# Star The Star Journal



**March 2024** 















Let EASTERN STAR Animate Your Life





**March 2024** 

#### Next Issue: September 2024

Please address all submissions to Sister JoAnn Bingenheimer, PGM 211 Virginia Ave,

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Most Worthy Grand Matron's Message Memoriam for Brother James "Jimmy" Hines Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron's Message Right Worthy Grand Secretary Right Worthy Grand Treasurer **Right Worthy Grand Conductress Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress** Right Worthy Grand Trustee 37th District Honors 50, 60, 70 & 80 Year Members CAPS (CHAPTERS ASSISTING PREEMIES AND PEOPLE) Doing What We Do Best Lily's Hope Membership Dinner Wildflower Luncheon **Annual Grand Session** A Warm Welcome in South Carolina Administrator Letter President's Message Renew & Refresh Program Becoming a Resident Tree of Life **Grand Session Meal Plan** Life Skills Grants **Rainbow Connection** Comfort Zone Camp Miracle of Christmas Tea **Eastern Star Charity Foundation** 

The Christmas of Imagination State 50/50

"Bakeless" Bake Sale

Odyssey of the Seas

Niagara Falls & Toronto

Travel Confident Protection Plan

Joanne Byrne, Most Worthy Grand Matron Sharon Rosequist, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron

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# Most Worthy Grand Matron's Message



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

s I write this message, I find it hard to believe that 2023 is behind us and we are looking at the blank canvas of 2024. This year has been a bit different. Brother Jim's illness took a vital color from our palette. Yet, with the help of many of our Past Grand Patrons who stepped in and added their own distinct hues, we have been able to paint a beautiful picture. I will be eternally grateful to each of them who filled in at Grand Officers' Nights, Grand Florals, and District Meetings; or even just offered their services.

Creativity seems to be the word that best describes this year. This was demonstrated mostly with District Meetings. At our last Grand Session, a change in the law allowed Deputies to think outside the box when planning their District Meetings. Most of the District Meetings have been traditional, with each Deputy having creative themes and decorations. I thoroughly enjoyed each one and commend the Deputies and their Official Families on beautiful and fun afternoons. I don't like to single out anyone because everyone is of equal importance to me, but I must commend Heather Shoppas, WDD#38 for her courage in being the first to try a "non-traditional" District Meeting. She found a way to involve not only her Official Family but all members of the chapters. She was rewarded with a fantastic turnout--a sold-out eventthat people are still talking about. The goal has been to "INSPIRE" and whether through traditional meetings or something new, our District Deputies have been achieving that goal. The mixture of styles has created a beautiful canvas, and I couldn't be any prouder.

It's hard to believe that we need to add only a few more brush strokes and our portrait for this year will be complete. I want to thank everyone who has added color to this painting, whether running or supporting a project, attending an event; or just offering kind words of encouragement. I'd especially like to thank my Grand Officers for being the absolute best. I love each and every one of you. You each add a special color to my life.

We are preparing for our 153rd Grand Session, May 20,21, and 22, 2024 in Atlantic City. This year we will be at a new location, Tropicana. Information about the many opportunities for us to gather together are included in this issue. Please remember that to properly plan and to hold down costs as much as possible, we need members to make their reservations with the NJ OES reservation code, and to be mindful of reservation deadlines. We are especially looking forward to seeing all of you at the Membership Dinner on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 4:30 pm, followed by the Installation of Sister Sharon E Rosesquist, her MWGP, and their slate of officers.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve this Order and our membership. I have been blessed to be able to plan this year with Brother Jim and to have him serve by my side for as long as God allowed. His spirit is always with us. I have also been blessed to serve with a fantastic, elected line, all of whom are dedicated to moving our Order forward and seeing it flourish. I have been especially blessed to be able to spend time with so many of our sisters and brothers around the state. I again thank you all for your love and support.

Sisters and Brothers, remember that life is a canvas. Go out and paint yourselves on many colorful days.

In Star Love and Friendship, With Faith and Trust and a Little Bit of Pixie Dust,

> Joanne Byrne Most Worthy Grand Matron



# In Memoriam



ur Brother Jimmy lost his long, courageous battle to cancer on January 6, 2024. He fought the good fight but, in the end, God saw he was tired and brought him home. We lost a wonderful man and a talented musician. Yet, he would not want us to mourn his loss but to celebrate his life.

The world also lost another talented musician named Jimmy on September 1, 2023 after a long battle with cancer. Knowing the end of his life was near, Jimmy Buffett wrote a song for his fans that was released one week after his death, and I'd like to share the words with you. Bubbles Up

When this world starts a-reelin' from that pressure drop feelin' We're just treading water each day There's a way to feel better, be well set to weather The storms 'til the sun shines again When your compass is spinnin' and you're lost on the way Life a leaf in the wind, friend, hear me when I say

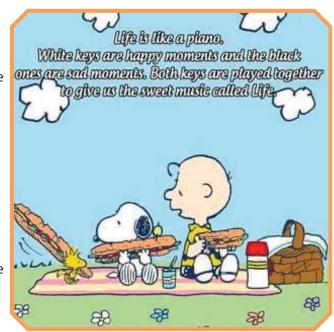
Bubbles up, they will point you towards home No matter how deep or how far you roam They will show you the surface, the plot and the purpose So, when the journey gets long Just know that you are loved, there is light up above And the joy is always enough, bubbles up

To my friends who are jolly, when melancholy knocks Sometimes they let her in To sit and share stories of flops and of glories It ain't half as bad as the bends Sometimes living's a struggle multiplied double But they love it too much for the party to end

Bubbles up, they will point you towards home No matter how deep or how far you roam They will show you the surface, the plot and the purpose So, when the journey gets long Just know that you are loved, there is light up above And joy, there's always enough, bubbles up

Let's pop a cork
To the rough and the right
To the bright blazing days
And the sweet starry nights

Bubbles up, they will point us towards home No matter how deep or how far we roam They will show you the surface, the plot and the purpose So, when the journey gets long Just know that you are loved, there is light up above And joy, there's always enough, bubbles up





# Greetings from the Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron



### Greetings,

hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas Holiday and New Years with family and friends. Christmas snuck up on me this year, but I managed to get everything done in time. Let us take a moment to enjoy and embrace the Advent and Christmas season, remembering Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May Gods enduring Love for each of us fill your hearts.

I have had a wonderful time traveling the State and attending all the District Meetings, Receptions, Honor Nights and being with you, our most devoted members.

Spring is just around the corner and that is a season of rebirth and renewal. Renewal of our obligation, and a renewal of chapter officers.

My message to each member, is a heartfelt Thank You for everything you do for your Chapters and our beautiful Order. Without your support and dedication, our Chapters will cease to exist. I challenge each of you to call those members of your Chapters that have not been out to a meeting or fundraiser. Encourage them to come out. Let them know they have been missing. It has been too easy to sit at home, in the comfort of our easy chairs and let others take up the slack. We need to band together, come out and support our beautiful order.

Valentines will be coming out soon and it is a very exciting time of year! The Rose pinning is just around the corner. I wonder who will be chosen?

