



A Walk in the Woods

As the Nature Sings Grand Family closes out the first half of our service year, we enter the holiday season with gratitude and respect for what each of you do!

At the state level, we chose to focus on less to do more this year and it has been a joy to work side by side and hand in hand with many of you in your various endeavors! From Alzheimer's and Cancer walks, to making donuts and parking cars, community fairs and youth organization events, we have been present with you to promote our Order throughout the state. We appreciate the invitations to join you and have been happy to do so! We look forward to more events in the spring to keep the momentum going because living for each other is the rule of Nature. We are all born to help each other.

Nothing in nature lives only for itself.

Rivers don't drink their own water.

Trees don't eat their own fruit.

The sun doesn't shine for itself.

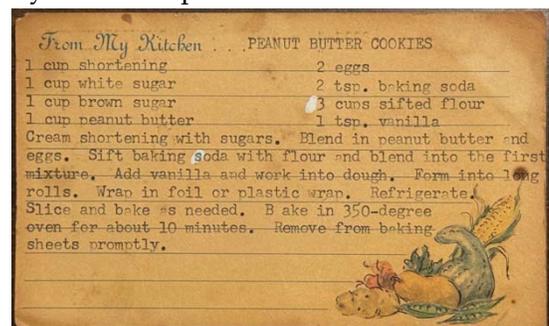
A flower's fragrance is for the benefit of others.

Life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

We should be lifting each other up and cheering each other on, not trying to outshine one another. The sky would be awfully dark with just one star. So, when you gather with family and friends during this holiday season, take a moment to reflect on this year. Treasure the moments that make you smile, remember loved ones lost, and how your life impacts others.

To share one of my treasured moments with you, my mother loves peanut butter cookies, and I remember making them with her when I was growing up. She is no longer able to make them, but the joy I see when I bring some to her made from her special recipe always fills my heart! It brings back the memories of times past filled with laughter, fun, and family for us both. This will always be one of my favorite times, and I pray that I may be blessed with a new season with her and continue to shine the light of hope for her and many into the new year!



As you look ahead to the coming new year, choose the light you wish to shine for others and discover how to help them shine as well! Together, the sky will be filled with the light of the principles of our Order for many others to see! Find a new path and leave a trail for others to follow. The road less traveled is often the most rewarding part of the journey!

Let your light shine,
Carol Davis
Worthy Grand Matron



Notes from the Woodshop

Sisters and Brothers,

As I sit down to write this article, I can't help but notice the changing seasons through my woodshop window. The landscape is adorned with vibrant autumn hues, fields are partially harvested, and gardens have reached the end of their cycle, while pumpkins patiently await the frost. The refreshing scent of wood blends with the cool air, and the soft rustle of leaves serves as a reminder of nature's transition. Just as the world prepares for winter, we too begin to reflect on our traditions and gear up for the holiday season, a time filled with both joy and contemplation.

As winter approaches, we find ourselves reflecting on cherished traditions and preparing for the holiday season—a time filled with both joy and introspection. By now, the first snowfall has likely blanketed the ground, signaling the start of a bustling season that embodies the spirit of giving. We honor the birth of Jesus by exchanging gifts, a practice rooted in the story of the first Christmas. The Biblical narrative tells of wise men from the East who followed a brilliant star, often referred to as "His Star in the East," which guided them to the birthplace of Jesus. This remarkable event, marked by the appearance of a unique star, is intertwined with the

humble circumstances of His birth. As someone who has spent years working with wood, I often envision the manger where the infant Jesus lay, possibly a simple wooden box crafted by hands like ours. While many gather to celebrate this significant occasion, research suggests the manger may have been made of stone, symbolizing the deeper meaning and spirit of generosity it inspires.

I want to express my gratitude to all our Sisters and Brothers across the state for welcoming us into your chapters and districts this year. Our beautiful order thrives on your support, and I truly appreciate your efforts to keep it alive. Terry and I are thankful for the warm hugs and kind words we've received, and we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Star love,
Tom Ring, Worthy Grand Patron

Ransford IMH Awards

Ransford IMH had a celebration for three 50-year members, and one 75-year member on May 19th, 2025. Frieda Hensley, Cindy Wyse, and Vicki Fisher received awards for 50-year of membership and 75-year member, Tina B. Lee received hers. Congrats to all! Perrietta Appleton, PGM, presented the awards to all recipients.



“Together....We Are Family” Indiana Order of the Eastern Star Membership Task Force

Welcome Sisters and Brothers to the first issue of the Membership Task Force. We have chosen to name ourselves “Together....We Are Family” because it means that no matter what we do in life, in the Order of the Eastern Star we work Together as a Family for the benefit of all.

WHY was the Membership Task Force formed and for what purpose? Well, let me ask you this question – What would your life be like without the Order of the Eastern Star? Can you imagine NO Eastern Star in Indiana? Fortunately, Carol Davis, WGM, and Tom Ring, WGP, recognized this as a serious potential and established the Membership Task Force, appointing the Grand Sentinel as Chairman. Their purpose is to research the cause of membership decline, develop methods to stop the decline and establish ideas and suggestions on how we can increase our membership, which will promote the growth of our Order.

Areas that the Membership Task Force will have responsibility for include the preparation of a Membership Program that will be presented to future Grand Families for their use. The Membership Task Force will prepare a final Annual Report detailing their research, findings, activities and proposals. Finally, they prepare a Generalized Membership Workshop that will be presented at the 2026 Grand Chapter and will be designed to promote the increase of new members, retain current members and assist all members to become an active part of Eastern Star.

The WGM recently reported that she is beginning to see new members being initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star, indicating that progress is being made but not to the levels we expect yet.

