



# CAL STAR NEWS

## Notes from the Worthy Grand Matron

Greetings Sisters and Brothers and welcome to the Spring edition of the CalStar News!

As I write to you today, I can see and feel that joyous season of rebirth and reawakening fast approaching. Spring! While we are still weathering the last of the winter storms here, every now and then we get a small glimpse of the Spring that is yet to come; the newly formed buds and blossoms of early flowers that seem to appear overnight, the sunlight that arrives earlier each and every day, and the California poppies and other abundant wildflowers in bloom almost everywhere we go as we traverse up and down the state.



Our Eastern Star activities seem to track right along with the changing seasons of the year. We have stayed busy through the winter months, moving through Installation season and then jumping headlong into an AMI season filled with fun and surprises in January and February. And now, as spring is just upon us, kicking off our Official Visit season with the first OV's in the North already in the books and the first in the South coming up shortly. And while it's almost impossible to believe, we can already see over the horizon to the summer months that will be filled with Receptions, Special Events, visits to other Grand Jurisdictions, and workshops to prepare for a new Eastern Star term. Whew! People told us it would move fast, but you can't know just how fast until you live it firsthand!

We hope you will take every opportunity to jump in and join us this year whenever you can. We are overjoyed to meet our members as we travel up and down the state because we know you are the glue that holds our Order together and we appreciate all that you do. You inspire and motivate us with your energy and dedication, and you give us that spark that keeps our spirits up and our bodies moving forward.

We would especially love to see you at the many Special Events we have planned this year in support of the Special Projects we have adopted to benefit both our Eastern Star community and the greater community beyond.

We are encouraging our members to support these projects **in any capacity they are able**. It is not our intent to overwhelm you with multiple requests for donations. However, we believe that charitable giving comes from the heart and most of us appreciate having choices among various causes that speak to our hearts. In that vein, we are supporting the following multiple causes in 2024 and ask that you give generously to those that speak to you without any expectation or pressure to do so:

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**NOTES FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON** (CONTINUED)



**Fly, Brave Purple Elephant, Fly!**



Our Order has supported both of these projects over the last two years, and I hope we can continue to provide that support over the next year. Each of these programs is very near and dear in the hearts of many of our members because they address challenges that are prominent in their own lives, be it a child or grandchild with autism or other developmental disability that is aging out of essential services, or be it a parent, grandparent, spouse, or even themselves struggling with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia.

Indeed, these conditions have touched my life personally as well. I myself am the grandmother of a beloved autistic grandchild who faces the many challenges of relying on a system that has not yet caught up to the needs of this neurodiverse population. On the other end of life’s continuum, I recently lost my father as a result of an inability to swallow due to progressive dementia. Our most recent Past Grand Matrons, Sisters Laura and Kimberlie, have spent the last two years bringing these projects to our attention, educating us to the good works they perform in our communities, and fostering our love and enthusiasm in support of that good work.

Rather than take up a new cause this year, Larry and I would like to capitalize on the momentum that they have generated as we redouble our efforts to make a difference in the lives of those we love. I hope you will join us in that endeavor. We will be holding special events in the North and the South this year to support these projects jointly. We will also have silicone bracelets, pins, and other items available to thank you for your donation.

**Keeping our Promises - Campaign to Restore Outreach Funding**

Our internal project for 2024 is a year-long campaign to restore funding to the Outreach Services Program as outlined in Section 32510 of our Constitution and Laws. **These funds are specifically designated to provide assistance to members in need who are not residents of the Senior Living Community but who may be better helped in their own communities.** Unfortunately, this program was defunded several years ago and has been only marginally equipped to provide tangible assistance to our members in need.



Outreach Services was designed to provide referral to appropriate agencies **and financial assistance** to allow qualified members the continued ability to live in their community when their health or other circumstances threaten that ability. This program was funded through the Endowment fund in the past and it has been responsible for assisting countless numbers of our members who were in need of help but for which relocation to our SLC was not practical, feasible, or in their best interest. Outreach Services has been the vehicle by which we could help our Sisters and Brothers in need, both financially and by assisting them to access outside services, without removing them from their communities and their all-important support systems which often include their families, friends, and their own Chapters. It is my hope that with your help, this program can be restored to help us keep the promises we have made to each other.

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**NOTES FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON (CONTINUED)**

In short, the purpose of our Order is to provide for the welfare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Master Masons; indeed, for the welfare of all of our Sisters and Brothers. Restoring Outreach Services will ensure that we have the resources and that we are prepared to use them to make good on those promises when we hear a cry for help, the call of want, or the wail of sorrow of our fellow Sisters and Brothers. So as to sustain the program once restored, there are a few membership requirements that must be met for eligibility, however, providing a robust and reliable Outreach program to most of our members, in conjunction with services which they may have access to through Masonic Outreach, is an important step in acknowledging that the lives and welfare of our members matter to us, both individually and collectively, regardless of where they reside.

I hope you will help us send that message throughout our Order by joining us in support of the Northern and Southern fundraising events scheduled this year to re-establish Outreach Services, which falls under the direction of the Eastern Star Homes Board of Trustees per the Constitution and Laws and which, in the past, have been administered through the SLC. We also hope you will help us by attending these events and participating enthusiastically and generously in your local Chapter collections designated to this project.

All funds collected will go to the Endowment Fund, so if you would like to send in a personal donation, please go to our website [www.oescal.org](http://www.oescal.org), or mail your check to the Grand Chapter Office, payable to the Endowment Fund, and include Outreach Services in the memo line. It is our sincere hope that by calling attention to this program that once served large numbers of our members in their time of need, we can put it back on the front burner as an important tool in allowing us to fulfill our obligation and **keep the promises** we have made to each other.

**General Grand Chapter Charitable Projects for 2024**

We have been honored this Triennium to have several of our Past Grand Matrons and a Past Grand Patron appointed to serve as General Grand Chapter Committee Members responsible for soliciting funding for charitable projects sponsored by the General Grand Chapter. In 2024, we will be promoting:



**Cancer Research - Contact: GGCCM Bill Prentiss, PGP**

**International Headquarters – Perry Belmont House, Washington DC  
Contact: GGCCM Alyson Grant, PGM**

**Service Dogs Project – Paws for Purple Hearts  
Contact: GGCCM Terri Ewing, PGM**

Our General Grand Chapter Committee members will have medallions, lapel pins, and/or silicone bands in exchange for your donations to these worthy causes. In addition, we have two spectacular gala extravaganzas planned to support Paws for Purple Hearts (one of which was already a smashing success just this past weekend in the North) and at least one very special night out to benefit “Our House”, the marvelous and extraordinary Perry Belmont Mansion, brought to you by Past Grand Patron, Don Snyder and friends.

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**NOTES FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON** (CONTINUED)

With the exception of Outreach, which should be made payable to the Endowment fund as noted above, we ask that all monetary donations to any of these projects be made through the California Eastern Star Foundation, our 501C-3 federally recognized charitable entity, so that our donors will receive proper documentation for their donation and we may keep an accurate record of contributions made to both our outside community projects and to our beautiful Order.