I look forward to seeing and greeting each of you at Grand Session.

Remember to Honor our Past, those are our traditions, Embrace the Present, and Always look forward to the Future!

I wish each of you a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

Safe travels to each of you!

In star love and friendship, Sr. Sharon E. Rosequist Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron



# From the Desk of the Right Worthy Grand Secretary



#### Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

Another year has been written in the history of our Order. As the new year begins, let's continue to reach out to our members, both near and far; some are no longer able to come out and join in the festivities of our Order and look forward to the card or phone call just to say hi!

Our secretaries are continuing their work in the Chapters. Reports will be due soon for the end of our fiscal year 2024. This past year, Grand Chapter has changed their

membership program from "eTapestry" to "Grandview", and we are still working on the necessary changes before having our Chapter Secretaries work with it. We are looking forward to working with it in this new year.

There will be no Annual Secretary and Treasurers meeting this year. Since this is no longer at Grand Session, it was decided that our annual luncheon would be bi-annual, and if anything needs to be discussed, it can be done at either one of the Secretaries meetings held during the year.

The plans are starting to get underway for Grand Session in May 20, 21, and 22, 2024, and, as always, information will be coming out shortly. Make your plans now. All flyers will be mailed to the Secretaries

and will be posted on the website. Grand Session will be held at the Tropicana, Atlantic City, NJ.

I continue to look forward to working with each of our Secretaries and Treasurers. I want to thank those who have dedicated years of Service to our Order and continue to do so.

If you need to have something put on our NJOES website, please email me the information at: newjersey.oesgc@gmail.com

To Sister Joanne, congratulations as you served during this "Let Eastern Star Animate Your Life" year. You and Brother Jim had a wonderful Installation and reception. We will remember him with fond memories and, of course, his love of Snoopy. In his message in the September 2023 issue he quoted "It's ok to laugh and have fun when we can, it's okay to dance and sometimes break the heaviness that others are experiencing. Even Jesus said to His little children come to Him. Elders of the day were too stuffy and hard, but Jesus clearly let us know to enjoy life, as it is a gift".

Let us continue to "Sparkle from Within" and "Remember to let the Peacefulness of Snow and the Spirit of Christmas be with you always".

Love with Happiness Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM Right Worthy Grand Secretary

# From the Desk of the Right Worthy Grand Treasurer



#### Sisters and Brothers,

Wow, I cannot believe how fast time has been flying by. As I sit at my desk looking out at the beautifully fallen snow on the ground (yes, we had 12" here) and think to myself, another season has come to be. It looks so peaceful and yet, underneath, there can be so many hidden obstacles (potholes, black ice, etc). Sisters and Brothers, this is so true of life, as well. We walk around with smiles on our faces,

saying "I'm fine" when asked, and yet, underneath it, we may truly be struggling; thus, the hidden obstacle.

Reach out to one another with kindness; we never know what struggle lies beneath the surface. Send a card or a quick email or text to just say "Hi, I was thinking of you today." Let's send out Hope to those who are lost; Joy to those in need and Kindness to let the lost or hurting feel the Magic of Eastern Star all over again.

As we continue to work together this year, we need to remember to let Star Animate our Lives. We need to always continue to look to future with Hope and Joy. Yes, our numbers are dwindling, our costs rising, but our Spirit is still strong. United, together, we can overcome. We need to remember to find the Hope and the Joy in everything we do.

We are moving into a New Year and Grand Session is coming closer every day. With that means our Annual Reports will be coming due very soon. To our Treasurers, when doing your Financial Reports, please make sure you check with me with any questions. They MUST have all the attachments with them. Check those balances. If you are having trouble getting in balance, let me know and I will gladly work with you.

As many of you know, I am not able to travel very much due to job commitments. However, I am available via email and/or text messaging with any questions.

Always remember that "Together with Faith, we can Walk, Side by Side, Hand in Hand and help our Order to Grow!"

In Star Friendship, Michele Hess, PGM Right Worthy Grand Treasurer



# Right Worthy Grand Conductress



#### Dear Sisters and Brothers.

As we enter this New Year we take time to reflect on all that has been accomplished and to all that is yet to be done.

40 years ago I converted to Episcopalian to marry Bro. Greg. It was a difficult decision as I was raised a Presbyterian all my life. The priest at the time had also converted when he answered his "call" and was therefore sympathetic. He told me that the Christianity of my life is not changing, just the "way" in

which I worship. Some need stained glass windows, chalices and candles, while others need no extras and more songs. I didn't stop being a Christian, just how I practiced.

I use this story/analogy with Star. We have many ideas, some changes, and some new possibilities. We will not stop being

Eastern Star. We all want to hold onto our history and traditions. We only wish to make our Star strong and relevant in today's world.

The house is strong, but the curtains need a change! Let's reclaim our Star. Fill the chapter rooms. Fill the role books. The corporate board is listening to you for ideas and suggestions. We already held a "different" kind of District Meeting at the 38th District's Country Fair. 140 members were in attendance.

I am so happy with those sisters that sit on corporate board with me. Our vision and direction differ a bit, but our respect for each other and for this organization is powerful and connected. I am confident in our future.

And while it cannot go without saying that we suffered a tremendous loss in Brother Jim, it is his memory that drives us forward to work together for the beloved Star in which he so believed in.

Be Patient and Trust Your Journey, Mary Elaine Guynn Right Worthy Grand Conductress

# Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress



#### Greetings from the Grand North!

Greetings from the North! As this edition of the Journal is published, Grand Session 2024 will be just around the corner. As I reflect on this past year, I'm extremely proud of all we've accomplished. And, in this case "we" would be all of you, our Membership. I'm impressed and so appreciative of all the efforts that have been put forth to work together to bring creativeness to our customary events and bring us forward. It is both enlightening

and encouraging to know there's hope and strength in our future. While still honoring our ceremony, your willingness to be open minded and willing to try new ideas has brought fun and fellowship into our District Meetings, special nights, meetings, social events, and fundraisers. It's been wonderful seeing full rooms with sold out attendance and experiencing the endless smiles and laughter as we have traveled our way around the state enjoying all while continuing the work of our Order and supporting our Charities.

Thank You to all of those who have worked tirelessly to bring these new and creative ideas to us. Special congratulations to Sister Heather Shoppas, WDD #38 for having the courage to be the first to embrace a new format for District Meetings with her spectacular Country Fair District Meeting. Among many events we've enjoyed Ice Cream Socials, "Fun with Fairview", a "Villainous Costume Party", entertaining Star Point and Conductress/Trustee Nights all to honor Grand Officers. We've danced, sang, played

games, dressed in costume and tested our trivia knowledge. I can't wait to see what more is in store and look forward to experiencing it with all of you!

As many are aware, shortly before Thanksgiving, my home was destroyed by fire. It was a devastating event that is beyond words to describe. Despite the personal loss and lasting emotional impact, I'm so very thankful for the prayers and angels who were watching over all involved that night, including the First Responders and American Red Cross volunteers, who kept us safe and unharmed.