How are we organized so that we can reach all parts of the State of Indiana? We divided Indiana into 3 Regions - North, Central and South. Then eight Liaisons were selected throughout the State to represent our 21 Districts. An additional member was added to the Task Force from the Publicity Committee to assist the TaskForce.

- Liaisons are: North Region: Marie Palacios Steve Maxwell
- Central Region: Donna Scanlon Sandy Harris Pam Butz
- South Region: Terrie Barber Kylie Batey-Patty Andrea Boling
- Publicity Committee: Patricia Manuel

These Liaisons are a great group and represent the Indiana Order of the Eastern Star very well in their concerted efforts to increase membership and make our Order better.

Stay tuned – There will be a lot more positive information, pictures and examples to come!!



Hot Dog for Susie Alpha, AGC!

August 30th was a beautiful day for a carnival in District 17, honoring Sister Susie Alpha, Associate Grand Conductress. Guests were greeted by members of District 17 who were dressed as carnival barkers with red and white striped vests and straw hats. The midway was complete with games of chance with prizes; Go Fish, Ring Toss, and Corn Hole, to name a few. There was even a Fortune Teller.

Susie greeted everyone for pictures behind a hot dog backdrop. A beautiful prelude was performed by Rebecca Roland. Melissa Alexander, Worthy Matron, (still dressed as the Fortune Teller) welcomed everyone. Greg Onken, PGP, offered the invocation. It was followed by the pledge of allegiance and the National Anthem.

Tina Terry, Conductress, presented Susie at the altar after which she was escorted by the Fun in the Sun Grand Family, joined by the Symphony of Faith and Love and the Basket of Dreams Grand Families. She was dressed as a hair stylist with the escorts wearing wigs of every style and color (do you think they wanted Susie to style their hair?).



Karen Hazelman, Jr. Past Grand Matron, gave a tribute to Susie sharing her life and her love of Indiana Beach. She proceeded to introduce the many friends and members that came to celebrate the day as: Brother Richard Lassiter, General

Grand Chapter Committee member, seventeen Past Grand Matrons and Patrons and their escorts, eleven members of the Nature Sings Grand Family and their escorts, thirteen District Deputies and escorts. Other introductions were given from the floor. After each group was introduced, Susie shared a fun fact about White County. Susie introduced some of her friends and family as many of them did not attend this time. They thought one reception a year was enough!

Following the benediction by Denver Gray, Jr. Past Grand Patron, everyone was dismissed for dinner. The dining room was decorated in the carnival theme with popcorn buckets and balloons. A wonderful dinner was served in the "Diana Surfus style", but the most important thing was the Hotdogs and Ice Cream! What a fun day!

Double Pinning



PGM Sister Tina Vredenburgh awarded Sister Cathy Wattenbarger her 50-year Award of Gold in the Order of the Eastern Star, along with her husband Darrell receiving his Award of Gold in Blue Lodge the same evening.

This was at the Hillsboro Lodge and it was so much appreciated to get to do this dual Award of Gold together. The Master of Hillsboro Lodge, Brother James Scott Harrison, gave Darrell his Award of Gold, then Sister Tina presented Sister Cathy her Award of Gold. Darrell pinned his wife's pin on her and Sister Cathy pinned her husband with his pin, a beautiful ceremony. It ended with cake and ice cream enjoyed by all present.

Pictured from Left to Right are: Brother George Vredenburgh; Tina Vredenburgh, PGM; Sister Cathy Wattenbarger; and her husband Darrell Wattenbarger. Not pictured is Brother Jim Hershberger who also received his 50-year Award of Gold.

Julie Leap, Grand Adah Reception



On Saturday, September 20, 2025, the Switzerland County Technology Center in Vevay, Indiana, was the setting for a reception honoring Sister Julie Leap, Grand Adah. The event, hosted by Bennington Chapter #407 and District #5, was held on a beautiful, sunny autumn day.

Guests were welcomed to an "Enchanted Forest" themed reception, with Nature Sings umbrellas transformed into hanging blue and white flower displays at the entrance. Jennifer Sparks and Connie Branigan greeted attendees at

the registration table. The social hour offered a delightful array of food.

Phyllis Williams, Past Deputy of District 5, managed the photo table, while Brian Hensell captured moments of Julie and her guests against a forest backdrop adorned with glowing lanterns.

Assisting this day were - Gleda Brooks, WM and PGM; Glenn Crandell, WP; Ann Stenger, Conductress; and Connie Branigan, Widow of PGP Bob Branigan. Brian Hensell and Jason Burt served as the photographers. Local musicians Ms. Carol Ann Sublett (piano) and Mr. Bill Madison (harmonica) provided entertainment during the program.

The program began with a welcome by Gleda Brooks, PGM, followed by the pledge to the American Flag. Ann Stenger, Conductress, presented Julie at the altar before escorting her to the East. The Let Freedom Ring Grand Family, Past Deputies of District 5, and Bennington Chapter members formed an escort for Julie. Stephanie Graves, Julie's LFR Deputy Sister, read a witty "Enchanted Forest" poem as Julie and her husband Roy walked through a line of "forest friends." Julie, dressed as a woodland fairy with a blue tutu and crown of blue flowers, Roy as a gnome with a blue tunic, hat, and long white beard (Julie's grandson thought Grandpa resembled Poppa Smurf!), added a whimsical touch.

Julie's tribute was delivered by her deputy mom, Angela Hensell, GGCCM and PGM. Love gifts were presented by her Momma Angela and Poppa James Rogers, PGP.

A hearty welcome was extended to those introduced in the East, including WGM Carol Davis and WGP Tom Ring; General Grand Chapter Committee Members; PGMs and PGPs, their spouses and widows; The Nature Sings Grand Family, spouses and escorts; and District Deputies, spouses and escorts; and Julie's family. Further introductions from the floor followed, with a hearty welcome given to all attendees.

