



# IPA Eastern Star Happenings

Live Everyday At Peace  
Fully Rely On God

“Yet you, Lord, are our father. We are the clay, you are the potter...”  
Isaiah 64:8

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I am honored for the opportunity to serve PA OES as this year's Magazine Editor! Thank you for your submissions.

Fraternally,



Note: If you are receiving this magazine in error or no longer wish to receive this publication, please contact the Grand Secretary.



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### CORRECTIONS

Spring 2024 Issue - Oldest Member in PA Eastern Star was born in Numidia, Pa (not Numibia), and was the Grand Marshall in the Catawissa (not Catiwissa) Halloween Parade.

## PA EASTERN STAR HAPPENINGS

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WORTHY GRAND MATRON

Marcia H. Holland

WORTHY GRAND PATRON

Michael E. Byers

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# MESSAGE FROM THE WORTHY GRAND MATRON

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Your 2024-2025 Grand Family has “jumped right in” and begun the fun filled adventure of a lifetime representing all of you at A Day With The Dogs, Rainbow Grand Assembly, Deborah Grand Chapter Informal Opening, the Pennsylvania DeMolay Convention and a variety of subordinate Chapter and Regional Events. The attendance at these gatherings has been great. I hope you will join us at future itinerary activities.



Our fundraising efforts this year, in addition to our beloved Service Dogs, will focus on the Charity Committee. Per our Constitution and Law, 40% of the funds raised by this committee will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society which was adopted as our statewide charity in 1999. The remaining 60% of proceeds will be split between Alzheimers and Bella's Bumbas, a non-profit that manufactures mobility devices for children with motor disabilities. A commemorative ornament, made right here in Pennsylvania by Wendell August Forge and designed by Isaac Earnest, grandson of our own Donald C. Graver, PGP, and Sister Sidney N. Graver will be sold for \$25. Chapter Representatives on the Charity Committee will have these for sale and the Grand Family will travel with a supply. Please support these charities.

Our Barbara E. Adams Excellence testing will continue with both Sisters and Brothers being able to test on the Ritualistic Opening Charge for the Chaplain and the Opening and Closing prayers. I hope many of you will participate and earn a gold cross pin to denote your commitment to Ritualistic Excellence. Testing dates, locations and application details will be available on the PAOES.org website.

The challenge is on for your Chapter to capture the Regional trophy each month as members gather points on the M&M's M&Ms Committee----Marcia and Mike's Marvelous Members. At our Annual Session next June, one Chapter in each of the three sections of the state will be crowned the winner and have the Chapter name added to the plaque Sister Sharon Wise donated this year in memory of her mother, Sister Barbara Sill.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina will be the site for the 51st Triennial Session of the General Grand Chapter. We will learn about the charitable efforts Eastern Star around the world has supported. Pennsylvania's General Grand Appointments have been hard at work over the last three years and we want to support Brother Robert C. Penoyer (PMWGP), Sister HelenBeth G. Vilcek (Ambassador to New York), Sister Judy A. Rutter (Chairman Charters Committee), Sister Rhonda M. Johnson (International Headquarters Committee), Sister Shirley B. Capo (Necrology Committee), Sister Diana N. Michael (Registration Committee), Sister Emily D. McCarthy (Youth Committee), Brother Thomas R. Mason (ESTARL Committee), and Brother B. Monte Kemmler (Service Dogs Committee). On Thursday, October 31st, our very own Sister Rhonda M. Johnson, PGM, will be installed as Worthy Grand Adah. Come to the Shore in 2024 and join the celebration!

Remember to be a LEAP FROG. Live Everyday At Peace. Fully Rely On God.

Saved By God's Amazing Grace,  
Marcia H. Holland  
Worthy Grand Matron 2024-2025

# MESSAGE FROM THE WORTHY GRAND PATRON

Sister and Brothers,

I grew up in the small town of Dillsburg, in York County. In 2006, I married Michelle and together we built a log home in the woods of Perry County. I have three children and we love spending time with our five grandchildren. I love to hunt, travel, and enjoy all aspects of the outdoors. I was initiated on September 20, 2011 and am a member of Perry Chapter #459, Region 8A. I have been retired from the PA Higher Education System Agency (PHEAA) since 2019. I love to hunt, travel, and enjoy all aspects of the outdoors. I am a Past Master of Newport-Tennis Lodge #381. In November, I will be installed as Worshipful Master of Good Samaritan Mark Lodge #139 and currently the Grand Tall Cedar of Juniata Valley Forest #88. I am a Past High Priest of Samuel C. Perkins #209, a member of: Newport Royal Arch Chapter #238, Scottish Rite Valley of Harrisburg, Juniata Valley Council #64, and Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders in Sunbury.



