Dear Sisters and Brothers

We are officially on our Greatest Adventure! Our first Official Visits are over! They have been informative and fun. We have heard about food banks and the tremendous amount of time put in by volunteers. The number of families needing assistance has been staggering to hear about. Thank you to the members who have been making donations of food to your local food banks!

Did you make any New Year’s Resolutions? How is that diet going? Are you still exercising? If you are like me, sometimes it is very hard to find time to ride that bike, take a walk, or to eat healthier. But, maybe you made one more resolution--to be more kind and to show others more respect. This does not take any extra time. It requires a smile. It’s choosing words carefully and considering the other person.

My scripture for the year is “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. Remember this in all walks of your life. It will provide more happiness to all of us. Remember, the only way to have a friend is to be one.

With many hugs,
Linda
Worthy Grand Matron
WORTHY GRAND PATRON’S REMARKS

Hello Eastern Star Members,

It has been a whirlwind since Grand Chapter. With all the Installations, AMIs, holidays, and OV’s coming and going so fast, it’s hard to believe it’s February already.

We’ve been traveling up and down the state so far, and visiting so many of our wonderful members, and they’ve all been FABULOUS. What an Adventure we’re having already!

One of the most memorable visits we have had so far was our Christmas Party at the Senior Living Community in Yorba Linda. It is always so much fun going to the Home and seeing our Residents, especially during the Holidays. Our wacky family had so much fun presenting our version of “An Eastern Star Christmas Carol” amongst all the beautifully decorated trees! What a great evening. Thank you for hosting us. We all had a marvelous time.

I’m fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the Home on a more regular basis as I come in to work with the staff of the Grand Chapter office at the Home. And sometimes, as I’m running in and out and get the chance to kibitz with some of our remarkable residents, I occasionally even get the chance to sit for a few minutes and chat.

Now we’ve started our Official Visits and what a start. Our first three up North in Districts 15&16, 14 & 19 the weekend of the 28th and 29th of January were very well attended and lots of fun. We are very anxious to see what everyone has planned ahead on this Great Adventure.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve all of you this year.

Star Love and God Bless,
Bill Prentiss, WGP
2017 Indy

“It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things.”

- Theodore Roosevelt
From Your Editor -
Hello to All of Our Faithful Readers—

For each edition, I attempt to add an “editorial” feature to convey some sort of message. Having moved into a year filled with “treasures”, I thought I’d try to address something regarding that theme. It is easy to think of a treasure as a material thing—like wealth or riches, but I think that true treasures can certainly be people. There are people who come into our lives who provide great value to us by their kindness and friendship. These relationships are certainly to be treasured. Thinking further, I ask myself, “Is it possible that I could actually be a treasure?” We might all ask ourselves that question, and hopefully, the answer will always be, “Yes”. Each of us can become a treasure in the lives of those folks with whom we come in contact. Our love and kindness can create these treasured relationships. One of the saddest thoughts is that treasures are often referred to as “buried” or “lost”. It would be my fondest wish that our ability to be a treasure to someone else will never fall into one of those categories, but that it will instead be easily found in an “open treasure chest” keeping our “treasures shining brightly”. I think that’s what our Order truly promotes—that we become treasures in each others’ lives. I also think that our Order provides special treasures in the form of treasured experiences and memories.

This edition of Cal Star News has fewer pages than the past editions. That is because we have not heard from most of you. The members in California are curious—curious about what other Chapters and Districts are doing, what travels the Grand Officers and Grand Representatives have had, and even curious to read “feature” articles about our various Grand and General Grand Chapter Committees. I believe that each edition of Cal Star News can be a special kind of “treasure” when it is filled with the news about all of the “treasured” experiences that have happened throughout the state. SO- please mark MAY 1 on your calendar as the next deadline for submissions and be sure that the “treasured” events and memories of your Chapter, your District, or your official travels are shared with your curious Sisters and Brothers. You will find all the details of how to submit your articles and pictures in the box below.

--Cherri

FROM YOUR CAL STAR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

NEXT CAL STAR NEWS ARTICLES DUE BY MAY 1st
Submit ALL articles in WORD and photos as original jpg files!
SEND TO rainbowpog@aol.com
General Grand Chapter Project

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

On January 15-22, 190 Eastern Star members from 13 states and Manitoba sailed to the Western Caribbean aboard the NCL Getaway. The picture below shows most of the 30 some members from California that were on the cruise. This was a fund raiser for the Regenerative Medicine project. We were also joined by three people from the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM). Everyone enjoyed the cruise and we also enjoyed making new friends from other jurisdictions. One of the high points of the cruise was the presentations given by a Research Scientist from WFIRM. It was interesting hearing what progress has been made in different areas and the challenges still facing them in reaching their final goal in different areas.

