand Family) on the Red Carpet in 2024 at Official Visits, Special Events and Receptions

We are the Family of Eastern Star!



GRAND MARTHA - ROSE ANNE COOLEY





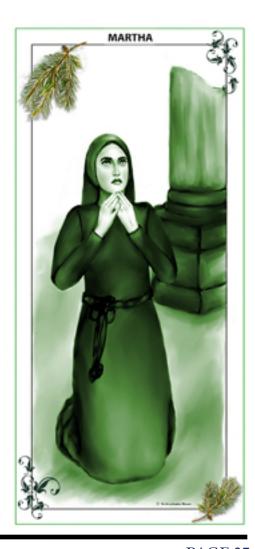
Sister Rose Anne was initiated into Conejo Valley Chapter and is a 33 year member of the Order. She has held an office every year except one. She served as Worthy Matron in 2010, 2015, and 2018 and Deputy Grand Matron in 2012 and 2017. Her Grand Chapter Committee Service includes Captain of the Guards, Appeals and Grievances, Grand Chapter Week activities included serving as a Page, Chairman of Pages, Liaison to Job's Daughters and the Masonic Youth Honor Session. (Remember the Beatles Tribute Band in Fresno in 2013?) She has all three Chapter Awards including the Service Award, Rob Morris, and Rob Morris Membership Medallion. Rose Anne is a strong supporter of the youth. Many years were spent serving as Bethel Guardian and Deputy Grand Guardian and, in 1997, serving as Grand Chaplain for California Job's Daughters. Besides her membership in OES, she is a member of the Order of the Amaranth.

Steve Cooley, Rose Anne's husband, will be her Escort this year. He is a multiple time Past Patron and served as Grand Sentinel in 2011. They have three daughters who are all Past Honored Queens and seven grandchildren, four boys and three girls.

Rose Anne is a retired Math teacher, although, not really, because she missed it so much that she went back to subbing. This will be very helpful in working the schedule around traveling this year. She can sing the Quadratic Formula – and she will – just ask! She is not a stranger to traveling, as her father was in the Air Force and she attended nine schools in 12 years! She enjoys needlework and reading non-fiction. People are the most interesting subjects.

Through the years, Rose Anne has enjoyed collecting "crate labels" from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. She loves their vibrant colors, especially the landscapes. Many have been donated to local museums for all to enjoy. Oh, and did we mention that she loves dogs, the color green, her friends (they are the best!) and Eastern Star. She is looking forward to hearing from each Martha in the state of California and meeting them in person!





GRAND ELECTA - DEANNA BAY





As we dive into this incredible year, I am filled with excitement at the prospect of getting to know our members and experiencing the vibrant mosaic of love, service, and unity our Order encourages. I am fortunate to represent Electa, a symbol of unwavering dedication to a noble cause. Electa embodies the spirit of a warrior and a mother, fiercely defending justice and tender in her healing embrace. Her story inspires us to step up when called and stand up for what is right.

Raised off the grid, five miles outside the Victorian Village of Ferndale, I grew up raising animals, riding horses, and playing sports. Now I often can be found walking trails in the redwoods or on the beach as I take deep breaths and soak in the surrounding beauty. Finding solace in nature and connecting to God helps keep life in perspective. I have one sibling- an older brother, two beautiful adult daughters, and five grandchildren. I am

also extremely blessed that both my parents are still with us and are active in our order. My mom, Nancy Bay, has agreed to travel with me and be my Escort this year, and my dad, Kirby Bay, will join us on occasion.

My fraternal journey began in the vibrant world of Rainbow. My first office was the station of Love. Serving multiple terms as Worthy Advisor fostered a deep desire to live a life of service. Championing youth and our Youth Orders comes easily. I served on Advisory Boards for Rainbow in both California and Washington. I also served as Mother Advisor. My affiliation with Rainbow paved a path of generational participation in Eastern Star. This legacy shines through my parents, daughters, and even my granddaughters, creating a harmonious tapestry across generations. Both my daughters proudly served as Grand Officers of Washington/Idaho Rainbow, and one is a recent third generation Past Matron of Ferndale Chapter.