Following introductions, Julie asked for her Star Point Sisters and Brother Sentinel to be escorted to the East. In keeping with the Nature Sings theme, lighted wooden lanterns, made by Julie and Roy, were presented to each Star Point. Each Star Point had their emblem engraved on the front and the Sentinel's was engraved with his badge.

Closing remarks of gratitude and thanks were given by Julie to everyone for sharing this truly magical day and helping her celebrate her time as Grand Adah.

The benediction was delivered by Richard Lassiter, GGCCM and PGP. Jerry Brooks gave the table grace and WP Glenn Crandell provided dinner instructions.

All retired to the dining area which was decorated with paper flowers, terrariums, tiny fairies, mushrooms, colorful fairy lights, hanging flowers, and vases filled with blue beads and eucalyptus. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all, prepared by Diana Surfus, GGCCM and PGM, and her helpers from District 5. All proceeds for the meal went to support the service dog project.

It was a great day of friendship, fun, and fellowship down on the Ohio River!



Leila Ferguson, Grand Ruth Reception

Royal Center Chapter #375 and District #18 held a reception for Leila Ferguson, Grand Ruth, on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at the Fulton County Historical Society Museum in Rochester, Indiana.

The social hour began with refreshments of cookies, yellow peanut M&Ms, yellow chocolate candies, puff corn, pretzels, lemonade and water served by Roberta Ancil of LaFontaine Chapter and Tina Mullens. Everyone had their picture taken with Leila by her nephew, Matthew Helton.

Rhonda Maggard of Swayzee Chapter was Organist for the reception. As Leila was escorted into the reception area, the music "When You Wish Upon A Star" was played. Tina Mullens, WM, welcomed all with a

poem. The Invocation was given by Martha Brown, PGM, followed with the pledge of allegiance and National anthem. Leila was presented by Cynthia Biggs, Conductress, at the altar. After being welcomed, she was led out for the escort. While we waited, Susie Alpha, AGC, sang "She's A Butterfly". Many from her Deputy Grand Family and some members of D#18 formed the escort line holding pictures of gnomes. Leila entered dressed as a butterfly with Greg Chiles, Gr. Treasurer, following her holding a butterfly net. Some in line read a verse about butterflies as Leila walked thru the aisle. They gave her items for children that will be given to the Shriner's Children's Hospital.

Gleda Brooks, PGM, gave Leila's tribute. She was presented with a large hummingbird suncatcher from Gleda and Rick Lassiter, GGCCM & PGP, Deputy Mom & Pop to Leila. Leila then introduced Carol Davis, WGM, and Tom Ring, WGP, who gave her a Love gift. They had given all the Grand Star Points their gift of a trinket box earlier that Tom had made.

Leila proceeded with introductions after which her fun facts were about fairies for the ladies and gnomes for the men. Attending was a General Grand Chapter Committee Member, many PGMs & PGPs, Grand Family members, District Deputies, Grand Chapter Committee members, a Grand Representative, PMs & PPs, spouses & traveling companions.

Leila recognized those assisting for the event as Tina Mullens, WM; Jim Brown, WP; Rhonda Maggard, Organist; Cynthia Biggs, Conductress; and Matthew Helton, Photographer.

Her Star Point Sisters and Grand Sentinel were escorted across the East and presented with treasure boxes made by her son Normand See and herself. There was a hiccup with one of the boxes and will need to be redone, but everyone enjoyed the gifts. She then asked Royal Center Chapter to go to the East. She thanked them for all their help with this reception for her.

Tina then explained the entertainment, which was a Mad Lib made just for Leila. She asked the audience to participate with giving her nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. She then read the story filling in the blanks with words the audience gave her. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment!

Markie Edwards, PGM, gave the Benediction and Table Grace. Jim Brown, WP, gave the dinner instructions and all made their way to the dining area. The tables were decorated with gnomes and fairies. The dinner was prepared by Royal Center members Cynthia Biggs, Doris Byers, Sharon Campbell, MacKenzie Ledley, Kim Russell and Normand See.

We are very proud of Leila and wish her all our best this coming year.

Marcie Kendall, Grand Esther Reception



The reception for Marcie Kendall, Grand Esther, was held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at the First Christian Church in Gas City, Indiana. Delicious treats were served during the social hour by the members of her chapter, Upland #411.

Those assisting in the reception were WM Mindy Ballinger, WP Robert Surber, PGP, Conductress Joyce Kendall, Organist Glenda Dearth, Photographer Devin Goble, and Soloist Kayla Goble.

Marcie's Dreams of Fun in The Sun Grand Family provided the escort line, dressing her as a Chef providing her with numerous food items that will be donated to the Christian Church food pantry.

Jr. PGM Karen Hazelman read Marcie's tribute, and both her and Jr. PGP Denver Gray presented her with a gift. WGM Carol Davis and WGP Tom Ring congratulated Marcie on her special day and presented her with a love gift. The Benediction was given by Jr. PGP Denver Gray and table grace was given by PGM & Grand Trustee Pat Endsley.

Marcie thanked everyone who attended and especially her chapter with the direction of Sister Jan Surber for all their hard work making her special day possible.

All retired to the dining room where a delicious meal was served by PGM Diana Surfus and her team with the proceeds going to the Service Dog Project.

JJ Grand Family Overnighter

The 2025 JJ Grand Family Overnighter was in conjunction with Martha Santus' Grand Warder reception. We met at the Comfort Suites in Terre Haute on Friday, August 8th. Some were able to gather for supper together. Saturday, August 9th, we traveled to Sullivan for Martha's Roaring 20's reception. Tons of fun! Several wore Roaring 20's attire. After a delicious meal at Martha's reception we traveled back to our hotel in Terre Haute for our meeting and overnight stay. Bill & Lynn Shoulders shared several very interesting stories of their travels as Bill served the General Grand Chapter. The JJ Grand Family served in 1990-1991 for Joy Ellen Kuppler and the late Jerry Jonas and are thankful we are still able to get together once a year!