As a member of Newport Highland United Presbyterian Church, I serve as an Elder, member of the Property and Mission Committees and Steering Committee. I also volunteer at the local Food Bank. My special project is a Community Service project and I'm challenging Chapter members to make "Blessing Bags". I am encouraging members to stop and think how blessed we are. We have so many material things that allow us to live in comfort. These "Blessing Bags" are items that could help someone who is struggling. These bags, a 1-gallon or 2-gallon bag Ziploc bag, depending on items you want to give, can be made for women and men. They would be filled and kept in your car and given out on your travels. Give it to someone in your town who you know is in need of support: could be homeless or low-income people who just need basic items. We probably take these items for granted, because these items are easily accessible to all of us. Items such as hygiene products - toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, tissues, wet wipes, combs, sanitary napkins, small items of clothing - socks, hats, underwear and so much more. Non-perishable food like packets of coffee, tea, hot chocolate, Lipton noodle soup, crackers, granola bars, slim Jims and more. The list is endless. When you are buying items for these "Blessing Bags", think if you were living day by day with little food, clothing and maybe very little money, what would be important to you and what you would want. These bags can be made by individual members or friends; hold a fun event where you could invite your members who can't make it to the evening meetings. Invite your grandchildren over and teach them the lesson of giving to those who are less fortunate. However, you do it, count your blessings when putting together these "Blessing Bags". It's a thoughtful, inspiring thing to do. Include in each "Blessing Bag" a printed message to brighten their day and give them hope. Reach out to your Chapter rep for the instructions and message that goes in the bag. The message will say, this "Blessing Bag" is a gift to you. We want to share God's light throughout our communities. Have a Blessed Day! The message will end with; "The life was the light of all people...and the darkness shall not overcome it. John 1:5.

Our members are giving, loving, and caring people, and I thank you for your random acts of kindness that take very little to change the life of just one person. To add some enthusiasm and competition to this project, at the end of each Quarter, the Area Coordinators will send me the top Chapter who made the most "Blessing Bags". From that list, the top Chapter in the State will receive a visit from me and allow those members to have some fun by throwing pies in my face! The Chapter will be recognized along with a video posted on The PA OES Facebook page and website. I'm looking forward to seeing how many Blessing Bags are made and hearing the inspiring stories from members who gave them to those in need.

My scripture is Matthew 7:12: "So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them". It's a message that we all know and means treating others the way you want to be treated, showing kindness, respect, and fairness in all interactions. I have had a love for Black Bears since I was a child. The BEAR is my emblem. I took the letters, B, E, A, R to represent Be Enthusiastic And Respectful. Let your passion and energy inspire those around you, while always honoring their thoughts and feelings. Enthusiasm drives us forward, and respect keeps us grounded. Together, they create a force for positive change and meaningful connections. So always be kind and courteous, listen to others, and respect differences in beliefs and opinions and let's continue to show our excitement and interest of OES and have fun at our activities and events.

In Star Love,  
Michael E. Byers, WGP



# What's Happening at *Masonic Villages*

## MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

Current and future residents kicked off summer with a cocktail party on the Irem Clubhouse patio. Everyone enjoyed delightful drinks, hors d'oeuvres and new friendships.



To highlight community health partners, staff hosted several local providers, including CIP Rehabilitation (located in the Irem Clubhouse), Visiting Angels and others.

## MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN



Animal lovers got to meet some new furry and feathered friends, including rabbits from the Elizabethtown Fair petting zoo, during Animal Days in the Masonic Health

Care Center. Tracie Young, from Raven Ridge Wildlife Center, also visited residents to showcase a variety of animal ambassadors including a snake, skunk and vulture. She shared the importance of wildlife conservation and how everyone can protect the creatures around us.



Residents showed up ready to win at the Lancaster Senior Games, where they competed in basketball, bocce, horseshoes, shuffleboard, cornhole, bowling, pickleball and more.

## MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

At their spring bazaar, with gently used clothing, home décor and other items for sale, residents raised almost \$350 for the general fund, which supports resident programming and events.

Being in close proximity to the beach, residents are able to take day trips to places like Ocean City, Md., and Cape

May, N.J. They've also been enjoying summer drinks and socials and were invited to the Prodigy Learning Center graduation held on campus. Residents get to know the kids during intergenerational activities throughout the year.



## MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

Residents put on their detective hats (and flapper dresses) for a Great Gatsby Murder Mystery. Good company and serious sleuthing led to a closed case. They also kicked off the summer with the first of their patio concert series and a School's Out Hop featuring hits from the 40s to 60s, dancing and refreshments.

Team MVS, made up of residents and staff, took part in the Pittsburgh Susan G. Komen "More Than Pink" walk. Together, they raised over \$15,000 for breast cancer research, treatment and screenings and were recognized as the top-performing team.



## MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

Residents and staff made "Radiant Memories," the theme for National Skilled Nursing Care Week this year (May 12-18), with fun events and yummy snacks, including a "drive-in" movie with root beer floats, breakfast for staff, a concert, fresh milkshakes and a cornhole competition.



### **Associate Grand Matron - M. Joyce Camlin**

Since December 4, 1979, Martha V. Paul Chapter No. 404 in Region 3 has been my home chapter. I had the pleasure of serving as Star Point Martha from 1980 through 1983 when I was elected to serve as Associate Conductress and this year (2023-24) will serve my sixth term as Worthy Matron (1986-87, 1999-2000, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2014-15). I have also served as Secretary of the chapter for two different terms, Star Point Adah and Organist.



For Grand Chapter I served as AGCCM on the 1987-88 Stamps Committee, 2012-13 BFF Committee; 2016-17 Caring & Sharing, Western Chair; 2017-18 and 2018-19 Deputy Grand Matron of Region 3B; 2019-2022 as Grand Representative of Ohio in Pennsylvania; and Personal Page to the Worthy Grand Patron in 2021.

I also had the honor to serve Grand Chapter as an Assistant Grand Warder, elections Teller, and assisting with Registration.

I graduated from Uniontown Area School District in 1970, and was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Uniontown until 1972, where I served as a representative to the Uniontown Area Council of Churches Youth Council. I joined Trinity Presbyterian Church, PCUSA, in April of 1972, and Manor Presbyterian Church in 1974.