As a 32-year member, my fraternal voyage paused a few years when raising my family out of state. However, my dedication to the Order remained steadfast. Returning to California, I was elected Associate Conductress as my first office, and have faithfully held an office each year since. Serving as Deputy Grand Matron of District One in 2022 deepened my unwavering commitment to our principles. In 2024, I hold the office of Conductress for my Chapter.



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GRAND ELECTA - DEANNA BAY continued from page 28

My professional experience includes working in higher education, hospice, counseling, and administration. As a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, my career is dedicated to promoting service, compassion, reducing stigma, embracing cultural diversity, and advocating for social justice. I intentionally chose a path that allows me to serve and love individuals unconditionally, meeting them where they are in any given moment. This compassionate approach aligns with the core values of our organization: compassion, understanding, unity, and love. Presently, my job title is Senior Program Manager and Substance Use Disorder Administrator.

Spending quality time with my daughters and grandchildren is a favorite pastime. If you see me rockin' out, I am probably listening to top 40, Broadway musicals, or country music. Additional interests include sunsets, photography, math, reading, Broadway shows, art museums, puzzles, baking, softball, and all things Christmas. I particularly enjoy nativity scenes from all around the world and love to see different cultural traditions displayed together in unity.

With the radiant spirit of Electa guiding us, let us march into this year with unwavering enthusiasm. Her story is not just an ancient tale; it's a call to arms, urging us to step up, stand tall, and champion what is right. Let us embrace Electa's warrior spirit and fiercely love one another while we channel our inner rebel in positive ways to continue improving and growing our Order.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND PICTURES TO CAL STAR NEWS



"My Chapter doesn't have an article in the Cal Star News! I'm going to send something for the next edition!"

- Articles are to be WORD ATTACHMENTS that are able to be edited. Text sent as the body of an email will not be accepted.
- Photos are to be sent as separate original jpg files, not in pdf format, embedded in your article. DO NOT edit, crop or attempt to enhance—our layout specialist will do that.
- Please be sure that photos have descriptive captions, names and office of individuals, or activity if it is a group photo.
- We do not print flyers, but narrative information about upcoming events may be included.

Following these guidelines will make the responsibilities of the Editor and Layout Specialist much easier.

THANKS!!

We want to hear from YOU!...

Chapter Activities, Grand Representative Travels, Grand Officer Adventures, Special Events, Member Travels, Community Service...etc!

GRAND WARDER - BONNIE JAIN





From the Southwest corner of the room, I am excited to serve as Grand Warder for the 2024 Rockstars of Grand Chapter. My name is Bonnie Jain, and I am part of a duo that protects the Chapter from Interruptio(N). I am a stickler for ritual and if I can teach one thing this year the word Interruption does not have an S on the end. I am excited to be a part of a line of Former Grand Warders that have encouraged and set the pace for our Order to thrive for the future.

I grew up in the Valley of Hearts Delight, now known as Silicon Valley. As a fifth generation born in San Jose in 1958, my twin sister, Jennifer Craig (Grand Sentinel) were the third and fourth children of Jerry & Walda Bradley, DeMolay and Rainbow united. If you want to know who was born first just ask Jennifer. With our older brother Scott and sister Shannon we were surrounded by Masonic life on both sides of our family. Both Grandfathers were Masons and Grandmother Ruth Bradley was

Deputy Grand Matron in 1967. Jennifer and I were initiated into San Jose Rainbow Assembly #5 in 1972. I was part of the Adorable Owls Grand Family in 1978-79, as a member of the Grand Executive Committee. Jennifer and I were encouraged to join Eastern Star and we joined Fraternity Chapter, now through consolidation San Jose #31. My first office of Ruth was special as it was 1980, and I served with four other Rainbow Girls as Star Points for Barbara and Hugh McAlexander. It was a special time.

