

# The Star Journal



September 2025

*Our Journey Begins*





# The **Star** Journal

September **2025**

## In This Issue

Most Worthy Grand Matron's & Grand Patron's Message  
Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary  
Right Worthy Grand Treasurer  
Right Worthy Grand Conductress  
Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress  
Right Worthy Grand Trustee  
Message from Junior Past Grand Matron  
Eastern Star Charity Foundation - President's Message  
President's Message  
Memorial 2024 - 2025  
Letter from Scholarship Winner  
Eastern Star Charity Foundation - 2025 Recipients  
Life Skills Grant  
Grand Representative Association of New Jersey  
Will Get Title of Her Year  
New Jersey Eastern Star Home Board - President's Message  
Pattie Rheinsmith Article PGM

3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
10  
11  
12  
14  
15  
16  
16  
17  
18  
20

**Next Issue: January 5, 2026**  
(For Cover Picture)

...

**MaryElaine Guynn**, Most Worthy Grand Matron  
**Greg Guynn**, Most Worthy Grand Patron  
**Dawn Smith**, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron

### **Grand Chapter Office**

111 Finderne Ave., Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
Phone: 908-725-0222  
Email: newjersey.oesgc@gmail.com

### **The Star Journal Editor**

JoAnne Bingenheimer, PGM  
211 Virginia Ave., Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234  
Phone: 732-600-2261  
Email: cjearle@comcast.net

### **Co-Editors**

Joanne Parsels, PGM  
109 Hippocrates Way, Burlington, NJ 08016  
Phone: 609-234-7379  
Email: wiljoanne@yahoo.com

Judith Wood  
185 Church Lane  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
Phone: 973-406-7800/ cell 862-220-2421  
Sciteach64@yahoo.com

**[www.njoes.com](http://www.njoes.com)**

### **New Jersey Eastern Star Home, Inc.**

Ellen Mason, PGO President  
407 Craigs Meadow Road,  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
570-656-1292  
masonellen@hotmail.com

### **Eastern Star Charity Foundation of NJ Inc.**

Lynn C. Billingham, PGM President  
137 Westbrook Road, Feasterville, PA 19053  
lcb137@msn.com  
484-432-4714





# Most Worthy Grand Matron's & Most Worthy Grand Patron's Message



**F**or our first message, we have decided to send a joint message. Greg and I are sitting here with so many thoughts and feelings that we don't even know where to begin. Secrets are finally out, Rosepinning is behind us and my "special guy" is revealed. Installation season and last minute preparations for Grand Session had us scurrying around. A very BIG thank you to the members of Morning Star Chapter and members of district 38 who came out after a all-call, and then it should be sister-in-law.

The Grand Session was a whirlwind of excitement, anticipation and fun as we prepared for the new Star Year. Sharon and Joe had a spectacular year highlighted with an outstanding Grand Session that was business and pleasure. Thank you for all the support you have given us and of course being with us in the Grand East as we were installed. To Sue Wells and Jeannette Wallace for writing and executing a beautiful, meaningful and personal procession. Mandi and Ginny for the beautiful songs at the Altar and of course the surprise Rainbow tribute both from Jeannette and Trenton #9 and the amazing Rainbow gathering of Majority and Active girls from Trenton and Delaware Valley Assemblies. Youth is everything to both Greg and myself. Rainbow and DeMolay made us the people that we are today and we want to make sure that the future is secure for the current young people. We will be supporting both organizations this year along with

Shriners Hospital and St. Jude's Hospital. Founder Danny Thomas was a member of Greg's lodge, Gothic-Mercer located in Hamilton Square.

June and the receivings are now behind us and we are in the summer months. By the time this Journal is released, we will have enjoyed an amazing day in Smithville with 107 of our sisters, brothers, family and friends. We attended Prince Hall Oziel Grand Chapter and made a promise to now move on to include social and community/charitable activities. July brings on the Chicago trip and Christmas in July, with August bringing us Master Mason Night at Trenton Thunder with both the Grand Master and myself throwing out the first pitch and a Boat Trip for the South Event. Soon we will be ready to start the Fall with GO nights and receptions.

As your Top 3; myself, Greg and Dawn are excited and looking forward to trying new and fun things to bring our star to the next level. And OHHHH the things we plan in the car as the Top Three Chauffeurs!!!

