



## Everything you do matters!

In the classic children's novel *Anne of Green Gables*, author Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." In October the leaves have changed colors and are falling off the trees.

Depending upon where you live you may even smell leaves being burned. I live in the city limits, so we aren't allowed to burn our leaves. Birds are leaving for southern climates. The farmers are working late in the fields to harvest their crops or are preparing to harvest them in a few short weeks. Maybe your grandchildren or your children have picked out the perfect pumpkin to decorate and place outside your apartment or your house. The children will soon be trick-or-treating, and it is time to start wearing sweaters. Many of our crafty members are creating projects to sell as future Christmas presents at fall festivals. Please support them and find a great gift for a family member.

I must be honest and tell you that I do look forward to watching my favorite movie, *Arsenic and Old Lace* on Halloween. The movie was released in 1944. It stars Cary Grant, Priscilla Lane, and Raymond Massey. Many of our chapters will be having Murder Mystery dinners during October. I know Connersville #346 is having one at historic Elmhurst on October 28th. Make sure you check with your District Deputy for the latest fundraiser in your district.

The Worthy Grand Patron, Harold Rowe and I have been kept busy traveling and attending luncheons and holding inspections within

various districts. We are having a great time visiting with our sisters and brothers. You have been so kind to us! You have opened your hearts to us and welcomed us into your chapter rooms. We are enjoying seeing you do your work.

One of my travels took me to Crown Hill Cemetery with Julie Snyder, Mountaineer #11, her husband Randy, along with Patty Pracht, and Betty Lou Hoover from Oakland Chapter. I wanted to visit Nettie Ransford's grave and take her some new flowers for the urn next to



her stone. I know Nettie Ransford Day would be approaching, and as Worthy Grand Matron I felt very strongly that I should go and pay respects to this great leader of our order. The more I read about Nettie and what she accomplished I wanted to go and honor her. As I stood there in the cemetery and read her stone, I did ask her to watch over Harold and me. I asked her for wisdom and guidance. To you that may seem ridiculous, but not to me. I am honored just to hold the same office that she held. I am in awe of a woman I have never met.

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We removed limbs and twigs from her grave. Randy and I started preparing the urn for the new flowers when a woman approached us and asked what we were doing. Patty and Betty Lou explained who Nettie was and why we were there. She worked for Crown Hill in restoration. They clean the lichen off the tombstones. She loaned us plastic scrapers and they started scraping it off as I worked on the

flowers. She promised that she and her crew would return the next day and use a safe chemical to spray on Nettie and William's stone and all the footstones. They also added Nettie's gravesite to their list of graves to maintain. Our meeting that woman was not an accident. God made that meeting happen. You had to have been there to have felt what remarkable things happened on that day, at that time and place, and with those sisters and brothers. We looked at each other in gratitude and wonder of what happened and the odds of that woman and her crew being in the same area where we were. Crown Hill Cemetery is 15 acres! We were supposed to be there at that time and meet that woman. Nobody can convince me that I am wrong. God made that happen.

The footstones are so intricate. One of the stones resembles a broken column. Bending over and scraping the lichen off, the stone looked like a tree sapling that was cut off with concrete leaves at the base of it. However, when I stood up and looked at it from the top, it was a broken column. Having served as a Past Grand Martha, to me that's what I saw. Was it possible so many years ago that Nettie Ransford bought that stone for their daughter's grave knowing full well the meaning of it, but the man that sold that stone or created it had no clue the significance of it? Nettie's husband was a member of the Royal Arch Masons. Together that husband and wife buried their daughter and placed upon the grave a remarkable stone shaped like a broken column.

Oakland Chapter is Nettie's home chapter now since Queen Esther chapter consolidated. Over the years and through consolidations, Oakland Chapter has become Nettie's chapter. We left a few pennies for her in remembrance of her coin collecting and raising the money to start the Masonic Home. Nettie Ransford was a very strong and remarkable woman. Nettie fell down an elevator shaft and lived! She continued her duties as secretary while she was healing, but writing with her non-dominant hand. In reading about our 150 years of service Nettie Ransford nurtured this order and protected it as much as she could. I am truly blessed to hold the same office that she held, and I am determined to do my very best.