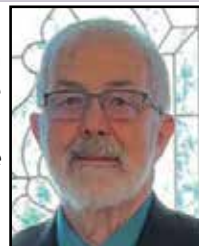
In 1977, we joined The Church of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, PCUSA, where I have been a member and soloist, and past president of the Covenant Choir, and am a member of Jubilate Ringers English Handbell Choir. I am also a Ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church, have chaired the Officer Nominating Committee, and served two terms as Chair of the Worship & Music Committee.

On June 10, 1972, I married George M. Camlin, PGP; and we have three children: Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Camlin 1976. Susan R. Camlin Huston – 1979, and David D. Camlin – 1980; and now have seven grandchildren: Afton C. Camlin, William G. (Liam) Camlin, Anna R. Huston, Alasdair M. Camlin, Jonathan P. Huston, Eben G. Camlin, Sean H. Camlin. I have recently retired as a bookkeeper and can now devote more time to my family and to OES.

Spending time with my family and friends, singing, reading, needlework (cross stitch and quilt piecing), and working word puzzles bring joy to my life. Sharing smiles and kindness with others are my preferred ways of bringing light to others lives.

### **Associate Grand Patron - Dennis J. Devine**

Dennis grew up in an Irish coal cracker town of Girardville. He graduated from North Schuylkill High School and then onto Williamsport Community College (WAC) where he learned the mechanic trade. He worked as a mechanic for PPL for 40 years before retiring in 2014. Dennis currently resides in Conyngham with his wife Sam. He is looking forward to his new adventure as Associate Grand Patron and serving the Order of the Eastern Star.



Dennis enjoyed the friendships and fellowship while attending events that he could while Sam was DGM in 2012 and decided he wanted to be part of this Order. Being initiated, elected, and installed as Associate Patron on the same night in Shick-Shawnee Chapter #190, he has served as Worthy Patron several times as well as several other positions. He enjoys doing the Barbara Adams Excellence Award testing and finds it a very rewarding program for ritualistic work. He has served as Grand Guard several times and 126th Session Paraphernalia Committee Chairman. Dennis is a member of the Sylvania Lodge #354 and 32-degree Mason of the Valley of Bloomsburg where he currently is serving as Thrice Potent Master of Enoch Lodge of Perfection. He has also received a Meritorious Service Award from the Pennsylvania Council of Deliberation.

Dennis loves to travel and go to beach, working on vehicles and spending time with family. Together Dennis and Sam have 5 children, 3 grandchildren and 1 Great Grandson. He also loves spending time with their 3 yr. old Shih Tzu, Lily Pearl.

### **Grand Secretary - Virginia L. Plyer, PGM**

Gee Gee is a member of Morning Light Chapter #312, Region 14B. She has been WM 3 times since her initiation in 1977. She has served OES in various capacities including Grand Martha, DDGM, Fraternal Correspondent, Eastern Chairman of the Barbara E. Adams Excellence Award Program, and Regional Advisor for Region 15. Gee Gee & Brother Richard celebrated their 52 years of marriage May. They are members of Lehman Memorial United Methodist Church in Hatboro. Their family includes their son, Scott, and 3 grandchildren, Emily, Evan, and Jack; and their son, Sam, and his wife, Susan.



**Grand Treasurer - Susan K. Fisher**

Susan is a 25-year member of Mount Union Chapter #280, Region 7A where she served as WM, Treasurer, and Star Point Martha. She had held several AGCCM appointments and served as Treasurer on Orpha Kemmler's Club Board. She has been serving as Grand Treasurer for the past 4 years.

Susan is a retired Master Sergeant and resides in Hopewell, PA. She attends the Stonerstown Church of the Brethren and is a Life member of the Bricktown Senior Center. Susan is "Nana" to 10 grandchildren, 4 boys and 6 girls, ages ranging from 3 years to 24 years. Susan enjoys playing computer games, reading, jigsaw puzzles and RVing with the family.



**Grand Conductress - Debbie A. Helm**

Debbie was initiated in 1978, with 45 years of service to OES. She is a member of Old Bellaire Chapter #375 Region 8A in Carlisle, PA and served as WM in 2022-2023. She is also a plural member of Gettysburg Chapter #392, where she has served as Ruth, Chaplain, and WM in 2016-2017.

Debbie's biggest supporters are her mother, Nancy L. Line, and her late father, Donald P. Line, PGP 2006-2007. A highlight of her Eastern Star life was when she served as Personal Page to Grand Chaplain Todd Johnson at Grand Chapter in 2019.

Debbie is an active member St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Plainfield, PA. She currently serves on church council and is an assistant to her pastor. Debbie works at Mt. Rock Elementary in the Big Spring School District as a teacher's aide to the kindergarten students.



**Associate Grand Conductress - Cathy A. Hoke** - I am a member of The Glen Chapter #425, Region 8B, for 24 years. I served as Worthy Matron 2009-2010 and 2017-2018. I served Grand Chapter as Grand Ruth in 2016-2017. My AGCCM's appointments include - Caring and Sharing, Central Chairman, Masonic Villages, Central Chairman, Charity, 120th Sessions Housing, Caravan for Cancer, 127th Session Committee General Chairman and Grand Page. I have held offices of Chaplin and Warder and also have been an Emblem Bearer in my chapter.

I worked for Penn National Insurance Company for 18 years as Commercial Lines Underwriting Manager and was employed in the insurance industry for 44 years until my retirement in December 2020.