Remember, always to TRAVEL.....Take Risks, Adventures, Volunteer, Explore and Learn and you will find Joy in Your Journey.

*Live Long and Prosper....  
ME and G*



## Greetings from the Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron

*Sisters & Brothers.....Greetings from the Grand West.*

**A**dmittedly, I always find these articles challenging to write as by the time they publish often what's written about is old news, and what we're looking forward to as upcoming is happening in the present. That being said, time continues to fly by and in the blink of an eye I now find myself in the West facing the final leg in the journey to the Grand East. It's an exciting time seeing Sister MaryElaine and Brother Greg's plans for their year come to fruition after having worked closely with them over these past few years. I wish them all the best for a fabulous, fun-filled year and am thrilled to be part of their Top 3. I treasure the friendship we've formed and am truly grateful to be sharing in this JOurneY with them and their Grand Officers this year. We have a tremendous Elected Line of which I'm so proud to be a part. Together we have a lot of work to do to continue to help those Chapters who are struggling and provide ongoing support to our membership to ensure strength and sustainability of our Order.

This is not a journey we take alone nor can any one person do it by themselves. My role this coming year is to support Sister MaryElaine in the path she continues to forge for our future and prepare for next year in the Grand East. In doing so we are here to serve the Order and it's members in a manner to meet the needs of the present and work together to set ourselves on a path for success in our Order for the future, all while respecting those ritual customs of the past on which our foundation was built. It's a tall challenge but one that with the support and open-mindedness of our membership, we're prepared to take a step at a time.

I look forward to naming the Associate Matrons and presenting them with their special pin at the District #37 Meeting in October. I hope all will attend and share in this special day. To the AM's and all Chapters, please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do to help you as you make plans for the coming year.

To all Sisters and Brothers, please continue to support your Chapter as best as you can. Some involvement, even at the smallest level is what's needed. If you want to attend but need a ride or someone to go with or need assistance with the cost of an event, let us know.....there are always Sisters and Brothers willing to help get you there and we would love to see you!

The JOurneY so far this year has been full of fellowship and fun. This is still much more to come and I'm happy to be spending it with all of you. Take JOY in your JOurneY in your OES and every day life as JOY is the Sunshine of the Soul as together we have the opportunity to bring our OES JOY to everyone we meet.

*In Star Love and; Friendship,  
Dawn Smith  
RW Associate Grand Matron*



# From the Desk of the Right Worthy Grand Secretary



*Greetings Sisters and Brothers.*

I would like to thank all the Secretaries who have continued to work in their chapters, and to the new Secretaries who have taken on this new responsibility. I'm so happy to be able to work with you and look forward to another year.

The next Secretary and Treasurer's meeting will be held in conjunction with the Gown Sale and PM and PP Association meeting on September 20th at Olive Branch Lodge, Freehold, NJ. It will start with the Secretaries meeting at 10 am, followed by the PM & PP's Association meeting. During the course of the day, the Gown Boutique will be held. All in one building.

The 155th Grand Session is now behind us, and is in the history books for our Order. Our Grand Session for 2026 will be held at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, and in our next issue, more information will be included. We look forward at that time to see our membership, so mark your calendars for May 18th to 20th, 2026.

We continue to update and work on our new membership program "Grandview" and we continue to keep our membership informed through our website, [www.njoes.com](http://www.njoes.com). If you need to have something, put on our NJOES website, please email me with this information at [newjersey.oesgc@gmail.com](mailto:newjersey.oesgc@gmail.com).

To Sister Mary Elaine and Brother Gregg, congratulations as you serve in this year "Take JOY in your JOurneY" and to Sister Dawn, enjoy your journey as it does go by very quickly.

Let's 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**

*Hi all,*

It's hard to believe how quickly time flies. It seems like we just jumped on the carousel for a ride around the State, and what an awesome ride it was, but now we are ready to begin a new JOurneY with our new MWGM, Sister MaryElaine and her husband, our new MWGP, Brother Greg Guynn. I'm looking forward to this year and enjoying the journey. She has some really great ideas for this year and I hope you will join us all.

So many of you know that I am now recovering from my second shoulder surgery and haven't been out and about much, however, the work in Grand Chapter never takes time off. I have set up an office in my dining room to continue this work until I was able to get back to the office. The work has to get done.