As Star members when we commit ourselves to this life of Service to help support others in need, one never expects that it will one day be us who will be on the receiving end of this support. Yet, within an unexpected moment I was "that" person. From the bottom of a forever grateful heart, I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and offers of help. The outpouring of love and support I've received has been truly overwhelming and means more to me than I will ever be able to express or repay. It's been a labor of love that has left an impression on my heart and will remain with me always.

This experience has reaffirmed for me that there is still so much kindness in our world and regardless of the challenges we may go through as an organization, as an Eastern Star family we are stronger than ever. I am truly blessed to have all of you in my life and for the opportunity to serve this Order. I wish you all continued happiness and good health!

In Star Love & Friendship, Dawn Smith Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress



# Right Worthy Grand Trustee



As we near the end of another Star year I would like to congratulate Sister Joanne Byrne on a magically wonderful year. I have especially enjoyed the creative ideas that have not only revitalized Grand Chapter but also brought out more of the membership.

I wish to extend congratulations to Sister Sharon Rosequist, Sister Mary Elaine Guynn, and Sister Dawn Smith. May all your dreams and all your plans come to fruition. I look

forward to serving on the Grand Line with each of you. I can't wait for all of your secrets to be revealed.

To the newly elected Grand Trustee, I'm wishing you all the best for a great year. I am offering my help and assistance as you begin your journey to the Grand East. Please feel free to ask any and all questions you may have.

Sisters and Brothers go out into your communities, wear your Star gear, show your part of the world what, and who we are. Share your stories in articles for the Star Journal as well as the local paper. The growth and wellbeing of our Order depends on the initiation of new members in our local chapters.

Andrea McCollum, Right Worthy Grand Trustee

# 37th District Honors 50, 60, 70, & 80, Year Members

The 37th District was honored this year with the following sisters with memorable years of Service to the Order of the Eastern Star.

#### Sister Maion Doerrmann - Williamstown #149

80 Year Bar was presented at her home by Brother Charles Murschell. PGP, Fraternal Dad. He was accompanied by Sister Blanch Jaggers, WM, & Brother Joe Jaggers, WP. Sister Marion is 100 years old!!

The same day these members of *Williamstown*Chapter #149 also visited <u>Sister Alberta Dodd</u> at her home with her 50 Year Bar. She too is 100 years old!!

#### Sister Diane Todd, PGO - Haddonfield Chapter #140

60 Year Bar was presented in her Chapter by Sister Joanne Parsels, PGM, Fraternal Mom. Pictured also is Sister Francine Zioance, WM. Sister Joanne served as Sister Diane's Conductress when Sister Diane was WM. They enjoyed many years of service to the Chapter together. Sister Diane served on a Committee for Sister Joanne when she was MWGM and made the Adah veils that were used for the year.

#### Sister Eva Ruth Veyo, PGO - Athene Chapter #201

70 Year Bar was presented by the MWGM Sister Joanne Byrne and pinned by Sister Linda Gentret. PGO. Sister Eva Ruth served her Chapter for 20 years as the Ways & Means Chairman. Sister Charlene Ottaviano, WM is pictured with Sister Eva Ruth.

If anyone was omitted for 50 years or more of Membership & Service to our Order from the 37th District, please contact me. Although I contacted every Chapter I sincerely do not want to leave anyone out of this distinguished group. Joanne Parsels, PGM











# **CAPS (CHAPTERS ASSISTING PREEMIES AND PEOPLE)**

#### 2023-2024

The members of the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in New Jersey have been extremely busy this past year knitting and crocheting hundreds of caps and blankets for hospitals, shelters, cancer patients, etc., throughout the state.

Each District contributed to this charitable project. We received many compliments from the various hospitals that received our donations. In fact, one hospital states that the Eastern Star caps are the "best made caps" and are asked for all the time. If you know an organization that could use our donations, please let your District Chairperson know. We try to donate the items within each District.

I would like to thank each of the District Chairpersons for their support throughout the year:

District 31 – Janet Wells

District 33 – Denise McCarthy

District 34 – Jeanne Gionfriddo

District 35 – Cecilia Ellis

District 36 – Donna Leavitt

District 37 – Joan Smith

District 38 – Tammy Wilkie

District 39 – Adonis "Cookie" Dean

Without their support these projects would not be successful.

To date over 1,000 baby caps have been delivered to various hospitals throughout New Jersey since June 1st. Donations of blankets, scarves, etc., have been donated to nursing homes, hospice care and even animal shelters. Several blankets and hats have been delivered to the Shriner's Hospital in Philadelphia. We recently saw an article on Facebook for a group called Lily's Hope Foundation who was looking for hats, blankets, etc. to distribute throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We delivered a couple hundred hats to them, for which we received a beautiful thank you note.

Many people have stated that they cannot knit or crotchet – but would like to do something to help the CAPS program. Many of the individuals who knit or crotchet could use a donation of yarn to work on their projects. If you are willing to donate yarn, please contact one of the District Chairpersons, they will be happy to share your donation with their members.

We appreciate the support that we have received from all the Chapters in New Jersey.

It is our pleasure to provide these needed items to the various charitable organizations.

Fraternally, Roberta Russell CAPS Chairperson



## Doing What We Do Best

During our summer break from OES, the members of Starlight Chapter were busy purchasing and donating food to two local Food Banks. The towns of Netcong and Mt. Olive were very grateful for our food donations. We remember these very necessary food outlets during the Holiday season, but they are in dire need during the summer. Schools are closed for summer break, but the kids are home and need to eat. During the school year, the Federal Government, through funding, feeds the students prior to the start of the school day.

When Sr. Betty Robinson, PGO and I dropped off the food in July at the Netcong Food Bank, Mayor Joe Nametko, aka Santa, stated "my prayers have been answered". He told us he prayed the night before the drop off, that someone would provide cereal. When I opened the back of my SUV with 6 huge boxes of food and he spotted the cereal, he let out a shriek of joy. It made both of us feel so good. I could not wait until September to relay the news to the members of Starlight Chapter, so I messaged our Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron to share the good news.

Two days later, Sr. Betty Robinson, PGO and I dropped off 6 more huge boxes of food at the Mt. Olive Food Bank. While there, we found out one of the directors was a former Rainbow girl. It truly is small world and we were glad to be able to complete this charitable project for the two communities.









Celebrating 10 Years of Providing Resources, Aid & Hope to Preemies and Their Families

December 19, 2023

Dear Roberta and The Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star,

Thank you for your amazing donation of knit baby hats to Lily's Hope Foundation last month. We are so appreciative of your support and excited to share these with our NICU families.

We just celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lily's Hope Foundation. At our 10-year anniversary, we are thrilled to share that we have been able to accomplish the following as an all-volunteer non-profit organization:

- Supported over 5,000 NICU Families
- 15 Medical-Grade Equipment Donations to our Hospital Partners
- Support 18 hospitals and partners in PA, NJ, and NC
- Shipped packages to 49 states (except Alaska!)
- 2 trademarks and 3 published books
- · A Blossoming New Jersey Chapter
- Warehouse in Allentown for the Preemie Pantry
- . 13 Branded Fundraising Events throughout the Year
- Multiple Programs to help Preemie Families such as Packages of Hope, Emergency Needs Equipment, Facebook Support Group, Aid Folders, Tokens of Hope, Holiday Aid Packages, Hospital Equipment Donations, Lily's Hope Library, and Hope's Heroes

Donations like yours allow our families to focus on the health of their fragile newborns. With your help, we can continue this invaluable mission. We could not do this without supporters like you. On behalf of the Lily's Hope Foundation, and all the future babies and families that will benefit from this, we thank you!