When the year is done, it is our hope and desire to provide significant assistance to all of these projects of good work that we have adopted on behalf of you, our members. We know we have set our Order on an ambitious path, but we are confident that California Eastern Star will step up to this challenge. We are a fraternal community driven by our Masonic values, well-known for our charity and hospitality, and blessed with a long history of caring for our own, while working for the betterment of everyone around us, even when times were tough. With this remarkable legacy pushing us forward, we know that each and every one of you will help us accomplish our goals in 2024. Thank you in advance for that!

**2024 Special Activities and Charitable Events**

- Saturday, March 3 – Paws for Purple Hearts Northern Event (complete)
- Saturday, April 20 – Fly, Brave Purple Elephant! Southern Event
- Saturday, May 4 thru May 11 – March of the Penguins Coastal Bus Tour
- Saturday, June 1 (am) – Eastern Star Homes of CA Outreach Southern Event
- Saturday, June 1 (pm) – Perry Belmont House Southern Event
- Saturday, June 29 – Fly, Brave Purple Elephant! Northern Event
- Saturday, July 6 – Paws for Purple Hearts Southern Event
- Saturday, July 20 – Grand Conductress Reception & Reveal (North)
- Sunday, August 11 – Long Beach Meridian #173 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Saturday, August 17 & 18 – CA & NV Hands Across the Border (SF Bay Area)
- Sunday, September 8 – Eastern Star Homes of CA Outreach Northern Event
- Sunday, September 15 – San Pedro Harbor #174 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Saturday, September 21 – WGM & WGP Reception (North)
- Thursday, September 26 – 2025 Revelations (South)



Please visit our website [www.oescal.org](http://www.oescal.org) and click on the calendar for more details and flyers.





## Our WGP Welcomes Spring....and Baseball!

“There’s Only Two Seasons: Winter and Baseball,”-- Bill Veeck

“People who write about Spring Training not being necessary have never tried to throw a baseball.” — Sandy Koufax

Good Day OES!

It's no secret my desire is the game with the four bases. Spring Training is upon us. It's a revival of new things. Every team's Win-Loss record is 0-0. Last year when that one game that could've spurred your team to, AT LEAST, the Wild Card game, didn't happen, you mourned your team's loss. Well, it's a new year... Things are looking up. Hope is in the air. The sunshine (soon) will be scorching the brick dust on the field and your team will be playing again.

It is the same for the 2024 Rockstars, the “Next Season” is happening with the AMIs almost complete. The full day ones have come to an end. We're starting the Social Official Visits with “Mini” AMIs pasted in between, in Fortuna and Fresno.

I hope you all had a great time with the All Members Instructionals because we had a great time putting them together. Singing and dancing is not my “cup of tea”, but I tried my best and not many went away unsatisfied. The Rockstars were hearing a lot of great comments from all.

The Paws for Purple Hearts event will happen at the beginning of March in Vallejo. I hope to see you there and at other events throughout the year! Stay with the OES Google Calendar to see where we may be playing.

Love you lots!  
Go Angels!!!





NOTES  FROM YOUR CAL STAR NEWS EDITORIAL CONSULTANT - **CHERRI WHITELEY**

## *History of our Eastern Star Home...Chapter One!*

Hello again— With Spring on the horizon, it is time for me to share another editorial message. I shared in the last edition that I would like to put together some history of our Senior Living Community. There is an outstanding article in this edition from one of the staff members about our Home that really describes it in the present. As I gathered history of where this “service” has traveled to this point, I was overwhelmed with much detail and it will be difficult to synthesize it, but I will attempt to touch on the highlights.

The idea of providing a home for our aging members existed long before it became a reality. Resolutions happened at Grand Chapter Sessions before 1880. But nothing actually happened until 1889 when there was a committee appointed to explore this idea. By 1892, the Grand Lodge of California was building a home on the site in Decoto and Eastern Star folks began to think we should join in that endeavor. We made contributions in that direction. The building of that home began in 1896 and we continued to support it. A site in Covina was also secured by the Masons for a home for children.

The Worthy Grand Patron in 1900 expressed the need for a home for “mothers, and Sisters who have no claim on the Masonic facility.” The Worthy Grand Matron of the following year recommended that we explore having a home in Southern California to bring this about. Again, not much happened in that direction.

In 1908, a survey was provided for members about the idea of such a home, but there was very little response. Sometime before then there was actually an Eastern Star Home Association of Southern California that had formed and were doing their own exploration and they began promoting the idea of a home in their local. By 1915, it was reported that a site had been found but it was not until 1925 that the building of such a home be an ultimate objective. Many amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution were happening over this period of time.

In 1926, a Site Committee was appointed and in 1927, a \$1 assessment was levied on members. The first Board was appointed in 1929 and there was a Grand Chapter vote accepting the purchase of a site in the Los Angeles area. Progress in that direction continued and ground was broken on September 23, 1931 at the site in Brentwood with the cornerstone laid on October 17 of that year.

The Home opened in March of 1933 and was dedicated on March 26. So we finally arrived at the reality of what had begun so many years ago as a dream.

Obviously, this is just the beginning of what exists today. There is so much more to come. But that will have to happen in the next edition—we’ll call it Chapter Two. I hope you will enjoy this bit of history and look forward to how it moved ahead.

Historically -- **Cherri**



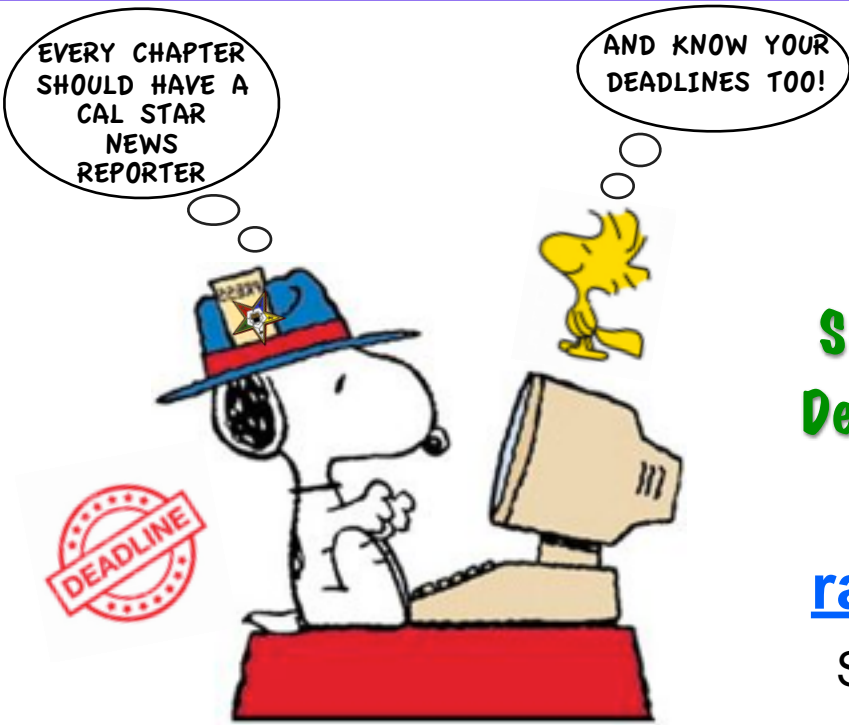
**From the Editor**



**The corner stone reads “Eastern Star Home”**



**Our “Original” Eastern Star Home in Brentwood, CA**



# CAL STAR NEWS 2024 DEADLINES

June 1st- SUMMER EDITION

September 1st - FALL EDITION

December 1st - WINTER EDITION

**SEND ARTICLES TO**  
[rainbowpog@aol.com](mailto:rainbowpog@aol.com)

Submit as WORD document!

