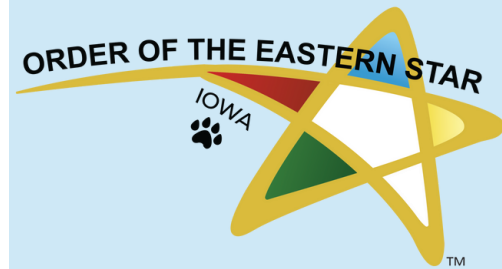


DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 52 ISSUE 1



Iowa Galaxy



MESSAGE FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON AND WORTHY GRAND PATRON

Submitted by: Mary Reicks and Joe Reed

Shalom to you all!

Thank you to all who attended our Grand Officers' Receptions and helped them celebrate the beginning of their journeys as Grand Officers. They have enjoyed getting to meet more of our membership and giving you an opportunity to learn more about them.

Nut sales are in full swing. If you would like to order nuts, contact a Grand Officer to place an order.

We had Christmas cards and ornaments available to pick up at receptions for members to take to their members or their area care facilities. Be sure to visit members who are homebound or in care facilities regularly and take them care packages for each holiday. As a Chapter, find creative ways to reach out to those who are homebound or in care facilities and share what you are doing on Facebook or in the next Galaxy.

This year the Districts are divided into groups. It is our hope that the District School will be the opportunity to practice for initiations. District Schools will include those items of business Chapters would have at a special meeting for an initiation. After opening in short form, there will be presenting of those present, roll call, initiation, coin march, remarks, and closing. When District Instructors visit your Chapter's stated or special meetings, the other items of business will be instructed.

Newsletter Highlights

[Message from WGM and WGP](#)

[Updates from Committees](#)

[Get to know your Grand Officers](#)

[Grand Chapter In Review](#)

[Eastern Star Journeys](#)

[Happenings Around the State](#)

CONTINUED: MESSAGE FROM THE WGM AND WGP

Brother Win Miller is helping with the Poker Run. When you attend an Official Visit, be sure to pick up a playing card. You can only have 1 card from each visit. Bring your best hand to Grand Chapter. There will be a prize for those with the best hand. The Grand Family will have their own poker run. We encourage you to visit other Chapters as often as possible.

Your committees are working to plan fun and unique events throughout the state all year long. Check the website and Facebook for the latest news.

Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Joe Reed, has made a bird house representing each of our state universities. Raffle tickets are available at all official visits with proceeds going to our youth. Let's see which university wins this contest.



At each District School that is an Official Visit, there will be one of the centerpieces from our reception for a silent auction. The centerpieces were made and donated by Sister Peggy Liekweg. The proceeds from these silent auctions will go to Retrieving Freedom. Many thanks to Sister Peggy for sharing her talents with us at our reception with these centerpieces, as well as sharing her musical talent at our reception.

We are so honored to serve Iowa Eastern Star this year and we look forward to this journey with you.

MARY AND JOE

UPDATES FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

Submitted by: Nancy Ramthun

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grand Chapter 2023 is in the books and it is time for a new and fresh beginning. Congratulations to PGM Vicki and PGP Larry, you performed your duties to the fullest, and the membership responded with their contributions in abundance.

Sister Mary and Brother Joe, I look forward to working with you in 2024 and wish you the very best. I wish to express my appreciation to the Iowa membership for your vote, allowing me to continue for another year as your Grand Secretary. It is a privilege working for our Iowa members.

I would like to share a couple of reminders: (1) when mailing your correspondence to Grand Chapter please use P.O. Box 72 and not the physical address. (2) when sending emails that pertain to Grand Chapter please use the Grand Chapter email address iowaoes@iowatelecom.net. I continue to receive emails on my personal email regarding Grand Chapter business, this email should be sent to the Grand Chapter Office. (3) If your Chapter initiates new members, Secretarys, here's a reminder to send the International Temple Fee of \$5.00 per each new member to the Grand Secretary. A notice of amount due will be sent to the Chapter Secretary if I have not received this fee.

If you are a visitor of our OES website, you will notice a new TAB on the left "District" this tab will show you the District number and the Chapters in the particular District. Thank you Sister Lois Chopard for the suggestion and to Brother John Hauser for making it happen.

On a more serious note, during our Grand Chapter Session all legislation that was presented at the session and voted on did pass. This means the Chapter dues paid to Grand Chapter at yearend will increase. Brother Jerry Jones, PGP and President of the Board of Grand Trustees will have a letter of explanation that I will include in the packet coming to your Chapter Secretary very soon.