Many heartfelt thanks,

Jennifer M. Driscoll, MBA

Jennifer M. Driscoll

Founder/Executive Director of Lily's Hope Foundation

267-776-HOPE (office) Jen@LilysHopeFoundation.org

267-776-HOPE Lily's Hope Foundation EIN: 45-5557205 6801 Tilghman Street, Suite 111, Allentown PA 18106

Info@LilysHopeFoundation.org

Lily's Hope Foundation answers the emergency needs of families with premature babies in the NICU





#### Grand Chapter OES of NJ cordially invites you to join

A celebration of the "Animate Life" 2023-2024 and "Rambling Roses" 2024-2025

at our

# "Dream, Create, & Inspire" Membership Dinner

Wednesday, May 22, 2024	
4:30 - 6:30PM	
Room	- Control of the cont
	4:30 - 6:30PM

Tropicana Atlantic City, 2831 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 Cash Bar

Garden Salad, Chicken Francaise, Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Chocolate Cake

#### Cost \$55.00 PP

Checks should be made payable to: **Grand Chapter OES of NJ**Mail to: Carol Enterkine, PGO
4 Maxwell St., Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215

### No refunds after the closing date of 4/24/24

**Enclose with Reservation** 

Name		Title	13
Address			8:
Jurisdiction_	District	Chapter	
Phone#	email		





# Wildflower Grand Representatives of NJ OES

Invite you to their

# Ildflower Luncheon

Tuesday May 21, 2024 12.00p.m. at NJ Grand Chapter Session

Located at the Salon 1-2 Tropicana, 2831 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 Remittance of \$40 per person

#### Menu:

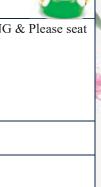
Starter: Chicken Noodle Soup. Entree: Croissant Sandwich - Chicken Salad, Pasta Salad as a side and Freshly Baked Rolls with Whipped Butter; Dessert: is Cake w/coffee/tea.

#### · Checks be made payable to **Sister Carol Johnson** with Reservations mailed

Sister Lisa Helge, 67 Texas Road, Monroe, NJ 08831 Questions please Contact Sister Lisa Helge via phone 908-256-6142 Or email at bizer81@aol.com

#### **RESERVATION DEADLINE APRIL 26, 2024**

Please Print Clearly Checks be made out to Sister Carol Johnson with Reservations mailed to Sister Lisa Helge, 67 Texas Road, Monroe, NJ 08831 Questions please Contact Lisa Helge via phone 908-256-6142 Or email at bizer81@aol.com



RESERVATION DEADLINE <u>APRIL 26, 2024</u>	
NAME:	ADDITIONAL NAMES ATTENDING & Please seat me with
TITLE:	
JURISDICTION:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	x\$40= enclosed
PHONE	FOOD/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:
EMAIL	



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF NEW JERSEY PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR <mark>GUESTS</mark> 153rd "Let OES Animate Your Life" THE GRAND CHAPTER MAY 20, 21, 22, 2024 **GRAND SESSION** 

FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED ONE FORM PER PERSON —

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT AND RETURN WITH REMITTANCE BY MAY 1, 2024 TO:

Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM, RWGS Grand Chapter OES of NJ 111 Finderne Avenue Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908)725-0222 REGISTRATION FEE OF \$15.00 PAYABLE TO: **GRAND CHAPTER OES OF NJ** 

Name
Address
CityZip
Cell
Email
Jurisdiction
Chapter No District No
Title as of May 1, 2024
Signature
Emergency Contact
Phone
Relation

Note: Registration Desk hours will be posted

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR MEMBERS THE GRAND CHAPTER

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF NEW JERSEY 153rd "Let OES Animate Your Life" MAY 20, 21, 22, 2024 **GRAND SESSION** 

FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED ONE FORM PER PERSON –

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT AND RETURN WITH MAY 1, 2024 TO: REMITTANCE BY

Patti L. Rhinesmith, PGM, RWGS Grand Chapter OES of NJ 111 Finderne Avenue Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908)725-0222 REGISTRATION FEE OF \$15.00 PAYABLE TO: **GRAND CHAPTER OES OF NJ** 

Name
Address
City
Cell
Email
Jurisdiction
Chapter No. District No.
Title as of May 1, 2024
Signature
Emergency Contact
Phone
Relation

Note: Registration Desk hours will be posted

2024

1870

Order of the Eastern Star The Grand Chapter

Cordially invites you to attend the One Hundred and Fifty-third

af New Jersey

"Let OES Animate Your Life" Annual Grand Session

Atlantic City, New Jersey May 20, 21, 22, 2024 Tropicana Hotel

Monday, May 20, 2024 7:30 FM Formal Opening,

Joanne Byrne Most Worthy Grand Matron Most Worthy Grand Fatron James Hines (In Memorium)

Right Worthy Grand Secretary Patti L. Rhinesmith, TGM Bridgewater, NJ 08807 111 Finderne Avenue



Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Order of the Eastern Star,

We look forward to greeting you at the "Let OES Animate Your Life" 153<sup>rd</sup> Grand Session. This year Grand Session will be held at Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ.

The price of the rooms will be \$69 base plus taxes for single and double rooms. (Approx. \$109.00 total). Please make all reservations directly with Tropicana at 1-888-516-2215 (8am-2am EST seven days a week) under the name of the Order of Eastern Star 2024 group using code: STESR4 Reservations can be made at: https://book.passkey.com/go/STESR4

Please understand all reservations should be made by giving the Grand Chapter reservation code. By not using this Code, you will be costing Grand Chapter extra money. Our meeting room for Grand Session is not free. A percentage of these costs are incorporated in our room rate and meal rates. So please register using our Code. Casino Comps may be applied to your room.

Proper attire is required at all times for admittance to Grand Session – Jeans or shorts will not be permitted.

The Hospitality Committee will be pleased to greet you all visitors and guests.

Hospitality will be opened on the following dates and times.