We also made a decision to sponsor another cruise in 2018. The dates will be January 13-20. We will board the NCL Pride of America in Honolulu and visit Kauai, Maui, Hilo, and Kona. A flyer will be coming out in February. In addition, we have added a beautiful Starfish pin to the wrist bands as the items we are selling to support the project. I will have both items with me as I visit around the state this year.

I want to remind you, that if you are interested in learning more about the project, I am willing to visit your Chapter, District, or an event for which you might want a speaker. Thank you for all of the support that the California members have shown for the project. The advances that WFIRM is making could have a dramatic effect on your health, or the health of someone you know.

Michael Cornell,
General Grand Chapter Committee Chairman
mjc72@comcast.net

To learn more about Regenerative Medicine, clink on the following:
http://www.mayo.edu/research/centers-programs/center-regenerative-medicine/patient-care/about-regenerative-medicine
Sisters and Brothers,

I am once again honored to serve as the Chairman for Relay for Life. Relay for Life events will be starting after the first of the year. I would appreciate hearing from those who are participating on a team as to when your Relay is scheduled. I will keep track of your Relay and obtain information for my report after it is over. I want to have every team who is involved in Relay in my annual report to Grand Chapter.

You might be a team member, team captain, or involved on the event committee. In whatever capacity, please contact me at my email address below to let me know.

Relay is even closer to my heart since I am now a cancer survivor of Multiple Myeloma. I look forward to receiving your information.

Star Love,
Jackie Bozeman
Chairman, Relay for Life
Jebozeman04@yahoo.com
916-200-8191

THE RELAY EXPERIENCE
CLICK ON LINK
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8dcoKZQCP4

Food Drive for Hunger

Give generously with an open heart and keep your community fed and show how much Eastern Star Cares! Chapters are requested to monitor the quantity and value of the donations and report back the totals to Julia Vitz, Project Chairperson, email @ redjuliet@comcast.net
Promotional Brochures: Check out the four new promotional brochures that are being provided by the Membership Committee. Each one has a different emphasis.

“You Can Be A Star” – General informational brochure about the Order
“Community Service” – Emphasizes the great work we do in our communities, state, and worldwide
“Tie That Binds” – Written toward Masonic Brothers emphasizing our unique relationship
“Taking the Next Step” – Focusing on Rainbow Girls and Job’s Daughters and their future in Eastern Star

• Print them double-sided on your own printer or send/take them to a local printer.
• Display them at your Masonic Center (or wherever you meet), at activities in which your Chapter participates, at the meetings of the Lodge or York Rite or Scottish Rite or Rainbow or Job’s Daughters, etc. They can be displayed in the community as well. Where do your friends hang out?
• Customization: If you would like any of these brochures customized with your Chapter contact information, please send a request to caoesmembership@gmail.com. Include the name and number of the Chapter, when and where you meet, the contact person’s name, title, phone, and email.

Chapter Banner: How about investing in a sturdy, reusable, stylish Chapter banner. You can display this wherever you go and let the public know who you are. It’s time to take some of your savings and re-invest in the Chapter. Take a look at the styles offered here:


This is not an endorsement for this particular company, though they did create this ‘Star’ banner design from our suggestion. They are also able to provide custom styles. Check out your local community print shops or vendors, too. How about having a poster/banner design contest among your members? Your Chapter’s membership campaign and efforts don’t stop at the end of the term. It’s a “forever” task and needs your constant attention. How about another Initiation before the year is over? What a grand way to exit the year with an Initiation

Please contact any member of the California State OES Membership Committee for assistance. Visit www.starmembership.org for resource materials that your Chapter can use!
The theme for the All Member Instructionals in 2017 was “Roar ‘n Soar”. ROAR stands for “Respect, Optimism, Attitude, and Responsibility” and SOAR stands for “Service, Outreach, Action, and Results”. Together with members from the Membership Team, the 2017 Grand Family presented seven AMIs throughout the state during the months of December and January. Each event was very well attended and several sites exceeded capacity. A special thanks to our very hard working members at each of the event sites for preparing snacks, serving a delicious lunch, setting up the Chapter and dining rooms, and attending to every detail to make the AMI a meaningful day for everyone who attended.

Each AMI began with the Katy Perry “Roar” video and the Grand Officers and Escorts singing the chorus to “Eye of the Tiger”. This set the tone for a welcome from our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Linda, and Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Bill, who introduced the Distinguished and Honored Members in attendance. There were even surprise announcements of new Grand Representatives at several of the AMIs!