In 1984, I graduated from San Jose State with a degree in Business Management. My career has taken me through 35 years as a Senior Buyer in the Biotech industry to semi-retirement as a Senior Mobile Home Park Manager. Taking time out for marriage to Douglas Jain in 1985, we had three San Jose sixth generation children, Heather, Colin, and Neal. We decided early on that if we had girls, they'd join Rainbow and if boys, it would be the Boy Scouts. Our lives were busy with Rainbow and Scouts and I finally had some time to reconnect with Eastern Star in 1997 when I was asked to step in as Ruth for a member who was not able to continue. Fast forward to 2007, Delma Davis asked Jennifer and I to sing at her Grand Adah Reception and we were hooked. We both received the Rob Morris Award for 2009 & 2010 ahead of my first year as Worthy Matron in 2013. In 2016, I was elected as Associate Conductress only to find that the mascot for that year was a Snowman, an ultimate pairing with my love of Santa Claus. I was blessed to be Deputy Grand Matron in 2017 for Linda Hoeser followed by serving as Worthy Matron in 2019. Jerry & Shirley Bradley were mentors of ours and had so many similarities with our parents who are now gone. Jerry joined me in 2013 & 2019 as my Worthy Patron. In 2022 I was asked to be Deputy Grand Matron again for Laura Bouwens. I have been Secretary of our Chapter since 2020 and enjoying it so much! While all this fun was going on, we were blessed with two granddaughters, Elyse and Norah.

My Escort, as you may have guessed, is my twin sister, Jennifer Craig. We are such opposites that we complement each other as one in everything we do. I am so grateful for her guidance in all the strengths she has to make this year a successful one for each of us and the Order.

Please reach out to us during the AMIs and Official Visits. This trip is only one year and we want to make the most of it while meeting all of California Eastern Star.





GRAND SENTINEL - JENNIFER CRAIG





"What were they thinking?" I asked myself repeatedly on that special day when 'Mum C' and 'Dad Coach' asked **both** Twin 'A' Bonnie Jain (Grand Warder) and I, Twin 'B' to join their 2024 Rockstar Family!! **Never** has there been siblings, much less twins, serving as Grand Officers in the same year! What a unique honor to serve as only the second female Grand Sentinel in California and yet again, "What were they thinking?" With the help of my family and friends as well as my San Francisco Peninsula Sisters and Brothers, I have come to accept that I was chosen to 'Inspire, Delight and Amuse' our members with the hopes in providing a unique opportunity in opening our membership to others with a fun, enthusiastic flare and to 'shine a light' on our fraternity so that they feel welcomed to join. I have incredible shoes to fill following our former Grand Sentinels who consistently tell me to, 'just be yourself', and I am truly blessed in their love and encouragement in accepting this most amazing office--to protect our doors. Oh, but "Do Not Touch the doors!"

I think this is the part where I tell you about my family history and so as not to repeat what has already been written, I would ask you to refer to our Grand Warder's bio as she truly is the historian of the family!

Now, a little about me...and Twin 'A', as by now you have figured out that we are a package deal. We were born in 1958 in San Jose, California. "Who's on First?" well, that's another script but, 'Who is first'? That is up for debate but I do have my own theory! I can tell you that Bonnie and I are complete opposites! Right down to our DNA. She is O+ while I am O-. While Bonnie and I share many talents, she thrived academically, while music and sports were my passions. I played with the San Jose Sunbirds, a professional softball team and was honored as Athlete of the Year in softball, basketball, gymnastics, track, and hockey at Willow Glen High School. I had to choose between receiving my Grand Cross of Color in 1976 or going to State Championships in Gymnastics. Being unusually tall for a gymnast, I broke many an uneven parallel bar.

My professional life consists of working in the health care field. In Ophthalmology as a surgical assistant, in Osteopathic medicine as an office manager, and then opening my own practice as a Rehabilitation Therapist for over 26 years. I met my husband Richard in 1988 and we will have been married for thirty-four years on February 4th, my father's birthday so I would not forget. We have shared in raising our four felines, Riley, Bailey, and Bear n' Blu (twins) and are proud Great Uncle and Auntie to our five grandnieces and nephew.

My Masonic history, believe it or not, is one behind the scenes. I have served my Chapter as Worthy Matron twice, as Secretary for three years, received the Rob Morris Award, and was honored to represent Alberta, Canada as a Grand Representative. Since 2007, I have been active at Grand Chapter in many areas, but mostly in entertainment and decorations. I designed the backdrops for five sessions as well as serving as Decorations Chairman in 2018. Bonnie and I have enjoyed many years of singing together and plan on some interesting entertainment during our tenure as Grand Warder and Grand Sentinel.