My family consists of my late mother Rose who was Grand Ruth in 2004-2005, my late father George, late sister Mona, nephew Jeremy, his wife Jackie, and great-niece's Lilly and Ella. Traveling, crafts and bowling are my hobbies.

Being a member of Eastern Star has made me a better person as I have upped my game on the amount of volunteer/charitable work I do. I joined Eastern Star as my mother was a faithful member for many years and I know the joy it brought her, and I have since made many friends over the years.



**Grand Trustee - Donald C. Graver, PGP**

Donald currently resides in Holtwood with his wife Sidney (Robert Fulton #446, PM). This year they will celebrate 57 years of marriage in October. Together they have 3 children, each with a great spouse and 8 grandchildren, who they love with all their hearts. He is a member of the Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church.

Donald served on the School Board of Penn Manor School District for 9 years as a member and board chair. Donald retired from Messicks Farm Equipment in 2016. Donald enjoys time in his wood shop, playing cards with friends, attending grandkids sports events and traveling to OES events. Donald is a member of Lodge #43 and Robert Fulton Chapter #446.

Donald has served as Marshal, Chaplain, Associate Patron, and WP. He was given the opportunity to serve as Deputy to the Coatesville Veterans Hospital, the 121st Session Committee Paraphernalia Chairman, Worthy Grand Patron in 2017, and is currently Grand Trustee for a 3-year term.



### Grand Trustee - Lisa Weaver

Lisa is currently in her 5th year serving as Grand Trustee, and 44 th year in Eastern Star. She currently serves as Associate Matron in State College Chapter No. 388 and as Martha in Lewistown Chapter No. 283. She has repeated twice as Worthy Matron of State College No.388. She served as Grand Electa (Sandra K. Berkey, PGM), Deputy Grand Matron (Jean D. Fey, PGM), and Grand Representative of Colorado in Pennsylvania (Rhonda M. Johnson, PGM). As Grand Rep, Lisa attended Colorado's September 2006 Grand Chapter. She has also held several Grand Chapter Committee Appointments.



Lisa and her husband, Ed Glantz, reside in Port Matilda. Ed is a past patron, and currently serving as secretary of their Chapter and is Past Master of the State College Lodge. They have three children, Candace, Justin, and Kirsten. Candace, Kirsten, and son-in-law, Fred, are active members of State College Chapter. They have four small grandchildren, Dean, Leo, Evelyn, and Emmitt. Lisa is a Tax Attorney and CPA in State College. Her company, Lifestyle Retirement Company, assists employers establish and operate retirement plans.

### Grand Trustee - Vicky J. Botjer

Vicky J Botjer has been a member for 29 years Oct 1995 - WM - 3 times, A1gCCM - 5 and Deputy Grand Matron - 2019-2021 Page - twice. Harriet Greene # 198 - Region 11C. She joined when her aunt was Deputy for Region 19, not knowing really what it was all about. She has learned that Star has provided her the right people and the right path when needed most, and really didn't realize it.



She is a CPA and Currently the CFO for Wayne County and holding several leadership positions on Community and State-wide Boards.

She has a BS from Cedar Crest College, Allentown. She currently lives in Lake Ariel, PA with her husband Art, and they have 3 children and 3 granddaughters.

She was elected to trustee in June 2022 to fill a 2 year term and is currently serving her first 3 year term. Vicky is very humbled to be on the Board of Directors to use her experience to strengthen our Order.

### Grand Chaplain - Linda M. Shoemaker

I have been a 24 year member of OES. I have served my chapter as Chaplain, Ruth and Martha and gone through the chairs twice. I have served Grand Chapter as Deputy Grand Matron 2016 and 2017. I have also served as an AGCCM several times. I was on the session committee for HelenBeth Vilcek.



I have enjoyed all the opportunities and always learn something new. I have been married to my husband, Mike, for 46 years. We have two married daughters, 6 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter.

I have enjoyed meeting so many friends along the OES trail.

Grandchapter, Analise Photography





### **Grand Marshal - Marie D. Moffett**

Marie is very lucky to have 1 husband, 4 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 siblings. She is a recovering retired teacher who taught high school math and computer programming for 36 years. The transition into retirement has been wonderful as Marie and her husband have used the time to travel – they are cruise lovers – to dreamed destinations and to visit grandchildren, who all live out of state, as often as possible.



Marie joined Star in January 1990 after she ran out of excuses to give her mother-in-law who kept asking Marie to join. Marie joined Palestine Chapter #250 and loved it! There were so many wonderful women of all ages. Three years later Marie was Worthy Matron. Her co-workers taught her the love of traveling within the District and to Itinerary events around the State. Two years later Marie was District Deputy Grand Matron for Mary Haas. Since then she was Worthy Matron four more times, had many appointments. After her first chapter closed Marie joined Friendship Chapter #551 in 2007. She has served as Friendship's Secretary for the last thirteen years and still has fun serving in that office.

Marie loves working with her hands – cooking, computing, sewing, cross stich, crochet, knitting and gardening. Marie enjoys singing in her church choir and the Grand Chapter choir.

I belong to Eastern Star because it brings me joy. You learn about yourself, your goals and your strengths. You learn people skills at social settings, how to work as a team on committees, leadership skills as an officer and how to give back to the community through our charities. There is fun. There is work. There is reward. There is love. I am proud to belong!