The program was then turned over to the Membership Committee led by Sister Delma Davis, PM, and Brother Mel Perez, PP, and Escort of our Grand Warder, who presented a program called, “What’s Your Shape”. This program focuses on identifying our predominate personality type and helps us to understand each other a little better so we can work together to build a stronger team and Chapter. We learned about the personality traits of: the box - organized, logical thinkers who will make sure things get done; the triangle - they make quick decisions and like to delegate; the circle - they love harmony and avoid conflict; the rectangle - much like the box, but they always question “why”; and the squiggle - our social party people who are creative and not concerned with deadlines. After identifying our predominate “shape”, we had a break-out session with others of the same “shape” and, led by the Grand Officers, each group discussed how we are like our “shape” and what others need to know when they work with us. We then came back together and a reporter from each of the “shapes” shared with the group the answer to the question, “When you work with me (shape), I want you to know?”. Our session on “shapes” concluded with the Grand Star Points presenting a brief dramatization of a committee meeting before and after attending a “shapes” training. By attending the “What’s Your Shape” training, we all gained a better understanding of ourselves and others, which will assist us in building stronger relationships and a better understanding of our members.

What’s Your Shape? continued on page 8
Next on the agenda, our Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, and the Grand Officers presented the “Top Ten Things You Need to Know About Our OES Ritual”. We learned about the Altar work and handling the Bible, the difference between the Salutation Sign, the Reverent Sign and the Attitude of Prayer, flag escort and protocol, entering and leaving the Chapter Room, escort of Distinguished and Honored Members and who is presented at the Altar and who is presented behind Esther’s station, when to begin clapping and when to turn to face the East, balloting, the Golden Chain, when to present your dues card, how to address the presiding officer, respecting the Prompter, who should fill vacant stations and which stations are required, and a presentation on the sign and pass of each Star Point office. Well, there was probably a lot more than just “10” items presented in the “top 10” list, but each topic helped to build a better understanding of our ritual.

Following lunch, we began the afternoon session by viewing the “Fish” video from the world famous Pikes Place Market in Seattle, Washington. There were four key points presented in the video, which features the employees at an open air fish market as they interact with their customers.....”make their day”, “play”, “choose your attitude”, and “be present”. We learned how we can incorporate these elements in our Chapter meetings and interactions with our members and when we add our knowledge of our “shapes” personalities, our Chapters will “Roar and Soar” into a brighter future.
Spending time, one-on-one, with the Grand Officers was a highlight of the AMIs for the members who attended. Each Grand Officer was able to spend time with the Chapter Officers, and explain, and demonstrate all the important details of their position. Following this important learning session, the subordinate Chapter Officers were able to practice the floor work for their station with assistance from their Grand Officer. Several rotations were conducted on “entering and assuming stations” and “The Golden Chain”.

One-on-One instructions with Grand Officers

continued on page 10
WGM & WGP AMIs (CONTINUED)

“Roar and Soar”
All Member Instructionals

The AMIs concluded with our Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Bill, sharing information on the special projects for 2017, “Indy’s Fraternal Treasure Project”, to support our Grand Chapter and “Eastern Star Cares” to support our community food banks. Brother Bill also provided information on the Travel Program and upcoming special events planned during the year.

The 2017 All Member Instructionals were presented with a slightly different format this year in order to incorporate both instruction on our ritual as well as important tools for building better relationships with our members. With the information that was presented at the AMIs, California Eastern Star will “ROAR” with Respect, Optimism, Attitude, and Responsibility, and “SOAR” with Service, Outreach, Action, and Results.
Welcome to 2017! As I write this article, it doesn’t feel much like Spring, as the rain is pounding down and the wind is blowing. However, I also look out the window and see that my camellia plant is covered with beautiful (red, of course!) flowers, and bulbs in the flower beds are starting to sprout. I love this time of year, as it always seems like the opportunity for a fresh start, and a chance to do or learn or something new.

In the “something new” category, Associate Grand Conductress, Sharon Jazwiecki, and I are fresh off of leading two Conductress/Associate Conductress workshops. Our goal at these sessions was for all the attendees to learn something new. Even better, to have several “ah-ha” moments that will give Conductresses the tools they need to fill their stations with confidence, and to have FUN. The reviews were good, so hopefully, we were successful in these endeavors.

The 2017 Grand Family has also participated in a Deputy Grand Matron Brush-up-School, and now we are in the throes of OV season. This is one of the most enjoyable parts of being a Grand Officer, as I love traveling around the state and visiting the Conductresses. It always gives me a real burst of energy to walk into a Masonic Center and be greeted with warm hugs, smiles, and lots of enthusiasm. And, of course, I’m thrilled to see stations decorated with Giggles, Elmo, hearts, hands, gladioli, and red stars!

Sister Linda and Brother Bill have a full calendar of activities for the year, including numerous fun events and fundraisers to support their projects and the SLC. I encourage you to attend as many activities as you are able, because it is by working and playing together that we get the most joy and reward out of our beautiful Order. It is my hope to attend everything on the calendar, and I look forward to catching up with everyone.

