



CAL STAR NEWS

Thanks for Supporting our Charities!

Hello Sisters and Brothers!

I can't believe we are already halfway through the second quarter of our year! It has been a true joy to be able to visit with so many of you at the AMIs and Official Visits thus far during the year. I hope to see more of you throughout the year as we are traveling up and down the state.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your enthusiasm and support of our special projects this year, The Purple Elephant and Paws for Purple Hearts.

I hope you have all purchased your silicone bracelets to support two of our Special Projects this year! A purple one that states "I will remember for you" on one half and "Alzheimer's Awareness" on the other. The Purple Elephant Project is raising awareness and funds for Alzheimer's and Dementia. Our turquoise one states "I support Cancer Awareness" and "Raising Funds to Find a Cure". Each bracelet is \$3 or 4 bracelets are \$5. Any of the Grand Family or Deputy Grand Matrons have these available for purchase. The funds for the sale of the Cancer Awareness bracelets will be going to our J. Clifford Lee Cancer Fund.

Sisters Gina Vickerman and Lee Anne Kallen are our Northern and Southern Chairman for this project. They are also selling purple stuffed elephants, clothing items, buttons and remembrance cacti which will be displayed at Grand Chapter and you will be able to take home. Please reach out to either of these sisters for more information. They will also have merchandise available at our Southern Purple Elephant Event on Saturday, March 11th at 5pm at the Giessinger Winery in Fillmore and at our Northern Purple Elephant Event on Saturday, April 22nd at 5:30pm at the Springbrook Masonic Temple in Vallejo. Both events are going to be lots of fun and are raising funds for such a worthwhile cause!

I hope you are all actively participating in our Jingle vs Crinkle bucket challenge! I know I'm excited to see who the winning Chapter will be for Brother Gary and I to come to cook a home made meal for after Grand Chapter!! Remember- you want to put lots of coins into your own Chapter's bucket and paper money into another Chapter's bucket. Remember, this is all in good fun and to raise funds for our Special Project Paws for Purple Hearts. Having two sons that are Veterans from the Air Force and one currently in the Army, giving back to any Veterans in need rings close to my heart. Paws for Purple Hearts doesn't just provide service dogs to Active Military and Veterans in need of a dog, but also helps those who need a purpose again by having them assist in training these dogs for their fellow Veterans.

Thank you again Sisters and Brothers for your love of our beautiful Order. Please don't hesitate to come up and say hi to me if you see me anywhere! I truly love meeting new friends and seeing old ones too! I hope to see YOU soon!

With a huge elephant trunk hug and kokopelli kisses,

Kimberlie Kruse
Worthy Grand Matron



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A Busy Start to a Grand Year!

Grand Chapter of California Members,

The 2023 Grand Family has been very busy thus far. In December we started our AMI season in Roseville, then traveled to the Senior Living Center and had a Christmas Lunch with the residents. The Senior Living Center was all decked out with Festival of Trees decorations. We also had a visit from Santa. That evening we celebrated with our Grand Family Christmas Dinner and a gift exchange game.

We finished all of our AMIs in January, as well as the Grand Officer Brush-up School and Deputy Grand Matron Brush-up School. I personally want to thank the AREME Belles of my Chapter, Mission Bell, for furnishing lunch and snacks for both the DGM Brush-up School and the AMI in Richmond. Both meals were over the top.

In February, we started our Official Visits by attending the first three visits in the South and the first three in the North. At the last OV in Fresno on February 19, Kimberlie and I had the honor of signing the John Sullivan Bible and be among so many amazing men and women including three US Presidents, who were Masons, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Gerald Ford.

As we move into March, and more Official Visits, we look forward to seeing more of our members throughout the state.

Thank You,
Gary Dunham
Worthy Grand Patron



From the Fraternal Correspondence Committee

The Fraternal Correspondence Committee for this year is gathering some exciting information about other Jurisdictions.

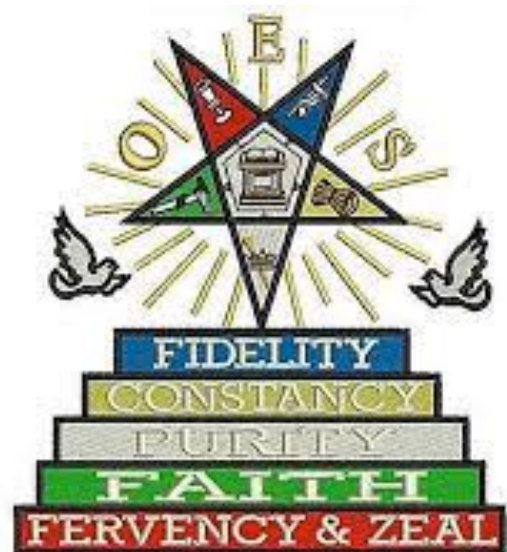
We will be reporting information about charities, dress codes and Senior Living Communities.

This will be in addition to reviewing the proceedings of those Jurisdictions.

There will be lots of reading but it will be very informative.

This team is excited to learn some great things throughout the Eastern Star world.

**Lynn Carter
San Clemente/Saddleback Chapter
Fraternal Correspondence Chairman**





NOTES FROM YOUR CAL STAR NEWS EDITORIAL CONSULTANT - CHERRI WHITELEY

Soggy Greetings—

It seems that is the appropriate way to begin this message. I don't think anyone in the state has been spared from more than normal rain and even unusual snow. We can't even seem to meet anyone without weather becoming the topic. I hope this finds you safe and warm.



This edition features the autobiographies from the Escorts of this year's Grand Officers and more of the articles from our Deputy Grand Matrons. Of special interest is the article from a Grand Representative about her travels—something we sincerely hope will inspire and encourage other Grand Representatives to submit about their travels or communications. Our next edition will actually feature some history of the position of Grand Representative so it would be great to have articles to go with that sharing.

In our last edition, I covered the development of the position of Deputy Grand Matron. This time I'd like to briefly cover some details of the very beginning of the Grand Chapter of California.

On April 7, 1873, seven Chapters and 18 persons attended a meeting in San Francisco to discuss establishing a Grand Chapter. The persons involved were Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, and Associate Matrons, as the office of Associate Patron was not provided in the Ritual that was current at that time. The seven Chapters included: Golden Gate #1 in San Francisco, Suisun #2 in Suisun, Silver Star #3 in Vallejo, California #4 in San Francisco, Alameda #7 in Alameda, Oakleaf #8 in Oakland, and Evangeline #9 in Nevada City. Chapters #4 and #7 no longer exist and Chapters #2, #3, and #8 still exist but have different names and/or locations due to consolidation. Only Chapters #1 and #9 still bear the same name in the same location.

That meeting in April produced a draft of a constitution which was adopted on May 8, 1873. The first "Annual Communication" was held from October 15-17 of that year. I find it interesting that October was the ongoing tradition of Grand Chapter sessions, as for the first 98 years, it was held in October. In 1972, the 99th session was held at the end of September, but as we all know, we have experienced sessions in October for many years.

Much of the original Constitution is still a part of the document by which we serve today. However, there was not an Instruction Book at that time. Some of what is now in our Instruction Book was actually a part of the Constitution.

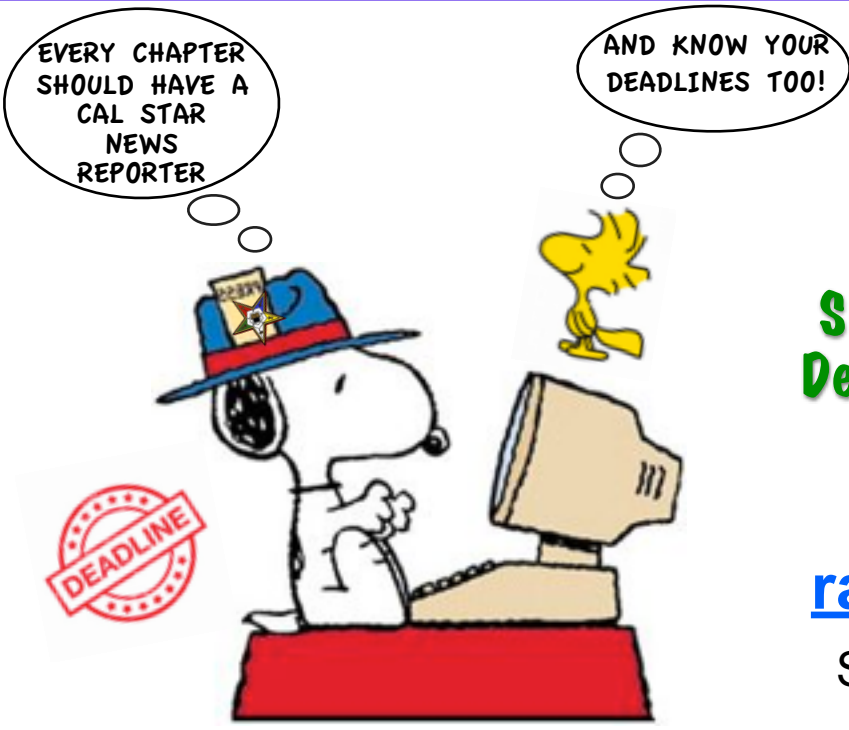
We've come a long way since our founding—if my math proves correct, it has been 150 years. Much has changed and continues to change in some ways, but our lessons and values are still the same as when that Grand Chapter was founded.

