

# Grand Representatives Association of New Jersey

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

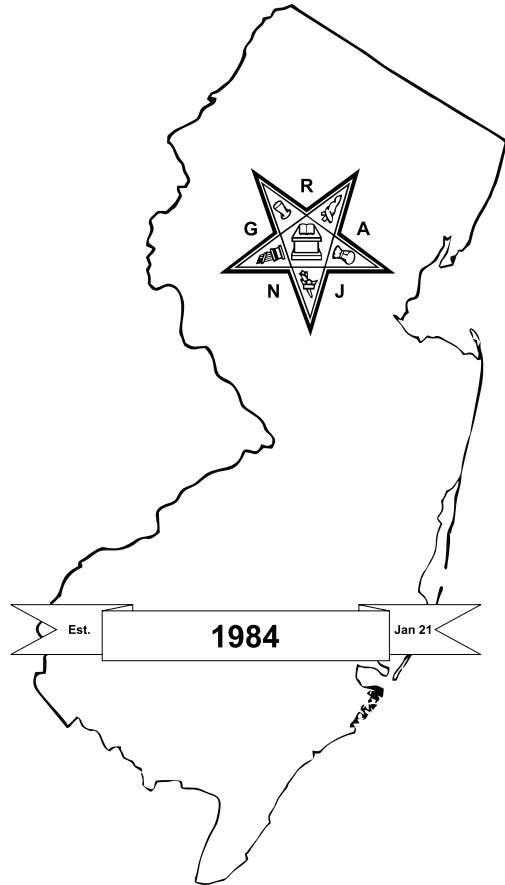
Happy New Year, Sisters and Brothers!

I pray you were able to enjoy some 'down time' over the holidays and that 2024 holds joys beyond your dreams. Grand Representatives have a great opportunity to bring joy to others as they travel and greet others in the name of our Most Worthy Grand Matron and the New Jersey Jurisdiction.

Congratulations to all the newly appointed Grand Representatives! We hope you will join our Association and participate in our 2 meetings a year. GRANJ members – remember to reach out and invite those new Grand Representatives to come along to our meeting and luncheon. The more, the merrier!

Thank you to all those who helped plan and prepare our fun October meeting with the Rainbow Girls – playing Let's Make A Deal! Everyone went home a winner, and it was fun seeing their excitement with the prizes. Special thanks to our MC – Sister Carole Enterkine – excellent job! I heard the girls were still talking about the delicious chicken lunch for a week after!

So many thanks are needed – Thank you, Sister Lisa Helge, GO, for spearheading the consolidation of the Grand Representative Tips/Instructions. I'm sure new and returning Grand Representatives will appreciate a quick-tip guide, rather than the 6 pages I handed out as WGFC! Thank you to my Ambassadors and Committee Chairmen for keeping all the filings and reporting up to date. Sister JoAnn Bingenheimer, PGM, worked carefully to get all



together for the Fall and this newsletter – and coordinating the email distribution – thank you SO much for all that work and I hope it gets easier with each 'mailing'.

Best wishes and thanks to Sister Lisa Helge, GO, and Sister Barbara Helfrey, GO, for having my back and managing the meeting reservations. May your year be as smooth and enjoyable as mine has been. My wish for all the best success to those who will be elected or appointed as you assume your new positions for 2024-2025 in GRANJ.

Our Annual Meeting will be Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Molly Pitcher Chapter, Olive Branch Lodge, 2 Dutch Lane, Freehold. The meeting will start at 10:30am. Starting 30 minutes early should allow us to get out closer to 12 noon to enjoy a baked potato bar lunch, as our elections and voting take a little extra time.

This newsletter includes a reservation and a nomination form for 2nd Vice President. Please fill them out and return to Sister Barbara Hayes (babs0602@optonline.net) before 2/21. Remember you must be up to date with your dues to vote or be elected to office. The secretary needs to have a letter of acceptance prior to the meeting from those who are nominated and cannot attend. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Grand Representatives Association for giving me the honor of serving as your President. Remember – A Smile means the same thing in every language.