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



**Cal Star News is a  
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**  
**June 1st - Summer Edition**

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



# Travel Service Program

*“Let Your Light Shine!”*

The 2024 Travel Service Program is about loading the bases and scoring the runs! To receive a “Let Your Light Shine” bracelet you need to earn 224 points or score 224 runs. WGM Christine Huff and WGP Larry Orozco are looking forward to seeing our members showing off their bling at events throughout the state.

There are four sections in which to earn points: Base Hit, Double, Home Run, and Grand Slam, along with Extra Credit. Points are easy to earn, and many members have already turned in their point sheets. The form/point sheet can be found on the CA OES website and that form is fillable, so it is easy to total your points. The form can be printed and filled in also.

Some very exciting news: this year members can earn more than one bracelet. Points earned over the 224 can be carried over to a second or third bracelet. How exciting is that! This is a first for me!

The bracelets come in gold and silver and are adjustable to fit any size. Men can earn the bracelets also and we hope they will!

Please be sure your name, mailing address, phone number, email address, and Chapter name and number are on the forms. Please also indicate which color bracelet you’d like to receive. If you wait to turn them in, you may not receive the color you want, so don’t wait. Get the forms in.

Forms can be given to a Grand Representative or sent directly to me. The Grand Representatives will forward the forms to me by email, text, or mail. I will mail the bracelet directly to the member submitting the form, so it is important that your mailing address is correct on the form. You can also email the form to either email address: [2024TravelProgram@gmail.com](mailto:2024TravelProgram@gmail.com) or [oespmjl@gmail.com](mailto:oespmjl@gmail.com).

I look forward to receiving many point sheets and forms for second or third bracelets. So, let’s play ball. “Let Your Light Shine” by showing off your bling. Let’s show our WGM and WGP our team spirit by turning in the forms and showing off our Bling.

Penguin and Husky Love,  
Josette Losurdo, PM  
2024 Travel Service Program Chairman



**Use the Score Card aka Point Sheet to keep track and earn your gold or silver “Let Your Light Shine” bracelets!**







# Senior Living Community

Written by Tamara Glanville (347)  
Activities Department Assistant

## Welcome to Eastern Star Homes: Where Every Day is a New Adventure!

Nestled in the serene and picturesque city of Yorba Linda, Eastern Star Homes offers an unparalleled senior living experience, designed for those who wish to spend their golden years in comfort, elegance, and joy. Our all-inclusive facility is more than just a place to live; it's a vibrant community where every resident is considered family.

Why Choose Eastern Star Homes? At the heart of our exceptional living experience is our dedicated staff. Trained not just in the best caregiving practices but also in fostering deep, meaningful connections, our team ensures that every resident feels loved, valued, and understood. From our chefs preparing nutritious and delicious meals, to our life enrichment team planning engaging events, we all share the same goal: to make Eastern Star Homes feel like home.

Our residents and staff form unique bonds that transcend the ordinary. Eastern Star Homes is a place where friendships flourish, and support is always within reach. Whether it's sharing stories over coffee, eating donuts, laughing together in our activities, or simply enjoying the beautiful Yorba Linda sunsets, our community feels like a large family gathering.

Understanding that each resident is unique, we pride ourselves on our ability to meet individual needs with care and precision. Our all-inclusive approach means everything from medical assistance to daily housekeeping is covered, allowing you to live worry-free and with complete peace of mind.

## Life at Eastern Star Homes is never dull!

With a wide range of activities, from fitness classes to outings and beyond, there's always something exciting to do. Our state-of-the-art facility includes a fitness center, ceramics studio, library, ice cream shop, craft room, and much more, ensuring you have everything you need to pursue your passions.



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# Senior Living Community

*"CONTINUING A WAY OF LIFE"*

*There's Something for Everyone at Eastern Star Homes!*

Residents find a wide variety of activities designed to enrich their lives physically, socially, and intellectually. The community buzzes with the energy of exercise class which is tailored to maintain health and mobility, alongside engaging games that stimulate the mind and foster camaraderie. Social gatherings are the heartbeat of the community, offering a place for connection and shared experiences. Outings to local restaurants, cultural events, or scenic spots provide a refreshing change of scenery and a sense of adventure. Weekly devotion sessions cater to spiritual well-being, allowing residents to reflect and find solace together. The much-anticipated happy hour every Friday becomes a lively gathering for relaxation and conversation, setting the stage for weekend excitement. Live performances bring the magic of arts to life, offering a window to the past and a chance to sing along with the artists. Together, these activities form a comprehensive program that supports a fulfilling, active, and connected lifestyle for our seniors.



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# Senior Living Community

*"CONTINUING A WAY OF LIFE"*

*Your New Adventure Awaits at Eastern Star Homes!*

Join us in the heart of the land of gracious living, where every day brings new opportunities for joy, connection, and discovery. At Eastern Star Homes, we're not just a senior living facility; we're a warm, welcoming community where you can truly be yourself and live your best life. If you would like to see an event at our facility, we will be hosting an Easter egg hunt and decorating event with a local elementary class. **Contact Us Today to Schedule a Visit or Learn More!**



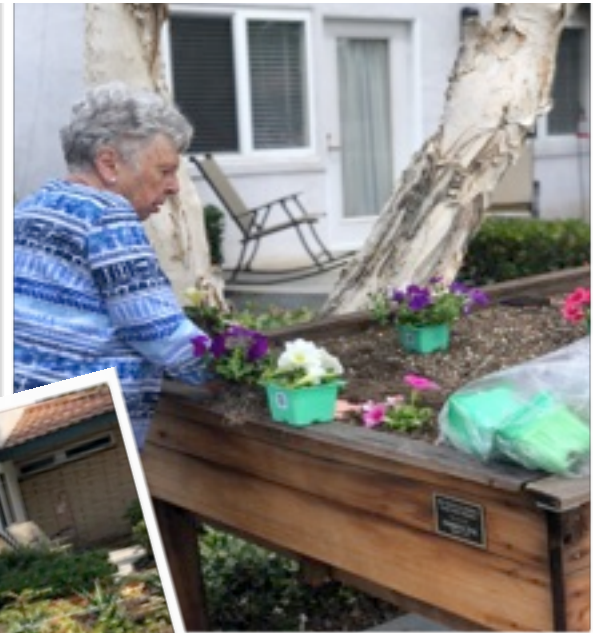
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# Senior Living Community

*"CONTINUING A WAY OF LIFE"*

*Our Residents have their hands in everything....even the gardens!*





# Spotlight on Youth

*Note from the Editor: When this article came our way, I was touched by the sentiment it shared. Many of us have memories of being a part of a Masonic Youth Organization. Many folks have devoted years of service in support of our youth and many continue to be involved with those groups as adults, which is to be admired and appreciated. It is sad though that so many former youth members and members of our Order who may not have come from those groups are missing the opportunity to be of support to today's DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow Girls. Working with them, or even just being there occasionally, shows we care about them. Let's not miss the chance for the encouragement we can give and the enjoyment we can receive from interaction with our youth.*

## Vallejo Assembly - International Order of the Rainbow for Girls 98th Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by Janice Kirkley  
Grand Deputy at Large, California Rainbow  
Member of Gateway Chapter #3

Vallejo Assembly celebrated its 98th anniversary in October of 2023, with only the assistance of two Advisory Board Members, a Majority Member, and the District Grand Deputy at Large. Our Majority Member had talked to her brother and friends to come and prepare months in advance with invites and decorations and they all showed up to help on the day of the tea. We didn't get some response with attendance due to the conflict in dates with Grand Chapter, but we did have a lot of previous Board Members, numerous Past Worthy Advisors, and members as far back as the mid '50's who could have attended. This is a great eye opener of how much adult support is needed and more importantly that Rainbow Girls 11-20 need to start a Pledge Group for ages 8-11. There is the need too for more adults to sign up to get involved and to help with Pledge which usually consists of crafts and learning memory work too, getting them ready to become a Rainbow Girl.