I am also greatly looking forward to July 8, when I get to reveal “Mr. Imagineer” at the Conductress Reception. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join the festivities up in beautiful Northern California. I have lots to do between now and then, and I’m sure the next few months will really fly by.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone for all the courtesies, gifts, cards – and most of all the friendship– that I am greeted with on my travels. I am having a wonderful time and it is you, the members, who feed my soul.

See you on the road!
Hugs and “Giggles,”
Terri
Grand Officers’ Adventure Log

GRAND ESTHER - BETH MASSENGILL

I have gone from one end of this state to the other in my travels these last couple of months. Our Worthy Grand Matron, Linda Hoeser, and Worthy Grand Patron, Bill Prentiss, had seven All Member Instructionals and two Deputy Grand Matron Schools on our travel schedule. Whew! They kept our little caravan moving with a crack of the whip.

The AMI’s (All Member Instructionals) were designed to be informative and fun. The Membership Committee, headed by Delma Davis, was asked to be a part of our AMIs and had a presentation of “Shapes” and a video about the FISH philosophy. The “Shapes” presentation was a tool to help Chapter members recognize the different styles of individuals in the hopes of being able to communicate better with each other. The FISH philosophy was a video about a fish market vendor in Seattle who incorporates play in their everyday work life to make a better team environment. The video was very inspiring and we were asked at the end how we could include play into our personal and Eastern Star lives. Who wouldn’t like to have a little fun?

We performed parts of our opening, balloting, Golden Chain, and Initiation for the members. The members were given an opportunity to have one on one instruction with their officer and then they had rotations of the members assembled to perform the parts of the ritual with guidance from their officer, and then on their own. I was thrilled to spend so much time with each of my amazing Esthers and to answer questions and help with the floor work and signs and passes.

February will be the beginning of the Official Visits. We have many OV’s that are Traditional (just like a regular meeting) and many that are Social Style. I will also be travelling to other states for Hands Across the Border and Grand Chapters of other Jurisdictions.

Stayed tuned for more Adventures,
Beth Massengill, Grand Esther
Wow!! It’s been amazing so far. I have really enjoyed meeting the members throughout the state. I’m especially excited when an Electa comes and introduces herself to me. So please stop me and let me know who you are.

To those of you who attended the AMIs, I hope you have been trying to put your “Fish” and “Shape” training to use. As Worthy Matron of my Chapter, I’ve used a couple of ideas I learned during the training. First, I mixed up the Order of Business. Warn your Secretary in advance if you try this one. We did Opening, then we pulled the rest of the order (except Closing) out of a box. Good of the Order followed Opening, Escort was just before Closing. It was a little crazy, but everyone enjoyed changing things up.

Then, last meeting, I escorted two of my officers at the end of Escort and asked them to remain in the East. The Worthy Patron and I each spoke about them a little during Good of the Order and I had a small gift for each of them. They were both surprised and pleased. Give it a try, our members deserve to enjoy themselves when they attend our meetings.

I’m really looking forward to seeing each of you at your District’s Official Visit. So far, the themes and decorations have been fantastic... I just might have to borrow an idea or two!

RED Tiger Hugs, Becky Burson
Grand Electa
Chapter Reports

LUCERNE LAKE CHAPTER #13

Submitted by Stephanie Perez, PM

For seven years, members of Lucerne Lake #13 have participated in the Christmas gift wrapping event at the mall in Hanford. This year, we had seven days in which our members hung out at the mall from 9 am until 9 pm receiving donations for wrapping gifts for the mall shoppers. We have fun, do a little shopping ourselves, and get to talk to the community about what Eastern Star is and who we are. Thank you isn’t enough to say to all the ladies that came out to help wrap. Eastern Star ladies rock with fun, great fellowship, food, money, work, and the best of friends.

We also collected toys to donate to our local Child Protective Services in Kings County. We have the members bring a wrapped toy to our meeting in December and play our "Right Family" passing game before opening them to see what we will be donating. This year, we had a wonderful turn out of members donating!

Christmas Wrapping Crew, L to R: Connie Willis, PM, Peggy Denison, PM, Julie Duty, PM, Catherine Venturella, and Linda Venturella, DGM #22

Wrapping Team:
Claire Danell, PM, Barbara Rahl, PM and Linda Venturella, DGM #22

TOY DRIVE
CHRISTMAS DONATIONS
In 2016, the members of Northern Lights Chapter in Anderson, California, were introduced to an organization that captured their interest, as well as tugging at their heart strings, when Worthy Matron Dina Wideman chose it as her community service project. The organization was the “Veterans K-9 Connection” founded by Bruce Riecke, a Vietnam Veteran. Bruce, through his personal experience, found that his little dog was a big help to him when he suffered from anxieties and demonstrations of PTSD. He found that there were no programs in the northern part of the state that matched Veterans with canines. The programs that Bruce did find were cost prohibitive, especially for Veterans on a fixed disability income. Determined to do something to help Veterans with PTSD, Bruce put together a team to help him get his program going for local Veterans. Thus “Veterans K-9 Connection” came to life. In March of 2016, “Veterans K-9 Connection” became a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

There is a six week training program that is free to the Veterans and their dogs. Then, an advanced six week training, for which a $10.00 per class donation is requested, is available. This class certifies the dogs to Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Veterans can bring their own dog or get help finding a dog to train from organization volunteers. Many of these dogs are rescued from local shelters. When our Chapter heard about this wonderful organization, we decided we wanted to help them. In January of 2016, we sponsored a prime rib dinner with all the proceeds going to the “K-9 Connection”. From that dinner, we were able to donate $1069.91 to them.