I have been reviewing the annual financial reports and have found many errors. I will be reaching out to those with mistakes to try to get these fixed. Remember, I'm only a phone call or text away. Please reach out with your questions.

Being laid up, I have realized how dependent on others we can sometimes be. It has been difficult for me to reach out for help as I'm a doer, not a taker. It made me realize more and more that there are probably many more of our Sisters and Brothers that are just like me. They don't reach out when they need something. They hope someone will reach out to them. I wonder just how many of our Sisters and Brothers actually need something, even just a phone call, card or email to say HI. How many could actually use a ride somewhere, something from the store because they can't drive, a simple meal because cooking may be too difficult to do.

These are all things I experienced. Now that I can drive again, these are not as big a burden as they have been for the past 8 weeks. Sisters and Brothers, I hope you will pick a chapter member each month and do something special for them; just a card, a call or a simple Hello, just thinking about you. What can I do for you?

Remember that Together With Faith, We Can Walk, Side by Side, Hand in Hand, and Help our Order to Grow.

*Michele Hess, PGM  
RWG Treasurer*



# From the Desk of the Right Worthy Grand Conductress



*Greetings from the Grand South.*

I am honored to be able to serve Grand Chapter as Right Worthy Grand Conductress. I look forward to greeting everyone as I travel the state this year.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Sister Sharon Rosequist, Jr.PGM and Brother Joseph Herx, Jr.PGP on a wonderful “ Love Makes the World Go Round” Grand Session. Your leadership and guidance were truly inspiring.

I extend a hearty congratulations to Sister MaryElaine Guynn, MWGM and Brother Greg Guynn, MWGP on their Installation at Grand Session. May you both find JOY in your JOurneY as you T.R.A.V.E.L, this year.

Sister Dawn Smith, RWAGM, Wow! I can’t believe how fast time has flown. I have enjoyed working with you, and I look forward to being the West to your East. May all you have been planning come to fruition.

Sister Lisa Helge, RWAGC, it has my pleasure getting to know you. I look forward to working with you this year as we work with the candidates on GO Night’s. Thank you for becoming a wonderful friend and Sister.

Sister Judy Wood, RWG Trustee, Congratulations on your election. I am looking forward to getting to know you better this year. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you.

To Sister Patti Rhinesmith, PGM, RWG Secretary, and Sister Michele Hess, PGM, RWG Treasurer, I look forward to working with both of you and learning the in’s and out’s of Grand Chapter Business.

Sisters and Brothers as you go about your daily lives, wear your Star gear, and show the world what Eastern Star is all about. Support your communities as well as your neighbor’s.

*In Star Love and Friendship,  
Andrea McCollum  
Right Worthy Grand Conductress*





## From the Desk of the Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress

**W**hat a Great Grand Session we had in Atlantic City. I cannot believe that my year as Right Worthy Grand Trustee is over and now I am Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress. I truly enjoyed traveling the State on Sister Sharon and Brother Joe's Carousel. I have met and greeted many Sisters and Brothers. The love and support I received was overwehming. I look forward to "Take Joy in my JourneY" this year with Sister MaryElaine, Brother Greg and their Grand Staff. Now, Sister Dawn and Sister Andrea are moving closer to their plans and dreams, I look forward to work with Sister Andrea as we conduct candidates through the labyrinth of our Star.

We added a new Right Worthy Grand Trustee, Sister Judy and I wish her all the best as she takes the leap into the Elected Line.

We have much to work on in this new year. There will be time for work and a time for fun. Hopefully, more fun than work. Working with the Sisters and Brothers of this Great Eastern Star is always fun. Let's get those OES shirts, jewelry and travel mugs out and show them off proudly. Let the light of our Eastern Star shine bright for all to see.

In closing, Sisters and Brothers, true navigation begins in the human heart. It's the most important map of all. (Elizabeth Kapu'uailani Lindsey). Find your True East.