I look forward to sharing many adventures and 'shining my light' of enthusiasm with our many Sisters and Brothers and please, do not hesitant to ask me, "Who is first?"





Grand Representative

OKLAHOMA - THE SOONER STATE

By Bobbie Allen, Former Grand Representative of Oklahoma in California 2022-2023

My commission as Grand Representative of Oklahoma in California started on November 1, 2022, and will end on Halloween of this year. I was anxiously waiting until our AMI in Escondido where the announcement was made. After several months, I received my official paperwork from Oklahoma that included a beautiful pin of the state of Oklahoma, and my certificate.

Oklahoma is in the South-Central region of the United States bordering the state of Texas to the south and west, Kansas to the north, Missouri to the northeast, Arkansas to the east, New Mexico to the west, and Colorado to the northwest. Oklahoma is the 20th largest state in the United States.



The states name is derived from the Choctaw words "okla" people and "humma" which translates as red. The official Native American nickname for the state is Land of the Red Man—Sooner State. The official languages are English, Choctow, and Cherokee. The state flower is the Rosa Oklahoma.

People ask what Oklahoma is famous for.... well, it is known for its cowboy culture, Native American History, and beautiful nature.

Since I am a little bit country and a little bit Rock n Roll, country music is one of my favorite genres. Oklahoma is home to two country music icons, Blake Shelton married to Gwen Stefani, and Garth Brooks married to Trisha Yearwood.

Most of Oklahoma was set aside as Indian Territory with the general borders of the Indian Territory being formed in 1834. It was opened for general settlement in 1889. The "SOONERS" were settlers who arrived before this period of official authorization. Early in its statehood, Oklahoma was primarily a ranching and farming state, with oil being a major economic producer as well.

Corn and popcorn...... Corn is grown in much of Oklahoma, mostly in the eastern parts of the state and panhandle. There are many kinds of corn. Popcorn is made from one kind of corn that is allowed to dry on the stalk. The corn on the cob that we like to eat is called "sweet corn". Native Americans taught European Settlers to plant corn which they called maize. FYI: Popcorn has more protein, phosphorus, and iron than potato chips, an ice cream cone, pretzels, or soda crackers.

In 1868 Rev. Joseph S. Murrow, known as "the Father of Masonry," in Oklahoma, was instrumental in organizing Oklahoma Lodge Number One at Boggy Depot, Choctaw Nation. Women had an auxiliary, known as the Order of the Eastern Star, which organized in the United States in 1876. On February 25, 1879, Murrow formed the O-Ho-Yo-Hom-Ma Chapter, the first Eastern Star Chapter at Atoka, Indian Territory. He helped set up eight others and the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of the Indian Territory in 1889. Currently Oklahoma has 64 chapters throughout the state. Their headquarters are in Guthrie, Oklahoma. In 1909 Oklahoma Territory Eastern Star and Indian Territory Eastern Star merged to form Oklahoma Eastern Star.

The Worthy Grand Matron, Pamala Chesser, and Worthy Grand Patron, Arlan Smith, have invited you to "school" as they spread Eastern Star love and learning throughout the state. Their 2022-2023 Grand Family are known as the "Superintendents and Principals". An invitation has been sent to attend their "Apple Blossom Time in Oklahoma". Their 115th annual session was October 15th—18th, held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Grand Representative

OKLAHOMA - THE SOONER STATE continued from page 32

By Bobbie Allen, Former Grand Representative of Oklahoma in California 2022-2023

The WGM's **Honor Station** was Grand Lecturer, her **emblems** were the book and torch, schoolhouses, and apples. Her **colors** were Red, White and Blue, **Flowers** were Red Roses and Apple Blossoms, **Watchword were**: Faith, Hope, and Love, The **Theme** was "You are the Apple of his Eye". Her **Songs** were "This is the Day" and "Worthy of Worship", and her **Fun Symbol** was Sock Monkeys.

The WGP's **Honor Station** was Esther, his **emblems** were windmills, the American Flag, and Eagles. His **color** was Red. His **Flower** was the American Beauty Red Rose. His **Watchwords** were Love One Another. His **Theme** was "I see the windmill as the unseen work of God bringing forth the bread and water of life". His **Songs** were "Wings of a Dove" and "How Great thou Art", and, his **Fun Symbol** was Classic Cars.