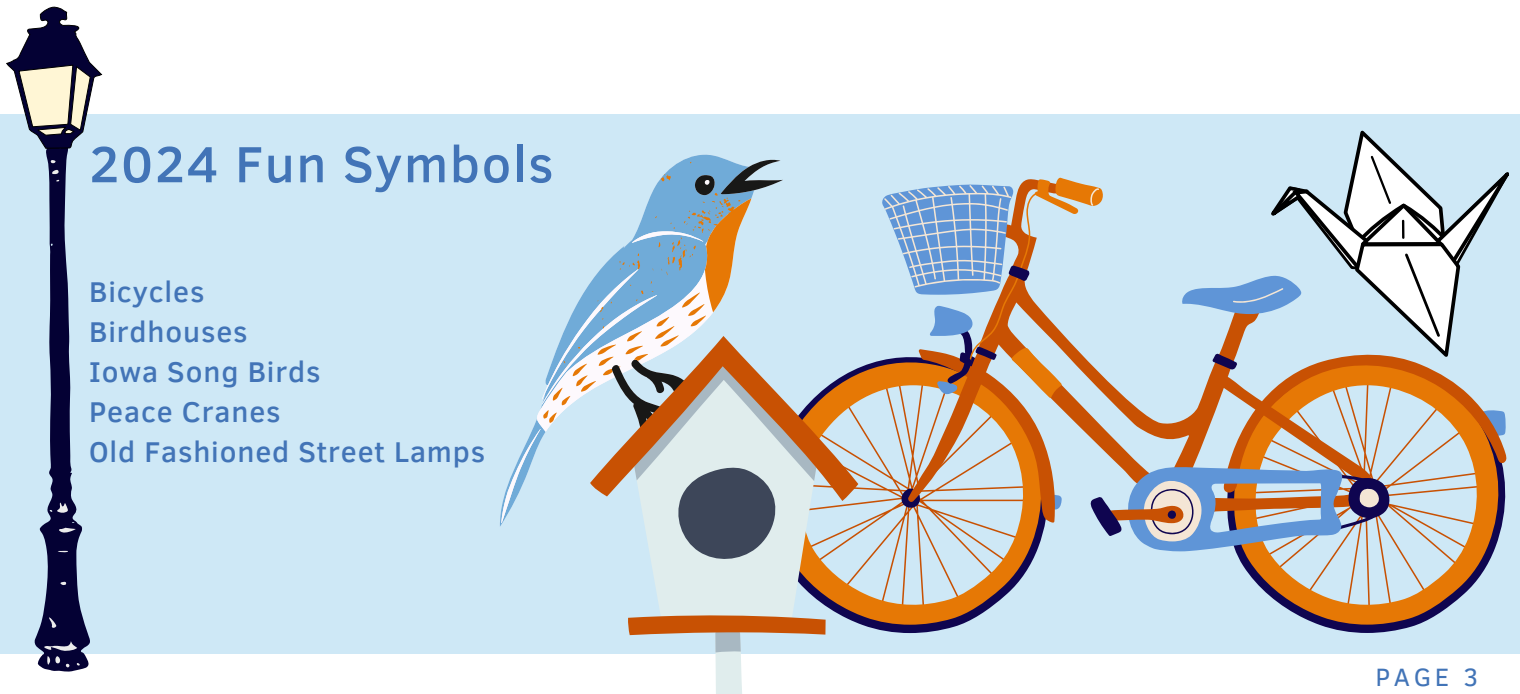
In Star Love,

Nancy

*Believe
in yourself
~~~~~&~~~~~  
And you will be  
Unstoppable*

## 2024 Fun Symbols

- Bicycles
- Birdhouses
- Iowa Song Birds
- Peace Cranes
- Old Fashioned Street Lamps





## LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Submitted by: Ellen Krupp

Excited for the new year. Can't wait to see the various Little Free Libraries that the membership comes up with. Please contact me when you get one done so I can fill it with books for the young and old. We'll also need to get pictures to show them off.

## TLC COMMITTEE

Submitted By: Carolyn Smith

The TLC Committee is open for business! The committee members are: Doris Rice, Storm Lake; Sandra Trainer, Northwood; Gean Cummings, Independence; Claudia Hauser, Council Bluffs; Sharon Jolley, Newton; Lark Randall, LeClaire; Peg Christensen, Greenfield; and Cynthia Hagmeier, Fort Madison.

We have patterns for the angel gowns, the inspirational hearts, and port-a-cath pillows. We also have crochet patterns for baby bonnets and baby gowns. The directions are on the Iowa OES Facebook page below the Shining Stars group picture under the FILES tab.

If you have questions, reach out to any one of us and we will help you.



## FEATURING IOWA ~ FEATURING YOU

Submitted By: Danelle Essing

Our Worthy Grand Matron has tasked this year's Membership & Marketing Committee with creating a new "What is A Star" brochure, among others, in order to be more about Iowa Eastern Star. It's in the works—but what is needed are some pictures showing our members working on projects, attending events and enjoying Iowa's sights, history and activities. We'd rather SHOW folks how we as Eastern Stars like to spend our time together.

Do you have favorite Star photos you are willing to share with us in brochures? Send them! Please identify the event, when and where it was held, and each person in the photo. If there are one or more minor family members or other minors in the picture, we must have a completed media release form for each minor (found on the Iowa Grand Chapter web page for the *Galaxy*).

Email those jpgs or pdfs to [essingdr@mchsi.com](mailto:essingdr@mchsi.com). (Snagging photos off a web site pixilates them and they are not high quality enough for reproduction in a brochure.) Media release forms may be snail-mailed or scanned and emailed. Can't wait to see your photos! Thank you.

## OHH THE “PAW”SIBILITIES

Submitted by: Mary Reicks and Joe Reed

This year’s special project is Oh the “Paw”sibilities (Retrieving Freedom). Iowa Eastern Star’s goal is to raise money to provide dogs for service members and children with autism as we bring awareness of Retrieving Freedom to our communities. We hope to bring awareness of the service Eastern Star provides to our communities as well. Retrieving Freedom, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to enhancing the lives of Veterans and children with autism through their specialized Service Dog training program. They breed and train chosen dogs to meet the needs of their specific client.



## Old Habits

Submitted By: Danelle Essing

Old habits are hard to change. Because they’re easy. They don’t require a lot of effort. They’re “comfy.” I consider myself a bit of an expert on this topic. For years, I told myself, “When I retire, I’m going to \_\_\_\_.” I had a LOT of different things in mind to fill in that blank. Two years into retirement now, and I’m wondering when I will find the time to make those long-awaited changes, as I seem to be busier now than ever before.

The one thing I have been able to do more of these days is reading—a passion I put off to the side for too many years. In doing so, I ran across a book that caught my attention: “The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges” by Tony Harvey. Don’t faint...I actually enjoy Masonic-related study materials; however, I’m usually thinking about how those articles and books can help us in our Eastern Star chapters.