Monday 1 to 4pm

Tuesday 10 to 12 noon and 1 to 4pm

Wednesday 10 to 1pm

In Star Love, Joanne Byrne, Most Worthy Grand Matron

**TENTATIVE PROGRAM** 

# Monday Evening - May 20, 2024

Meal Plan Dinner 5:00 ~ 7:00 PM

Opening Processional 7:30 PM Informal Opening of Grand Session Introduction of: Jr. Past Grand Master; Amaranth;

Rainbow; DeMolay
Formal Opening of Grand Session
Receiving of: Visiting Worthy Grand Matrons and
Worthy Grand Patrons

Receiving of: Visiting Associate Grand Matrons and
Associate Grand Patrons
Presentation of: Past Grand Matrons and
Past Grand Patrons of New Jersey
Receiving of: Visiting Distinguished Guests

Tuesday – May 21, 2024

Business Session
Address of the Most Worthy Grand Matron
Address of the Most Worthy Grand Patron
Report of the Right Worthy Grand Secretary
Report of the Right Worthy Grand Treasurer

Grand Representatives Luncheon Noon

Afternoon Session
Report of Auditor
Charity Foundation Annual Meeting and
Election of Directors

Election of Grand Officers of New Jersey Necrology Report and Memorial Evening Session
7:00 PM
Presentation of: Right Worthy Grand Officers
Worthy Grand Officers
Worthy District Deputies
All Grand Representatives
Report of the Worthy Grand Fraternal
Correspondent

**Grand Representative Commissions** 

# Wednesday – May 22, 2024

# **Business Session**

Greetings by Tropicana Hotel 9:00 AM Election of RW Grand Trustee Report of President of the N.J. Eastern Star Home,Inc Voting on Recommendations RWAGM Rehearsal Immediately following morning session

Evening Session 7:30PM
Membership dinner 5:00 – 7:00 PM
"Hail and Farewell" Dinner

Open Installation of Grand Officers, 2024-2025

Presentations of: Hostesses, Hosts, Hospitality

Committee, Pages, Location Committee

\*\* Committee Reports will be given during business sessions at the discretion of the Most Worthy Grand Matron

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Membership "Hail and Farewell" Dinner – Congratulatory Outgoing and Incoming Grand Officers. Information through Carole Enterkine, PGO, Dinner Chairman



#### A Warm Welcome in South Carolina

Submitted By: Adair Ruane, GO Gloria Chapter # 159 District # 35

During the summer of 2023 I had the pleasure of taking a road trip to North and South Carolina to visit family and friends. One of my visits was to Piedmont, South Carolina where I was warmly welcomed by Sister Gail Cooley, a member of Gloria Chapter #159 and one of the daughters of our dearly missed Sister Gail Naia. Gail is also a member of an Eastern Star Chapter in South Carolina and presides as their Worthy Matron.

Gail Cooley and her husband Mike live on 20 acres of beautiful land where they live and run a farm. Their farm is "Patient Wait Farms". They primarily raise turkeys and sell many of them before Thanksgiving. They currently have over 40 turkeys. They also raise chickens for egg production and vegetables. There are many animals on the farm such as horses and a donkey who chases the coyotes away.

They are currently building an additional barn with a beautiful bathroom and sleeping areas with cots. Soon they will be able to provide temporary shelter housing for victims of disasters and hurricanes in the state.



Gail and I shared many heartful remembrances of her Mom Gail Naia. I told her that at our last Grand Session I heard Gail Naia's name at least 3 or 4 times with sentences such as, "I finally used a spreadsheet prepared by Gail Naia" and "This is what Gail Naia has to say about District meetings". Gail Naia was a beloved Sister in Eastern Star in New Jersey and will always be remembered. Memories of her will always warm our hearts. It was a pleasant visit with Gail Cooley and I was happy to see that she and her family are doing well. I hope I get to visit her again.











December 5, 2023

Dear Eastern Star Community,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you. My message will provide a brief look-back at 2023 and set the stage for 2024 and challenges to come.

2023 was a productive year at NJES. Our NJ DOH survey was excellent and enabled us to continue to maintain our 5-Star rating by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Additionally, NJES was once again designated as a U.S. News and World Report Best Nursing Home in both the Long Term and Short-Term categories.

The Long-Term Care field is facing serious challenges with a first-ever National Staffing Mandate being promulgated by the federal government. The passing of this legislation in its current format would be devastating to our entire industry as it does not allow facilities to count and take credit for any of the nursing care being provided by licensed practical nurses (LPN's). Rather, the staffing mandate only includes hours provided by certified nursing assistants and registered nurses, leaving out all of the care provided by these valuable licensed healthcare professionals across the country. By doing this, facilities will face staffing and financial issues in competing with hospitals for registered nurses of which there would not be enough nationally to meet the staffing mandate. New Jersey is one of the few states that already has a staffing mandate. By adding these additional requirements, will become significantly more difficult to remain in compliance.

On another note, I am requesting your assistance in marketing NJES by word of mouth within your social and professional networks. We appreciate all referrals for both Long Term Care and Sub Acute Services. We have updated our logo for marketing purposes as well as our brochure to help clarify the services we provide and share that information with the general community. Please check out our improved website at:

\*\*www.njeasternstar.org\*\*

The healthcare sector has been faced with economic and regulatory challenges in addition to the pandemic and now new challenges related to RSV. Your efforts in helping us spread the word about our high-quality care in an effort to strengthen census is appreciated.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our activities programs and for all that you do for our residents.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Dawn Giakas, DBA, MPH, LNHA, CALA, FABC

Administrator



### Eastern Star Home Board - President's Message

Bryan Wallace, President OES Board of Directors

As I write this article, we have entered a New Year full of new opportunities for service to our Residents at the Eastern Star Home. But we have also experienced a great loss with the passing of our Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Jim Hines. The condolences of the entire Home Board is extended to Sister Norma and his entire family. May light perpetual shine upon him. Our Home

The work caring for our residents continues, and I wish to thank the entire staff of our Home for the comfort and care they provide to the residents. As we navigate this post-pandemic world, we are still dealing with Covid and its related illnesses. The diligence of our staff in not just meeting, but exceeding the new standards and practices mandated by the state of New Jersey is to be commended. The utmost care is given to provide access to our Home in a safe and secure manner. Visitors to our residents help make their stay with us an enjoyable one. Members are welcome to visit the ES Home, but visitors must comply to restrictions put in place by the Department of Health, which ensure the safety of our residents. Please consider a visit by members of your chapter to our residents.

#### Opportunities for Service

The Director of Activities, Simone Rudich, has done an outstanding job working with our residents. She is always looking for items for the monthly boutique held for the residents and lists of suggested items can be found on the njoes.com website. Volunteers are also welcome to visit the Home to assist with the boutique, or to do craft or game activities with the residents. Please contact

Simone with donations or to arrange a time to work with the residents.

#### Tree of Life

There are still opportunities to purchase a leaf or a rock on the Tree of Life. These can be in honor, or in memory of someone, and those monies go directly to our Home for its operating expenses. Forms can be found on both the njoes.com and njeasternstarhome.com websites, as well as in the Star Journal. Leaves are \$500.00, and Rocks are \$1000.00.

#### **Commemorative Gardens**

As we enter Spring our thoughts turn to nicer weather and spending time out in the sunshine. The Commemorative Gardens at the Home are in need of some sprucing up so our residents can take advantage of this space set aside for them to enjoy the outdoors. Plants need replacing, as well as landscape and hardscape repairs and additions. Additional fencing for this area is in the works. Please consider designating a donation to the Commemorative Gardens when making your donations to the Eastern Star Home.