In closing, remember to be kind to everyone because you have no idea what they are enduring in their life.

Everything you do matters!  
Cindy





## Focus on Star

First and foremost, I want to say what a pleasure it is serving with our Worthy Grand Matron, Cindy Willyard. We are having so much fun together and every day I am impressed by her skills as a leader and an organizer. Those of you who have been privileged to attend the events this year will no doubt agree that whenever she speaks, we are going to be impressed as well as entertained.

We have hit the ground running and are now in the full swing of the OES year. The receptions for our Grand Officers and District Deputies have been very good. We never know what to expect at these events but we always have a good time. The same can be said for our Inspections. The work that we have seen is very impressive. I'm sure that the members of our Grand Family will agree that we are always made to feel welcome in your Districts and so many of you have gone out of your way to make these events enjoyable. The Worthy Grand Matron has organized the calendar and the Inspections to make efficient use of your time as well as ours. It has been a real pleasure being able to participate in the Awards of Gold, the Baby Dedications and, of course, the appointments of the Voyageurs, our Grand Representatives. The addenda this year have been particularly fun and I think they put everyone at ease before the business of the evening. I have been privileged to attend several luncheons and have been treated to some excellent food, beautiful decorations and the impressive talks given by our Grand Star Points.

My Focus on Star section this month is on some of the more interesting facts about our history and Sister Nettie Ransford. When the Order was first organized, a beautiful name was given to the individual gathering of Stars: Constellations. In 1855, there were at least six constellations in Indiana, some with creative names like White Rose and Cassiopeia and some with place names like North Salem. Next were the Families, the first

of which was Plymouth Family No. 41. Then there were the Chapters and, of course, the oldest Chapter in Indiana is still operating: Sunbeam Chapter #1, possibly the oldest Eastern Chapter in the country. In the 1860s, Eastern Star "Lodges" were formed under the Grand Lodge of Adoptive Masonry for Indiana. The Supreme Grand Chapter was then formed in Michigan but eventually collapsed. In 1874, the Grand Chapter of Indiana was formed and in 1876, the General Grand Chapter was formed. Nettie Ransford would be elected as Most Worthy Grand Matron in 1890.

Nettie Ransford joined Eastern Star in 1872 and was Worthy Matron for the first time in 1874, the same year that the Grand Chapter was formed. In 1879, just five years later, she was Elected Worthy Grand Matron. She would go on to serve as Worthy Grand Matron two more times and attend every Grand Chapter session that followed during her lifetime. In 1889, she would serve as the first Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter to have full executive power. She is most revered for her efforts to raise funds and establish the Indiana Masonic Home. In 1916 she was able to raise \$32,000 for the founding of the Home, equal to \$880,000 today. She was Grand Secretary from 1894 until her death in 1928. She held that position for 34 years despite several accidents including falling down an elevator shaft. It is said that she lived her long life through sheer iron will in order to see her 90th birthday.

This historical information is gathered from "The Eastern Star in Indiana" by Rev. Willis D. Engle, PGP, PMWGP, Woman of the Century by Frances Elizabeth Willard and an article of "The Eastern Star" by Laura A. Smith. More Eastern Star history can be found on the website as well as the many articles and publications written by our members.

Harold Rowe  
Worthy Grand  
Patron



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## *Diamond Award*

Mary Lee Wesner, Union Village #584, received her 75-year diamond award on March 11, 2023. Mary Lee's daughters assisted in pinning Mary Lee. Past Grand Matron Lois Wagoner presented the diamond pin and the award booklet. Mary Lee's many family members attended the celebration and luncheon. Over 60 people attended on this date at the Martinsville Lodge Martinsville, Indiana.