### **Grand Organist - Michelle L. Burns**

I joined The Order in 1985 in New Castle Chapter #105. It was a very natural transition because I am a 3rd generation member of the masonic fraternity. I have served my chapter as several star points, as well as organist and line offices. I served as WM 3 times. New Castle went in masse to Mercer #180, and now we have a new home with new, wonderful brothers and sisters.



I have served Grand Chapter in various Appointments and would not have met so many dedicated individuals if I were not given those opportunities.

I joined the order because the life lessons taught by our star points are endless, and we should resonate their teachings through our lives by bringing hope and joy to others.

### **Grand Adah - M. Jane Aiken**

I joined Star in November of 1994. Former member of Mars Chapter and now a member of Butler Chapter I have had many appointments and have enjoyed my Grand Representative Commission. I have one son Ron, who is married to Sarah. They have blessed me with a granddaughter Elizabeth (Elle). I am retired and loving every moment I spend with Elle.



### **Grand Ruth - M. Virginia Foor**

I am a 57-year member of OES. Served as Worthy Matron 2003-04 & 2010-11. District Deputy Grand Matron 2006 District 16-D. Grand Representative to Alabama in PA 2013-14. General Chm - Souvenirs – 2007. AGCCM - Fraternal Membership 2015. AGCCM - Stars Shine bright for Charity -2016. Personal Secretary - 2017-18. Currently serving as Ruth in White Rose Chapter 360. Grand Ruth 2024-25.



### **Grand Esther - Kathy A. Henkel**

Kathy was initiated into Imperial Chapter #537 in December 1986. In May 1987 she was installed as an officer, a practice she has continued since then. She served as Worthy Matron twice and was DDGM in 1996-1997.

After Imperial Chapter closed, the chapter transferred to Sewickley Chapter #439. Kathy continued to be an installed officer for Sewickley, serving as Worthy Matron four more terms. She has been honored with several AGCCM appointments. She is currently AM of Sewickley – and vows that next year will be “Seven and Done” as WM!

At one time 9 members of her immediate family were OES members of Imperial or Sewickley.

Kathy is also a member of the Order of the Amaranth and is currently serving as District Deputy Grand Royal Matron. Kathy retired from teaching math in 2003 after teaching for 37 years – all of them in the same classroom!

Kathy was encouraged to join OES by several of her (then) co-workers and by members of the Advisory Board of the Rainbow Assembly where her daughter was a member.

“Oh - the friends I have made and the family I have gained!”



### **Grand Martha - Toni M. Younkin**

I am a 44 year member of Monessen Chapter #205 and I have been serving as Secretary for over 25 years. I am a 5-time Past Matron and held the offices of Marshal, Esther and Martha.

I was honored to serve as Deputy Grand Matron in 2013-2014 for Sister Virginia Plyler, PGM and I have held many appointments including General Chairman of Caring and Sharing for Sister Mary Stillman, PGM and General Chairman of Golden Stars for Sister Joyce Plonka, PGM. I served on the Wings of Love Club Board for Sister Carla Thompson, PGM and was Chairman of Pages for her Session. I currently am on the Lucky Leaping Frog Club Board for Sister Marsha Holland, WGM.

I was Grand Page in 1986, the personal page for Sister Ann Hofius when she was Grand Conductress and I also served as a General Grand Chapter Page.

I have been married to Brother Charles Younkin for 25 years and our family consists of our 2 miniature schnauzers Blitz and Stella Mae and our cat Violet. I have worked for Duquesne Light Company in Pittsburgh for 44 years and I currently am an Asset Analyst in the Operations Planning and Budgeting Department. I am a Past President of Carnegie Assembly #80 Social Order of the Beauceant, a Past Worthy High Priestess and Past Watchman of Shepherds of the former Margret E Caven Shrine, White Shrine of Jerusalem and I am a new member of Jeanette Court #25 Order of the Amaranth.

I joined Eastern Star because I was a rainbow girl and I came from a Masonic Family. Eastern Star brings joy to my life because my Sisters and Brothers are my extended family and hopefully I bring joy to others by being there when they need me.



### **Grand Electa - Margaret F. Grilli**

I have been a member of Eastern Star since Nov. 2007. I am a member of Anna M. Rote chapter #491. I have been Worthy Matron 3 times, serving 5 years. I have been married to my husband for 35 wonderful years. He joined Eastern Star 4 years ago and served as our Worthy Patron with me this past year. I was Deputy for Sister Diana Michael and served as an appointment numerous times. I am a retired Home Economics teacher for Pittsburgh Public Schools.

I joined Eastern Star when I was 52, as soon as I found out I could join under Rainbow majority.





## A Legacy Well-kept

At 95 years old, Jean Ross is ready to pass on her family legacy to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A resident of Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, Jean is grateful her mother was able to trace her family roots back to 1066.

That year, during the Norman invasion, her family moved from France to settle in England. They eventually moved to America with Samuel Fletcher Pratt, her sixth great-grandfather, who became one of the most notable businessmen in Buffalo, N.Y.

“He opened a general store to trade with the Native Americans,” Jean said. “He was the first white man to settle there and open a store. He started the legacy of the Pratt family in Buffalo.”

The wheel of Pratt’s wagon is currently on display in a historical museum. Jean also has a newspaper article detailing the story of Pratt’s settlement in New York and the subsequent development of the city.

Jean’s mother spent 10 years researching the family’s history and writing it down. Jean’s son, Samuel, took an interest in the family history and has since brought it up to date.

“It’s not nearly as detailed as my mother’s was — she went back to many relatives in Buffalo and has all the marriage and death dates written down,” Jean said. “But it’s my life, my history, my legacy that I’m passing down to my children. I think it’s important they realize they have a long history of being Americans before the Civil War.”