To paraphrase Mr. Harvey’s basic theme: This is not your grandmother’s Eastern Star.

Well, duh. My grandmother belonged to her Star chapter about 100 years ago. I won’t bore you with a list of the most obvious changes in the world over the last century. Above all, though, I think that people have changed over the years. It’s hard to keep track of the different labels given to each generation, such as Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y—what label are we up to now, I wonder? Each group is identified by certain general behaviors and attitudes.

Something that has not changed over the decades is what the Order of the Eastern Star teaches: fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, love. It’s so important that we bring those tenets with us into the next decade and beyond. How do we accomplish this with declining membership?

Back to Mr. Harvey’s book. Do you want to know those seven habits of successful Lodges?

- |                                            |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Great ritual and ceremony               | 5. Distinctive features evolve        |
| 2. Good management                         | 6. Harmony                            |
| 3. Active support for newer members        | 7. Leadership, energy, and enthusiasm |
| 4. Engagement for newer members enthusiasm |                                       |

Some of those points seem like no-brainers, but a few of them generate questions. How do you go about engaging newer members? What is meant by “distinctive features?” Well, more on those points in future issues. Think about it, though. If our chapters are doing the same old things and not feeling successful, maybe what we need in our chapters today are some new habits?

### Associate Matron



Sandy Meredith is from Bedford and a member of Bedford Chapter.

A fun memory she has from Eastern Star: I am so glad that I got to attend events with my Grandma. Without her, I probably would not have traveled to visit other Chapters.

### Associate Patron

Bill Howie is from Manson and is a member in Laurens Chapter and Algona Chapter. His companion is his wife Barbara.

“It has been fun meeting the new family members for this year.”



### Secretary



Nancy Ramthun is from Oskaloosa and is a member of Tri Star Chapter, Eddyville and Knoxville Chapter. Her companion is her husband Tim.

“Life is full of surprises everyday. I'm guessing that as the Shining Stars start traveling together, getting better acquainted there will be many fun surprises.”

### Treasurer

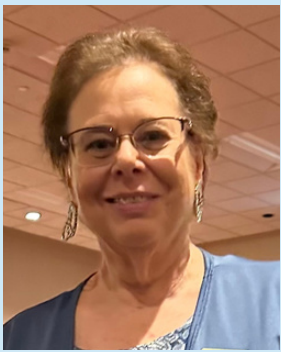
Terri Grover is from De Soto and is a member of Cedar Falls Chapter. Her companion is her husband Greg.

“The most fun is getting to know the grand families we have been a part of and all the after school event fun we have.”



## MEET THE SHINING STARS GRAND FAMILY

### Conductress



Janice Alger lives outside of Dickens and belongs to Laurens Chapter and Twilight Chapter, Spirit Lake.

Janice has enjoyed attending Grand Chapters in other jurisdictions and talking to her counterparts from other states.

### Associate Conductress

Lori Rasmuson is from Cedar Falls and is a member of the Cedar Falls Chapter. Her companion is Jody Connor. They went through Rainbow Girls together, and then were initiated together into OES.

“The most fun part for me so far is getting to know the rest of my new Grand Family. Jody takes lots of pictures at every place we go—and they are all on her facebook page.”



### Chaplain



Allan Tedrow is a member of Polk City Chapter. His companion is his wife Linda.

“One thing that has been common at most of our gatherings is me telling Dad Jokes and hearing the groaning that follows. Everyone is very willing to dig in and help out with the work that needs to be done.”