It would be wonderful if Chapters would assist in filling these needs as it would likely benefit future membership in our Chapters.



**Gathering of friends celebrate 98 years of Valleio Rainbow!**





# Endowment Appreciation

Hello Generous Members,

Many thanks to all the Grand Representatives and former Grand Representatives and other Eastern Star members that donated beautiful and generous Silent Auction baskets for the Silent Auction at Grand Chapter 2023. Four thousand dollars, (\$4000.00) was generated for the Unrestricted Endowment Fund to support our Senior Living Community.

The many helping hands manning the auction basket table throughout the week made this event highly successful. Even with the other obligations and duties we all had, we got the job done. You really stepped up when I asked for your help with this fundraiser, especially Debbie Osborne and the Special Duty committee members Gwen Douglass, Jan Smith, and the Endowment Fund Committee members, Julie Strahl, Patty Cady, and Debbie Sanborn.

Please continue your generous support of the Endowment Fund with the purchase of a Home Life Sponsorship for yourself or as a gift for someone special. All the funds support the Senior Living Community through the Restricted or Unrestricted Fund. Our Home is a state-of-the-art facility. The residents there are very happy and content. Your donations to the endowment continue to support our Home into the future.

For more information and/or a presentation at your Chapter or any meeting, call or email me and I will ensure that one of the Endowment Committee members will present the information for you.

Thank you once again,

Cathy Solem, Chairman Endowment Fund Committee  
916-205-1496 Cell; Email CSolem092@Gmail.com





# Meet the 2024 Grand Escorts

*The following biographies are from the 2024 Escorts to our Grand Officers. They give you a chance to get to know a little about these members. **Please note that we didn't forget anyone.** Several of the Grand Officers do not have an official Escort and several have Escorts that have been featured previously as a Grand Officer or as a Grand Officer Escort.*

*Grand Treasurer Escort*



*Stephanie Bezner, PM*

My name is Stephanie Bezner, and I am one of the Grand Treasurer's escorts this year. My mom, Donna Doan, and I are honored to be supporting my dad, Steve Doan, perform his duties this year.

I have been a member of the Order for twenty-four years. I am currently a member of Dr. Rob Morris Chapter No. 651 in Santa Monica and San Pedro Harbor Chapter No. 174. Previously, I served Grand Chapter on the Membership Committee and as Parliamentarian. I have been Deputy Grand Matron three times, I have been Worthy Matron two times, and I have been Secretary for the last fourteen years. I was honored to receive the Service Reward from Dr. Rob Morris Chapter No. 651 in 2020.

I am married to Brian Bezner, who is also a Past Patron and grandson of Past Grand Patron, Stuart Maude. It is a fun connection that his fun emblem (the penguin) is also a fun emblem for 2024! We have two daughters, Brianna (11) and Charlotte (9). Brian and I were active in DeMolay and Job's Daughters respectively, and we met at SCJ Conclave in 1997. Our daughter, Brianna, is continuing our family's youth group tradition in Job's Daughters Bethel No. 50 of Lomita.

I am a lawyer specializing in the fields of estate planning, trust administration, real estate transactions, small business, taxation, and non-profit organizations. Despite working full time, I am still very active volunteering in my children's school and at our church, St. John Fischer in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. I am also an active volunteer with the Torrance Memorial Medical Center Foundation, where I serve as the Professional Co-Chair for the Young Physicians and Professionals Alliance and am a member of the Professional Advisory Council.

In my free time (LOL!), I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking, traveling, reading, and skiing.



Nothing says "Spring" more than Baseball!





# Meet the 2024 Grand Escorts

*Grand Chaplain Escort*



*Debra Anders, PM*

I have been married to the most amazing man since 1983, 40 years and counting. We have two wonderful kids, Amie and Matt, who have blessed us with four crazy grandsons. For the first 25 years of our marriage Jeff was in the Air Force and we were fortunate to spend a lot of years overseas. This was a great opportunity for us and our kids to travel and experience many different cultures and meet some amazing people that became lifelong friends.

When we returned to the United States, we were stationed in South Dakota, which is a beautiful place to live and the slow pace made the transition back to America a little easier. We then came back to our roots in California where I embarked on my Masonic journey. I was initiated into Natoma San Juan Chapter in 2010 and have served as an officer every year. I have been Esther, Martha, Ruth, and have gone up the line twice. I am now serving as secretary, an office that can be a challenge, but I am trying to embrace that challenge.

When we find ourselves with a free weekend, we love finding outdoor adventures including boating, hiking, kayaking, motorcycle trips, and RVing. We also enjoy supporting our local AAA baseball team, the RiverCats.



*Grand Organist Escort*



*Susan Shaw, PM*

Susan Shaw is the Escort and sibling of Jon Olson, Grand Organist. She is a twenty-five-year member of Eastern Star and Star of Claremont Chapter, #110, Claremont. She has served 17 times as Martha. In addition, she has been elected to the Line twice as Associate Conductress, Conductress, and Associate Matron. She was elected to serve as Worthy Matron in 2005 and 2012, together with Jon as her Worthy Patron.

Eastern Star has been a part of their family for generations. She was a Rainbow Girl in Davenport, Iowa. Their maternal grandparents were founding members of their Chapter in Moline, Illinois. Their parents were also members of Claremont Chapter, along with much of their extended family. Theirs is truly a Masonic Family with members in Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, Shrine, and Masons.

Susan's career began by earning degrees as a General Education Teacher with an emphasis in Art Education. She taught as a Special Education Teacher specializing in Learning Disabilities and has had extensive training in correcting, teaming, and tracking problems of the eyes.

As an artist, creativity and the arts have always played an important role in her life. Susan and Jon grew up performing on the marimba band together, along with their mother. Performing is their way of life.







# Meet the 2024 Grand Escorts

*Grand Ruth Escort*



*Phil Allen, PP*

I was born in Sylacauga, Alabama. My family moved to California in 1954 where my father worked in the aircraft industry for Convair. I grew up in the Antelope Valley (Palmdale) where I was involved in Boy Scouts and played football, baseball, and tennis at Palmdale High School.

I began work immediately following high school as a Structures Mechanic at the Douglas Aircraft A4 aircraft assembly facility at USAF Plant 42 in Palmdale.