Our Worthy Matron for 2017, Carolyn Parsons, chose to make the "Veterans K-9 Connection" her community service project for this year. On January 20, 2017, the Chapter again held a prime rib dinner with all proceeds going to the “Veterans K-9 Connection”. Tickets for the dinner were sold to members of the community, as well as to members of the Eastern Star. Pamphlets explaining Eastern Star were available for those interested in learning more about our organization. Close to 100 people were fed in both 2016 and 2017. Donations were received from several sources to purchase tickets for Veterans who would not be able to purchase them. We also received assistance at the dinner from members of Molino Star and Welcome Redding Chapters.

When you see the difference these dogs have made for the Veterans, it makes you feel happy to be able, in some small way, to help them. This year's dinner was a great success and we are thrilled to be able to donate $1445.00 to this worthwhile organization.
Have you got C.M.S?

Civility, Membership and Service

What are our Worthy Grand Matron’s goals for 2017? They are: civility, membership and community service. What is civility? Civility is the act of showing regard for our fellow man by being polite and kind, respecting others, and having good manners.

What is the reward of membership in Star? Each of us has a deep fraternal bond with each other and our Masonic ties – to the Blue Lodge, Shriners, etc., as well as to our Rainbow, DeMolay, and Job’s Daughter Youth Orders. If you listen carefully in our meetings and installations you attend for Eastern Star and related Masonic bodies, you will see a symbolism that is mirrored throughout. Why not share this fraternal bond with those you know and invite them to join you for a Star or Masonic event? When others see those strong values being upheld and that Eastern Star strives serve others, who wouldn’t want to join?

Community service, or being charitable, is the third and final focus of our 2017 Worthy Grand Matron. What can we do in our Chapters to fulfill this goal? Fidelia Chapter collected non-perishable items during the holidays to add to Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, the local food pantry at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Over 40 items were brought to our December meeting. A second collection will take place in the spring. Another outreach/membership event held late in 2016 was hosting a booth at a local craft fair in the town of Wheatland. The items contributed by members included handmade scarves and greeting cards, local shelled walnuts, and fruit jelly. The weather dampened attendance, but we are on the list for a booth for next year! The craft fair served a two-fold purpose, as we were able to support our fraternal purposes AND promote Eastern Star with a large banner on our table showing who we are and what we do, thus reaching out to potential members! Next time, we will remember to take more Eastern Star informational brochures.

In February, Fidelia Chapter will be honoring our Masons with a special “Be Our Guest” dinner following our Saturday meeting. Our menu is Honey Baked Sesame Chicken. All Masons and wives/ladies are invited. We will have information for those who want to know more about civility, love, truth, and community service in the Masonic Family, and specifically Eastern Star.

“A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside”

- Denis Waitley
Chapter members of Facets, our mid-day social club, have always organized a special holiday party for the children and women of Stand Up Placer, a non-profit 501(c)3 community-based organization in Auburn. Stand Up Placer provides services to all Placer County victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and their families. Stand Up Placer also offers services for survivors of human sex trafficking, including the Human Trafficking drop-in center, support groups, and financial assistance for survivors. Human trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation is one of California’s fastest growing criminal issues.

Unbelievably, and unfortunately, the biggest need for the shelter this year has been women and children who have been saved from Human Trafficking. So this year, rather than hosting our annual Christmas Party for the children, Facets members, working with the Director of the Safe House, decided we would provide food for four families to have a traditional (to them) holiday meal. These four families live in the safe house, and do not leave the center to shop, but have all the facilities to cook.

This was a real heartwarming challenge! Stand Up Placer provided us with a complete shopping list, and with donations by our Chapter members, and a generous contribution from a local ladies Red Hatters group, we set out to shop. The women are from very different backgrounds, so we found ourselves shopping in areas we have never been in before. We located a meat market that sold goat meat, a Moscow Market for Russian raviolis, and a market with African delights. Of course, there was much to buy at our local markets too, like par-boiled rice and yams. In total, we donated $200 in food! In addition, Bath and Body Works donated a gift pack for every women at the shelter, filled with a large assortment of their products. This was all delivered to Stand Up Placer just before Christmas which was then distributed to each family to have a complete special holiday meal, all provided by Eastern Star!