#### Maintenance

Operating the ES Home requires constant attention to physical plant issues. The installation of the chillers was completed in 2023, as well as some upgrades to the fire sprinklers. Drainage issues were resolved in parts of the building, and roof repairs are also pending due to roof shingle failure as well as storm damage. Routine maintenance is ongoing, and future capital expenditures



are being prioritized based on need and cost. Pete and his crew do an outstanding job holding the line on maintenance expenses by handling as many of these issues as they can in house. Donations to the Eastern Star Home can facilitate these projects which will improve our ability to serve the residents and help us maintain the five-star rating our administrator and staff have worked so hard to achieve.

#### Clare-Marie Scheffbuch Wing

Due to the generous donations received in the past from the Estate of Sister Clare-Marie, a wing of the facility will be dedicated in her name. The wing is being spruced up, and a date for the dedication in May will be announced in the future. We are truly grateful for this devoted sister, whose largesse helped our Home weather the drastic increase in expenses experienced due to the Covid pandemic and its effect on our Home.

#### **Bequests and Donations**

When planning your own estate, won't you consider a bequest to the Eastern Star Home? You can create a bequest of any dollar amount when preparing your will, and your generosity can make a difference in the care of our residents. Also, the NJ Eastern Star Home is a 501(c)3 IRS entity, so your donations are tax-deductible. Won't you consider giving whatever amount you can?

#### **Delegates Meeting**

Our annual Delegates Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 9am. It is vital to have every chapter represented, as this is the time to gather important information about our Home and convey it to your chapters. Remember, if your Delegate or Alternates cannot attend, the Worthy



Matron, Worthy Patron, or Associate Matron may come in their place. Let's shoot for 100% participation from our chapters! The location of the meeting will be announced at a later date, once details are finalized.

I wish to thank you all for the patience and support you have given me in my tenure as President of the Home Board. To the members of the Board, your dedication and cooperation is appreciated. To Dawn, Shelreitha, Gus, Lori, Erin, Eve, Pete, Simone, and the entire staff - thank you for all you do. We all have to work together, to cooperate, and keep our eyes focused on our goal - to make the NJ

Eastern Star Home is the best, and to always put the needs of the residents first. To everyone - Be Well.

Sincerely and fraternally, Bryan A. Wallace, GO President, NJ Eastern Star Home Board







# Renew & Refresh Project

Donations may be made payable to: New Jersey Eastern Stat Home, Inc Mailed to:

111 Finderne Ave. Bridgewater, NJ 08807 Attention: Business Office

The building project that we completed in the Winter of 2020 was a great success! The Unit I, A- wing received a much-needed facelift. We were able to install new flat screen TV's, new head, and foot boards as well as some new paint. Now it is time for us to do the same for Nursing Unit I, B- wing. We would like to continue our color and furniture scheme as we have throughout the rest of the building. We are also going to upgrade the shower rooms to provide better service to our residents. We would greatly appreciate your help with our renew & refresh project.







# Private Pay & Medicaid beds now available!!

LONG TERM CARE

## NEW JERSEY EASTERN STAR HOME

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TIN THE LIVES OF SENIORS

111 Finderne Avenue Bridgewater, NJ 08807 Phone: 908-722-4140 Fax: 908-722-9566



Private Suites with full private bathrooms Semi Private Rooms with half-bathrooms

Rehabilitation services available 7 days a week Nursing staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Complimentary cable television, phone & Wi-Fi And so much more!

Request a virtual tour today!







# The Tree of Life

Leaves and Rocks can be purchased and personalized for the Tree of Life. This is an effective and beautiful way to recognize members, chapters, groups, friends and loved ones. Leaves can be purchased for \$500 and Rocks for \$1,000. To purchase leaves or a rock fill out the form, make check payable to NJ Eastern Star Home, Inc. and mail to NJ Eastern Star Home, 111 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. If you have any questions you can call the NJ Eastern Star Home or ask any Home Board Director.

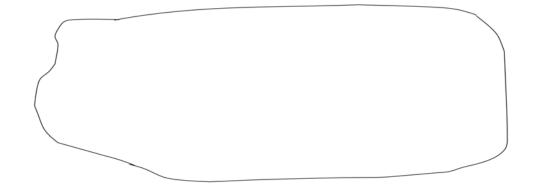


#### TREE OF LIFE ROCKS

1.	DONOR INFORMATION		
	NAME		
	STREET ADDRESS		
	CITYSTATEZIP		
	HOME PHONE		
	CHAPTERNUMBERDISTRICT		
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INFORMATION  Complete only if you wish the Home to send an acknowledgement of your donation.		
	NAME		
	STREET ADDRESS		
	CITYSTATEZIP		
3.	ENGRAVING INFORMATION (See reverse side)  Rock is a brass plate and is mounted on a bronze background. Shapes of rocks will vary slightly.		
4.	AUTHORIZATION I hereby authorize the New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc. to engrave one rock as indicated above and to attach it to their TREE OF LIFE.		
Sign	atureDate Please make your \$1,000.00 check payable to:		
	NJ Eastern Star Home		
	111 Finderne Avenue Bridgewater, NJ 08807 (908-722-4140)		

Documents/Tree of Life Rock Order Form 5-2019

#### PRINT OR TYPE THE **EXACT LETTERING**





# TREE OF LIFE LEAVES

# DONOR INFORMATION 1. NAME: STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_STATE:\_\_\_\_\_ZIP CODE:\_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER:\_\_\_\_\_NO#\_\_\_\_DISTRICT #\_\_\_ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INFORMATION Complete only of you wish the Home to send an acknowledgement of your donation. ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: ENGRAVING INFORMATION 3. In the space below is an exact size outline of the leaf. PRINT or TYPE the **EXACT LETTERING** AUTHORIZATION I hereby authorize the N.J. Eastern Star Home, Inc. to engrave one leaf as directed above And to attach it to their TREE OF LIFE. Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_

Please make your \$500 check payable
New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc.
111 Finderne Ave.
Bridgewater, NJ 08807



# 153rd "Let OES Animate Your Life" GRAND SESSION MEAL PLAN TROPICANA, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ MAY 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

**MEAL PLAN OPTIONS** 

#### **OPTION ONE \$175.00**



BREAKFAST- 2 Mornings- Tuesday & Wednesday

Assorted Chilled Juices, Oatmeal, Pastries/Donuts/Muffins, Low Fat Granola and Dry Cereals, Fresh Fruit Medley, Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Coffee/Tea

Tuesday – Pancakes .....Wednesday – French Toast

Dinner – 2 Nights - BUFFET- ENTREES – BUFFET- ENTREES – Monday – Salad bar, chicken parmesan, filet mignon topped with blue cheese and peppercorn sauce, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetable, Dessert/coffee/Tea

**Tuesday** –Salad Bar, Apple cider marinated Pork loin, roasted Turkey with gravy, seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes, Dessert/Coffee/Tea

#### **OPTION TWO - \$125.00**

Dinner – 2 Nights- BUFFET- ENTREES – Monday – Salad bar, chicken parmesan, filet mignon topped with blue cheese and peppercorn sauce, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetable, Dessert/coffee/Tea Tuesday –Salad Bar, Apple cider marinated Pork loin, roasted Turkey with gravy, seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes, Dessert/Coffee/Tea