### Marshal

Larry Culver is from Panora and is a member of Linden Chapter and Lady Rhinehart Washington Chapter in Adel. His companion is his wife Marilyn.

“Being honored at my reception was really special and receiving a beautiful baton and holder from my family.”



## Organist



Lyn Tackett belongs to Cedar Valley Chapter. Her companion is her husband Joel Tackett.

“We love having fun with our Grand Family. The wardrobe changes keep us on our toes! Overall, we love sharing laughter and making memories.”

## Adah

Janelle Miller is from Vinton and belongs to Lamont Chapter in Independence. Her companion is her husband Josh Miller.

“A fun memory has been meeting new friends at the WGM/WGP reception.”



## Ruth



Linnea Clausen is from Le Mars and is a member of Loess Hills Chapter, Sioux City. Her companion is her daughter Sarah Waters.

“I was surprised to be asked to be Grand Ruth. And my best memories are having my daughter join during conferring of the degrees and attending this year’s Grand Chapter.”

## Esther

Kerry Krogman is from Sibley and is a member of Sibley Chapter. Her companion is her mother Becky Krogman.

“A moment that surprised me. I’ve been told my entire life I look like a Krogman but never at an OES function. At the WGM and WGP reception someone from across the state told me I looked like a Krogman because they knew someone from Dyersville.”



# MEET THE SHINING STARS GRAND FAMILY

## Martha



Deb Renner is from Janesville and a member of Waverly Chapter. Her companion is her husband, Brad.

“We didn’t arrive at Grand Chapter until close to the end, but had a good time. We’re looking forward to being there for the whole thing next year.”

Lola Van Wyke is from Des Moines and is a member of Heartland Chapter. Her companion is her husband James Peterson.

“I enjoyed participating in the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa Exchange. It was great to meet new people and to see an area of Wisconsin that I had not visited before. I’ve also really enjoyed getting to know the other Shining Stars.”



## Electa

## Warder



Karen Miller is from Eldora and a member of Coinette Chapter, Reinbeck. Her companion is her husband, Win.

“The most surprising thing was meeting the other grand officers at the first grand officer get-together. Realizing that I had met several of them in my travels as a companion to Past Grand Organist Peggy Liekweg in 2022. It was like meeting old friends and making new ones. Knowing as many as I did helped me feel much more comfortable than I expected to be.”

## Sentinel

Michael Miller is from Greenfield and belongs to Greenfield Chapter. His companion is his mother Polly Miller.

“The best memory I have made on this journey so far is seeing everyone at my grand reception. It was great to see so many people in our local Masonic Temple.”



## GRAND CHAPTER IN REVIEW

Submitted by: Vicki Wallner, Larry Niday, and Nancy Niday

This past year has been a wonderful year and we wish to thank you, the members of Iowa Eastern Star for giving us the honor of serving you.

We are still reeling from the Grand Chapter Session. The Love Gifts each of us received were very generous and made us appreciate how giving the people that make up our Order are. We thank all the individual groups and members that freely donated to that fund and we want them to know that it will be wisely taken care of. Thank you!

Our Grand Chapter Session was well worth waiting for. Because of the party held for our own General Grand Chapter Officer and Committee Members, it was extended an extra day. It was very nice that the General Grand Officers stayed for the entire session, so we were able to get acquainted with them and they were able to see how Iowa works. They were very impressed and we heard many complimentary expressions about our Iowa people. The session went smoothly and the comradery was evident wherever you looked. We tried to get around and visit with everyone we could, but we know there were people we may have walked by on the way to our next mission. To those people, we want you to know that we will try to make up for it as we see you in our travels.