This year, the Chapter has chosen Placer Food Bank to be our primary food collection benefactor, supporting the “Eastern Star Cares” Program, but this Christmas, we chose to give our food collection charity to four recovering families of Stand Up Placer. We know our love and spirit of giving was received well, as Eastern Star Cares!

Stand Up Placer’s services include: a 24 hour Crisis Line, an emergency domestic violence shelter, an in-person crisis intervention for victims and their families, a legal advocacy, therapy, sexual assault hospital accompaniment for them and their significant others. Transitional housing for domestic violence survivors is also available. For more information, visit: http://www.standupplacer.org/
Chapter Reports

SOTOYOME-CLOVER LEAF CHAPTER #82

Submitted by Terri Ewing PM, Grand Conductress

Sotoyome-Clover Leaf Chapter is so very proud of their Worthy Matron!

The following submission by Terri Ewing, was taken from an article released by The Press Democrat, Christopher Chung. It profiles our dear Sotoyome-Clover Leaf member, and current Worthy Matron Jeanne-Marie Jones, former Grand Organist. Sister Jeanne-Marie is an amazing woman and continues to give to her community! The following excerpts were taken from the news article;

Retiring FISH Executive Director, 91 says, “It’s just time to step aside”

Jeanne-Marie Jones is retiring as the executive director of the F.I.S.H. food pantry, in Santa Rosa. Jeanne-Marie Jones, who’s 91, has not earned 2 cents through the 25 years that she’s worked to sustain Santa Rosa’s highly unusual and essential FISH food pantry. Yet Jones, lean and precise and effusive, will tell you she’s richly rewarded. It was like receiving a fat bonus when a client told her she can’t imagine being without the groceries she receives for free from FISH each month because once she pays her rent and other bills, what’s left for food is $17. Jones sees the faces of the nearly 40 percent of FISH patrons who are children. She fields the gratitude of the more than 300 seniors who come by every month for fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, a bit of chicken or beef, beans, soup, peanut butter, tuna, bread, and maybe a little something sweet. Jones’ compensation is the knowledge that what she and the other 70 or so FISH volunteers do six days a week in an office space on McBride Lane, north of Coddingtown Mall, is vital to so many who struggle to keep a roof overhead and food on the table in an increasingly costly area of California. “The economy is supposed to be so great,” she said. “The rent just kills people.”

Jones the other day told the FISH volunteers and Board of Directors something they dreaded hearing. She will step away in April. Given the age of the long-retired school office employee and her quarter-century of service to FISH, 14 of those years as Executive Director, one might imagine that she is no longer physically up to the work, or that she’s burned out or just can’t take any more of the human deprivation and hardship that she witnesses daily. None of the above are correct. “It’s just time to step aside and let a modern person step in,” Jones said. She has never plugged into computers and the internet, and she believes that for the good of FISH she should yield to someone able to connect it to some of the benefits and efficiencies of the digital world...

...She anticipates that her successor as Executive Director may mount a capital campaign for funds to buy a new home for the pantry, which each year gives away about 600,000 pounds of food. Who will step up as the operation’s next unpaid Executive Director? Jones said she’s hopeful that a member of the FISH Board of Directors will rise to the challenge. Whomever takes her place, Jones feels it is proper and respectful that she entirely excuse herself once her resignation takes effect in early April. “I will disappear,” she said. “I will miss it terribly. I’ll just have to find something else.” Some fellow volunteers at the extraordinary little food pantry have their doubts that after all these years, Jeanne-Marie Jones will be able to stay away entirely. They hope she won’t.
Chapter Reports

ELK GROVE ONISBO CHAPTER #109

Golden Treasure Increased by Addition of Richard Williamson!

Elk Grove Onisbo Chapter #109 joyously presented Brother Richard “Dick” Ward Williamson with his 50-year pin at their January Stated Meeting, thus increasing the Gold in our Chapter treasure chest. Brother Richard was born July 3, 1930, in Iowa City, Iowa. A long career in the US Army (Korea 1953-58, Germany 1959-63 and Viet Nam 1964-65), allowed him to live out his Masonic life in many parts of the world, including the Philippines. Richard was raised in Luftbrueke Lodge, Wiesbaden, Germany (1960), from where he received his Masonic 50-year pin in 2010. He was married to Mary Anne for 48 years before her passing in 1999; and they had three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. In 2002 he married Judy Smith of Courtland, adding two sons, a daughter, spouses, and four grandchildren to the family quiver.

Richard was initiated into Eastern Star at Liberty #402, Fort Smith Arkansas in 1964; and later affiliated with Centennial #58, Colorado Springs, CO. Upon moving to California, he affiliated with Onisbo #164 (later to become Elk Grove Onisbo #109) and Goldenrod #221. He served six terms as Worthy Patron: 1976, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2001, and 2006. He received the Chapter Service Award in 2007.