I attended the University of Alabama where I majored in Business Administration. I was married in 1975 and have two children.

In the years that followed, I worked to support flight test activities at Edwards Air Force Base and USAF Plant 42 for several defense contractors to include Douglas Aircraft, Lockheed, Vought Aircraft, and LTV. Throughout the 1990's I worked as a Government Property Manager to support Wyle Laboratories and Sverdrup Technologies contracts at and the US Air Force Research Laboratory, Edwards AFB.

In 2001, I went to work for SAIC in La Jolla. In 2013, SAIC was split into two companies. I now work as a Government Property Manager for Leidos, Inc.

I became a Master Mason in Palmdale Lodge where I served as Master in 1994. I am a Shriner and member of Al Malaikah Shrine.

I have been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star since 1989. I currently belong to Tehachapi Palmdale Chapter #188 and Poinsettia Chapter #287 in Oceanside. I have served as Warder, Sentinel, Chaplain, Marshal, Associate Patron, and Worthy Patron. I have served on several Chapter Committees and was appointed Grand Representative of Rhode Island in California for 2013-2014 by Sister Sarahann Shapiro and Brother Art Weiss. I received the Service Award in 2004 and achieved 25 years in the Order in 2014. I am currently serving as Worthy Patron in Poinsettia Chapter.

My wife, Bobbie, and I met in 1998 and were married in the Oceanside Masonic Lodge in 1999. Together we have four daughters, one son and 11 grandchildren. We live in Oceanside where I am currently enjoying serving as Escort to my wife Bobbie who is serving as Grand Ruth for 2024 and Queen of Mecca Temple #34 Daughters of the Nile in San Diego.





# Meet the 2024 Grand Escorts



Steve Cooley is the husband of Rose Anne Cooley, Grand Martha. Steve became a member of the Order in 1992 so is now a 30 year plus member. He served as Master of his Lodge in 1995 – Conejo Valley Lodge #807. Steve has served as Worthy Patron for Conejo Valley Chapter six times – in 1997, 2006, 2010, 2015, 2018, 2023, and is now Associate Patron so he is ready for number seven. In 2011, Steve was honored to serve as Grand Sentinel with Kim Hegg, WGM and Don Snyder, WGP. Since that time he has been an Escort to Sister Rose Anne twice as Deputy Grand Matron and now as Grand Martha. Steve enjoys seeing all his friends at Lodge and at Chapter and feels those relationships are very important in his life. Traveling this year has been a privilege and one he will long remember.



## 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!**



# Meet the 2024 Grand Escorts

*Grand Electa Escort*



*Nancy Bay, PM*

Hello, I am Nancy Bay, Escort to 2024 Grand Electa, the lovely Deanna Bay. Traveling the state with my daughter and meeting the membership is an amazing experience and I am thrilled to be along for the ride. Occasionally, Deanna’s Dad, Kirby Bay, will travel with us.

Kirby and I each grew up in the SF Bay Area. Our alma maters are Hayward High, San Lorenzo High, Chabot College, and Humboldt State. The country boy met the city girl while square dancing as teens and this September, we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We spent a “honeymoon year” at Ft. Sill Oklahoma until Kirby deployed with his battalion to Viet Nam. We often reflect with gratitude on our relocation in 1980, thanks to Kirby’s AT&T job transfer, to rural Humboldt County on the far north coast. His specialty was maintaining phone company buildings and stationery equipment – particularly heating, ventilation and cooling systems, spread throughout a territory that included mountain tops of Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, and Humboldt Counties. It didn’t take long for us to thoroughly acclimate to country living and gain many stories about raising our son and daughter off-the-grid while caring for timber preserve land, livestock, and working full time. Our family is now expanded to include four fabulous grandchildren and five amazing great-grandchildren. Loving retirement, his

mechanical aptitude and my experience in Vocational Counseling and coordinating Humboldt County’s workforce development programs continues to come in handy.

Almost 35-year members of Ferndale Chapter #23, our Eastern Star journey began as a result of Deanna’s involvement with Rainbow. As Past Rainbow Dad, Past Mother Advisor and retired long-time Advisory Board Members, we continue to enjoy supporting our local Rainbow and Job’s Daughters youth. Well-traveled to the East, Kirby and I have the honor to again serve together as 2024 Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron with this Rockstar family. Although Kirby’s favorite office is Sentinel, he accompanied our daughter, then granddaughter Janessa Woolley, and now me to the East so it has been awhile since he has been outside the closed door. In addition to Line Offices, I have held the offices of Marshal, Chaplain, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and was Secretary for nine years. I also served in 2009 and 2011 as a Deputy Grand Matron. One OES highlight for us included Kirby’s commission in 2014-2015 as Grand Representative of Tennessee.

Never still for long, Kirby and I are both long-time Amateur Radio Operators (KE6ZPF and KF6JBQ). He is a Volunteer Examiner, helping exam candidates fulfill their Amateur Radio aspirations. Kirby is also very involved with Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, Aahmes Shrine, Redwood Shrine Club, Djinn’s Band, and the local Food Bank. I am a member of Nefru Ari Temple Daughters of the Nile and Redwood Nile Club. Some of my favorite activities include quilting, hand embroidery, and knitting. My sewing room beacons from Deanna’s place across the river, and knitting projects keep me company on the road. My bucket list includes several travel destinations and restoring my childhood piano skills enough to someday play for Chapter.

Always learning, it has been fun attending All Member Instructionals. As the 2024 season begins for Official Visits and supporting the year’s charitable projects, Kirby and I both look forward to marvelous opportunities to strengthen and expand friendships while accompanying our compassionate, empowering daughter, your Grand Electa. Hope to see you soon!





# Grand Representative

## OHIO - THE BUCKEYE STATE

By Kirsten Madden, Grand Representative of Ohio in California 2022-2024

The Grand Chapter of Ohio's "Light His World with Service" Grand Sessions were held in Sharonville, Ohio from September 22-24, 2023. The theme for Debby Pitts, WGM and Rick Miller, WGP and their 2023 corps of Grand Officers was the Maya Angelou quote "Be a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud". Ohio is also the home of F. Lon Lowry, our current Most Worthy Grand Patron, so he and MWGM Glenda Winchester were in attendance.

The Friday afternoon session was Formal Opening. The Grand Officers recited the ritual short form to open the Grand Chapter. All Escort and Introductions were performed during this afternoon session. The Conductress did a phenomenal job reciting from memory the names of all Deputy Grand Matrons and Grand Representatives in Ohio, including Chapter, District, and Jurisdiction. Every greeting from the East was a quote about rainbows and storms. The Grand Representatives in Ohio sat together in a specific section, with visiting Grand Representatives in another section. I spent my time sitting with the Grand Representative of Ohio in Oklahoma as we were both solo during closed sessions. I enjoyed spending time with Cathie Littleton, my 2022 counterpart, and Dottie Ballard, my 2023 counterpart, during meals and between sessions.