As always, I look forward to seeing you in my travels and especially look forward to hearing from more Chapters with articles to share about the wonderful things that are happening throughout California Eastern Star.

--Cherri



Grand Chapter of California Established 1873



CAL STAR NEWS 2023 DEADLINES

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

SEND ARTICLES TO
rainbowpog@aol.com

Submit as WORD document!

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



Cal Star News is a publication of the Grand Chapter of California Order of the Eastern Star



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

Congratulations to the following Chapters that submitted an article to the Winter Edition of CSN

- *San Clemente-Saddleback #524*
- *Sunset #300*
- *Rising Star #36*
- *Channel Islands #78*
- *Molino Star #83*
- *Gold Ridge Star #161*
- *Joaquin #348*
- *Escondido #154*
- *Natoma San Juan #233*

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

"Hand in Hand - Together We Can!"

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and your new year is going well. I hope every member is tracking their Travel, Service and Chapter points for the 2023 Travel Service Program, Hand and Hand Together We Can! The pins are beautiful, and I'd love to see our members wearing them proudly.

The point sheet is available on the OESCal website and you can track your points on the Point sheet or a piece of paper or in an excel spreadsheet. Include Date completed, Type of Travel or Service or Chapter, the explanation and the points earned. Please include your name, title, Chapter name and number, and your phone number. Sign your name on the last page along with the date you submit it to a Grand Representative. The Grand Representative will forward it to the Northern or Southern Grand Representative Association President who will review the point sheet, date it was received, and the day they sent the Travel Pin to the Grand Representative that submitted your form. That Grand Representative will present the Travel Pin at a local Chapter meeting.

December is a time of giving and I'm sure many of our members gave to local service programs and sent cards to other members. In January, did you attend a Masonic Lodge Installation, go on the DeMolay Advisory Council or Job's Daughters or Rainbow Girl Advisory Boards? Did you attend your local AMI or attend an OV of our WGM and WGP? You earn points for all those items along with attending a Masonic Youth or Lodge fundraiser. Are you an elected officer of your Chapter? Have you signed a petition for the Degrees, assisted in your Chapter's fundraiser, or participated in your Chapter's Service Project? Have you substituted for an officer at another Chapter or visited another Chapter? You earned points.

The points are easy to earn and I'm sure that many of you might have already earned your Travel Pin, you just may not know it. Count your points, and turn them in. Our WGM Kimberlie wants to know the totals of the Service, Travel or Chapter activities our members have given at the end of this year. So, I hope you will turn your points in once you have reached the 223 total. I know some members who may not want the pin, but I would love to encourage you to turn in your points to either a Grand Representative, a President of the Northern or Southern Grand Representative Association, or myself. I know many of you give to our community, attend meetings, support our Masonic Youth and Lodges, and send cards to members. Our WGM, Kimberlie, wants to know the totals of all your Travel, Service, or Chapter support. If you do not want the pin, just write "No Pin Please" on your tracking sheet and no pin will be presented to you. Thank you for turning in your points.

If you have questions, please contact me at oespmjl@gmail.com.

I hope the point sheets start coming in soon.

Star Love,
Josette Losurdo
Travel Program Chairman





Save the Date

HAVING FUN IN THE NOR-CAL SUN



With sunnier weather approaching, are you looking for a good time with your Sisters and Brothers and Friends? Look no more. I've found the perfect way you can accomplish just that. Join me at the:

Nor-Cal Annual Fundraising Event Benefiting
CA EASTERN STAR'S SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Saturday, June 17, 2023

5:30 pm

Roseville Masonic Lodge, 235 Vernon Street, Roseville

The Mission Statement for the Eastern Star Homes of California is "To provide the Residents of the Senior Living Community a desirable quality of life in their senior years by assisting in housing, health care and related services in a secure, loving and respectful environment."

Our SLC provides life-enriching resources for our residents.

Please consider helping us meet our \$8,000 Fundraising Goal! You can do this by purchasing tickets and/or making donations.

Mark your calendars and save the date. In the meantime, be on the lookout for the flyer for this event. It will have all the ticketing information and there will be different packages you can choose from.

This will be an event you don't want to miss and a wonderful way to take care of our members residing at the SLC. I know I'm looking forward to it!

Susi Reynoso, Primrose Chapter #385



Calling All Grand Representatives



California Eastern Star wants to Hear from You!

Tell us about your Grand Jurisdiction and your Travel Adventures!



We want to see your pictures too!



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

We look forward to hearing from YOU!



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



Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

The following biographies are from the 2023 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. The Grand Secretary, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Esther and Warder do not have Escorts.

ESCORT TO OUR WORTHY GRAND MATRON - MARVIN KRUSE



My name is Marvin Kruse, I am the husband and Escort of Kimberlie Kruse, Worthy Grand Matron.

During the week you will find me in my office at a millwork company in Oxnard, CA. This is a change for me as I have been a Project Manager for them for almost a year. I was at my previous company as the Operations Manager for 25+ years.

There are many hobbies that I enjoy. Firearms is one of them, both shooting and reloading ammunition. My Grand Family CB handle is "Moonshine". It alludes to another hobby that I enjoy.

I was raised in Conejo Valley Lodge #807 in 2007 and am currently a member of Channel Islands Lodge #214.

I am a member of Conejo Valley Eastern Star Chapter #632 in Thousand Oaks, CA. I have held the offices of Sentinel, Marshall, Associate Patron & Worthy Patron in that Chapter.

It has been great meeting so many wonderful people over the past several years during our travels up and down the state.

I hope to see you during our travels over the next few months. Please introduce yourself if we haven't met, and if we have met, a hug or hand shake is much appreciated.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO OUR WORTHY GRAND PATRON - JUDY DUNHAM



Hello Everyone,

I am the escort to Gary Dunham, Worthy Grand Patron for 2023. I am very excited to be on this incredible journey with him.

I am a member of Mission Bell Chapter No. 205 in Richmond, and have been Worthy Matron twice and also served as Treasurer. I have been very fortunate to have been Grand Martha in 2020ne. In my working career, I have been secretary for different officers in the school system for 21 years, and am now retired. I am able to watch four of my nine grandchildren, which keeps me busy during the week. My other grandchildren live in Southern California.



ESCORT TO THE ASSOCIATE GRAND MATRON - DEBBIE VON BIMA



Good day to you. I am Debbie Von Bima, aka DVB. I am the Escort to our Associate Grand Matron Christine Huff. From time to time, you will get to see my Partner in Crime, Joe Huff. On occasion, he will be able to join us on this fabulous journey. Most of the time he is keeping the fires burning at home so Christine can travel our beautiful state and get to know so many of our awesome members.

I am also part of her Executive Team of the Fab 5 that keeps Christine and Larry our AGP running, making sure there is plenty of coffee available and Christine gets her couple of five minute cat naps. I am also the Escort to my loving husband, David Von Bima, Past Grand Patron, and had the honor of serving as Grand Treasurer in 2019 as one of Terri Ewing's snowballs.

My personal life is one I will never understand and how God keeps me going. I hope I never find out. Just one day at a time. I am on my way to becoming a cancer survivor! My mother, Past Grand Matron Ellie Duncan of Nevada, lives with us in Plumas Lake. She is a wealth of knowledge and I rely on her daily.

This year is very special to me as my husband of 46 years is in the early stages of Alzheimer Dementia. So you will see me walking and supporting many of the walks held around the state.

I have two beautiful daughters and two awesome grandchildren. Aimee lives in Gridley close to me and Laurie lives in Temecula. Our traveling gets me south many times and thus an opportunity to see her.