Those in attendance were Arlene Mohler, Kay Stone, LeAnne Huls, Deanna Carrington, Norman Santus, Martha Santus, Shirley Wolf, Mama Joy, Regina Hipple, Bill Shoulders, Lynn Shoulders, and Gloria Jonas.



Nancy Minix, Grand Martha Reception



What a beautiful day it was at the Bass Lake Property Owners building on Oct. 11th to honor Sister Nancy Minix, Grand Martha. Acorn donuts, Chex mix snacks and apple cider punch were enjoyed by those present. Sister Nancy and Jeff Parris, her companion and escort, had their picture taken by Brother Harold Rowe, Past Grand Patron, with the many friends in front of a fireplace with the mantle decorated with harvest plants and signs of Martha.

Sister Nancy was escorted in to the program area by Worthy Patron, Brother Jack Cook. Jeff was escorted by Worthy Matron, Sister Karen Lyness. Sister Karen welcomed

and thanked everyone for coming to help LaPorte Chapter, District 19, and the state honor Sister Nancy. Sister Cindy Skura, Past Grand Matron, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag and singing one verse of the National Anthem. Sister Amy Ogrentz, Conductress, escorted Sister Nancy to the altar where Sister Karen Lyness and Sister Kelly Tiffany sang "Bridge Over Troubled Waters", Sister Nancy's favorite song. She was dressed as a mushroom hunter and escorted by the Legacy of Hope Grand Family and District 19. Along her path of mushrooms, she collected rolls of toilet paper, her deputy sister's theme. Jeff was dressed as a forager as well. Sister Nancy introduced Sister Carol Davis, Worthy Grand Matron, and Brother Tom Ring, Worthy Grand Patron. She then introduced her deputy mom, Sister Jennifer Nicholson-Maggart, Past Grand Matron, who gave a loving and funny tribute about Sister Nancy. Sister Nancy told a story that when she met with Sister Jenny, Brother Bob and her deputy sisters for the first time she went mushroom hunting and got lost. Sister Jenny and Brother Bob DeRolf presented her with a gift.

For the entertainment, Sister Nancy honored the military with Sister Jeanne Wease, Past Grand Organist, playing each branch's song. Introduced was 1 General Grand Chapter Committee Appointment, 7 Past Grand Matrons and Patrons and Spouse, the Nature Sings Grand Family and escorts, the Stars and Comets Deputies and escorts, 12 Grand Chapter Committee Appointments, 2 Grand Representatives, 2 Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons and 7 Past Matrons and Patrons. Sister Nancy introduced 15 family and friends. Each group was given tidbits of information about mushrooms.

Sister Nancy's Star Point Sisters and the Grand Sentinel were escorted across the East and each Sister was given a purse of their star point color and the Grand Sentinel said he was given an awesome billfold. Sister Nancy was presented gifts by the Legacy of Hope Grand Family, District 19 and LaPorte Chapter 280. Brother Larry Deutscher, Past Grand Patron, gave the benediction and Brother Bob DeRolf gave table grace. Brother Jack Cook gave dinner instructions. The tables in the dining room were decorated with cornucopias and table favors of gummi bears and popcorn. Scoops and Smiles prepared a delicious meal of turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, mostaccoli, salad, California blend and pie.

Thank you to all who helped LaPorte Chapter honor our own Sister Nancy and making it a memorable day.

Julie Snyder, Grand Electa Reception

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, Millersville #300, Lawrence #384 and many members from District 11 welcomed all to the "Love and Friendship Reception" honoring Sister Julie Snyder, Grand Electa of the Indiana Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.



WM Nancy Frost & Conductress Kim Fredrick engineered the plans for this wonderful reception! As invited guests entered Christ Indianapolis United Methodist Church, they were greeted by Cindy Essig, Patricia Crask, and Joanna Roth who gave each guest an ink pin and an Eastern Star printed fan. After registering, the guests devoured "flip flop" cookies, bruschetta, red Hershey Kisses, red M & M's, macarons, and a red colored beverage provided by Carole Sendmeyer and Tammy Sweezy. The dining room tables were decorated with black tablecloths with napkins and place cards embossed with Julie's pin. The table favors were encased in a red bag. Bonita Foltz made and placed wooden crosses with dogwood flowers on each table. In the adjacent room, Barbara Lanouette and Ruth Hartley made sure that the guests stayed in line to have their pictures taken by Mary Matlock, the photographer, with Julie and her husband Randy.

The program began with a prelude played by Peggy Barassi, PGO. Nancy Frost welcomed the honored guests with a poem entitled, "Where There is Love". LeVon Holmes, PGM, gave a heartfelt Invocation. Following this, all attendees united in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the first verse of the National Anthem. Julie made her entrance in a beautiful black and gold gown chosen by Rick Lassiter. She was escorted to the altar by Kim Frederick, Conductress, before being led to the East by way of the West. In a delightful nod to her fondness for flip flops, Julie's Faith Moves Mountains Deputy Sisters, known as the Mountaineers, dressed her in a whimsical "Flip Flop" costume, while her husband Randy donned an inflatable parrot costume, creating the amusing illusion of him riding on the back of a parrot. Their procession to the East was supported by the Faith Moves Mountains Grand Family and all members of District 11, who generously contributed various items to benefit the Hamilton County Humane Society, reflecting Julie's deep affection for animals. A tribute was read by Cindy Willyard, PGM, and Harold Rowe, PGP, who presented Julie with an exquisite glass vase from the Warsaw Glass Company, which featured her Electa emblem elegantly etched into its surface. Julie took the opportunity to introduce Carol Davis, WGM, Tom Ring, WGP, and other esteemed guests. Additional presentations were made by the Marion County Patron's Association, various chapters within her district, and the Faith Moves Mountains Grand Family. Her Star Point Sisters and Grand Sentinel John Auld were also acknowledged and received clothing bags adorned with the Eastern Star emblem.