Friday evening was Informal Opening, where we heard from the leaders of the other Masonic Orders and Youth Groups. The Scholarship Committee distributed \$8,000 in scholarships. Some of the recipients were on hand, expressing their thanks and talking about their education programs including pre-med, architecture, and forensic psychology. The charities for the year received donations including \$34,000 distributed to five service dogs organizations. Saturday morning started very early with the Buckeye Links Grand Representatives' breakfast. Each of the visiting Grand Representatives were granted honorary memberships to the Ohio Grand Chapter. Saturday morning sessions included the reports of the Eastern Star Home Board, the WGM and the WGP. Elections, and all Legislation was presented to the membership during the Saturday afternoon session. Election of the 2024 Grand Line was processed on a single written ballot. The Grand Warder and Grand Sentinel are the entry points to the Grand Line. The 2024 Appointive Officers remain secret until Grand Installation.



**Ohio's Worthy Grand Matron, Debby Pitts with Kirsten Madden, Grand Representative of Ohio in California at Ohio Grand Chapter 2023**

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# Grand Representative

**OHIO - THE BUCKEYE STATE** continued from page 20

By Kirsten Madden, Grand Representative of Ohio in California 2022-2024

The Grand Banquet following the closing of the 134th Session was the final farewell for the 2023 Grand Officers and we had fun getting to know the folks at our table.

There are many things that Ohio does differently from California, of course. The most surprising for me was that the Grand Representatives in Ohio are all women. I asked about it, and was told that legislation to expand the Grand Representatives to include men had been submitted, but had not yet received a majority of votes.

Of the differences that Cathie noted after our Grand Chapter in 2022 was the fact that everyone wore jeans, t-shirts, and sneakers, even the Grand Officers. That was the most surprising for her. I did remind her that we wore the t-shirts in support of our Eastern Star Home during the session that our residents attended as a group, not just any t-shirt or all sessions.

Like other Grand Jurisdictions, Ohio's membership is decreasing. The Jurisdiction of Ohio has 145 Chapters. There had been seven consolidations since the 2022 Grand Sessions, with another three in progress. The membership as of this Grand Session was 17,018. That was a decrease in membership by 1,347 from the prior year. Attendance at Grand Chapter was 687 in state registrations, and another 77 from other jurisdictions.

After Grand Chapter, we explored more of the area around Cincinnati. We visited the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, a museum that takes you from the start of the slave trade in the western hemisphere to instances of modern-day slavery. If you are ever in the Cincinnati area, I highly recommend visiting that museum.

The next day we went to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. The Cincinnati Zoo focuses on conservation and education. The oldest American Zoo building is now home to the Reptile House. We got to see Fiona the hippo who was born at the zoo in 2017. The habitats were designed for the comfort of the animals first. There were sections for nocturnal animals, where special lighting was set up to not mess with their eyesight.

For our last day in Ohio we booked a dinner cruise on the Ohio River. The boat dock was on the Kentucky side of the river, so we walked to Kentucky and visited the Newport Aquarium nearby. The dinner cruise was fun. We watched the sun set, and a spectacular thunderstorm roll in. We opted for a Lyft back to the hotel.

The next day, we were on our way back to California.





# Grand Representative

## MISSOURI - THE SHOW-ME STATE

By Robin Bens, Grand Representative of Missouri in California 2023-2025

Hello members of California Order of the Eastern Star. I am very excited to write my story about the travels my sister, Vivian Bens-Hower, DGM Dist. 9, and I made to Missouri's Grand Chapter in November of 2023. Our Trip began Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. We flew out of Santa Rosa airport to Springfield, Missouri with a short layover in Dallas/Fort Worth. All our flights were very pleasant, on-time and without delay. We arrived late on Friday night, rented a car and drove about an hour to Branson, Missouri, where we stayed two nights. In Branson, we saw two shows: The Haygoods, a musical family group and Reza, the Illusionist. Both shows were excellent. We did a wine tasting and a little bit of shopping (always).



On Sunday morning we drove west to Joplin, Missouri to visit a family friend. The drive to Joplin was very nice. Missouri has some spectacular countryside and farmlands. Every little town has a little church and a Dollar General convenience store on every corner (practically). Joplin is a sweet little town with a very nice Goodwill Store—half off prices and a bathroom.



**Robin with her Grand Representative of Missouri Commission Certificate**

After our fieldtrip to Joplin, we drove back over to Springfield for the beginning of Missouri's 148th Grand Chapter "Purrfect Friendships" Session, where Cari McQueen, Worthy Grand Matron, and Rich Royce, Worthy Grand Patron, presided. We also met up with my counterpart, Jani Faris. Missouri's Grand Chapter was held at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. Most of the meals (fresh and tasty and nicely served banquet style) were provided by the Convention Center. There was an in-house restaurant available as well, for breakfast.

My counterpart lives in Warsaw, Missouri. She came to visit me at our Grand Chapter in October. We had fun at our Fun Night.

During the Cavalcade of Flags, Missouri's Grand Chapter recognizes each state/territory flag, and Grand Representative, along with the visiting Grand Representative. They are escorted into the labyrinth behind the altar while the presiding Host/Hostess gives a small and quick trivia fact of each flag/location presented.



The Grand Representative "Club" is comprised of former and current Grand Representatives. They are recognized by the "ladybug". This club hosts several events during Grand Chapter week – a "yard sale"/courtesy room, a meeting, and a dinner, where gifts are exchanged at each place setting.

Also, during Missouri's Grand Chapter sessions, visiting Deputy Grand Matrons are escorted and introduced—so yes, Vivian was escorted during Grand Chapter. Go Vivian!!!

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# Grand Representative

**MISSOURI - THE SHOW-ME STATE** continued from page 22

By Robin Bens, Grand Representative of Missouri in California 2023-2025

During Grand Chapter, the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron walk the entire Chapter floor/sidelines recognizing every single 50 and 50+ year member in attendance.

One difference I found that Missouri does not do that we do here in California is that when giving the Grand Honors to a guest, there is no clapping at the conclusion of it. It took a couple of rounds before I learned not to clap.

Vivian and I were unable to stay for the 2024 Installation of Officers. We learned that Sister Janis Decker was elected 2024 Associate Grand Conductress in Missouri. Janis used to live in California.

I will always cherish the memories I have made while traveling this past year and I look forward to more in the coming year and beyond.



**Robin & Missouri Counterpart Jani Faris at California Grand Chapter 2023**



**Robin, Vivian and Jani enjoying "Fun Night" at California Grand Chapter 2023**



**Jani Faris & Robin Bens during California's Cavalcade of Flags 2023**



**Jani Decker, newly elected AGC in Missouri and Robin at Missouri GC**



# Grand Officer Reports

*The 2024 California Rock Stars aka Grand Officers have been traveling up and down the State. Here are a couple reports from the “roadies” thus far.....*

## Bobbie Allen—Grand Ruth

I am having so much fun traveling and attending the AMIs All Member Instructionals, visiting with all members of the Orders and, of course, visiting with the RUTHS!!! I hope the Ruths will take the time to fill out the informational sheet that is at the end of my Ruth letter. You may also go to the OES website to get this information. All information will help me gather some insight as to who you are, your birthday, food allergies or restrictions, and what is the best way to contact you. For example, text, phone call, or email. If any of you have NOT been able to attend an AMI and have questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Leave a message, and I will return your call. If you want to email me, please use [2024grandruth.bobbie@gmail.com](mailto:2024grandruth.bobbie@gmail.com). Thank you for your service to our Order this year.