#### **OPTION THREE - \$70.00**

BREAKFAST- 2 Mornings- Tuesday & Wednesday

Assorted Chilled Juices, Oatmeal, Pastries/Donuts/Muffins, Low Fat Granola and Dry Cereals, Fresh Fruit Medley, Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Coffee/Tea

Tuesday – Pancakes.....Wednesday – French Toast

#### PLEASE INFORM US OF DIETARY RESTRICTIONS AT TIME OF REGISTERING!

#### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GRAND CHAPTER OES OF NJ

MAIL WITH BELOW REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Patti Rhinesmith, RWGS, Grand Chapter Office, 111 Finderne Ave, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

# 



We are excited about a metamorphic change for Life Skills Grants. Your family members (daughter/son, grandson/granddaughter, niece or nephew, sister or brother) are now invited to apply. The grant is available for a minimum of two years, who are in financial need and who desire to attend and/or return to school and /or trade school. The assistance is to help the member or his/her family member to get back into the job market or to change job skills. It is not for advanced college degrees. A maximum of two grants up to \$1,500.00 each is available to each applicant.



This grant is available at any time during the year. For information, or application please contact;



Linda Penin, PGO 24 Kimble Ct. Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

Please help us assist you or your family member burst into a butterfly and spread his or her wings!

#### **OES-Rainbow Connection**



Several years ago I was asked why I could feel safe sending my daughter so far away to school. Wasn't I worried she was alone and who would look out for her? Not with our Masonic family close at hand. Allison continued throughout college to be active in Rainbow and subsequently met and became fast friends with the Eastern Star sisters in Louisiana. Now as she enters her 10th year (4 college, 6 teaching) living in the Bayou, she has joined her local Eastern Star Chapter. Already a 10 year member with Morningstar Chapter #22,

Allison petitioned to dual (or since she's not general grand)

petitioned to seek a plural membership in HC & ME Duncan No. 161 located in Pineville, LA. So after a quick flight, I got to witness her initiation on November 19, 2023. I was definitely put through the ringer as I was challenged at the door to take the test oath and show the signs. Thanks to Bro. Bruce Zielinski and his email to vouch that I had sat in a general grand chapter with him, I was allowed entrance. Such a beautiful welcome as several Rainbow friends attended and participated. Supreme Deputy Mom GG took the part of Martha while Adult Executive members Janet Plummer and Kristina Donovan filled in as Conductress and Adah respectively. And the best surprise of all, Worthy Grand Matron, Susan Rabb Williams presided in the East. Our Star shines brightly with a warm welcome.





### "Comfort Zone Camp Miracle of Christmas Tea

Thank you to all who supported the "Comfort Zone Camp Miracle of Christmas Tea" held at Musconetcong Lodge for the benefit of the Comfort Zone Camp, a non-profit organization that transforms the lives of children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, primary caregiver or significant person. The programs are free of charge and include trust-building activities and age-based supports that break the emotional isolation grief often brings.

The dining room was cheerfully decorated in the spirit of Christmas using red tablecloths, green napkins, a Christmas centerpiece on each table. Tea, sandwiches, desserts provided by each District, were served by the District Chairperson, Sisters Sue Whitty, Jessica Dewes, Lizette Priliszh, Jeanne Gionfriddo, Elsie VanDusen, Dale VanHouten, Virginia Dickinson, Betty Miskelly, Pamela DeLisa, Tammy Wilkie & Lisa Couch. Each District also donated a gift basket for the basket raffle.

The afternoon began with our WG Chaplain, Carolyn Howard, asking blessing, after which tea & sandwiches were served. A representative of the Comfort Zone Camp spoke and explained the function and purpose of the Camp and thanked us for our support of the Camp. Sister Joanne, our MWGM's grandson also spoke giving us his personal experiences with the Camp and told of the many friends he made because of being involved with the Camp. We then were served the delicious desserts also provided by the Districts.

Now for the fun part, each District provided a gift basket to be raffled off and some lucky people went home with those gift baskets.

Needless to say, we had a very successful "Comfort & Joy Miracle of Christmas Tea" having realized \$4,223.00 for Comfort Zone Camp. My sincere thanks to all our District Chairpersons and those who supported this worthwhile cause.



#### **Eastern Star Charity Foundation**

I wonder where the year went. As your President and working with all the Directors I have seen many things being accomplished. We have helped those who reached out to the Board for finances because of things beyond their control.

We helped a family who had a fire, those who needed help with security payment to achieve a new apartment. We have assisted those who lost their loved ones. In all the years that I have been on the board we have helped many sisters and brothers.

I would encourage all our membership to think about joining the board, it is such a rewarding experience. By your donations we can help those of our fraternity when they reach out to us. Many years ago, we received a small donation through Grand Chapter, but that is not available anymore.

Yes, there are those things that I'm sure you know about, Educational Loans which are interest free, Scholarships, Nursing and Life Skills Grant, for those who need to upgrade their skills to advance in the positions at work or seek a new position.

We are meeting Virtually for most of our meetings, we do have two in person meetings in order to go over all paperwork, sign vouchers, have our financial personnel come in to go over funds because of current situations.

A petition is very easy to receive, it gets mailed to each chapter secretary.

JoAnn Bingenheimer, PGM
President

#### The Christmas of Imagination State 50/50

The Christmas of Imagination State 50/50 to support Voluntary Donations which went off at the 38th District meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2023, brought in \$5,230.00 with half of \$2,615.00 to the Winner. The winner was Robert Erickson, husband of our own Sister Anita Erickson, WDD #33. I would like to thank all of the Worthy District Deputies that helped sell the ticket within their Districts. I would be remised if I did not give a special thanks to Sister Heather Shoppas, WDD #38 who not only allowed me to pick the winning ticket at her District Meeting but sold over and above the amount of ticket I asked the WDD's to sell. I also want to thank Bro. Jim Butler who supported this project by buying over 30 tickets to help us reach the \$4,000.00 mark. I truly enjoyed working with this project and helping Voluntary Donations. I look forward to our next State 50/50 which will go off at Grand Session which will have a few extra prizes, so keep a look out for me at District Meetings, Honor Nights, and Meeting nights.







#### ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR OF NJ PRESENTS

## **Niagara Falls & Toronto**



\* You Must Bring a Valid U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card for this Tour INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- ♦ Motorcoach transportation
- ♦ 4 nights lodging in the Niagara Falls area
- ♦ 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- ♦ GUIDED TOURS OF NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO
- ♦ A Journey to The Falls on a "HORNBLOWER NIAGARA CRUISE"
- **♦ Gaming at FALLSVIEW CASINO**
- ♦ A visit to NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE & QUEEN VICTORIA
- ♦ A visit to CASA LOMA; Canada's most magnificent castle

and much more

\$825\*

**5** Days **4** Nights

\*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Mon - Fri) Sep 30 - Oct 4 2024



World's most famous Falls

Magnificent Casa Loma Castle in Toronto



Gaming at Fallsview
Casino



Visit beautiful Queel Victoria Park

#### Departure: Masonic Fellowship Hall, 1114 Oxmead Rd, Burlington, NJ @ 8 am

Day 1: Depart your group's location in a spacious, video and restroom equipped motorcoach as you head for your destination: captivating, awe-inspiring Niagara Falls! This evening, you will have Dinner and check into your Niagara Falls area hotel for a four night stay.