The 50-year pinning ceremony was a wonderful opportunity for friends and family to recognize Richard’s long and active life of Eastern Star and Masonic service.

HELP WANTED
UNGAVA CHAPTER #106

The Property Committee of Ungava Chapter in Riverside is looking for a few items to replace some or their pieces. If your Chapter has any of these items that are in need of a good home, they would love to hear from you.

Their needs are:
- Emblems for Esther and Electa Stations
- A full set of Officer Jewels and Cords
- A Star Point Rug

Please contact Catie McQuater at 951-818-5556 if you have any of these items.
Chapter Reports

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154

Submitted by Divona Roy, Associate Matron

The Sisters and Brothers of Escondido Chapter #154 decided to forgo a holiday gift exchange at our December meeting. Instead, we collected toys for children of all ages to help our local Interfaith Community Center bless Escondido families. You will notice a pride of tigers in the photo with our Worthy Matron, Cathy Francis, and Worthy Patron, Michael T. Sherman. Some are Installation carry-ins, and some are felines that just couldn't wait to find a good home and a new best friend. Members also brought a tool set, die cast cars, a Star Wars Death Star planetarium, various styles of dolls, a stuffed mallard, a teddy bear, puzzles, sticker and coloring books, art supplies, cards, and games.

Honorary Member Evelyn de la Rosa played holiday music for us, and we sang carols while we waited for our Worthy Matron to sign the minute book and during Happy Box time. Officers learned new Station duties from our Deputy Grand Matron and Honorary Member, Connie Snow. Our Secretary, Patti Neumann, Grand Representative of Nebraska, read a Petition for Affiliation for the husband of our new Conductress, Pat McWilliams. After our meeting, everyone gathered in the dining room for hot cocoa, cupcakes, ice cream, cheese & crackers, fellowship, and a Chapter photo. What a fun meeting and a great group!

Michael T. Sherman, WP and Cathy Francis, WM

Why’s Snoopy so happy?

His chapter submitted an article to the Cal Star News before the deadline!
Chapter Reports

LINDEN CHAPTER #372

Submitted by Dennis LeClert, WP

The members of Linden Chapter #372 had our first meeting of the new term on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11. To celebrate Veterans’ Day, we had an anteroom meeting followed by a program of military facts and music. At the end of the evening, “Hero’s of 76” from our local York Rite Body performed a beautiful flag building ceremony. We all then retired to the social hall for All-American apple pie and hot cider. All visitors and members thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. We were saddened to lose Joanne Henderson, a 67 year member of our Chapter this month.

In December we had a “Toys for Tots” meeting where all members brought unwrapped toys. The toys were given to a local CHP office for distribution. We continued our program of collecting non-perishable items for the First Baptist Church in Linden. Two days later, we hosted the Northern San Joaquin Association Luncheon with a baked artichoke-chicken lunch. Many people bought items from our bake and book sale.

Many of our members attended the AMI in Fresno on Jan. 7. At our Cancer Comfort Station meeting, in January, we discussed finding the proper yarn and the instructions for “Knitted Knockers”. These are hand knit or crocheted prosthesis for post-mastectomy patients. At our Stated Meeting, the theme was “Putting on the Glitz” where we wore our finery and celebrated with our favorite appetizers and sparkling cider.

We are excited about our coming spring events which include our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner, putting on a breakfast for cancer survivors at the Linden Relay for Life in April, and also a breakfast for the Linden Cherry Festival in May. We will also be continuing with our efforts to collect non-perishable items for the Baptist Church.

LEGACY CHAPTER #555

Submitted by Jennifer Fenn, Organist

Legacy Chapter # 555 is quite the place for travel! Immediately after starting up again for fall, we hosted a reception for our very own Junior Past Patron Cliff Henderson, who just finished serving as Grand Representative to Montana. Cliff worked for Santa Fe Railroad, so the theme of the party was trains: train decorations, train songs, and “Box Car” Cliff dressed in his overalls and engineer’s cap. We all felt like we were taking a trip on a real train!

The next thing we knew, we were taking a trip through time when we put on our melodrama “Little Nell” set in turn-of-the-century Canada. All of our tickets were sold out, so we had a huge audience sympathizing with Nell, played by Debbie Sanborn, booing Nell’s suitor Snidely Whiplash, played by Mike Nella, and cheering for her other suitor, the mountee Dudley Doright, played by John Herring. During the play, we had a huge steak dinner, and a silent auction was held between the acts.

Then, it was on to the other Chapters in the San Joaquin Valley for their installations: Lucerne Lake, Tulare-Corcoran, Porterville, Madera-Chowchilla, Yosemite Gateway, and Fort Millerton. All who went were blessed with good meals, laughter, and fellowship with friends from these Chapters who we do not normally get to see. At each place we traveled, we were able to give our host Chapters a good turnout. After a brief stop at home for our own Installation, we went to Fort Millerton again for the All Member Instructional, getting to meet our Grand Officers and other members.