Jean was born in Bellevue, Pa., and grew up in Brookville, Pa. She recorded significant lifetime events, including, including being 13 years old when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor to start World War II.

“I can remember it as clearly as if it had happened yesterday,” she said. “I have incredible memories of the war and the things we did without.”

Jean graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a home economics degree and received her master’s degree in elementary education from West Chester University. She retired after teaching fourth grade for 23 years.



Jean is a Past Matron and a longtime member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Her husband, Sam, was a Mason and an Eastern Star member for 66 years.

The couple was married almost 68 years when Sam passed away in 2020. Jean waited two more years before looking into retirement communities. She discovered Masonic Village in a magazine, and the rest was history.

“We came and looked at the facility, and when we drove away, my son said, ‘Mom, that’s a no-brainer. Don’t let that go,’” she said.

Jean said coming to Masonic Village was the best decision of her life, other than marrying her husband.

***“I’ve been so happy,” she said. “I’ve made such wonderful friends.”***

She enjoys spending time with her two sons and a daughter, as well as six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Jean looks forward to re-telling a lifetime of memories through the oral history she has inherited.

“I’ve had a wonderful life, and I’m hoping to share it with others,” she said.

**Masonic Village at Dallas: 570-446-5658**  
**Masonic Village at Elizabethtown: 717-473-0614**  
**Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill: 484-535-3119**  
**Masonic Village at Sewickley: 724-242-5099**  
**Masonic Village at Warminster: 215-672-2500**

## 2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Educational Scholarship and ESTARL Committee is pleased that we were able to award 133 scholarships for \$3,000.00 each. Sixty-seven of the Chapters sponsored members, children, and grandchildren of members. We want to encourage eligible students to apply for this assistance. If you have any questions, please contact your Sectional Committee Member.

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Emma Holderbaum (Rainbow for Girls)  
Corrie Baker (Job's Daughters)  
Martin Stoner (DeMolay)  
Madison Albert (425, 8B)  
Charlotte Appel (552, 8B)  
Sarah Bailey (336, 13A)  
Adam Baker (422, 10A)  
Raifton Bartling (439, 3)  
Carissa Bateman (221, 5A)  
Tyler Bergstresser (460, 13A)  
Lola Berra (552, 8B)  
Katlynn Borosky (1, 12A)  
Damian Branas (290, 7A)  
Conner Broglio (221, 5A)  
Laney Broglio (221, 5A)  
James Brown (8, 11C)  
Elizabeth Bruner (221, 5A)  
Abigail Burk (277, 5B)  
Luke Campbell (97, 3)  
Katarina Cannata (324, 1A)  
Austin Cooley (509, 8B)  
Kadyn Crisswell (280, 7A)  
Sophia Dando (394, 9)  
Riley Davison (164, 3)  
Drevyn Deskie (460, 13A)  
Nikaya Dewald (282, 9)  
Shane Dodson (471, 7A)  
Adelena Donovan (212, 3)  
Conor Dowdell (312, 14B)  
Kiera Dowdell (312, 14B)  
Lauren Dunckley (327, 14B)  
Glen Earl (64, 14A)  
Jacob Earnest (446, 10A)  
Cynthia Ehrenfeld (374, 14B)  
Mason J. Ferguson (392, 8A)  
Lily Fetterman (396, 12A)  
Michael Fisher (483, 10B)  
Evan Freil (97, 3)  
Ethan Fringer (360, 10B)  
Jamie Frisbie (424, 13B)  
Zoe Gannon (374, 14B)  
Paula Geary (74, 11B)  
Ashley Geesey (407, 10A)  
Kristen Geesey (407, 10A)

Jessica Gentile (129, 14B)  
Olivia Gentile (129, 14B)  
Emily Gierczynski (324, 1A)  
Randell Gohn Jr. (360, 10B)  
Kara Gossard (392, 8A)  
Maeve Gray (164, 3)  
Mason Gray (164, 3)  
Connor Hamby (267, 2)  
Brandon Hile (394, 9)  
Joshua Hiles (44, 1A)  
Tyler Hillson (4, 11B)  
Eliana Holderbaum (229, 5B)  
Kyra Hoover (125, 5B)  
Lauren Hoover (125, 5B)  
Paige N. Housley (138, 7B)  
Austin Hunsberger (318, 14A)  
Sean Jerzewski (327, 14B)  
Connor Kaczmarek (439, 3)  
Marissa Kauffman (509, 8B)  
Tiffani Keen (323, 14A)  
Riley Keppley (115, 13A)  
Corrine Kessler (198, 11C)  
Avery King (235, 12B)  
Rachel Klein (76, 11A)  
Samantha Krahling (509, 8B)  
Benjamin Kurtyka (164, 3)  
Kylie Jo Kurtyka (164, 3)  
Samantha Kurtyka (164, 3)  
Cydney Lahr (266, 9)  
Caitlyn Lauver (552, 8B)  
Elizabeth Lentz (552, 8B)  
Ethan Lipscomb (356, 3)  
Kate Lipscomb (356, 3)  
Gabriel List (400, 5A)  
Arai Lubas (251, 13A)  
Joshua Macomber (552, 8B)  
Joshua Magnotta (552, 8B)  
Keeley Malloy (312, 14B)  
Ksenia Mangino (460, 13A)  
Madison Mark (552, 8B)  
Alexandra Marks (83, 11B)  
Katie Martell (283, 7A)  
Tanner Martin (247, 4)  
Mary Mason (164, 3)