The Benediction was delivered by Robert DeRolf, PGP, while the table blessing was offered by Rick Lassiter, PGP and GGCCM. Dinner instructions were provided by Larry Frost, PGP, Grand Representative of Louisiana, and Grand Trustee, with the meal itself prepared by Diana Surfus, PGM, and her dedicated team. The proceeds from the dinner were designated for the Service Dog Program, underscoring the event's commitment to charitable causes.

Julie wishes to thank everyone who helped make her special day a success and to all who attended her reception. She is truly honored and deeply touched by your love, kindness, and support.

18th Annual Silver Roses Meeting

The 18th Annual meeting of the Silver Roses was held Sunday, August 24th at the Englewood Lodge. Following a delicious lunch prepared by Sister Melody DeRolf and her crew of helpers, the meeting was called to order by President Donna Scanlon. Sister Donna read a poem on Star Points written by Gayle Stevens Gray, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Introduction of those seated at the head table were Sister Gloria Jonas, widow of Jerry Jonas, PGP; Sisters Pam Butz, Vice President; and Miriam Prall, Secretary.

Others introduced were Brother Denver Gray, Junior Past Grand Patron and his wife Wanda, and Brother Keith Zook, Associate Grand Patron and his wife Kim. All Past Grand Star Points present introduced themselves and shared the year of their appointment and the Past Grand Matrons and Patrons under whom they served.

Following the reading of the minutes of the 2024 meeting, treasurer's report, and the sickness and distress report, everyone was reminded to sign the birthday card for Sister Joy Ellen Kuppler, Past Grand Matron, who was unable to be present. A motion was made to donate \$100 to the Worthy Grand Matron's and Patron's "Seeds of Hope" project in support of our Youth Organizations.

Officers for the coming year are: Pam Butz, President; Cathy Scott, Vice President; Miriam Prall, Treasurer; and Carol Sloan was elected as Secretary.

The Initiation Ceremony was held to welcome the new Past Grand Star Point Sisters as "Silver Roses". Those who assisted in the ceremony were: Miriam Prall, representing

Adah; Carrie Kesler, representing Esther; and Sister Pam Peters representing Martha. Those initiated as the newest "Silver Roses" were Carol Sloan and Alicia Corn, both a Past Grand Adah; Dori Cooper, Past Grand Esther; and Amy Ogrentz, Past Grand Martha. Each lady held a silver candle that was lit and then presented with her "Silver Rose" pin.

Sister Gloria Jonas thanked everyone for the dinner, being there and for the decorations. She provided the definition of "bridge" as something that connects people. She compared the Grand Star Points to bridges as doing the same function of connecting people in our Eastern Star. She thanked Sister Karen Hazelman, Jr. Past Grand Matron, and Brother Denver Gray, Jr. Past Grand Patron, for making the "Silver Roses" as one of their honor groups. She concluded by thanking everyone for the hard work and love of Eastern Star.

Following the reading of the names of our Sisters who are no longer with us, the meeting was closed with the Mizpah Benediction.

Next year's meeting will be held on Sunday, August 23.

The "Silver Roses" are the Past Grand Star Points who served our Grand Chapter. This group was first honored in 1991 by Sister Joy Ellen Kuppler, Past Grand Matron, who each year presented the four Jr. Past Grand Star Points a Silver Rose pin in honor of their service to our Order. The first annual gathering of the "Silver Roses" was held in 2007 at Englewood Lodge and has continued meeting there each year.



Clinton Chapter 50-Year Award

On August 20, 2025 at Frankfort Masonic Temple prior to the Inspection of Clinton Chapter #6 and Russiaville Chapter #130, it became a special time for Brother Vernon Patchett. Brother Patchett, a member of Clinton Chapter, was presented at the altar by Brother Tom Ring, WGP, to receive his 50-year award. Sister Carol Davis, WGM, gave the program and Brother Tom presented Brother Patchett with his pin. Brother Patchett was then escorted to the East and given Grand Honors. Brother Patchett and his wife, Sister Janice Patchett were WM & WP in 1988, when Sister Perrietta Appleton was WGM, from Beard Chapter. The same year he was Worshipful Master for Beard Lodge #641. Thank you, Brother Vern for your service to the Order of the Eastern Star.



Pittsboro Honors Faithful Members

One of my favorite hymns is *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, especially the second verse: *Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest; Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above; Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

At our stated meeting on Monday, August 25th, the Chapter honored Sister Elizabeth Priller, our Secretary and 57-year member, on her birthday with a "This is your Life" skit highlighting her Eastern Star life. It was quite a surprise to Sister Priller, but enjoyed by all.

The Chapter had been discussing a luncheon to honor all those who have given faithful service, therefore, officers and members gathered on Thursday, August 28th at the Beef House in Covington, IN for a celebration.

Those attending and pictured are: L to R – Ed Randall (55 years), Jane Randall (60 years), Janet Mustin (37 years), Karen Boone (63 years), Pam Pizzato (10 years), Elizabeth Priller (57 years), Sue Hendricks (65 years), Ken Coy (14 years), Pete Peterson (17 years), Don Waters (54 years), and Malinda Waters (54 years). Not pictured, but with us in spirit, Ann Kelley (63 years). Total years of service is 549.

This truly represents faithfulness to Eastern Star.



D#1 News

Fall is here! The weather has broken for the most part. The colors of the trees are changing and what do we do? We get busy!

It's Fall festival time! Most every community has one. Of course, the planning starts months in advance! You decide what you're planning to sell, who is going to do the shopping, the cooking and the baking.