Well, I must go for now. Please say "hello" when I am in your area. Oh, there is the doorbell. Amazon again!



Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO THE ASSOCIATE GRAND PATRON - LAURA OROZCO



Greetings my Sisters and Brothers!

My name is Laura Orozco and I am Escort to our Associate Grand Patron, Larry. Larry and I have been married for 39 years but have known each other since we were 10 years old. We have six Children (Phillip, Shawna, Alexandra, Mychella, Jenni and Troy) and four grandchildren (Anakin, Aiden, Alyssa and Adalyne), Alyssa is our Angel in Heaven. We live in Artesia, California, which is on the border of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Larry and I came to the Masonic Family through our Children. Jenni, Alexandra, and Mychella who were Rainbow Girls and Troy, who was involved in DeMolay. It wasn't until Alex wanted to join Eastern Star in 2004 that I decided to join too. Larry and I were very involved in our kids' activities from youth football to cheer to drama to Little League to softball. I served as Conference Secretary for OCJAAF Youth Football, taught score keeping clinics, and was a team mom many times. We just enjoyed watching our kids learn and grow through outside activities.

I was initiated in February of 2004 into Emerald Star Chapter No. 143, Norwalk, and in February of 2014, I affiliated with Manchester Chapter No. 449, Downey. I have previously served as Worthy Matron two times and am currently serving as Worthy Matron of Manchester. I served as Deputy Grand Matron in 2018 and Grand Ruth in 2022, a year I will treasure forever.

I have been working at the Grand Chapter Office since January 2020. I am the Membership Clerk and very much enjoy helping our members and interacting with so many people each day. It's a good feeling knowing that you can be of some service each day. I enjoy watching old movies on TMC, cooking (when I can find the time), and spending time with my family, especially our grandchildren. They are my heart.

I look forward to continuing this journey with Larry and Christine. I am so proud of them both. They have some wonderful ideas and are so excited about the future of our Order.

Always remember, we can be anything in this world, let's all "Bee Kind".





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO THE GRAND TREASURER- BILL SERENI



Hello, my name is William Sereni. I'm the Escort to the Grand Treasurer, Ruth Sereni. We have been married for fifteen years and we have two daughters and four grandchildren. We just purchased a house in Marysville right in between Chico and Rocklin where our daughters live so we can spend as much time as possible with them. We are both retired and love to travel. So, we will be going to DC with Kimberlie in May and then off to Hawaii for our eldest daughter's fortieth birthday.

Ruth and I met at work at Tyson Foods (Gallo Salami plant) in San Lorenzo, California where we both continued to work there until we retired. Ruth's family has been involved in the Masonic Family for a long time. So, until we started dating, I didn't know I was part of a Masonic Family as well. My father had not been attending Lodge for quite some time, and when he found out I was going to become a Mason, we started going to Lodge together. Our parents would also meet at Lodge dinners every month.

Being from a Masonic Family, Ruth grew up with Rainbow in her life and so it became my life as well. We would travel to Grand Assembly and Rainbow Assembly meetings across the state as well as traveling back and forth to the LA fabric district for Grand Marshal dress fabric on the same day from the Bay Area. We have met lots of friends involved in Rainbow. Ruth's mother told her she should have me join Eastern Star so we could meet lots of new friends. Ruth, having been a Star Member since 1989 and having served as Worthy Matron, and being an acquaintance of Chris Dias from Rainbow, she was asked to be Grand Ruth and so we traveled the state with the 2016 Grand Family that year. That is where we met Kimberlie & Marvin Kruse and Judy & Gary Dunham where we all became friends.

Having been a Worthy Patron several times since I have joined, I have become very close to our Eastern Star Family. We have traveled with our friends as often as we can and then some. Having become Worldmark owners at different times, we have shared traveling together.

Kimberlie and Gary have now asked us to travel together with them in 2023 as part of their Grand Family.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO THE GRAND CHAPLAIN- HEIDI BENJAMIN



Hello and greetings to our Eastern Star members. I was requested to write an article of introduction for the Cal Star News. My name is Heidi Benjamin, wife and Escort of our 2023 Grand Chaplain, Guy Benjamin. I am honored to be traveling with Guy to assist him with his journey as Grand Chaplain as he meets and greets our members, especially the Chaplains of California.

I am a 41-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star with dual membership at Rose Valley Chapter No. 33 in Santa Rosa, and Gateway Chapter No. 3 in Vallejo. Additionally, I am a member of Nefru-Ari Temple No. 17, Daughters of the Nile. I had the pleasure of serving as Worthy Matron in 1992, 2011, and 2019 and am currently serving as Conductress in 2023. If elected, I will serve as Worthy Matron in 2025. I have enjoyed serving as Chairperson for various Chapter installations, fundraising events and Grand Officers' Receptions. I was honored to serve as Grand Representative of West Virginia in California (1993-1995), Deputy Grand Matron in 2007 and as Grand Martha in 2013. As a young adult, I had the opportunity to serve our Youth Orders as a Council Member for Jobs Daughters International and as Chairman of the Board for the International Order of the

Rainbow for Girls. Lastly, I had the opportunity to serve on various Grand Chapter Committees such as Aims and Objectives, Membership, Leadership, Constitution and Laws, Foundation, Finance, and the Special Committee to study the election process of the Associate Grand Conductress. My fraternal journey of service has given me the chance to meet members I consider my family and friends.

In 2003, I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Dominican University in San Rafael where I obtained my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Strategic Management with a minor in Accounting. My professional background was predominantly in construction accounting management and agriculture. Before retiring, I served as Chief Financial Officer of several large construction companies in the Bay Area. I have actively worked with a variety of business and philanthropic organizations such as Soroptimist International in Vallejo, Benicia Business Works, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. I am currently completing my term as President of the Rotary Club of Benicia.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my husband, doing crafts, listening to music, entertaining guests, and being outdoors with our Yellow Lab, Valet.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO THE GRAND MARSHAL- MARY AMAN



Hello sisters and brothers! My name is Mary Aman, the mom and Escort of our 2023 Grand Marshal, Cathy Veley. Some of you may better know me as Lambie Mommy. It is a true honor to get to share this journey with Cathy as she travels throughout the state, meeting and greeting members along the way.

I am a 51-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star. I have served as Worthy Matron in 1976, 1984, 1992, 1996, 2016, and 2022. I was DGM in 1991, Grand Representative of Maryland 2010-2012, and Mother Advisor of Atascadero Rainbow Assembly 1981-1984. I had the opportunity to serve on various Grand Chapter Committees, such as Courtesies to Dignitaries and Inner Guard.

My Great-Great Grandmother was an Eastern Star member in Arizona and my family has long served the Masonic families. Currently, my Chapter has four generations of women from my family as active members, and that is an absolute blessing.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my daughter and visiting with my brothers. I like to work on various projects, everything from plastic canvas to sewing and many others in between. I like to be outdoors, looking at and appreciating what is always around us.

I am grateful to join along the fun and travels with her and our 2023 Family. If you see me while we are out, please do not hesitate to stop by and say "Hi!" I will always welcome a friendly conversation.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO THE GRAND ORGANIST - DENNIS DAVIS



Hi, I am Dennis Davis, Escort to the 2023 Grand Organist, Mary Davis.

Here's a little about myself. I was born in Portland, Oregon and raised in the urban area of South Medford. During my Jr High year we moved to Oakland, California where I attended Oakland High School and Diablo Valley College in Concord California. I finished my education at Sacramento State College with a BS in Civil Engineering.

Before Graduation, I married my first wife and had two daughters and adopted a son. I took a job with the Army Corps of Engineers. I was divorced and remarried in 1978. That added another daughter about the same age as my first and a son the same age as my son. That has blossomed into 11 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Wait--there's more. Another great grandchild is on the way in the late spring.

My Masonic background started shortly after my second marriage to Mary. I joined the Masons in 1980, a year later, the Scottish Rite and Shrine. I never went up the Line in Masons but am presently the Tyler at Natoma 64. I joined the Clown unit and took the name McDuff. I found out about Rainbow and signed my three daughters up. They are all Past Worthy Advisors and one is the Past Grand Treasurer of the Teddy year. Her daughter (my Granddaughter who is about to present me with my third Great Grand Daughter) joined Rainbow and is a twice past Grand Officer. My mother was in Rainbow in the twenties and I found her dues card signed by W. Mark Sexson, founder of Rainbow for Girls. Rainbow became our life and I was on the Board for most of the next 25 years. When I wasn't, Mary was.