Morgan McEntire (235, 12B)  
Joseph McGee (129, 14B)  
Olivia McGowan (316, 4)  
Austin McGrew (316, 4)  
Anna Medina (249, 15)  
James Meehan (212, 3)  
Owen Mendham (312, 14B)  
Tristan Miller (221, 5A)  
Hudson Miller (356, 3)  
Jillian Mooney (216, 11C)  
Samantha Munson (74, 11B)  
Maisie L Neuber (76, 11A)  
Nicholas Oruska (83, 11B)  
Aidan Perry (198, 11C)  
Emma Plank (73, 3)  
Catherine Pope (339, 14A)  
Jane Pope (339, 14A)  
Rachel Rabenold (336, 13A)  
Brett Reinert (460, 13A)  
Trinity Rhode (449, 13A)  
Ryan Ridenour (125, 5B)  
Lindsey Robertson (548, 7B)  
Hamid Rodkey (548, 7B)  
Cheyenne Ruch (439, 3)  
Matalyn Rupp (290, 7A)  
Carson Rush (67, 11C)  
Dianna Sands (64, 14A)  
Courtney Schmauch (435, 5A)  
Luke Seymour (251, 13A)  
Jonathon Shaffer (8, 11C)  
Arthur Shirk (396, 12A)  
Bridget Stoops (459, 8A)  
Ava Straub (164, 3)  
Kendyll Strohl (235, 12B)  
Madeleine Teska (279, 9)  
Megan Tobias (115, 13A)  
Brooke Valentic (73, 3)  
Baily M Vennie (67, 11C)  
Jillian Warner (324, 1A)  
Maggie Wiley (374, 14B)  
Alexandria Williams (267, 2)  
Elizabeth Wolesschok (424, 13B)  
Daniel Woodford (251, 13A)  
Ty Yerger (460, 13A)  
Logan Zimmerman (424, 13B)

## CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

State College Chapter #388 manned the “Soup Shack” selling soup during the Nittany Antique Machinery Association Spring Show. Funds raised will fund the ingredients to prepare and serve four community dinners at local FireHouses around Centre County as means of saying “thank you” to our First Responders.

Following dinner, members of Susquehanna Service Dogs and Penn State’s Animal Response Team will provide training to the members of the firehouse to address what to do when arriving on scene where there are either humans with an animal or animals in crisis.

With pawprints in our hearts and In Star Love,  
Tara L. Mondock, PM & General Chairman  
Service Dog Committee  
WM State College #388, Region 7A



### Grandchapter, Analise Photography



### Day With the Dogs Event

Event Number 1 on the Grand Family’s Itinerary brought them to Grantville for The Day With The Dogs. It was OH SO HOT, but oh so awesome for the new Service Dog Leadership team to welcome 14 guests/non-members and 140 members from 45 PA Order of the Eastern Star Chapters from all over the state. We learned so much at each of the four educational stations we rotated through, learning about the process of breeding, raising, partnering and opportunities to become a volunteer to support the program. We even had the opportunity to witness an ultrasound on SSD Rizzy, who’s expecting 9 puppies in the coming weeks. Our highlight was also having the opportunity to meet and greet 5 of the SSD Eastern Star litter including SSD Ruth, SSD Esther, SSD Martha, SSD Star II and SSD Tiler. (We were missing our SSD Naomi who was on vacation). We even had an opportunity for SSD Ruth to meet her fan club from the Lebanon Chapter and to celebrate their Top Dog award and Ruth’s winning the Star Point Challenge! Thanks to all that donated financially and brought treats and toys! The SSD Raisers will love the treats and the toys are a great addition to the Bow Wow Boutique and will be a great way for us to continue raising funds at upcoming Itinerary events by selling these toys for \$5 each. We look forward to seeing many of you as we make our way around the state. We also encourage you all to SAVE THE DATE for the PAOES 2025 Puppy Bowl on January 11th in Grantville. We hope to see you there!

With pawprints in our hearts and In Star Love,  
Tara L. Mondock, PM & General Chairman  
TLMONDOCK@gmail.com  
PA Order of the Eastern Star  
General Chairman Service Dog Committee  
WM State College #388, Region 7A



## CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

### News from Susquehanna Service Dogs

We are so appreciative of your support and interest in Susquehanna Service Dogs and all you make possible! You are transforming lives and we could not be more grateful – and neither could our partners. (visit <http://www.khs.org> for more photos and videos)

Last weekend, we had our Graduation ceremony. Puppy raisers “handed the leash” to 19 people who each now have a life-changing Assistance dog as their forever partner, and a further 6 dogs are now working in facilities such as hospitals and schools.



Also this year, 2 dogs transferred to other agencies so they could be partnered with people further afield, and 12 dogs became detection canines, working for the CIA, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, law enforcement agencies and the United Nations, protecting thousands of people with their energy and scent-work skills.

A total of 39 dogs, a record year for us but a truly an accomplishment which can only happen because of our generous donors, volunteers, staff ...and dogs!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Valerie Whyman, Director of Development & Major Gifts  
Keystone Human Services

On August 8, 2024 Juanita #8 Region 11C proudly initiated Mary Melnikoff into our chapter. We have three generations that are now members. Pictured from left to right Margaret Wanick, grandmother; Mary Melnikoff new member and Erin Wanick, Worthy Matron and mother of Mary.