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## **Opal Williams Memorial Scholarships**

Lynnville Chapter #542 in District 1 gave out 4 Opal Williams Memorial scholarships to college students related to the members of the chapter. Bailee Speicher is going for her doctorate in physical therapy, granddaughter of Mary Speicher. Devin Patty is going for his bachelors in homeland security, son in law of Kristie Batey. Conner Yager is going to VU for collision repair, grandson of Betty Black. Grant Yager is going to VU for the John Deere program, grandson of Betty Black. Pictured are WM Betty Cline, Bailee Speicher, Devin Patty, Conner Yager, Grant Yager, WP Ron Price.





This is to support the following Indiana General Grand Chapter members.

**Brother William Shoulders**, Worthy Grand Chaplain  
General Grand Chapter, PGP

**Sister Cindy Skura**, GGCCM Community Service, PGM

**Sister Liz Lashley**, GGCCM ESTARL, PGM

**Sister Betty Swisher**, GGCCM International Headquarters, PGM

**Brother Larry Frost**, GGCCM Service Dog Committee, PGP

**Sister Susie Roach**, Candidate for Right Worthy Associate Grand  
Conductress of the General Grand Chapter, PGM

And ALL THE MEMBERS OF INDIANA GRAND CHAPTER

**SAVE Me a Seat on the Bus**

We want to invite everyone to join us on the bus trip tentatively scheduled 10/25-10/31.

You may reserve your seat on the bus with a \$200.00 deposit payable to:

Diana Surfus, 3984 W. 10510 N., Milford, IN 46542. More details will follow.

We have items available for BOTH the Trip and Susie at [www.companycasual.com](http://www.companycasual.com).

Deposit is non-refundable and will go toward the cost of the trip.

You must ride the bus to be in the reserved block of rooms.



**STEPPIN' OUT With SUSIE ROACH**  
Candidate for  
Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress



## OUR WORLD OF YOUTH



The Our World of Youth competition of about 30 banks at Grand Chapter was a resounding success. The winning bank collected \$72. The bank was designed by Malissa Poor who is the Marshal at Royal Center #375. A total of about \$250.00 was collected during the competition. The competition was attended by the Our World of Youth State Chairperson, Tiffany Ingles, Fishers #446.

## Paws for Patriots Challenge Winner

West Lebanon Chapter #162 was served delicious refreshments by Sister Donna Scanlon, District 16 Paws for Patriots chairperson, after they won the Paws for Patriots Challenge!!! West Lebanon raised the most money for this project in our District!!!



## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR STAR-LITE?

You have received this issue, but will you get the next one? Check your expiration date on the back page to the left of your address. If it says your last issue is October 2023, then you need to renew now! Fill out the form on the next to the last page and include your check made out to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES and mail to Nancy Pratt, 3597 N. Old U.S. 31, Rochester, IN 46975.

**Thank you!** We couldn't continue without your support!

## Teacher Appreciation Week

The Spencerville Eastern Star is invested in supporting the education of our youth. The Cornerstone of a great Education starts with people dedicated and vested in the Values, Spirit, and Creativity of the children in Our Community.

Teacher Appreciation Week in DeKalb County begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week in May. The Spencerville O.E.S. offers a Pop (Corn) Quiz Party for (6) local schools and (2) local Preschools in our community. At each school a wrapped basket including many school supplies and a \$75.00 school supply card is delivered. Each Teacher is allowed (1) guess of the number of pieces included in the basket. Winning classrooms are awarded the basket and a "Popcorn Party."

Pictured is the "2023 Riverdale Elementary School Teacher Appreciation Winner" 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Abbie Capp and her classroom. This is her first year of teaching. She is an Eastside High School Graduate and lives in Auburn, IN. She has 19 students in her classroom.

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year supporting this program for DeKalb County Schools.



## Spencerville Eastern Star Classroom Supplies Program

To help our local teachers begin a successful start in the school year, the Spencerville Eastern Star partners with Riverdale Elementary School in St. Joe, IN and (2) Preschools in DeKalb Eastern School System. We supply each of the 20 classroom teachers with an Amazon Gift Card to assist in purchasing items needed for the school year. *This is our 13<sup>th</sup> year supporting this program.* To date, we have provided Classroom Supplies for 260 Classrooms!