The charity the WGM and WGP chose for this year is "Shriners helping Children". Oklahoma's official charity is the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. They have contributed more than \$340,000 to that charity. They also support the Youth Orders by providing college scholarships to members of Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls as well as scholarships to DeMolay members for their leadership conference.

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 9 for the deadlines for submissions and all the information on where to send your article, etc!

We look forward to hearing from YOU!



Chapter Reports

FUCHSIA CHAPTER #425

Submitted by LeAnn Holsapple, PM

Since the last edition of CalStar News Fuchsia Chapter #425 in El Segudo has been busy with our ongoing Port Pals project. We've given Port Pals to the UCLA Cancer Center and several other treatment centers and hospitals in our area. Word of mouth is getting around and every center we've delivered to has been thrilled with our donations. If you know of a center that would like them here in Southern California, please let us know.

We had another fun and creative Paint Party on September 30th. It is so much fun to get together, be creative, and have lots of fellowship. These events are open to all, and we'll be having another in the Spring, so watch for details.

We welcome you to visit our Chapter! We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7:30PM. Please join our Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/fuchsia425oes) to see our activities and all the fun we have.



"Masterpieces" created by Fuschia Chapter Members

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

Chapter Reports

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154

Autumn at Escondido Chapter was filled with lots of activity.

Our Chapter was able to attend the military service at Miramar National Cemetery for our Treasurer, Sister Ginger McDonald, who blessed us with sweet smiles, an always-positive attitude, and sassy quilting skills. Our car caravan passed under an array of American Flags, and we were humbled by a beautiful ceremony, complete with Flag Folding and "Taps." Sister Ginger was so proud of her Eastern Star membership and loved her Sisters and Brothers so much. We will miss our spunky Sister, but she will still be part of our meetings, as our Worthy Matron will have Sister Ginger's last quilt at all of our Chapter meetings this year, right up in the East by the dais.

Our Chapter's Third Tuesday activity in September was a Dineout at Escondido's Brigantine Restaurant. The weather was amazing, so we gathered in the outdoor patio so that we could all be together and share a meal while enjoying social time.

Two of our Sisters attained a big milestone – 50 years of Eastern Star membership. Past Grand Matron Alyson Grant presided for the ceremony, where our Worthy Matron Barbara Smilko was pinned by Sister Marilyn McAhren, who was initiated with her in 1973, and our Marshal Dianne McGovern, PM, was pinned by her daughter. What a terrific celebration of so many years of loving service given by two beloved Sisters.



Memorial for our Sister Ginger McDonald





Dianne McGovern, PM & Barbara Smilko, PM receiving 50 Year Pins

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Chapter Reports

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154 continued from page 36

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

Grand Chapter is always a big part of Eastern Star Autumn, and the members who attended from our Chapter had a great time seeing associates from all over California and beyond during and between sessions, plus at Fun Night and banquets; doing some ever-popular shopping; and sharing meals at local Visalia restaurants. We cheered on our retiring Deputy Mary Lou Curtis and our new Deputy Kelli Miller, and we got a kick out of seeing our District's O.V. carrying piece displayed in the Arts and Crafts room.

Grand Chapter always leads into Installation Season, and Escondido Chapter's Installation was Penguin-tastic! Our new Worthy Matron, PM Cathy Francis, and Worthy Patron, PP Michael T. Sherman (who is serving as Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California this year), planned a meaningful afternoon, complete with Rainbow, Job's Daughters, and DeMolay from our Masonic Center carrying in and escorting the American Flag, special music honoring Cathy's parents, Installing Officers who had ties to each of our new officers, a barbeque meal afterwards, and of course, Penguin pin-ons that double as Christmas Tree Ornaments.

Last year was filled with meaningful activities and good times, and Escondido Chapter is ready for an exciting, rewarding year

of Living in the Zone, guided by Love's Lantern.



Patti Neuman, PM, Barbara Smilko, PM (Former Grand Ruth) and Divona Roy, PM enjoying Grand Chapter



Official Visit Carrying Piece on display at Grand Chapter Arts & Crafts



Penguin Pin-Ons for Installation!