I live in Oceanside in North San Diego County, in the southern part of our state, so when our travels are up north my husband Phil, my Escort and I have had the pleasure of traveling with Jon Olson, Grand Organist and his Escort, his sister Susan Shaw. We travel in my husband’s Ford Expedition which accommodates all of us and our luggage and Jon’s music! (See photos attached). Sometimes, they must drop me off at the Sacramento Airport on Sunday evening or early Monday morning so I can get back to San Diego in a timely fashion. I am still working remotely as a dental treatment coordinator for a dentist in Carlsbad, California.

We Grand Officers are constantly being entertained by our Grand Sentinel, Jennifer Craig, at each AMI. She includes each of us with music, accessories, and lyrics! We never know what we are going to do, but enjoy every minute of “dancing” or “entertainment”. And my husband loves going outside to relieve the Sentinel so she can do “her thing”!

Phil and I are now looking forward to attending the Official Visit in each of the Districts. Please come and say “HELLO”. Time seems to be flying.



**On the road to an AMI...Phil Allen, Susan Shaw, Bobbie Allen and Jon Olson**



**Grand Ruth Bobbie at Ontario AMI with Chapter Ruths, Julie Allender and Kathy Hamilton**





# Grand Officer Reports

*The 2024 California Rock Stars aka Grand Officers have been traveling up and down the State. Here are a couple reports from the “roadies” thus far.....*

## Jon Olson — Grand Organist



### Organist Scholarship Fund

This ‘tip’ box has been traveling from the South to the North, from the SF Bay to the LA South Bay, from citrus groves in the Inland Empire to the almond groves of the Central Valley, giving our members the opportunity to help support the Organist Scholarship fund. The scholarship award can help fund the cost of piano and organ lessons, letting the member improve their skill, and this indirectly helps the Chapter. The member must be a member of California Eastern Star in good standing to apply. The application form (available on the OES website) is submitted to the Foundation Scholarship Committee for review.

If you or a member you know is a bit hesitant to play in Chapter, taking some lessons could give you more confidence and can give your Chapter the ‘spark’ of joy and fun that makes all the difference in a meeting. It might even be the beginning of a new life in your Chapter. However, you don’t have to wait until the box visits your area, you can also make a donation to the Fund through the Grand Chapter website. So far this year, we have received nearly \$300.00 in support. Will you be the next recipient to let your light shine?

Keep a song in your heart!

Jon Olson, Grand Organist 2024



**Grand Organist Jon with his “tip” box supporting the Organist Scholarship Fund**



# Chapter Reports

## SAN CLEMENTE-SADDLEBACK CHAPTER #524

Submitted by Charlene Norris, PM

Here we grow again---San Clemente-Saddleback Chapter is growing. Since the Installation in November, we have had two Initiations of three new members, two Affiliations of three new members, and an Initiation is planned at our March meeting. It is very exciting to have these new members. Our February meeting also saw our Sister Charlene Norris depart California for Idaho. It was a bittersweet moment. The Chapter totally surprised me and I was okay until the WM gave the farewell. It truly was hard to not totally lose it.

Come and join us for our meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Oh, and we have a “Hat” around the corner.



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## JOSEPHINE CHICO CHAPTER #104

Submitted by Jan Smith, DGM



“Robin Hood” filmed in Chico’s Bidwell Park

Josephine Chico Chapter No. 104 was pleased to host one of the 2024 AMIs on February 17 at the Chico Masonic Center. We had a very good turnout of Sisters and Brothers from the North State area and thankful that Mother Nature did not “get in the way”.

District 4 is looking forward to our Social OV set for Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m., when we will meet in Oroville for a tour of the historic and recently renovated State Theatre. We will enjoy and be treated to a tour of the theatre and showing of the original “Robin Hood” movie, which was filmed in Chico “way back when”. We would love to have you join us on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to our Chapter email address - [jc.104oes@yahoo.com](mailto:jc.104oes@yahoo.com) on or before April 6<sup>th</sup> or call 530 521-5657. Thank you.

We are very proud of our Ann Sigel Memorial Patient Comfort Station. We are small but mighty and are able to create 40 port pals per month that are distributed to the infusion centers located in Chico and Oroville.

We would love your presence at our Friendship Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be served at 6:15 pm and the meeting will start at 7:30 pm. Donations to Paws for Purple Hearts will be accepted. RSVPs are mandatory on or before April 20<sup>th</sup> - [jc.104oes@yahoo.com](mailto:jc.104oes@yahoo.com) or call 530 521-5657.



# Chapter Reports

## CENTRAL COAST STAR CHAPTER #97

Submitted by Dianne Schulenburg, PM

Central Coast Star #97 Chapter, Santa Maria, installed Past Grand Treasurers, Tacy Lee and Fred Schulenburg, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. Not only are they Past Grand Treasurers, but also Big Sister and Little Brother having served in 2012 and 2013 respectively. With their financial background, our Chapter is in good hands in 2024.

Sister Tacy's theme was "Secure in the Light of our Star". In her remarks she explained the importance of lanterns in her family fishing business keeping her family safe on the water.

She and Fred carried large gold keys which were placed (actually hooked) on the lantern which was in the East in front of the podium (see the photo included). Worthy Grand Marshal Sue White presided during the ceremony and narrated the significance of the word "key" as the WM and WP placed their keys on the base of the lantern.

In Sister Sue's narration, she stated "For Tacy, it is the key to unlocking the door in our Order. It can unlock the Chapter figuratively, translate our communications, and in our meetings, it can unlock our hearts to hear the crying of the widow and orphan along with our Charitable purposes." "For Fred, the key could represent the Keystone of the Order. Keystone stands for support. Our support comes from our Masonic Brothers."

Sister Sue ended the dedication, "The keys thus crossed are the tenets of our Order to be remembered, the support of our Masonic Fraternity acknowledged, all special messages of showing working together. The crossed keys are a pledge of teamwork for Central Coast Star by these two leaders, these Past Grand Treasurers. In 2024, as they pledge to unlock our doors."



**Tacy, WM and Fred, WP  
Past Grand Treasurers spreading the light  
in Central Coast Chapter in 2024**





# Chapter Reports

## FUCHSIA CHAPTER #425

Fuchsia Chapter #425 continues to be busy with our ongoing Port Pals project. We've given Port Pals to several treatment centers and hospitals in our area. If you know of a person or a center that would like them here in Southern California, please let us know as we've got 100 in our current stock ready to go.

We had a fantastic Holiday Party on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 after our stated meeting. A white elephant gift exchange and lots of fellowship were enjoyed!

You're invited to our Annual Progressive Dinner. It will be held on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at our Masonic Hall (520 Main Street, El Segundo) at 5:30PM. Seating is limited so please RSVP by 3/16 to Joyce Harris (310-322-7621).

We welcome you all 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.

Submitted by LeAnn Holsapple, PM



**Fuchsia Chapter members enjoy a festive Holiday Party and fellowship**

## GOLD RIDGE STAR CHAPTER #161

Submitted by Vivian Bens-Hower, DGM District 9



**20,670 pounds of apples bagged by members of Gold Ridge Star Chapter!**

An Apple a Day . . . On January 20, 2024, Gold Ridge Star Chapter #161, Sebastopol, teamed up with La Fayette Lodge #126, Sebastopol, for a volunteer event at the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa. Worthy Matron Robin Bens, Worshipful Master Greg Almand, and 14 Sisters, Brothers, and family members turned out to bag apples – 20,670 pounds of apples to be exact! There was much camaraderie and good energy in the warehouse that morning as we did our small part to end hunger in our community. The event chairperson was Michele Doss, PM.