Mary joined Eastern Star about the time I joined Masons. I did not join Eastern Star until 2013 as Mary wanted to go up the Line and asked me to be her Patron. As soon as I was initiated, I was installed as Associate Patron and, in 2014, Worthy Patron. I would go on to hold that office twice more. I also held the offices of Sentinel, Treasurer, and am presently Marshal.

As you can see, I am a family man and as such, it has been so much fun traveling with the Grand Family of 2023.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO GRAND ADAH - HELENE NICHOLSON



To introduce myself, I am Helene Nicholson, Escort to my daughter Leslie Nicholson, who is serving as Grand Adah this year. I live in Ferndale, located on the coast about 100 miles from the Oregon border. I come from a Masonic background as my dad was a Mason. He and Mom joined Ferndale Chapter #23 OES in 1957. In 1962, I was initiated into Humboldt Assembly #216, IORG, as a Charter Member. I held a few offices and helped with service projects before getting my Marriage Majority. In 1966, I joined Ferndale Chapter #23 and have been an active member for 56 plus years. I have five children, two boys and three girls. The girls all joined Humboldt Assembly and one served as Grand Chaplain the Panda Year. Leslie served as GEC and California Flag Bearer, the Giraffe year. I served as a Grand Deputy and was awarded the Grand Cross of Color. In Eastern Star, I have served as Worthy Matron four times, two years as DGM, as Grand Representative of Oregon 2016-2018, and received the Service Award in 1996. I have served on the Consolidation and Home Endowment Committees and have held many offices. I am currently serving as Secretary. I am enjoying traveling the state with my daughter and getting to meet our members. Please introduce yourself to me when I am in your area. I would be happy to visit with you.

ESCORT TO GRAND RUTH - TONY BEYENHOF



Hello, my name is Tony Beyenhof and I am thrilled to be able to travel the state as Escort to the 2023 Grand Ruth, my wife Stacy. We are both looking forward to meeting as many of our wonderful members as possible.

I have lived in Southern California my entire life. As a youth, I was extremely active in the Boy Scout program, having attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Some of my Scouting friends are still close friends today.

Stacy and I have been married for over 33 years. Actually, her brother is one of my closest friends from Scouting. While we have no children of our own, there are several "adopted" children from our years working with the various Youth Orders. We have also had several cat children over the years.

This year, I will have been a Mason for 30 years. I have served two years as Master of Upland-Mt. Baldy Lodge, followed by eight years as Secretary. I was honored to receive the Hiram Award in 2010.

I joined Upland Chapter in 2006. I have served as Worthy Patron twice and I am currently serving as Associate Patron. I served as Grand Representative of Maine in California for 2020-2023.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO GRAND MARTHA - MICHAEL PADILLA



I'm Micheal A. Padilla, Husband of Grand Martha. Thank you, Sister Kimberlie and Brother Gary, for asking us to join your Grand Family for the 2023 year.

I was born in Arcadia, California, but grew up in San Diego. I moved to Riverside in 1987 and began working as a glazier. I became a partner of Empire Glass and Mirror in 1990. In December of 1993, I ventured out on my own and opened Precision Glass & Mirror. This family-owned business has enjoyed almost 30 years servicing Riverside and the surrounding areas.

My Masonic journey, begin with a chance meeting with the late Worshipful Bob Barden in June 2005. He came to my shop in need of a piece of mirror. He invited my wife and I to dinner and, after a few months, we finally made it. This was the beginning of many memories and friendships. I was raised in 2006 in Temescal Palms Lodge #314, Corona, CA. I served as Worshipful Master in 2013 and 2014, and as Officers Coach from 2016 – 2018. I was on the Board of Trustees and was President for the TMTA. I have served the Grand Lodge of California as a Member of the Membership Development Committee, and as

Senior Grand Steward for the Most Worshipful Arthur H. Weiss, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California and am currently serving as Inspector of District 822.

I am a Past High Priest in Riverside Chapter Royal Arch Masons #67, a Past Illustrious Master in Riverside Cryptic Masons #59, have served and am serving as a Member of the Youth Committee for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California, and am a Past Commander in Riverside Commandery #28. I am a member of the Valley of San Bernardino Scottish Rite, the Hill of Tara Council #116 Knight Masons, York Rite Sovereign College of North America, El Bekal Shriners of Anaheim, Inland Empire Conclave Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, St. Bernard – St. John Council No. 100 Allied Masonic Degrees, Saint John the Baptist Tabernacle No. LXVI (60) Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and KYCH Priory.

I am a Past Royal Patron in Mission Bell Court #156, have served as Amaranth Grand Sentinel in 2019 and Grand Prelate in 2020, I am currently the Deputy Grand Royal Patron for the Grand Court of California, Order of the Amaranth, Incorporated. I am on the Advisory Board for Helen G. McCallum Assembly #207, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and am a Past Patron of Ungava Chapter #106, and a former Grand Sentinel, having served for the Past Grand Matron Laura Bouwens and Past Grand Patron Scott Smissen in 2022.

I met my wife, Kelly, on April 15, 1993 at the Brandin' Iron in San Bernardino. We were married on November 15, 1997. We have five kids in our blended family and we have 14 grandchildren and one more due in April.

In my free time, I enjoy playing video games, traveling, and watching TV. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and the friendships yet to be built.





Meet the 2023 Grand Escorts

ESCORT TO GRAND ELECTA - LAURIE SWEEZEY



I am Laurie Swezey, Escort to the Grand Electa. I have been a member of Eastern Star for 25 years.

Kristy is my daughter and I've enjoyed traveling this year with her and the Grand Family.

I look forward to meeting you on my travels. I am also Grand Representative of Maryland in California.



ESCORT TO GRAND SENTINEL - SHANELLE ROSS



Hello Members of California Eastern Star!

I am Shanelle Ross and am blessed to be married to and travelling with my husband, Chris Ross, the 2023 Grand Sentinel. I was raised here in Lodi where Chris and I live with our two boys, Callum and Luke. I was introduced to the Masonic Family through my dad, Will McVicker, who is a Past Master and Past Patron and has been Secretary for both Lodge and our local Star Chapter for several years.

I joined Wood-Lo Assembly #20 Rainbow in Lodi at the age of 12. Our Assembly not only had a full corps of officers but had a choir of six girls. I served in Grand Choir, became a Past Worthy Advisor and was announced as the Grand Representative of Kentucky for the 1994-95 year of the Outrageous Otters! I was initiated into Woodbridge Chapter in 1993, went through the Line for the first time under Janet Robinson in 2003, and have since served as WM in 2007, 2019, and 2023. I was surprised and humbled to be asked to serve as DGM for the first time in 2020ne and again for 2022.

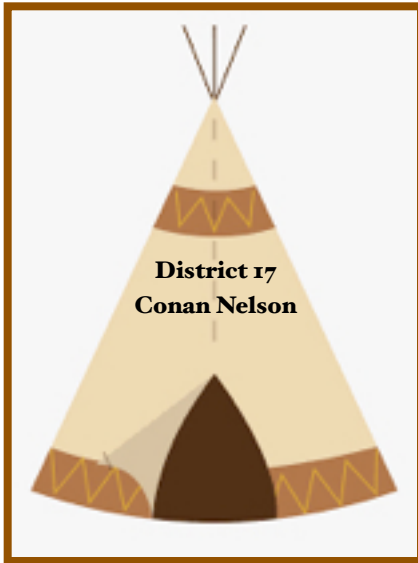
Although Chris knew nothing of the Masonic Life before meeting and dating me, he has enjoyed it more than I could have hoped. I enjoy sharing our home life and Masonic life with him and both our boys. Callum is a Past Master Councilor and recently was elected Division Representative for NorCal DeMolay, and Luke is Senior Squire in the Stockton Squires Manor.

If you see us in our travels, please come and say "hi", I promise although I can be quiet at first...it doesn't last long!