Our chapter started out with Kraut balls, grilled peanut butter sandwiches, and deep-fried Oreos. The weather was so HOT the first day we couldn't stand it! The second day it had rained so hard, it was canceled. Third day we froze! Did we make much money? NO! That year was a success though! We made the Kraut balls early and froze them. What fun we had! We had a production line on both sides of the table. The hard part was keeping the balls all the same size. Yes, we started out with a dipper to make them all the same size, but they got all yucky so then they tried just making them the same size. Most were, some were not, so if you were frying them and one was too small, they got an extra one.

The last 2 years we changed up the menu to Chicken and Dumplings. Did we make much money? NO! What we need to remember is, it's not all about money. Yes, it costs money to make money. It's not all about money! Growing as a Chapter! The Closeness that we have gained as a Chapter! We are truly a family!

We have been able to increase our giving to those in need in our community. It is so much more important than how much money we have in our account. Making sure children have warm jackets and coats, taking meals to shut-ins', whatever the need, is much more important.

Garnet chapter does an apple pie that takes 9 bushels of apples! It takes a special pizza oven to bake this pie. Golden Fleece helps the Rainbow girls by selling water and cokes at the 4-H fair and has baby showers for families in need. Sunbeam helps with chicken dinners at their Lodge. Tell City works the Schweitzer Fest.

What can your Chapter do? How can your chapter become more of a family?

Jean Hoffman Memorial Card Party

Lois Chapter #147 had a fun afternoon on August 27, 2025. We held the Jean Hoffman Memorial Card party as our annual fundraiser with 50 card players. It was held at the First Presbyterian church in Greensburg, Indiana.

Tables were decorated in fall colors with sunflowers as the centerpieces. A delicious meal was served of Chicken salad on shredded lettuce, chips, Zucchini bread, tea, and Cherry Delight for dessert. Each participant received a succulent plant as a table favor. There were 30 lucky players that won a door prize that was donated by many nearby restaurants and businesses. It was a very successful fun afternoon and everyone had a good time.



New Grand Representative

Brother Forrest Lynch, Worthy Patron of Columbian Chapter in District 7, was appointed Grand Representative of Tennessee in Indiana. Sister Carol Davis, WGM, surprised him at the Official Visit on September 17th at Hymera Chapter. Brother Forrest and his wife Sharon have a granddaughter living in Tennessee so this is really special.



Athens Chapter #97

Members of the Athens Chapter #97 served water and donut holes to volunteers helping with the 2nd Annual Montgomery County Community Day of Service in Crawfordsville. Volunteers can assist with various projects, such as painting, cleaning, etc., throughout the community. Pictured are Mary Cramer, District 9 Deputy, and Cindy Long, Worthy Matron. Misty Mills, Associate Conductress, took the picture.



D#7 Fall Meeting

Members of District 7 gathered at Stanford Chapter on October 3rd for the fall meeting. Brother Bobby Slaughter, President, presided over the business, which included the election of new officers. Sister Joy Ellen Kuppler welcomed all and congratulated Brother Bobby and all the other Grand Officers in District 7.

Sister Carol Davis, WGM, assisted by Sister Martha Santus as Marshal, Brother Darrell Arthur as Chaplain, and Sister Rhea Dawn Gadberry as organist installed the following officers: Sister Tamara Shake as President, Sister Sharon Slaughter as Vice President, Sister Garnet Holsapple as Secretary, Sister Rhea Dawn Gadberry as Organist, Brother Rick Brinson as Chaplain and Brother Bobby Slaughter as Historian. Sister Carla Rollison continues as Treasurer. The spring 2026 meeting will be hosted by Sister Candi Hamilton and Hymera Chapter.

Radiant Chapter #200 Rolls

Radiant Chapter #200 in D#10, located in Noblesville, IN, began the new Chapter term on Saturday, July 12, 2025. Sister Kim Frederick was installed as Worthy Matron and Brother Rick Lassiter, GGCCM and PGP, was installed as Worthy Patron. Sister Kim and Brother Rick were "all smiles" having a full slate of officers to serve for the year!

August brought joy and work to the Chapter members. Several Chapter members joined Sister Marcia Stumm, to celebrate her 90th birthday. This lovely Star Sister has served as Worthy Matron and Past Deputy of District 10. She received a special appointment as a MARTHA STAR from Sister Patricia Rasmussen when Sister Pat served as Most Worthy Grand Matron. We wish Sister Marcia another year of good health and happiness!!

August 29th saw Sister Mary Matlock and Sister Jaimie Foreman co-chair the chapter's annual Mum Sale fundraiser. With the help of members Kim Frederick, Sherry Johnson, PGM, Linda Burdett, Katherine Lair, Victoria Winemiller, and Mark Winemiller, the Chapter distributed 215 pots of mums to happy buyers.

The Chapter proudly initiated Sister Tia Bowman, on Monday, October 6, 2025. Sister Tia's own blood sister, Anna serves as the Chapter's Warder. Radiant Chapter is looking forward to having its new member blend her enthusiasm and dedication to their fraternal family!

Radiant Chapter now looks to November and December for what other Chapter and District events come its way!



Sister Marcia Stumm, the birthday girl. In the back row from left to right, Sister Dawn Chiles, Sister Evelyn Miller, and Brother "Skip" Stumm, husband of Sister Marcia

LaFontaine Presents 25-Year Award



Several members of LaFontaine Chapter Order of the Eastern Star gathered at the Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester to present resident Carolyn Crist her 25 Year Award. Carolyn received her pin from Linda Torpy, Past Matron of Ivy Chapter now affiliated with LaFontaine Chapter, her certificate from Worthy Matron Kaye Sorrell, a gift of a potted flower from District Deputy #18 Regina Hiple, and a pin holder and star point pin from Grand Ruth Leila Ferguson. Carolyn had previously served as organist of Ivy Chapter. Members enjoyed refreshments in the social room following the presentation. Those attending were: Leila Ferguson and Normand See from Royal Center Chapter; Linda Torpy, Sue Purvis, Vi Miller, Janice Miller, Sonda Coble, Kaye Sorrell, Regina Hiple and Roberta Ancil from LaFontaine Chapter. Pictured above are: seated - Carolyn Crist. Standing L to R: Sue Purvis, Kaye Sorrell, Linda Torpy, Regina Hiple, Roberta Ancil.