Speaking of generosity, our projects were wildly successful. You all opened your pocketbooks and helped a lot of people this year. Each of the Youth groups received checks for their respective projects and activities. We were able to give \$2,000 each to Sandy Raab for the Blue Star Moms, Kathy Pantzer for the Care Packages project her students work on each year and Project Healing Waters, that works with disabled veterans through the Des Moines VA Hospital. The crowning achievement was the \$47,490.60 check we were able to give Healing at English River Outfitters (HERO), who works with veterans with PTSD and reintegrating into society after a deployment. Our recipients were astounded to learn that all the monies we came up with were from within our own organization and not from solicitation from the public. We had visitors from General Grand Chapter and around the country that were here to witness this and we heard many very nice comments about our successes. Thank you again!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone that supported us, had patience with us and worked hard to make this the fantastic year it was. It has been a highlight of our lives and we made memories we will hang onto for the rest of our days.

Thank You!

## WWII VETERANS AT GRAND CHAPTER

Submitted by: Betty Briggs

Marvin Hanson (pictured left) and Bill Briggs. Marvin is 99 and Bill 96. Marvin is Worthy Patron of his chapter and Bill a sideliner.





DECEMBER 2023

## “STRIKE UP THE BAND” GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER HONOREE EVENT

Submitted By: Diane R. Bargfrede

On Thursday evening, October 19, 2023, a special banquet to recognize our Most Worthy Grand Matron Sister Glenda Winchester and our Most Worthy Grand Patron Brother F. Lon Lowry along with our Worthy Grand Matron Sister Vicki Wallner, our Worthy Grand Patron Brother Larry Niday and the Iowa General Grand Chapter Honorees was held in Cedar Rapids at the Radisson Hotel prior to the start of the of the HERO Session of the 146th Iowa Grand Chapter.

The Iowa honorees were Sisters Diane R. Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah; Jean Koss, ESTARL Committee; Nancy Kiehne, Regenerative Medicine; Jane Green, Service Dogs; Janice Alger, Triennial Other Assembly Committee Member and Brothers John Hauser, International Headquarters and Phil Corwin, Youth Committee.

The General Grand Chapter theme for the triennium is centered around music and marching bands as “Worldwide the Family of God Marches Together”.

The General Grand Chapter Officers are called ‘Drum Majors’, the General Grand Chapter Committee Members, Tri-line Worthy Grand Matrons and Worthy Grand Patrons are known as Band Section Leaders and Band Captains respectively. Janice Alger is known as a Colorful Note.

Since the triennium is based on the band theme the honorees were led into the banquet room by Drum Majorette Sister Becky Nolte. The honorees carried musical instruments pretending to play them while the membership joined in the fun with clapping and singing.

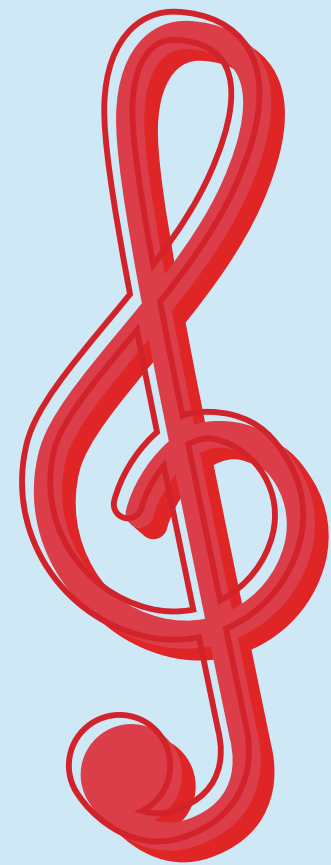
The program for the evening, presented by Sisters Tammy Van Horsen Post and Rhonda Wedeking, was a celebration of a ‘Salute to Iowa Musicians’, featuring Glenn Miller, Meredith Willson and Andy Williams.



The banquet room was beautifully decorated in red, white, and blue.



Sisters Rhonda Wedeking (above) and Tammy Van Horsen-Post (below) provided the entertainment for the evening with their ‘Salute to Iowa Musicians’.



Above: Becky Nolte, Past Grand Esther, escorted the honorees to the head table.