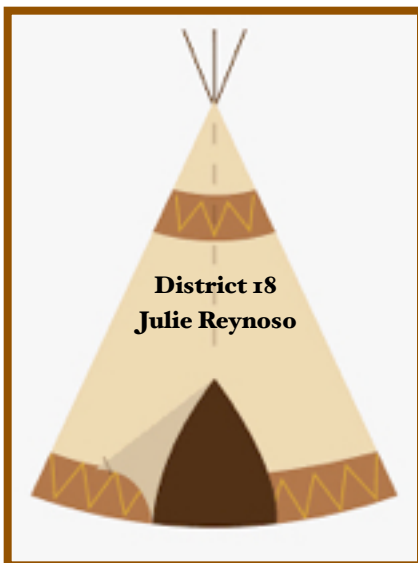


2023 Deputy Grand Matrons

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



I am Conna Nelson, Deputy Grand Matron for District 17. My journey in the Masonic Family began in January of 1980 when I was initiated into Job's Daughters Bethel No. 171, Ceres, CA. About two weeks after my term as Honored Queen, I joined Smyrna Chapter #416 (thru consolidation became Ceres #296) in December 1986. My grandmother, Helen Bowser, was Adah at the time. I am a third generation OES member. My first office was Esther in 2007, then Treasurer for a few years, then into the Line I went reaching the office of Worthy Matron for the first time in 2017, DGM in 2020ne, and WM again in 2022. I have been happily married to Doug Nelson for the past 19 years. We have four children and two grandchildren.



Hello everyone, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Julie Reynoso from Carmel Chapter #282, Carmel by the Sea.

I'm a fourth generation Carmelite. I have two children, two grandchildren, and am a recent widow.

My Grandmother, Lenore Cross, introduced me to the Order of the Eastern Star in Carmel by going to Installations and helping to cook sweet treats. I became a member in 2009.

My days are filled with; running a small Carmel Inn, babysitting a lovely little boy with Cerebral Palsy, attending Lady's Oriental Shrine, Ankh #92, San Jose, where I was High Priestess in 2019-2020, and the Order of Eastern Star, where I was Worthy Matron in 2017 and 2022. All this keeps me on my toes.

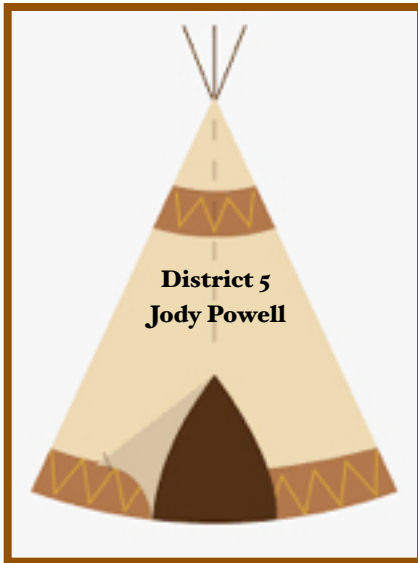
But I still have time for my favorite things: cooking, a walk on the beach, swimming, and treasure hunting.

You might also find me wearing a clown costume, in a parade or at a hospital. If you see me, you can call me Jeepers.

I'm so grateful for my Star family. When I needed someone most, you were there. Hugs.



2023 Deputy Grand Matrons



Hi! I'm Jody Powell and I am the Deputy Grand Matron for District 5. I joined Eastern Star in the late '80s. My father, Virgil, is a Master Mason and Shriner. My brother, Tracy, is a Master Mason. My Mother, Marlene, was a member of Eastern Star before her passing in 1992, and my daughter Samantha is also a member of Eastern Star. I originally joined Eastern Star so that I could work with the young ladies of Rainbow for Girls. My love for Eastern Star and its charity work only grew from there. My favorite service project with Eastern Star is Paws for Purple Hearts. This is especially important to me since my son-in-law is a disabled Veteran with a service dog. My first office was Martha and my daughter followed in my footsteps and her first office was Martha as well. I have been Worthy Matron four times, 2013 & 2017 in Oroville, CA and 2018 & 2019 in Paradise, CA prior to their consolidation to form Golden Feather #35. I moved to Iowa in March of 2021 and returned to California in January 2022 after the passing of my husband, Gene, of almost 30 years.

I have two daughters and sons-in-law, two grandchildren, four adopted grandchildren, and three cats at home. In my free time I like to volunteer with my church. Every year

our church does mission trips to Mexico to donate shoes to the underprivileged. It is on my bucket list to someday go to Israel and be baptized in the Jordan River. I work for a non-profit who aids low income and elderly customers with assistance for utility bills and home weatherization.

I am excited to be the Deputy Grand Matron for District 5. This is my first time as a Deputy. I am truly honored to have been selected for this position. I look forward to traveling, teaching, and getting to know you all more throughout the year.

Hi there, I'm Nancy "Gale" Watkins from the far north of the state beneath the great mountain, Mt. Shasta.

Like my grandfather who was named after his father, I'm named after my mother. Two Nancys in the same household can be confusing.

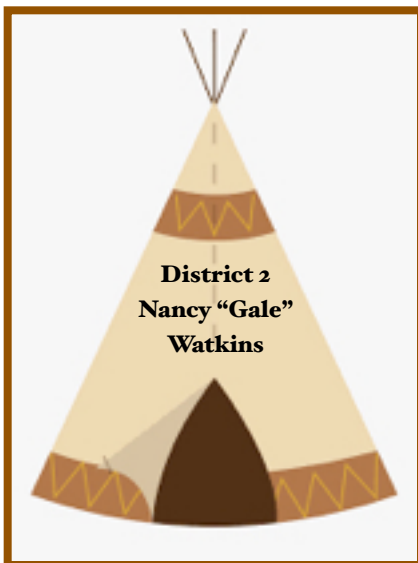
I have a daughter who, forgive me, I think is amazing.

I'm a bit of a loner. I love walking the open places with my dog, Wren, where I can't help but see clouds in the great blue sky and interesting stones and bring them home. Luckily, the neighbor kids come by and ask for them.

Semi-precious gemstones are something else! When the McKinney Fire threatened and my closest friends and I prepared to evacuate, I gathered all the jewelry I had made with different stones...tiger eye, aquamarine, jade, garnet, kyanite, larimar, moonstone, etc...I had 13 pounds of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings I had made... Goodness Gracious!

When I was young, my grandmother taught my sisters and me how to crochet and tat. Every chance I get, I'm making some doily. Do any of you know how to tat? I'm missing one little step! I know it, but I don't know it.

I have found a Family within The Order. I can't thank you enough. Being alone is okay. But being with dear Sisters and Brothers is the best. Thank you.





2023 Deputy Grand Matrons



My name is May Seto, appointed 2023 Deputy Grand Matron for lucky District #13 which consists of Golden Gate Chapter #1 and Unity Chapter #186. Both are in Northern California.

My husband, Gus Lopez, joined the Masonic Order after he retired from the Marines in 2007. It took a few years before we both joined the Del Mar Chapter in Pacifica.

Immediately, I was the Secretary for my first year and then Worthy Matron the next year. Del Mar has since merged with Unity Chapter. I was Marshall for one year. Unfortunately, Unity met on the same evening as the Asiya Shrine Temple and Gus was in the Divan Line so we demitted from Unity and became full time members of Golden Gate. Since then, I was Electa one year and decided to go up the Line to gain the full experience. I will be Associate Matron in 2023 along with my duties as DGM.

Compared to many of you, our experience in the Masonic Family is short. But we have jumped right in and have been very active in the Blue Lodges, Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, and especially Shriners. We have attended the last three Shriners International Conventions and volunteered at the past three Shriners PGA tours. We have travelled to Lodges in multiple states and made many new friends. This year, Gus is the President of the Western Shrine Association.

If I may, I would like to share a little of my biography, so you have a better idea of who I am.

My parents fled Communist China in late 1940s and lived in Macau (a Portuguese colony) instead of Hong Kong (a British colony). We were British subjects, but it was cheaper to live in Macau. Before I was born in 1951, my father lost the family fortune to his business partner. At that time, there was only one casino in Macau and the economy was bad, so it was very hard to find a job. We survived through the kindness of our relatives in the United States who sent money to us. Macau was a small island and a very nice place to grow up. It must have taken at least 12 years before the United States gave us approval to immigrate. So, on 12/18/1962, my parents and five siblings boarded the SS President Liner and sailed across the Pacific to San Francisco.

We lived near our relatives in Sacramento. Eight of us lived in a two-bedroom apartment. We had running water, a flushing toilet, and a bathtub. We were in heaven. For school, I was in the same classes with sixth graders for all subjects except English. For English, the first-grade teacher spent ten minutes with me daily and we completed six years of English in one year. Luckily, the corner convenience storeowner hired two of my older brothers and me to help him. Our daily pay was a loaf of bread and a half gallon of milk. On Fridays, he would take us out to pizza and milk shakes.