Honor Night for DD #18

Tuesday, September 2, was Honor Night for District #18 Deputy, Regina Brane-Hiple. In the Chapter room, the East was decorated with gnomes, yellow roses and a Bible. Different styles of gnomes were placed throughout the room.

The meeting opened in regular form. Martha Brown, PGM, was presented at the altar then escorted to the East, introduced and given Grand Honors. Regina Brane-Hiple, District Deputy #18, was escorted to the East, introduced and asked to remain in the East.

Under the Good of the Order, Tina Mullens, Worthy Matron, gave a fascinating tribute about Regina.

Regina had passed out a letter to each member present explaining the purpose and benefits of the School of Instruction at Converse Masonic Temple on November 18. Regina talked about some of the Grand Chapter Committee appointments. Judy Shrock, Service Dog Project Chairwoman, Converse Chapter #334, will have a booth at the Converse Festival to raise money for ICAN. Sharon Campbell, Chairwoman of ESTARL, Royal Center #375, has Christmas tree pins for sale. Roberta Ancil, LaFontaine #301, Chairwoman of Our World of Youth, LaFontaine #301, had a piggy bank in the dining room for people to drop their change in and was selling umbrellas. The District Deputies are the Chairmen for the Nettie Ransford Scholarship "Penny Brigade". She explained the penny-can bank that each deputy has and how the program will work this year. Everyone was excited at the idea of the pizza party!!!! Regina said that LaFontaine still has one of the original banks that as used when Nettie Ransford was collecting pennies.

The Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons of District #18 will be known as Acorns and Oak Leaves. With everything going on in the chapter, Secretary Nancy Pratt, thought that she was a little nuts, so Regina named her District Secretaries "The Little Nuts"!

The chapter was challenged with a "Did You Ever" questionnaire about Regina. Jean Sneed of LaFontaine #301, and Cynthia Biggs of Royal Center #375 received cute little ghost prizes for the most correct answers.

Martha Brown, PGM, gave a few comments reminiscing about Regina being District Deputy 30 years ago and complimented her on the fine job she is doing this time.

The dining room had gnomes strategically placed on the food table, beverage counter and dining tables. Everyone enjoyed yummy refreshments and social enjoyments



Swayzee's Busy Year

Swayzee Chapter #345 in D#13 has been very busy this year. We held installation on June 28th for Worthy Matron, Suellen Stokes and Worthy Patron, Larry Warner. On August 6th, District 13 had their School of Instruction. Eleven of our officers attended with 2 participating. It was voted by the Worthy Matrons to donate the coin march of \$90.00 to the Nettie Ransford Scholarship Fund.

We welcomed Sister Cindy Lucas, Past Deputy #13, who now resides in Florida, to our August 12th meeting. She comes "home" for 1 month every summer and will always take an office when visiting her home chapter. We also treated her to our local pizza place on August 14th for her favorite pizza.

Then we had to work. We held a cleaning day at the lodge on August 20th. We joined with Upland Chapter on September 11th for our official visit by WGM Carol and WGP Tom. Upland Chapter had one baby dedicated and each Chapter had the honor to present 50-year pins to Upland Past Matron Linda Harrison, who was also a former Grand Representative of Vermont, and Elwood Past Matron Linda Beavers, who now belongs to Swayzee Chapter.

Our September 23rd meeting, we voted to renew the Star-Lite subscription for our pillar, Marilyn Scott. At our October 14th meeting, we received a profit check from our online RADA sales. We also made plans to present a 75-year award to our Sister Joann Frazee on October 21st at the Elwood Health and Rehab facility. And we read a memorial for Robert Laughlin who recently received his 75-year pin by mail.

We also decided on our menu for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov 11th. We will bring our favorite Christmas goodies to our December 9th meeting along with the recipes, which are compiled in our Chapter Cookbook, now in its 21st year.

We may be small, but we try to stay active and involved. We love our OES!!!



Royalty Visits Spencerville OES Donut Trailer

The DeKalb Co. Free Fall Fair brought great friends, family and wonderful weather! The original Donut Queen, Faralee Baidinger, that started making donuts in 1949 for the Spencerville Eastern Star as a fundraiser, turned 104 on Sept. 30th. Faralee came to the DeKalb Co. Fair and handed out 104 Donuts to celebrate this wonderful achievement!

Worthy Grand Matron Carol Davis stopped in to lend a hand and learn about the Donut Business. She learned how to sugar and bag donuts along with her fellow sisters and brothers. Making 140 dozen donuts per hour takes teamwork and dedication.

Celebrating 75 years Making Donuts at the DeKalb Co. Fair



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 December 2025, 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!