What’s our new destination? It’s as yet unknown, but with our new Worthy Matron, Juliet Vitz, it’s bound to be somewhere special!
DISTRICT 19 OFFICIAL VISIT

In the jungle canopy overhead, one could spot an occasional tiger crouching in the leaves, and at the top of the foliage, an eagle or two. This was the entrance to District’s 19 Official Visit of the WGM/WP at Tracy Masonic Center on January 29, 2017, and just the third Official Visit for Linda Hoeser, WGM, and Bill Prentiss, WGP.

Once inside the dining room, members were seated at tables covered with newspapers for tablecloths. There were red and pink heart shaped doilies which served as placemats, and supported the theme “The Greatest Treasure is Love.” Most of the non-perishable food items donated by members were strewn down the center of the tables as “decorations.” At the end of the afternoon, all these food items filled 50 “Eastern Star Cares” bags to be given to the Chapters’ selected food banks.

Past Grand Matron, Janet Robinson, was Hostess for the Social Style visit which included the five Chapters of Joaquin #348, Tracy, Pentalpha #339, Manteca, Ceres #296, Patterson #417, and Wistaria #531, Turlock. These Chapters are fortunate to have the love and guidance of Denise Armstrong, Deputy Grand Matron of District 19. Honoring us with their presence were Barbara Scott, GGCCM Youth, and Past Grand Matrons Denny Rae Grist, Kathleen MacDonald, Sarahann Shapiro, Linda Bernhard, Sheri Weisser and Past Grand Patrons Art Weiss and John Scott. Most of the 2016 Grand Officers were in attendance as well. The crowd totaled 175 members.

Carolyn Ridge, WM of Wistaria Chapter, presented an overview of The Salvation Army’s services, and explained how members could become SA workers. Darlene Quinn presented a similar outline of Tracy Interfaith Ministries services. Both organizations have been recipients of non-perishable items for their food banks. The assemblage was shown a mat made by crocheting plastic strips from recyclable plastic bags. These mats are used by the homeless to keep them dry and off the ground. Wistaria Chapter made many mats last year that were distributed in the Turlock area. This is an item that is very serviceable, fills an important need, and is cost-free and easy to do.

Food served for the afternoon included Hobo soup and chili, and was served reminiscent of a “soup kitchen” era. It wasn’t necessarily fancy, but no one went away hungry.

Submitted by Katie Nielson, PM and Yvette Elness, PM
# State Calendar

**March**
- 3 - 5 - Hands Across the Border - Boulder City, Nevada
- 11 - OV District 1, 1:00PM - Fortuna
- 12 - OV District 15, 1:00PM - San Francisco
- 17 - OV District 13, 8:00PM - Richmond
- 18 - OV District 20, 1:00PM - Salinas
- 19 - OV District 24, 1:00PM - Paso Robles
- 25 - OV District 35, 7:30PM - Riverside
- 26 - JC Lee Memorial Breakfast, 9:00AM - Long Beach
- 26 - OV District 20, 1:00PM - SLC, Yorba Linda

**April**
- 1 - OV District 26 & 37, 7:30PM - Yucaipa
- 2 - Regenerative Medicine Luncheon, 12:00PM - Ventura
- 7 - SLC Recognition Dinner, 4:30PM - Yorba Linda
- 8 - OV District 23, 2:00PM - Bakersfield
- 8 - Kern County Dinner, 5:00PM - Bakersfield
- 8 - 11 - California Rainbow Grand Assembly - Fresno
- 22 - OV District 18, 12:00PM - Linden
- 22 - Joaquin Chapter 100th Anniversary, 6:00PM - Tracy
- 23 - OV District 17, 1:00PM - Volcano
- 29 - OV District 39 & 40, 1:00PM - San Diego
- 29 - San Diego Event, TBD
- 30 - OV District 38, 9:00AM - Carlsbad

**May**
- 5 - 7 - 2015 Service Year Reunion - San Diego
- 6 - OV District 32, 1:00PM - Bishop
- 6 - OV District 33, 7:30PM - Ridgecrest
- 7 - OV District 34, 1:00PM - Ontario
- 13 - OV District 10, 1:00PM - Napa
- 13 - SLC Northern Dinner, 7:30PM - Vallejo
- 19 - 21 - 2010 & 2014 Reunion Gathering - San Luis Obispo
- 20 - OV District 3, 1:00PM - Beckwourth
- 21 - OV District 7, 1:00PM - Roseville
- 27 - OV District 4, 1:00PM - Los Motions
- 27 - OV District 2, 7:30PM - Mt Shasta
- 28 - OV District 5, 1:00PM - Paradise