Day 2: Start the day with a Continental Breakfast before you begin a Guided Tour of the Niagara Falls area. Visit an engineering marvel, the Welland Shipping Canal and beautiful Queen Victoria Park – home of one of the world's largest Floral Clocks. You'll have Dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

Day 3: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before departing for a Guided Tour of the beautiful cosmopolitan city of Toronto, Ontario. You will also visit Toronto's majestic castle estate – Casa Loma! Later, you will dine at a local restaurant.

Day 4: Start the day with a Continental Breakfast before enjoying one of Niagara's most popular and breath-taking attractions, a boat ride on a "Hornblower Niagara Cruise." Sail near the base of the Horseshoe Falls and enjoy a truly awe-inspiring view of the mighty Niagara. Then, you'll take a tour of historical Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of the prettiest towns in Canada and full of 19th century charm. Later, enjoy Dinner and a visit to exciting Fallsview Casino and get in some gaming action before returning to your hotel. Day 5: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before departing for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great sights you've seen and where your next group trip will take you!

ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...
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\$75 Due Upon Signing. \*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$150 for single occupancy. Final Payment Due: 7/23/2024

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Diane Schmolze @ (973) 979-5976











# Prices Include All Taxes & Fees

Inside Cabin: -Starting at \$1872\*
Balcony Cabin: -Starting at \$2542\*

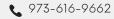
\*Rates Are Per Person Based On Double Occupancy and are subject to change by the cruise line. \*Insurance & PrePaid Gratuities Available At An

\*Insurance & PrePaid Gratuities Available At Ar Additional Cost.

#### Itinerary:

1/16/25 Departs Bayonne, NJ
1/17/25 At Sea
1/18/25 At Sea
1/19/25 At Sea
1/20/25 Philipsburg, St.Maarten
1/21/25 Castries, St.Lucia
1/22/25 Bridgetown, Barbados
1/23/25 Basseterre, St.Kitts
1/24/25 At Sea
1/25/25 At Sea
1/26/25 At Sea
1/27/25 Arrive in Bayonne, NJ

For More Info Contact Cruise Concepts:















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#### PLAN BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Trip Cancellation: You are covered for your your unused, prepaid, non-refundable trip costs in the event you must cancel your trip for a covered reason, such as one of the reasons below.

Trip Interruption: This covers the unused portions of your land or water travel arrangements, plus the additional transportation costs paid, if you must interrupt your trip due to a covered reason, such as the following:

Sickness, Injury or Death to you, a traveling companion, Terrorist Attack or Hijack

a family member, or a business partner

**Jury Duty** or being required to appear as a witness in a legal

A Strike that causes your common carrier to cease operations for at least 18 hours

Losing Your Job where you have worked for at least 1 year

**Inclement Weather** that causes your common carrier to cease operations for at least 18 hours

Natural Disaster or Burglary that causes your home to become uninhabitable

Getting into a Traffic Accident on your way

to your trip's departure point

You are covered for the "single supplement" surcharge if your roommate cancels or interupts for one of the above reasons.

#### **QUESTIONS?** CALL 1-855-376-2037

#### 2 EASY Ways to Signup:

**INTERNET** - Signup at

International"

www.travelconfident.com (Internet signup is not available to residents of the State of New York.) MAIL - Give a check to your Group Leader in the amount indicated by the table made out to "Travel Insured

Travel Confident <sup>®</sup> Cost (per person)	
=	\$38
=	\$48
=	\$62
=	\$72
=	\$96
=	\$132
	Cost (

#### RECEIVE THIS BENEFIT!

ACT NOW so you are eligible for a PRE-EXISTING CONDITION waiver! You must purchase the travel protection plan within 14 days of the date of your initial payment or deposit.

Review the complete terms in the exclusion section of your plan document.

Baggage and Personal Effects - Up to a maximum of \$1,000! If your baggage is lost, stolen or damaged! Medical Expense - Up to a maximum of \$5,000! If you are injured or become ill on the trip. You also are covered for up to \$750 in emergency dental treatment.

Medical Evacuation and Repatriation of Remains - Up to a maximum of \$20,000! Should a severe illness require immediate care and a local hospital cannot meet your needs, this covers the cost to transport you to the nearest hospital where you can receive appropriate treatment. A toll-free call to 1-800-494-9907 starts the arrangements. If you are traveling alone, you are also covered for the air fare of a companion to join you at the hospital (additional terms apply).

24/7 Non-Insurance Assistance Services Included: Lost Baggage Retrieval • Prescription Drug/Eyeglass Replacement

• Medical or Legal Referrals • Emergency Cash Advance • Translation Services • Payment to the Assistance Company is Your Responsibility.

#### \*\* TIPS FOR TRAVELERS \*\*

- Cancel with your Group Leader as soon as you are aware of the need to cancel.
- In the event you need to file a claim, contact Travel Insured International at 1-855-376-2037 as soon as possible. Be prepared to provide proof of payments for all portions of your trip, including the travel protection plan.
- Get detailed medical statements from treating physicians where and when an accident or sickness occurred. Save your receipts, proof of all payments and proof of coverage.
- If you have purchased the Travel Confident Protection Plan, for medical evacuation call the Assistance Company at 1-800-494-9907 or collect at 1-603-328-1707. Be sure to call before you incur any expenses!

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the covered reasons for Trip Cancellation coverage are not identical to the covered reasons for Trip Interruption coverage, and additional terms apply to all covered reasons.

<sup>\*</sup> This advertisement contains highlights of the plans, which include travel insurance coverages underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company under form series T7000 et. al., T210 et. al. and TP-401 et. al. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best 2020. C&F and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The plans also contain noninsurance Travel Assistance Services provided by C&F Services through Active Claims Management (2018) Inc., operating as Active Care Management. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions. Insurance coverages are subject to the terms, limitations and exclusions in the plan, including an exclusion for pre-existing conditions. In most states, your travel retailer is not a licensed insurance producer/agent, and is not qualified or authorized to answer technical questions about the terms, benefits, exclusions, and conditions of the insurance offered or to evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. Your travel retailer may provide general information about the plans offered, including a description of the coverage and price. The purchase of travel insurance is not required in order to purchase any other product or service from your travel retailer. Your travel retailer maybe compensated for the purchase of a plan.CA DOI toll free number: 800-927-4357. MD Insurance Administration: 800-492-6116 or 410-468-2340. The cost of your plan is for the entire plan, which consists of both insurance and non-insurance components. Individuals looking to obtain additional information regarding the features and pricing of each travel plan component, please contact Travel Insured: 855 Winding Brook Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033; 855-376-2037; customercare@travelinsured.com; California license #0I13223.

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Articles need to be submitted in Microsoft Word.

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