# EASTERN STAR OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER VISIT THE GRAND LODGE OF IOWA

Submitted By: Diane R. Bargfrede

The General Grand Chapter Elected and Appointed Officers visited the Grand Lodge of Iowa Library and Museum on Thursday morning during Iowa Grand Chapter.

Julia Wells, Curator, gave an awesome tour. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing the facility, museum and hearing the history of the library.

Wells is a Rainbow Majority Member, and an Eastern Star member from Alabama.

The group enjoyed a fun lunch at Biaggi's following the tour.



Sister Glenda Winchester, Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter, Past Grand Matron of South Carolina



General Grand Officers left to right (all are Past Grand Matrons and Patrons):  
Diane Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah-Iowa; Sharon Cormie, Worthy Grand Ruth-British Columbia and the Yukon; Kaye Rackley, Worthy Grand Martha-South Carolina; MWGM Glenda Winchester-South Carolina; H.M. 'Sonny' Dycus Jr., Worthy Grand Organist-Georgia; Linn McNary, Right Worthy Grand Treasurer-Louisiana; Debbie Dhayer, Right Worthy Grand Conductress-West Virginia; William Shoulders, Worthy Grand Chaplain-Indiana

Also, in attendance but not pictured was Sister Bobbi White, Past Most Worthy Grand Matron of the General Grand Chapter and Past Grand Matron of West Virginia.



## TRAVELS OF THE WORTHY GRAND ADAH

Submitted By: Diane R. Bargfrede

Many of our Iowa members have shared how much they enjoy traveling along through our Iowa Eastern Star Facebook page. For those not on Facebook here is a short synopsis of where I have been in 2023.

Following the 2022 Grand Chapter session my travels started by visiting chapters on three of the Hawaiian Islands. Grant Bargfrede was able to join me on this fourteen-day tour. We visited five chapters and were welcomed with generous hospitality at each one. In December, Craig Bargfrede and I attended a Special General Grand Chapter Session held at the International Headquarters in Washington D.C., the first in the history of the Order. At the meeting a new Right Worthy Grand Sentinel was elected to replace the current officer who had to resign due to health issues. Also, a new Worthy Grand Chaplain was appointed and both brothers were installed.

In April, I was able to attend the reception in Council Bluffs for Sister Lisa Hauser, Supreme Treasurer for Job's Daughter's International. April and May were full of visits to the following Grand Chapters: Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and South Carolina.

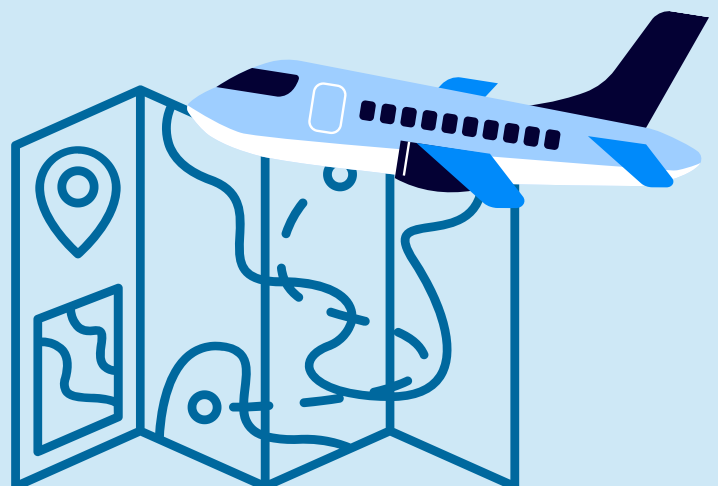
In the months of June and July, I visited Indiana and Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Grand Chapters. August was the Texas Grand Chapter where the weather was hot but the session was beautiful.

On August 28th Craig and I traveled on an adventure of a lifetime with Sister Glenda Winchester, Most Worthy Grand Matron. We spent the next seventeen days visiting chapters in Romania and Germany. We had full days with busy schedules. Travel modes were planes, trains, automobiles, and buses. Lots of walking too, averaging almost 10,000 steps a day. Some highlights will be shared in another article.

October brought me to the Illinois Grand Chapter, as well as the West Virginia Grand Chapter.

My travels have taken me to many places, and I have attended chapter meetings and Grand Chapter sessions. Each visit is unique and interesting, with generous hospitality being shared throughout all of them. The common thread found most often in Eastern Star is that 'Worldwide the Family of God Marches Together' and we find members everywhere who say, We Believe! We Care! We Love!

Let's keep marching together in service and love.



# GENERAL GRAND VISIT TO ROMANIA

Submitted By: Diane R. Bargfrede

We arrived in Bucharest, Romania for the official General Grand visit on August 29, 2023.