# Chapter Reports

OLD WEST CHAPTER #642

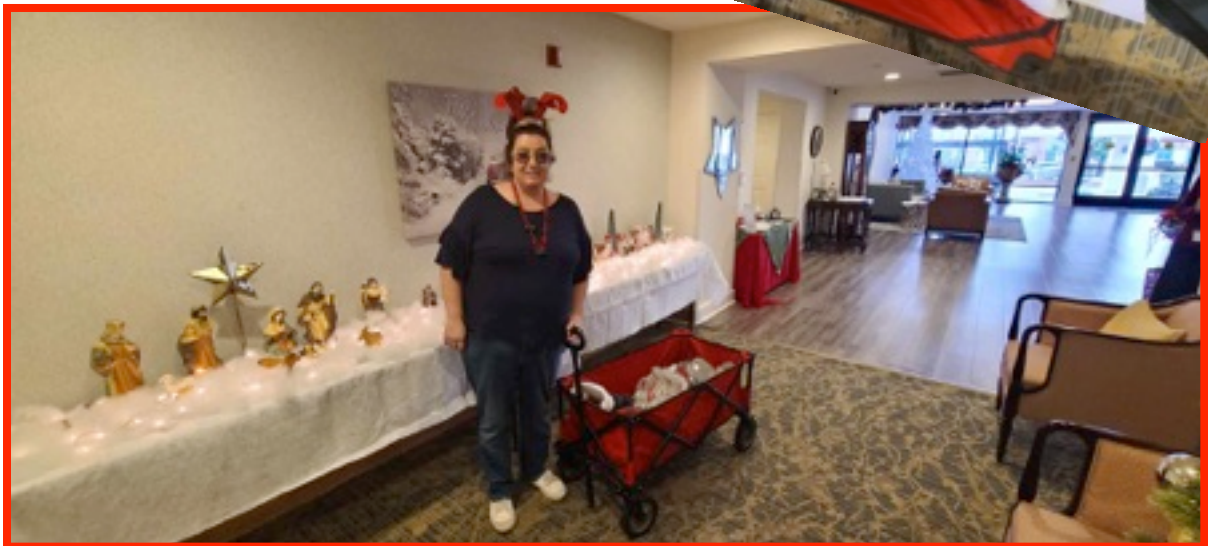
Submitted by Laura Kelley, PM

Leading the Way in Charity!

Associate Conductress Peggy Hill from Old West Chapter #642 in Newhall went above and beyond to serve our residents at the Senior Living Center. Last December she asked her skincare clients to sponsor skincare product bags for each resident. The response was terrific, and she was able to gift each and every resident with a bag loaded with full size skin care products. They came in festive drawstring bags for the ladies and travel bags for the gentlemen. As a first-time line officer, Peggy is definitely showing the spirit of compassion and charity that our Order is known for! Great job Sister Peggy!



**Sister Peggy with SLC Staff  
and  
Cart filled with Christmas Gifts**



**Peggy at the Senior Living Community with her cart of Christmas gifts for our Residents**



# Chapter Reports

## ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

From supporting the Masonic Lodge, DeMolay Chapter, Job's Daughters Bethel, and Rainbow Assembly that meet in our Center to meal gatherings and car trips around the county, Escondido Chapter Members have been shining their lights from Home Plate to the outfield and beyond.

December was filled with holiday spirit and activity. Our Chapter supported a mom, two daughters, and their puppy by shopping for items on their wish list, which included baking items because they love cooking together, pink and lavender clothing, fun makeup accessories, picture frames, and bedding. Chapter Members so enjoyed being part of this family's celebration. We also had members who were inspired by county Rainbow Girls as they attended receptions and installations where the girls spoke about how Rainbow has impacted their lives and given them opportunities to serve in their communities. Of course, we also had our first Chapter Officers Meeting, where we learned about all the opportunities we have this year through our Chapter's Calendar, and the lunch provided by our Worthy Matron was pretty good, too!



January brought our Lodge installation, where the incoming Master talked about the whole Masonic Family and shared that he is planning events for all of us to get together. For our third Tuesday social, we had a Chili and Cornbread Cook Off. Entries were so varied (traditional, vegetarian, non-dairy white chicken – and from creamy to clear), so no winner was declared; instead, we celebrated everyone's contributions and ate till our elastic waistbands extended to the max.

The most southern All Member Instructional, held at our Chapter's home Center in Escondido, brought out some who have never attended. Our Associate Conductress said, "It was my first AMI and it was so fun and informative; it was really beautiful watching them do the ritual and floor work."



*It's the Sauce!*

There were a couple more dinners we attended as a group in January – one was the Masonic Dinner we cooked and served (meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and veggies, plus salad and dessert) and the other was the annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser for our Jobs Daughters Bethel. Our Chaplain said what all of us were thinking when asked why we go back to this dinner year after year: "It's the sauce! [that one of the mom and dad teams makes from scratch]."



**Grand Sentinel leads the call for Everyone to "Play Ball" at the AMI**

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# Chapter Reports

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154 **continued from page 36**

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

February found us crying and smiling. We attended two memorial services, one for our Sister Sandy Bell from Fallbrook Chapter, who shone through her patriotism and years of community service, and one for our Chapter's long-time Brother Walter Dill, who took tons of photographs that he had printed and handed out to everyone in the photos and who enjoyed being Sentinel, partly because he got to be in charge of making coffee in the dining room just the way he liked it! We shall miss these friends. Fun times during February included our Chapter's 128th Birthday meeting, at which we sang "Happy Birthday to Us," responded to Roll Call by sharing the names of Chapter Members and how they inspired or mentored us, and heard a little bit about the beginnings of our Chapter, including the \$3.00 initiation fee and \$1.00 dues paid by our charter members. When Fallbrook Chapter invited the Former Deputy Grand Matrons of the county to perform their Opening Ceremony, some of us served as Guest Officers, and at the first County Guest Night (like Friendship Night in other counties) at Poinsettia Chapter in Oceanside, some were Guest Officers there. Our Adah was excited about Poinsettia's Guest Night because "we were honored with two visitors from Canada [and] sang 'Oh Canada' in their honor" at that meeting.

February also found us proving one of the more humorous explanations for the initialism OES: "Order of the Eating Siblings." On a Saturday morning, many of us gathered in our Center's dining room, where the Masonic Lodge treated all Masonic group members to a full breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits with sausage gravy, French toast-blueberry egg bake, fruit, juice, and coffee. Our Secretary said "Our Masons are sure good cooks," which was evidenced by the amount of times they had to refill each serving dish! "My mouth was watering all day in anticipation of Lourdes' famous chicken soup!," said a member when we shared another meal together for our third Tuesday social, which was at a local restaurant. We enjoyed a warm meal on a cold day, and some of us added a taco, a burrito, or a little escabeche to our dinners.

Winter's cold and rain have not slowed down our Chapter Members. . . it's been an enthusiastic and energetic journey so far, and we're excited about the experiences spring will bring.