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

In loving Memory of
Linda Stewart
Past Deputy of District #13
From the Past Matrons of
Muncie Chapter #104

In Memory of
Sister Mildred Duzan, 75-Year Member
Past Deputies of District 7

In Memory of
Sister Jean Pieper, 75-Year Member
Past Deputies of District 7

The Joyful JJ's Grand Family of
Jerry W. Jonas* and Gloria
Joy Ellen Kuppler and Richard*
Appreciate all who served with us and
went on to serve in other Grand Families

2 Stars

In Memory of
Beverly Barton & Lowell Carlisle
WGM & WGP 1984-1985
Sunshine Grand Family
From Ann Merritt, DD#21

In Memory of
Virgia Hendrick, WGM 1994-1995
Precious Memories Grand Family
From Ann Merritt, Grand Warder

OES Love in Remembrance
Barbara Terry, PGM
Beverley Barton, PGM
From Naomi Mitchell, PGM

I had the privilege of serving
in these Grand Families, "Hearts in Touch"
with Patsy Hinds and Harold Myers*, "Key
to Happiness" with Geneva Sare* and
Robert Gillespie*, "Let Your Light Shine"
with Edythe Gordon* and Murl Frazer*
Star Love, Joy Ellen

3 Stars

To my four amazing grandchildren
Lily, Peter, Sofia, Cecilia
From your GG who will always stand by you.
Love you to the moon and back
Gladys Colon-Clark

The Joyful JJ's Grand Family has been
honored to have the following serve as
GRAND WARDERS
Geneva Taylor, Arlene Mohler,
Lynn Shoulders, and this year is Martha Santus

4 Stars

Bill and Lynn Shoulders continue to serve for
the Rainbow Girls. They help keep the grounds
and do maintenance for the Rainbow Girls
Chateau. Lynn is Supreme Grand Treasurer.
Bill served General Grand Chapter as Most
Worthy Grand Chaplain. They still serve their
Golden Fleece Chapter. They enjoy all the
traveling. The JJ's THANK YOU.

Stellar Stars - continued

4 Stars - continued

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED
 Roven Harrison, Kat Wilson*, Mayme Lytle,
 Carolyn Janick, Geneva Taylor, Deanna
 Carrington, Gloria Jonas, Lynn Shoulders, and
 Martha Santus.

These also made the Joyful JJ's Proud

GRAND SENTINELS APPOINTED

Mark Ridenour and Julie in 1990
 Ron Wahl and Zeta in 1992
 Beryl Harrison* and Roven in 1993
 Ron Stabler* and Neva Jean* in 1994
 Larry Deutscher and Vickie in 1995
 Dwayne Taylor* and Geneva in 2000
 William Shoulders and Lynn in 2006
 Such an honor for the Joyful JJ's

5 Stars

Honoring Royal Center Star-Lite
 Grand Chapter Committee members
 in D#18 for 2024 – 2025

In Loving memory of the members we have
 lost from the Shining Stars of Friendship
 and Faith Grand Family 2010 – 2011

Honoring our Sister Becky Arthur and
 Brother Darrell Arthur for their friendship,
 love, service and dedication to the
 Order of the Eastern Star
 With love from Newberry Chapter #198

I thank Beverley* and Bob Barton and
 Lowell* and Ann* Carlisle for letting me
 serve as District Deputy #7 in their
 Sunshine and Love Grand Family
 I thank Markie and Ted Edwards and Jack*
 and Betty* Skinner for letting me serve as
 Grand Martha in their Harmony Belles
 Grand Family
 Star Love, Joy Ellen



WGM OFFICIAL CALENDAR

Dec 6 Grand Family Christmas
 Jan 24 ICAN Dinner Theater
 Jan 31 Grand Family Winter Fun
 Feb 8 Valentine Tea

OFFICIAL VISITS

Meal if provided 5:30pm,
 Baby Dedication 7:00pm,
 Award of Gold 7:10pm,
 Inspection 7:20pm

Feb 12 D#8
 Feb 13 D#2
 Feb 16 D#3
 Feb 17 D#5
 Feb 20 D#7

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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Master Trooper James Bailey “Donut Make You Happy” \$500 Scholarships

On March 3, 2023, while performing traffic control duties on I-69 in DeKalb County, Master Trooper Bailey was notified of a vehicle traveling in his direction involving Ft. Wayne Police Dept. The fleeing vehicle struck Mater Trooper Bailey causing his death. Master Trooper Bailey was a very dedicated Police Officer, father, husband, and friend to many people of DeKalb County. In 2022, Master Trooper Bailey participated in our “Donut Stacking Contest at the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair”. This contest pairs children with a police officer to stack Donuts.



All prizes from this contest are given to 18 DeKalb County Schools Libraries and the “Shop with a Cop” Programs. \$14,200 was awarded in 2024. The Spencerville Eastern Star has started a 529 Scholarship to honor Master Trooper James Bailey and presented three \$500 scholarships at the 2025 Donut Stacking Contest.

Pictured left to right: front row - Scholarship winners A. Hoover Colburn Corners Pre-School; 2nd row - Jaxon Kurtz Waterloo Elementary, Kashton Ash Riverdale Elementary, Miss DeKalb Co. Macy Kashmer, Miss Runner up DeKalb Co. Stacy Springer; 3rd row - DeKalb County Sherriff Brody Thomas, INDIANA DNR Officer Patrick Heidenrich, Indiana State Police Trooper Christopher Kinsey, Auburn City Police Officer Aaron Quick, Garrett Police Officer Joshua Hicks, Butler Police Dept. Officer Cory Rowe.

Celebrating 75 Years making donuts at the DeKalb Co. Free Fall Fair



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Star-Lite Magazine Publishers

Carol Davis, WGM
Tom Ring, WGP

Star-Lite Director

Amy Ogrentz
3444 - 41st St.
Highland, IN 46322
Griffith #583, D#19

Star-Lite Editor

Nancy Pratt
3597 N. Old U.S. 31
Rochester, IN 46975
Royal Center #375, D#18

Star-Lite Advisor

Gail Bailey
2233 Huffman Road
Boonville, IN 47601
Chrisney #357, D#1

Star-Lite Reporters

District Deputies
All members of OES

Barbara Heath, *Star-Lite Emeritus*
Franklin #439, D #6

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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
3597 N. Old U.S. 31
Rochester, IN 46975-8312
starliteeditor@comcast.net

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