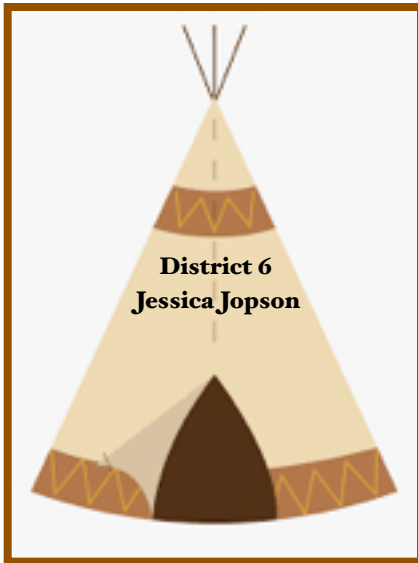
We left California and I spent eighth grade through college in Arizona. In high school, I was active in many clubs and student government. I was one of two appointees to Girl's State in my Junior year. I graduated in the top 10% of a class of 800 seniors. Then I attended Arizona State University, and obtained a Bachelors' Degree in Quantitative Systems. I then followed my boyfriend to California and have not left since.

I worked at Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank, Merrill Lynch, GAP, Franklin Templeton, and the University of California in San Francisco in business software development and maintenance, both as a developer and as a manager. So, what I did was to identify problems and solve them. I have been retired for five years now. Sometimes, I still wish to go back to work, but I love my freedom to travel at will too much to go back to work.

Besides the Masonic Family, I am also a member of the Lions' Family. So, I do keep myself very busy. We live in Burlingame with two cats (Jake and Freddie Cat) and my niece.



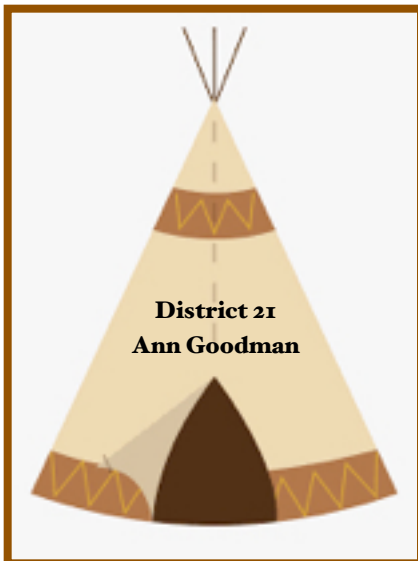
2023 Deputy Grand Matrons



“In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn” -Phil Collins

Hello California Eastern Star! My name is Jessica Jopson and I am the 2023 Deputy Grand Matron for District 6. I belong to River Valley Chapter #48 and Rose Chapter #292. I have been a member of Eastern Star since August of 2005. I am a fourth generation Eastern Star member. My grandmother, Janet Jopson, was Grand Electa in 2001 and my mom, Sandy Jopson, was Deputy Grand Matron in 2002. When I am not attending Eastern Star meetings and events, my time is mostly spent with family, friends, my husky Loki, and running. I work full time as a Special Education teacher. I travel between three elementary schools providing academic services to students. Over the years I have run numerous 5ks, 10ks, and half marathons. In 2019 I ran my first marathon, the California International Marathon (CIM). I ran it again in December 2022. Work, running, and Eastern Star keeps me busy. In my spare time I like to read and bake. During the last few years I have been busy, so I have not been able to do much baking. I hope to have more time to read the stack of books I have on my table while baking. Until then, I look forward to supporting the Chapters of District 6 and traveling around California.

My name is Ann Goodman and I am the 2023 Deputy Grand Matron of District 21, which incorporates Santa Lucia Chapter #95 in San Luis Obispo and Central Coast Star Chapter #97 in Santa Maria.



I joined Mizpah Chapter Eastern Star in October of 2007 and Affiliated with Corona Chapter in January 2012 when my sister and her daughter joined OES. I served as Worthy Matron of Santa Lucia Chapter in 2018 and currently serve as Conductress in my Chapter.

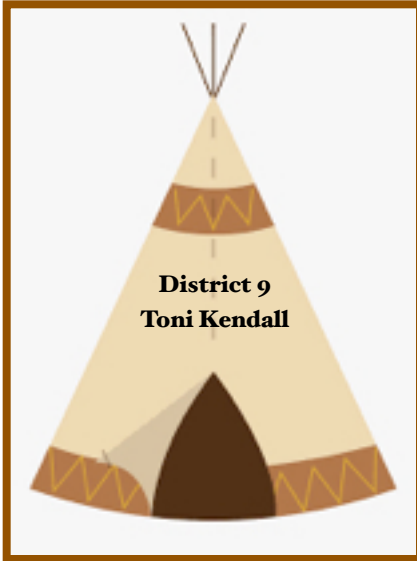
I joined the Masonic Family in my teenage years and served as Honored Queen for Bethel #18 Job's Daughters International in Santa Barbara from June through December 1982. My theme was “No one soars too high, if they soar with their own wings.” My daughter made the decision to join the International Order Rainbow for Girls on an invitation from a friend, where she served as Grand Love in 2004. Within two years of her joining, I was Installed as Mother Advisor and was honored to serve for 15+ years in this position, three of which I also served on the CAIORG Grand Executive Committee. I also served CAIORG as a Grand Deputy.

I want to thank Kimberlie and Gary for placing their trust into my hands and honoring me with the position of Deputy Grand Matron for District 21. With the support and encouragement of those that have gone before me in this position, I look forward to motivating and strengthening the members and officers of Central Coast Star and Santa Lucia Chapters as we continue our journey together in dedication to Charity, Truth, and Loving-kindness.

As we walk this path together, serving with gladness, my prayer for each of you is this: God in heaven let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer and action. May You continue to watch over and keep each of us, our Chapters, and all of the California Order of the Eastern Star Family safe in the palm of Your hand.



2023 Deputy Grand Matrons



Hi everyone! Deputy Grand Matron, District 9: Toni Kendall. I am a third-generation member of Eastern Star and a second-generation Job's Daughter, with my daughter is carrying on both traditions and giving us four generations of Eastern Star membership and service. I have been a member for forty-four years, have served as Worthy Matron twice, Associate Matron, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Marshal eight times, Sentinel twice and was just elected as Associate Conductress. Other Masonic services include serving on Job's Daughters Bethel Executive Council and DeMolay Chapter Advisor and Council Member.

I have two children, my daughter, Eujenya, who is my Escort this year, my son, Gregory, who is married with three beautiful daughters. In my professional life, I work for a small estate winery where I wear a variety of hats that include Human Resource Director, Administration Manager and Controller, and sometimes I even clear tables and wash glasses.

I am very active in my local Relay for Life, in which our Chapter has been participating for twenty years. I have served as Event Chair or Co-chair twelve times, Accounting Chair four years, Online Chair two years and Registration Chair two years. Our event has raised over three million dollars in the fight against cancer. I served as the Chairperson for Relay for Life for 2022 for Sister Laura and Brother Scott.





Grand Representative

Eastern Star in the State of Idaho

By Pat McDonald, Grand Representative of Idaho in California

I am excited to tell California OES about my Grand Jurisdiction of Idaho. We have many things similar, and lots of fun things that are different.

First off, Idaho itself is nowhere near as large in square miles as California – 83,642 square miles versus 163,696 for California. But truth be told, travel times from furthest point to furthest point is similar – 8 hours for Idaho (Pocatello to Sandpoint) and 11 hours for California (San Diego to Weed.) Plus, in Idaho, there are two time zones so that could add an hour to your trip!

Idaho has 26 chapters and approximately 1,400 members. Grand Chapter is held typically from about June 10-14th every year. And, their Chapter Installations of new officers usually take place in April – **BEFORE** Grand Chapter!

California Grand Secretary Tammy Kinzy found 98 California OES members that currently live in Idaho. And a survey of Idaho chapters finds about 20 Idaho Star members living in California. One of the members of Hermosa Chapter in Caldwell actually lives right around the corner from me in Paradise Park – small world!!

I love this – Idaho Code and Digest compares to California’s Constitution and Laws.....but Idaho’s is about 102 pages long (including Instructions) where California’s is more like 400 pages! Plus, in California, there is a 125-page Instruction Book of another set of things to absorb.

During the closing of a Chapter Meeting in California, while we close the Bible, we sing the “Evening Song” (“if I have wounded any soul today....”) Members moving to other jurisdictions usually really miss this, as that is not done in other places. But, Idaho incoming Worthy Matrons and Patrons select their own odes. My Sister Joan selected the “Evening Song” as her Chapter Closing Ode. California finds us using the odes selected by the Worthy Grand Matron and Patron.

So, lots of differences but even more similarities! I will be telling you more about myself and about the different Chapters next edition.