In Star Support and Friendship,  
Jennifer Schiffrin, PGO  
President, GRANJ

## FROM 1st VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Again, my Grand Representative Pals (Past and Present),

Where has the time gone? It seem like yesterday I wrote my message for the GRANJ Newsletter and here I am again writing another message. I hope all your holidays were bright and cheerful with many memories. As we go into our Annual Meeting with newly elected officers, I would like to recognize Sister Jennifer Schiffrin, our President for the outstanding job this year. I watched her at many events, especially Rainbow events and she was professional and brought a shining light onto our organization. I would also like to recognize Sister Barbara Helfrey, our 2nd Vice President who painstakingly did our reservations for our luncheons. As I ascend to President, and having lost my commission a few months, it all feel surreal. You never stop being a Grand Representative. It's the friends you make along the way that make all the difference. I plan on going up to Vermont again this year for their Grand Session. I hope you all will come out to the GRANJ Annual Meeting to hear my plans for my year as President.

In Fraternal Love and Friendship,  
Lisa Helge  
1 st Vice President

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## FROM THE 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Grand Representatives,

I look forward to seeing you again soon. February 24, will be here before we know it. Thank you so much to all of you who made our Fall meeting so successful. We had a great turn out of members and Rainbow Girls.

Jennifer had a wonderful day planned with games and food. According to the girls from my own Trenton Assembly IORG they enjoyed both very much.

I sincerely hope that we have as great or an even better turn out in February for our election meeting when we will be making our donations and discussing matters that could effect our organization. I really hope to see you then.

In Star Love,  
Barbara Helfrey  
2nd Vice President

### GRANJ OFFICERS 2023-2024

1st Vice Pres.	Lisa Helge, GO
2nd Vice Pres.	Barbara Helfrey, GO
Secretary	Judy Brown, GO
Treasurer	Dorothy Westdyke, GO
Chaplain	Linda Penin, PGO
Parliamentarian	Joan Smith, PGM
Jewelry Chair	Candy Walling, PGO
Audit Committee	Alice Good, PGM
	Dale VanHouten, PGO
	Norman Sloan, PGO
Newsletter	JoAnn Bingenheimer, PGM •
Organist	Pamela DeLisa, GO

### District Ambassadors

31 Susan Whitty, GO 201-388-5414
33 Stephanie Bowen, PGO 908-418-2727
34 Jeanne Gionfriddo, PGO 908-614-4001
35 Adair Ruane, PGO 732-270-5976
36 Barbara Juniewicz, PGO 609-287-7310
37 Susan Sharpe-Corliss, PGO 856-912-2146
38 Heather Shoppas, GO 609-234-6980
39 Carol Hart, PGO 908-852-0234

### **JEWELRY:**

GRANJ pins are available from Sister Candy Walling for \$10.

### **DUES:**

Dues are \$5. Please send them to the secretary, or with your lunch reservations, or pay your Ambassador. Checks should be made payable to GRANJ.

### **TO OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS:**

**3 John 1:2** *"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."* ---

Our prayers are for you to feel the Lord with you and our hugs for you.

### **TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES:**

*"...a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."*

– **Ecclesiastes 3:4** -- May your memories of cherished times bring you peace during this difficult time.

If someone you know is in need of a card – healing, encouragement, sympathy or joy – please notify the Chaplain, Sister Linda Penin, PGO – LindaPenin@aol.com / 201-602-7412 (cell)

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe it has been ten years since I became Secretary. I remember being told I would keep the position for life!! While it has been an honor to serve our Association it is time for someone new to take the reins.

Thank you to the membership and ambassadors for all your support along the way. The love, friends and joy we share with each other only strengthens our beautiful order and I am grateful to a dear sister who many years ago encouraged me to join Eastern Star, Sister Anne Dawley.

I wish all of you the very best in all your Star endeavors. A sideline seat awaits me and I look forward to cheering you on.

In Star Love and Friendship,  
Judy Brown.  
Secretary, GRANJ



In our attempt to keep cost of paper, envelopes and stamps down, please let us know that we have your correct address and emails. Please advise our secretary and our newsletter chair JoAnn Bingenheimer (JoAnnBing@gmail.com)



A big **PLUS** is that you will receive information faster.

# GRANJ – Meeting and Luncheon

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Olive Branch Masonic Lodge

2 Dutch Lane Rd.

Freehold, NJ 07728

February 24, 2024

Keep Smiling!

\*\*\*Meeting 10:30am

Lunch 12 noon

Cost \$15

## Checks Payable to GRANJ

(baked potato bar with loads of topping choices, salad, dessert, beverages)

Reservations by **February 21st** to Sister Barbara Helfrey, GO

97 Sherwood Ave.

Hamilton, NJ 08619

Babs0602@optonline.net

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Past) GR of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination for 2nd VP -- (You can nominate yourself!)**

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