While in Bucharest we toured of the former Romanian Dictator’s Palace, enjoyed seeing the National Museum Cortorцени, and the current Romanian President’s Palace. We also toured the Romanian Parliament and the Peasant Museum.

Pictured left from left to right: Marcia Perry, GGCCM PGM Virginia; Diane Bargfrede, Worthy Grand Adah; Most Worthy Grand Matron Glenda Winchester, PGM South Carolina; Aruna Ionescu, Deputy to the Most Worthy Grand Matron in Romania. Not pictured: Craig Bargfrede.



Pictured below: Fellowship with members of Bucharest Chapter. Unfortunately, most of these members were not able to travel to Hunedorara for the joint Eastern Star meeting.



Other Eastern Star members from the United States joining Sister Glenda Winchester on this official visit were Charlie Chandler, Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, PGP West Virginia and his wife Judy also a PGM of West Virginia; Nancy Hitchman, Ambassador to Romania for the General Grand Chapter and PGM of West Virginia along with her husband Joe.

Additional highlights on the trip our group enjoyed were visiting Peles Castle, located in the Carpathian Mountains. We toured the town of Brasov and the Black Church. We also made a stop at Bran Castle is otherwise known as Dracula’s Castle.

While touring around Hunedoara we visited The Dacian Fortresses that is included in the UNESCO World Heritage. The six fortresses that are part of the Dacian complex were built between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD (pictured right).



# GENERAL GRAND VISIT TO ROMANIA CONTINUED



We attended a reception at a lodge in the country where we had plenty of food, fun and fellowship with our Romanian Sisters and Brothers.

Pictured Right: A joint meeting of the seven chapters in Romania was held in Corbin Castle in Hunedoara, Romania.

Photos below: Members from the following Chapters, Bucharest Chapter, Bucharest 1 Romania; Neboisa Chapter 12, Hunedoara, Romania; Julia Hasdeu Chapter 7, Timisoara, Romania; Iris Chapter; Alma Chapter and Constanta Chapter dress in their regional attire.



# THE ROAD TO MICHIGAN RUNS BOTH WAYS!

Submitted by: Danelle Essing

On May 21 this year, JoAnn Bergeson and Danelle Essing set out for Saginaw, Michigan, in another of their epic road trips. This time it was to attend a reception honoring former Jessamine Chapter member Susan McKibben, now a member of Martha Washington Chapter in Saginaw. Sue was recently honored with a Grand Representative appointment for Iowa, and Michigan’s tradition is for the chapter of the honoree to host a reception or “honor night.”

Sue’s reception was held the evening of May 22nd and began with a delicious potluck meal, followed by a program featuring line dancers performing to several familiar tunes. Sue was the subject of several gift presentations and remarks given by O.E.S. dignitaries, which all made for a delightful evening. As the guest of honor, Sue was very deserving of all the praise and appreciation for her Eastern Star work—but running a close second to Sue that evening was Gemma, a service puppy in training owned by Michael L. Waldo, General Grand Chapter Committee Member for Service Dogs. Michael is a member of Wacousta Chapter just south of Saginaw.

Since the road between Iowa and Michigan runs both ways, Sue McKibben returned to Iowa in October to attend our Grand Chapter Session in Cedar Rapids. She was happy to participate in the Parade of Flags with her counterpart, Ellen Knupp, Grand Representative of Michigan and Past Grand Matron of Iowa. Sue enjoyed our “HERO” session and took advantage of being in Iowa to visit several relatives before she made the road trip back to Saginaw.



Sue McKibben, center, receives a gift commemorating her appointment as Grand Representative of Iowa in Michigan from the Past Grand Matron and Past Grand Patron of Michigan who presented her commission. The table decorations featured red barns, cows, pigs, sheep and ears of corn.