In the first picture are students Liam Lauer and Rider Deaton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher Kiersten Emenhiser beginning her 12<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Riverdale, and Student Ari Lauer. In the second picture are student Ari Lauer, Riverdale 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher Audrianna Knapp in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching, and students Rider Deaton and Liam Lauer.



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## Senior Buddies Program

The Spencerville Eastern Star is dedicated to helping the elderly in our community's nursing homes. A program has been initiated to assist 2 Nursing homes within DeKalb County. We aim to purchase items for these facilities that their budgets may not cover. The items we will consider for assistance are Items for their Activity Center, Library Items such as Large Print Books, Watercolor Paint Books, Gardening Items for their Courtyard, Clothing, and Personal Care Items. We have budgeted \$1,500.00 per year to assist the following nursing homes: The Laurels of Butler Nursing Home in Butler, IN and Betz's Nursing Home (ASCCARE) in Auburn, IN.

Our Spencerville OES Chairman Marilyn Myers has awarded the following items: The Laurels of Butler Nursing Home Outdoor Garden received a Patio Table/Chairs Set with a Sun Umbrella to help residents as they visit with family members outdoors. They also received 2 outdoor Patio Benches and Shepard's Hooks/Plants placed in the Memory Care Outdoor Living Space for the residents to have a calming space to enjoy with each other.

Betz's Nursing Home Cottage Green Space received a 5-piece Outdoor Patio Furniture Set/Umbrella and Cushions for additional seating so that residents can comfortably enjoy visiting with their families and friends in a shaded outside garden.

Our mission is to enrich the lives of our elderly citizens living within our community by helping fill the gap between nursing home reimbursement and personal care needs and items that provide personal enjoyment for the residents living within these facilities.

Pictured are Spencerville OES member Marylin Meyers and Laurel's Administrator Emily Nelson.





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# ***Stellar Stars***

Stellar Stars is a great way to honor or remember an individual or a group for a full year. The costs of Stellar Stars are: \$10 - \$24 for 1 Star; \$25 - \$49 for 2 Stars; \$50 - \$74 for 3 Stars; \$75 - \$99 for 4 Stars; and \$100 and up for 5 Stars.

These will run for 1 year after we receive the request. The short information you want printed about the individual or group can be mailed along with a check payable to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES with the notation: Stellar Stars, to:

Nancy Pratt  
3597 N. Old U.S. 31  
Rochester, IN 46975

Please consider honoring or remembering those special Eastern Star people in your family, chapter or district with a Stellar Star for everyone to see and know that they are special to you.



### 1 Star

#### 2 Stars

In Honor of  
**Gleda Brooks, PGM**  
We are very proud of you!  
Your faithful friends in District 5

In Loving Memory of  
**Joan Franklin, PD#7, 1960**  
**Lee Ann Wise, PD#7, 1971**  
**Opal Sluder, PD#7, 1977**  
Who are missed by  
The Past Deputies of District #7

To my wounded warrior  
**SSG Hector L. Munoz-Colon**  
& his beautiful family,  
wife Nikki, daughters Lily & Sofia.  
Thank you for being my family.  
Love Gladys Colon-Clark

In Honor of the "**Wings of Faith**"  
Grand Family 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! 2003-2004  
Always "Walk the Walk of Faith"  
Love and Hugs, Mama Cat & Connie

### 3 Stars

In Honor of our most recent 50-Year Members  
**Judith Adkins, PM & Elizabeth Ritchie**  
From the members of Corinthian Chapter #456

### 4 Stars

In Honor of our most recent  
75 -Year Member  
**Jeanne Bain, PM**  
From the members of  
Corinthian Chapter #456

### 5 Stars

In Recognition of  
**Lebanon Chapter #23**  
**Past Matrons & Past Patrons**  
  
In Loving Memory of **Jim Terry**  
Always a Gentleman  
Our Love, Barb, Tim and Tina

In Honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
"**BLUEBIRDS OF HAPPINESS GRAND FAMILY**"  
Established on April 27, 1983, by  
Linda Cline, P.G.M. & Jay Shull, P.G.P.  
("Momma Bluebird" & "Poppa Jay")  
Also honoring the "**Traveling Bluebirds**"  
**and their "Birdwatchers"**  
With much love from "Momma", Vaughn, &  
Dottie

In Loving Memory of  
**Betty Thousand**  
100 years old & 77 -Year member  
Faithful member of  
Rochester Chapter #70 and  
Royal Center Chapter #375

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### WGM OFFICIAL CALENDAR

**Oct 7** Lakeville Centennial Celebration D#20  
**Oct 20** D#20 Meeting  
**Oct 21** D#11 Costume Party  
**Oct 25** D#12 Meeting  
**Nov 3** Shishewana Rodeo  
**Nov 5** Nettie Ransford Day  
**Nov 13-16** Bus Trip to Branson

### INSPECTIONS / LUNCHEONS

Inspections - Baby Dedication 7:00 pm  
 Award of Gold 7:10 pm  
 Inspection 7:20 pm

**Oct 9 D#11** Luncheon  
**Oct 10 D#15** Luncheon/Inspection  
**Oct 16 D20** Luncheon/Inspection  
**Oct 17 D#18** Inspection at Ivy/North Manchester  
**Oct 21 D#11** Inspection at Englewood  
**Oct 23 D#19** Luncheon/Inspection  
**Oct 24 D#17** Luncheon/Inspection

### RECEPTIONS

**Oct 14 DD#9** Jane Hansen  
**Oct 28 DD#3** Donna Moore  
**Oct 28 DD#5** Phyllis Williams  
**Nov 4 DD#21** Deb Muntz  
**Nov 4 DD#14** Sherri Freewalt  
**Nov 11 DD#1** Beth Williamson  
**Nov 11 DD#2** Lesa Dreiman

Vincennes Masonic Lodge  
 501 Broadway St., Vincennes  
 Social 3:00 EST, Program 4:00  
 Dinner to follow  
 --- No charge but RSVP  
 For meal count by Nov. 3 to:

Elizabeth Lashley, GGCCM, PGM  
 2498 S. 500 E.  
 Montgomery, IN 47558  
 812-887-9006  
 lashleyrrt@hotmail.com

**Nov 18 DD#6** Graceann Edgerton  
**Nov 18 DD#11** Julie Snyder  
**Dec 2 DD#10** Deanna Hartman  
**Dec 2 DD#15** Sharon Jones

If you don't see all the information that you need, please contact your District Deputy or Nancy Pratt, Editor. Please be aware that on occasion a date and/or location will be changed and it will be too late to make the correction in the magazine. Thank you for your understanding!

## *Star-Lite*

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 Sellersburg, IN 47172

#### **District 4-Jerry Barber**

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 3050 W. Co. Rd. 200 S.  
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 6826 E. Laughery Creek Rd.  
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 Terre Haute, IN 47804

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 907 Vandalia St.  
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 1217 Bearsdale Dr.,  
 Indianapolis, IN 46216

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 5766 Devers Dr. Apt. J.  
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 210 Woodlawn Ave.  
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 6926 Riverton Dr.  
 Ft. Wayne, IN 46825

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 Kokomo, IN 46902

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**Star Lite  
 Reporters**

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1/2 page is \$60.00

Full page is \$100.00.

SUBMISSION: All items should be camera-ready. Please make checks payable to **Indiana Grand Chapter, OES**. Send copy and payment to: Nancy Pratt, Editor

## WE NEED YOUR NEWS!

Help keep Star-Lite interesting! Submit your news so all can see what you are doing. Check deadline dates if you want your news in a certain issue, especially items for the calendar. Please limit articles to 500 words. There is no charge to print pictures. Please remember to identify everyone in the pictures.

Send articles and pictures with self-addressed stamped envelope if you want them returned to:

**Nancy Pratt, Editor**  
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