NOTE: Photo is a bit blurry but the red notations indicate the location of the 26 Chapters in Idaho





Chapter Reports

SAN CLEMENTE-SADDLEBACK CHAPTER #524

Submitted by Charlene Norris, PM

Now that I am not in the East, I have developed an entirely new perspective again watching the movements, listening to the words actually hearing the ceremony.

Our year began with the Installation of WM Staci Stouch who is a first timer. This brought us to the “Twas the Night before Christmas” December meeting and then on to the Winter Wonderland in January, and our recent Valentines meeting. Our March Meeting coming up will be "Who stole my Lucky Charms," What wonderful themes WM Staci and WP Bruce have chosen.

It's been a rough couple of years for Eastern Star and New WM's are really striving to re-energize the order with great themes, better sharing of information and good COMMUNICATION.

I have attached a picture of our valentine meeting. We are small but mighty but our Membership Committee is hard working and even have petitions out.

What a wonderful organization this is and I belong to one of the best chapters in the state.



SUNSET CHAPTER #300

Submitted by Tonya Thompson, AM



Saving Sunset – an idea born from the love of our Chapter, Sunset #300, and a call to rejuvenate it post-pandemic. We surely have! We stand united and “in the know” with our revitalized newsletter that is comprised of varying Chapter members’ articles. A huge movement has been made to build rapport and friendships by creating a fun space with ‘pre-meeting’ events. Sometimes this includes a potluck and other times it might be indoor yard games or fun challenges before Chapter. We’ve launched monthly mini-fundraisers and that adds up to a lot! By this, I mean morale, fun, and funds. In March, our featured events are pots ‘o gold filled with succulents dawned with coins and a little bling coupled with a

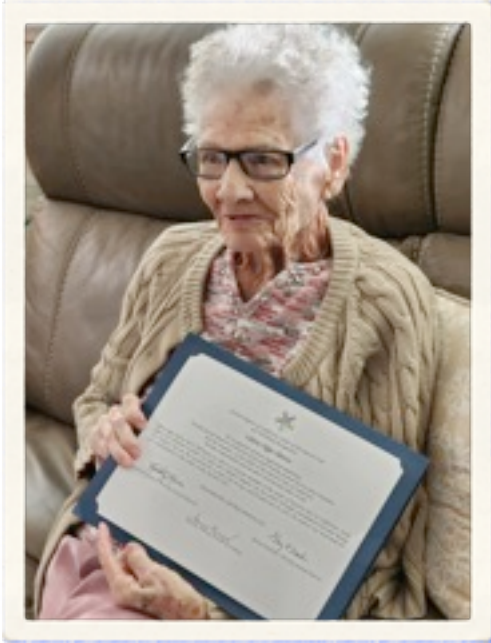
fundraiser by our very own member and local crafting artist. Joy can also be found as we serve where the need is great. Sunset Chapter partners with a local non-profit, The Alley, to ease the needs of those less fortunate. This can be as hands-on as kitchen help and as simple as a donation of socks. All efforts have an impact on both the lives of others and the hearts of our members.



Chapter Reports

RISING STAR CHAPTER #36

Submitted by Jackie Bozeman, PM



On February 22, members of Rising Star #36, Sacramento, visited our second oldest member, Clara Slavec. She was celebrating her 105th birthday. She was joined by two of her three daughters. Her eyesight is not good, and she has trouble hearing but she was excited to receive a 105th birthday certificate signed by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. She received her 50-year pin in 2016. Visiting with her was a delight.



105 Year Old Clara Slavec with her certificate from Grand Chapter - Happy Birthday!

CHANNEL ISLANDS CHAPTER #78

Submitted by Diane Lotspeich, PM

Please Join Us for Dinner! Channel Islands Chapter 78 hosted a “Not Home Alone” Thanksgiving Dinner for the members of our Ventura Masonic Family who did not wish to be alone on the Holiday. A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served to 20 members and friends. The meal was enjoyed by all and everyone went home with a take away box with the leftovers to enjoy the next day.





Chapter Reports

MOLINO STAR CHAPTER #83

Submitted by Janyce Mathis, WM/PM

Molino Star #83 in Los Molinos, CA started the term out with a red, white and blue Installation on Veterans' weekend. Janyce Mathis was installed as Worthy Matron and Joyce Honerlah as Associated Matron. They will be leading the Chapter for 2023.

The Chapter continues supporting local organizations and gave a donation to the Tehama County 4H Camp. Several of our members recall attending the camp over 50 years ago when they were members of 4H. The funds will help support our youth in being able to attend camp where they will learn new skills and experience the outdoors.

Molino Star also voted to sponsor 75 "Aprons for Autism" that a local quilt shop, Quilt Culture, has started. Natalie Caldwell, the owner, has twin granddaughters that are autistic and saw a need for aprons for the twins to wear to school. Next thing Natalie knows everyone is asking for aprons. Please go to Quilt Culture's web site. www.quiltculture.art to learn more about this project. Just in Tehama County Natalie had 75 requests for aprons.

In February we held a special meeting to initiate a new member, Chris Carey, from Vesper Lodge. We are very excited to have a new gentleman join our Chapter.

In March we had a fantastic corn beef and cabbage dinner that was enjoyed before our Friendship Night. As it was our Deputy Grand Matron's, JJ Jensen, OV, we started the meeting with Special Escort. It was great to have sideliners from several Chapters. This also turned out to be JJ's farewell as she and her husband Tom have decided to relocate to Ohio to be closer to family. We wish JJ and Tom a stressless move and will miss them.

As I write this, we are working on our OV and are looking forward to this event in April.



Molino Star Chapter makes donations to Tehama County 4-H Club for their summer camp



A Red, White and Blue Installation!



Chapter Reports

GOLD RIDGE STAR CHAPTER #161

Submitted by Vivian Bens-Hower, PM

**Stuffing portpals are:
Linda Thomas, Marjean
O'Neill, Marcia McFarland
and Sandy Caster**



Cindy Andrews, PM - Sew Busy!



**Not Pictured
Seamstress
Judy Burton**



**Standing L-R: Patty Stahl, PM, Marjean O'Neill, PM, Robin Bens, PM, Marcia McFarland, DGM, Vivian Bens-Hower, PM, Sandy Caster & Julie Thompson
Seated L-R: Jeanne Smith, PM, Linda Thomas, Cindy Andrews, PM, & Beth Lewis**

The Chapters of the Redwood Empire District 10 got involved in a “Day” of Service during the month of February putting the final touches on 155 Port Pals and 24 Comfort Pillows. Spearheaded by Robin Bens, Associate Matron of Gold Ridge Star Chapter # 161 and Grand Representative of Missouri in California, and Jeanne Smith, PM, the event was held at the Sebastopol Masonic Center on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, with 12 members from Gold Ridge Star, Rose Valley, Sotoyome-Clover Leaf, and Star of the Redwoods Chapters participating. Advertised as “No sewing skills necessary,” members enjoyed light refreshments and lots of comradery as they stuffed Port Pals, beautifully pre-sewn by Gold Ridge Star member Judy Burton. A total of 36.5 hours was logged for this event.



Event Coordinator Robin Bens, PM with bag of comfort pillows!



Chapter Reports

JOAQUIN CHAPTER #348

Submitted by Denise Armstrong, PM - Article written by Terry Donaldson

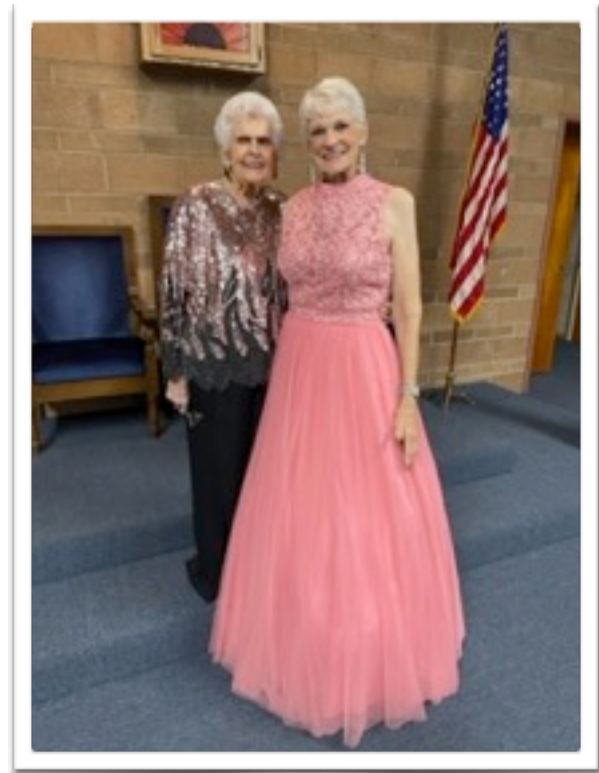
Rowena Donaldson, 99 years old, was installed as our Marshal on November 15, 2022. This is the first time she has held an office in the 14 years since she was initiated into Joaquin Chapter OES, in Tracy.