Ellen Knupp, Grand Representative of Michigan in Iowa, is pictured with her counterpart and former Iowan, Sue McKibben, of Saginaw, Michigan. Sue attended Iowa Grand Chapter in October and appreciated the always outstanding Iowa hospitality.



Gemma, center, is pictured with her owner-trainer Michael Waldo, General Grand Chapter Committee Member for Service Dogs. Iowa Past Grand Matrons Danelle Essing, left, and JoAnn Bergeson, right, met Gemma and Michael at the May 22 reception honoring Sue McKibben held in Saginaw, Michigan.

FRANKENMUTH



# Frankenmuth & Mackinac Island

## June 1-8, 2024

**TOUR INCLUDES:** • All Admissions • Deluxe Motor Coach • Onboard Entertainment  
• Tour Coordinator • 7 nights of Comfortable Lodging • 9 Meals (6 breakfast, 3 lunch/dinner)

**\$1337/person double occupancy | \$1543/person single occupancy | \$100/person deposit**

**Door County** - On the peninsula between Green Bay and Lake Michigan in Wisconsin. It's known for its long shoreline and many parks.

Enjoy the luxury & grandeur of the beautiful and historic village. Explore the Wings of Mackinac Butterfly Conservatory.

**Door County Fish Boil** -Head to the tables, for the buttery, perfectly cooked whitefish and fixings for a melt-in-your-mouth delight.

Served in the main dining room, the legendary Grand Luncheon Buffet features hot and cold entrees, seafood, salad, fresh fruit, cheeses, a selection of meats, and desserts.

**Frankenmuth** - Known as Michigan's *Little Bavaria* with its picturesque old-world European flavor, craft and quilting stores, and restaurants. One meal on us here.

In Grand Rapids, tour the Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum. Wander the grounds of the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.

**Bonner's Christmas Wonderland** - The world's largest Christmas store! Let the sights, sounds and spirit of Christmas surround you at this amazing store.

Take a scenic tour of the Dells on the Wisconsin River. Cruise the channel cut by ancient glaciers and pass by pine-crowned cliffs. Then, head to Milwaukee, and take the ferry to Muskegon.

**Mackinac Island** - This island is a living Victorian village dedicated to preserving the Victorian way of life.

**CALL TO SIGN UP**  
**800-488-2114**  
**www.GoodyTours.com**

**ELITE**  
**GOOD**  
**TOURS**

MACKINAC ISLAND



PICTURE ROCKS





## 50 Year Member

Submitted by: Carolyn Smith

At our recent meeting of Jessamine Chapter #135, Iowa City, we honored Janet Stratton of Kalona. It was a bittersweet meeting as Jan is moving to Norwalk to be closer to family. Jan is a 50-year member and has faithfully served in the station of Ruth for over 10 years. Worthy Matron Erin McCroskey and Worthy Patron Jason Wolcott presented Jan with an honorary certificate proclaiming Jan as our very own Ruth Emeritus. She also received a lovely bouquet of flowers and many hugs and well wishes on this new journey. Life takes us all on different paths but no matter where we go we take a little bit of each other with us. Best wishes Jan!

Pictured left is Janet Stratton at the the Jessamine Chapter meeting.



## SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS



Submitted By: Rhonda Wedeking  
Twilight Chapter #59 in Spirit Lake collected school supplies.

Pictured above on right is Rhonda Wedeking and Jean Reed helping deliver the supplies to the Spirit Lake Elementary School.

## A NOTE FROM THE GALAXY COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for this first issue. We would love to hear from all of the Chapters in Iowa this year!

Please submit articles (and pictures!) anytime by e-mailng [iaoesgalaxy@gmail.com](mailto:iaoesgalaxy@gmail.com). The deadline to submit articles for the next Galaxy issue is February 16th.

Your Galaxy Committee Members: Elizabeth Reicks, Kerri Meredith, and Victoria Means