Region 8A held the “For the Birds” Charity event on August 23, 2024. Guests stained their own birdhouses and over \$2,000 was raised for the WGM’s charities!

Submitted by Kristie M. Kennett AGCCM, Charity Reg 8A



Sewickley Chapter #439 sprang into action in their kitchens preparing a bake sale to help out our brother lodge Avalon Lodge #657 when trouble came falling from the sky. Avalon lodge sprang a roof issue discovered during a particularly long rainy period and advised our chapter as they are storing a lot of the clothes for a major clothing drive going in for the Light of Life Mission. When our brothers alerted us we started baking and helped them raise almost \$200 in one night at a community event. They also had nachos and waters available but Sewickley’s amazing stars brought the treats.

Pictured are a few of our member bakers:  
Lynn Ruch, Kimberly Amic, WM and Charissa McMahon



### Cruisin’ on a Summer Afternoon!

Ivanhoe Chapter #28 entertained the Grand Family with a dinner cruise on the Hiawatha Paddle Boat on Tuesday, July 30, 2024. A little rain didn’t stop us from having a couple hours of great fun, fellowship and food on a relaxing cruise on the Susquehanna upstream from Williamsport. We had some rain, but that ended with a rainbow.

Kaye H Long, Ivanhoe #28 Region 9



## CHAPTER / REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Juanita Chapter #8 had a very successful basket bingo and raffle, enough so that each officer was given \$200 to donate to a local charity of his or her choice. Ed Bloxham, WP is giving a check to a representative of Camp Freedom for \$500. Three different officers gave all or part of their donation. The camp is located outside of Carbondale, PA and is a therapy camp for military, first responders, and gold star families. They have an opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, and socialize with other veterans and first responders. It is privately funded and dependent on donations from local charities.



There was some horsing around in Region 14 Charity Event "Talk Derby to Me" on July 19, 2024.

Approximately 83 attendees participated and enjoyed a lite dinner and fellowship before racing for the Championship Title.

Organized by AGCCMS Connie Farmer (14B) and Donna Boice (14A), the event raced to raise funds for the Worthy Grand Matron's Charities, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Bella's Bumbas. Over \$1,300 was raised during the event not including additional funds raised with the purchase of horses, reservations and donations. Everyone enjoyed the night while supporting the charities and taking home prizes for their wins.

Carolyn Kitchen (Perkiomen 14A) has bragging rights for the best hat worn by a Worthy Matron.

Stephanie Pearson (Deputy Grand Matron 14A-Lenape) was crowned Champion Jockey of the Derby.



State College Chapter #388 partnered with the Susquehanna Service Dogs to host an educational panel at the 150th Centre County Grange Fair on Monday, August 19, 2024. The panelists included Tara Mondock, PA OES Chairman Service Dogs, Ann Poorbaugh and SSD Curie, SSD Director of Development and Community Raiser and Ambassador SSD Meyer, Ed Hosler, Deputy Chief of Probation in Clinton County and SSD Clark, a Facility Dog in the Clinton County Probation office. and Susan Lechtanski, Leader for the Roar for More Puppy Training Program at Penn State University. The panelist shared their personal stories and information on how SSD breeds, whelps, trains and places dogs with their humans. What a wonderful turnout.. and equally wonderful to see so many PA OES Brothers and Sisters join us!



PA OES and SSD saw fairgoers again when participating in the Grange Fair Parade on Thursday, August 22. The weather was picture perfect! Brother Mike Byers, WGP and Brad Lewis, PGP joined members and their families from State college Chapter #388 along with Valerie Whyman, from SSD and her two service dogs, SSD Meyer (Ambassador Dog) and SSD Cola (puppy in training).

With pawprints in our hearts and In Star Love,  
Tara L. Mondock, PM & General Chairman

# Serving Our Communities

GRAND CHAPTER OF PA OES INC  
105 FREEMASON DRIVE  
ELIZABETHTOWN PA 17022

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Across the state, Masonic Villages' mission extends to neighboring communities and individuals of all ages. **In 2023, we provided charitable care and services worth \$40 million across the state and gave back more than \$417,595 in support to the Dallas, Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and Warminster communities.** Efforts included:

\$32,400 = Scholarships awarded to teen volunteers

\$63,793 = Donations to fire and EMS companies, libraries and other causes

\$262,904 = Estimated cost of local residents' and organizations' use of our facilities, including outreach and home assistance

\$2.4 million = Paid to local boroughs, townships, counties and school districts through Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements for Dallas, Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill and Sewickley

6,521 = Hours spent hosting 58 interns and students for clinical experiences



Residents and staff also raised \$11,000 for Relay for Life of Lancaster (to benefit the American Cancer Society) and \$21,000 for the Susan G. Komen "More Than Pink" Walk (to aid breast cancer research and resources), among other community service projects.

**Learn more at [www.MasonicVillages.org/About/Community-Report/](http://www.MasonicVillages.org/About/Community-Report/).**



## MASONIC VILLAGE FARM MARKET

- Peaches, strawberries, cherries, blueberries, tomatoes, sweet corn, hanging baskets and vegetable transplants
- Apple cider, apple butter, preserves, pickles and salsa
- Pies, apple dumplings, cookies, cakes and breads from our bakery
- Hand-dipped ice cream and milkshakes from our Orchard View Café

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10 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

**SATURDAY, 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, NOON – 4 P.M.**



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### HOURS:

**THURSDAY - SATURDAY  
11 A.M. – 5 P.M.**

**SUNDAY  
NOON - 4 P.M.**