In 1958, Rowena was the wife of H. Harris Donaldson, Jr., when he was Worshipful Master of Foothill Lodge #564, Free and Accepted Masons in Oakland, California. Later, she was active in her daughters' Job's Daughters Bethel #169 in Los Altos, holding Board positions and being Bethel Guardian in 1965 when both daughters were Honored Queens. (An interesting piece of OES history: Walt Hammond was Associate Bethel Guardian that year, too. He and his wife, Ferne Hammond, were active in California Grand Chapter for decades.)

A little bit about Rowena: Born in Chilliwack, British Columbia, she moved to Southern California as a toddler. She attended schools in a few beach towns, graduating from Venice High School in 1940. In 1945, she married Harris and moved to Oakland. They had two daughters. The family vacationed at the family cabin in Felton until Harris finished building their first ski boat. The Donaldson Family participated in The Golden Gate Water Ski Club Shows and Competitions.

They built their home on the San Joaquin River Delta themselves after demolishing a few buildings to reuse and reclaim building materials. Rowena even drew up the blueprints that were submitted to Alameda County for their building permits.

A bookkeeper by training, Rowena did the books for the family printing business and a few restaurants on the San Francisco Peninsula. **Continued on Page 29**



Rowena and Terry at Joaquin Chapter Installation Newly Installed Marshal and Martha



Rowena with Daughters Terry and Janaia at her 99th Birthday Celebration - Both daughters are Past Honored Queens from Bethel 169 Los Altos





Chapter Reports

JOAQUIN CHAPTER #348 **Continued from Page 28**

Submitted by Denise Armstrong, PM - Article written by Terry Donaldson



Rowena and Terry as Sparkles dressed as Christmas Elf at Joaquin Chapter Holiday Breakfast

In the photographs with Rowena is her youngest daughter, Terry, who joined Star at the same time. They live 12 miles from each other and are often seen together attending Chamber of Commerce functions, GFWC Tracy Woman's Club events, and Church. Terry has been Joaquin's Martha during a few terms and finally talked her mom into holding office.

Terry is well known throughout Tracy and the surrounding areas as Sparkles the Clown. She began clowning around in 1997 and every child in Tracy knows and loves her.

Rowena will be celebrating her 100th Birthday at the Mt. Oso Masonic Temple in Tracy on April 10th, 2023.

Fast forward to 1998. Rowena survived breast cancer! While recovering, she decided that she wanted to learn to sing. She started singing lessons at the age of 75 and loved it and sounded good, too! She went from being somewhat timid to out-going. She now sings every Tuesday with a band at the Senior Center in Tracy, and dances on Thursdays in Modesto where she sings with that band during the last hour. She still sings solos regularly at Church, and occasionally sings at weddings and at funerals.

The key to her longevity? Her positive attitude, avoiding pharmaceuticals, staying active and involved, reading and doing puzzles to keep her mind alert, her faith, and selectively watching TV, only to follow her favorite football teams.



Terry as Sparkles participating in Tracy 4th of July Parade



Chapter Reports

ESCONDIDO CHAPTER #154 - **Continued from Page 30**

Submitted by Divona Roy, PM

Our Official Visit of Worthy Grand Matron Kimberlie and Worthy Grand Patron Gary was on a very rainy Saturday, February 25, and shared the traditions of District 32 along with shout-outs to the heroes of our Order who were presented during escort that night. Before the OV, officers and members were able to sit and share stories with Grand Officers during a light dinner of soup and salad. A unique pre-ceremony presented each officer with a vital piece of OES paraphernalia as our General Grand Chapter Officer, Sister Susan White, Worthy Grand Marshal and Past Grand Matron of California, shared a narration she wrote about Chapter connections between the officers and the items they carried. Our youth groups also took part by escorting their flags to the East Line, sharing a bit about their awesome Orders, and posting their flags near the Secretary's desk for us to enjoy during our OV. Officers did a great job at the traditional OV, and everyone enjoyed the grab & go refreshment bags on their way back out on the "Happy Trail."

Escondido Chapter's cold winter months have been warmed by the friendship of OES Sisters and Brothers, and we're looking forward to a spring filled with the fun of Party Night season in San Diego County and entertaining fundraisers created by some of our most gifted members.



Escondido Chapter with WGM/WGM & DGM at District 32 Official Visit



Chapter Reports

NATOMA SAN JUAN CHAPTER #233

Submitted by Luanne Lenience, WM

The Christmas Party at Natoma-San Juan #233 was extra special as we hosted Danielle McGarrity, Development Director at the Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento. Each year, our Leisure Hour group makes duffle bags for the children to use. Danielle was invited to speak and to receive the bags and many other gifts for the children.

Dinner was planned as well as entertainment. Only one problem. Arriving at 2pm to help start dinner, the chef was not there. He thought the dinner was the next evening! As the chef and all the food he purchased were not in the Sacramento area, it became a mad scramble to purchase and cook food. Our Chapter members stepped up immediately. Food was purchased and prepared in time for dinner. It was like a well-oiled machine! People who had never helped in the kitchen joined in and followed along, learning the kitchen routine as they went. The “kitchen pros” moved things along and even though it was an “emergency”, everyone had a good time. We are so fortunate to have such caring, talented and happy members.

Now what to do with all the food purchased by the caterer? Churches and the City were called to see if anyone would like a donated dinner, but to no avail. Danielle was asked if the Children’s Receiving Home would like a dinner cooked for them the following evening. So, Chef Adam, his sous-chef Lampert, and the Worthy Matron made Christmas dinner with plenty of leftovers. It was a joy to see these children fill themselves with turkey, and all the trimmings. It seems with faith and kindness and love, things that may seem a calamity can be turned around. Many thanks to Natoma-San Juan members and to Adam and Lambert; each of you made this past Christmas one to remember.

PICTURED IN PHOTOS

Danielle McGarrity, Development Director at Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento

Chef Adam and Sous-chef Lambert

Christmas Dinner for the children

Joann Sprogis, River Valley Chapter and members Dixie Van Allen and Anne Wilhoit enjoying the Christmas Dinner



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Chapter Reports

NATOMA SAN JUAN CHAPTER #233 - **Continued from Page 32**

Submitted by Luanne Lenience, WM

On January 19th our Chapter invited Claire Day, Chief Program Officer for the Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapters of Alzheimer’s Association to speak at our dinner. She gave an informative talk on research and new ideas of study as well as what we can do today to reduce the risk of developing dementia. This enabled our members to better understand one of our WGM’s Special Projects for this year.



Claire Day, Chief Program Officer for the Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapters of Alzheimer’s Association. At the table in the background, new affiliate, Steve Brown, members Sharon Gavin, Judi Stiles, Daren Miller and Deputy Grand Matron Debbie Ritchie.



Frank Van Sant from Rose Chapter #292 took part in the Alzheimer’s Study to Protect Brain Health Through Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Risk trial. He spoke of his experiences in the self-guided group.

U.S. Study to Protect Brain Health through Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Risk

U.S. POINTER
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Two Year | Multi-Center (Five U.S. Sites) | Randomized Clinical Trial
2,000 Participants | 60-79 Years Old | At Risk for Cognitive Decline

Self-Guided and Structured Intervention Groups
Physical Activity | Nutrition | Intellectual Engagement | Health Coaching
Differ in Format, Expectations, and Accountability

Commitment to Community-Based Outreach, Recruitment and Representation
✓ Over 1800 Recruited
✓ ~ 30% from Underrepresented Populations

NIA Supported Ancillary Studies:
✓ POINTER-Neuroimaging
✓ POINTER-zzz
✓ POINTER-Neurovascular
✓ POINTER-Microbiome

If the interventions prove effective, this study will lead the way in the development of an accessible and sustainable community-based program for prevention.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

One of the slides from the dinner presentation explaining the Alzheimer’s Study.



ANNOUNCEMENT

OCT



SAVE THE DATE

21



GRAND CHAPTER YOUTH ORDERS SESSION