*In Star Love and Friendship,  
Lisa Helge, Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress*

### ON THE MOVE

On November 19, 2024, Sister Alice Crusier of Bordentown Chapter #257 received her 60 year service award from the Grand Chapter of New Jersey in her dual Chapter, Warren Alpha Unity Fraternal #10 in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. The celebration was made possible through the work of Sister Barbara Helfrey, Worthy Matron of Bordentown Chapter #257 and Sister Maryellen R. Thoren, Grand Representative of New Hampshire in New Jersey. Also present at the presentation was the Jr. Past Worthy Grand Matron of New Hampshire, Sister Karen D. Tuttle.

Submitted by Sister Maryellen R. Thoren, GR of NH in NJ







# From the Desk of the Right Worthy Grand Trustee



*Happy Autumn Everyone.*

It has been a whirlwind of excitement since my election as Right Worthy Grand Trustee. I have attended receivings, homecoming, 50 year pin presentations, merger meetings, Chapter birthday parties, Rainbow Girls Convention, Smithville outing, Trenton Thunder-OES/Master Mason game night, Christmas in July, Mouseketeers Murder Mystery, two Grand Chapter Rehearsals, and Chapter picnics. I have also attended Corporate Board, Home Board, Charity Foundation, and Past Matron's Past Patrons meetings. All since my election in May, whew!

I am looking forward to a year filled with travel and learning. It will be wonderful to watch and learn from those sisters ahead of me Sr. Mary Elaine, MWGM; Sr. Dawn, RWAGM; Sr. Andrea RWGC, and Sr. Lisa, RWAGC. And of course, I am thrilled to be working with Br. Greg, MWGP. It should be a wonderful year!

I am so excited to be greeting each and every one of you. I hope to meet many new Sisters and Brothers on my travels. Please feel free to introduce yourself and have a little chat. As the RWGT I am here to serve our beautiful order and each of you.

One of my duties is to sell badge holders for the Grand Representaives, magnets for badges/pins, and pin locks. Pin locks attach to pins and "lock" the pin to the garment so if the pin's clasp comes undone the pin will remain attached to the garment. Please see me if you need any of these items. I can also give you a demonstration of the pin lock.

For those of you who don't know me I will provide a quick introduction. I was born and raised in Kansas. I lived in Boston for about 10 years, then moved here in 2000 I am a middle school science teacher. I am a member of Mt. View Chapter #205 in the 31st district. We meet way up north in Pompton Lakes. This year I am their Associate Conductress. I am a dual member of Little Falls Chapter #224, also in 31st district, and I am their Associate Matron.

I live with my cat, his name is Baxter. I enjoy hiking, all animals, crafting, and listening to books on tape. I listen to my book while I mow the lawn or clean the house!

I love our Order and am excited to experience the journey to the Grand East. My year as MWGM will begin in 2029. So I will sign off with- We'll shine in 2029!

*In Star Love and Friendship,  
Judy Wood, RWGT*



From the Junior Past Grand Matron:

At Grand Session, I spoke to Glenda Westenberger and the Locations Committee in a manner which was both inappropriate and unacceptable.

I apologize for my behavior, which was certainly not in keeping with what Eastern Star represents.

*Sharon Rosequist*  
Junior Past Grand Matron

---

## EASTERN STAR CHARITY FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It is my honor to serve once again as your President of the Charity Foundation. Our Charity Foundation is an integral part of the Order of Eastern Star in NJ. From the beginning we have always been here for our Sisters and Brothers and still hold that tradition as the most important work we do. Always remembering that our mission is ***“to live our obligation by providing aid to the members in their misfortune and educational support for the future.”*** It is you **“OUR membership”** through the generous donations given that allows us to continue in meeting our mission statement.

I invite all members of the Order to ASK QUESTIONS, GIVE SUGGESTIONS, and ATTEND MEETINGS of the Charity Foundation throughout the year. Remember, as we move forward there is always a need for new ways to improve the workings of the Charity Foundation. After all we are here to benefit and help our Sisters and Brothers.

Our meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month. These meetings are usually at the OES Home with the following exceptions: December, January and February which will only be on zoom. All meetings at the Home will also be on zoom. Our entire membership is members of the Board. Please contact Sister Buni Williams, Secretary, and she will send you the zoom link. Board meetings will be posted on the OES website and in the Official List Book.

Have a wonderful Eastern Star year and I look forward to greeting you at one of our meetings.

In Star love and service,

Lynn C. Billingham, PGM  
President Charity Foundation



## Past Matrons & Past Patrons Association, President's Message

Greetings from the Past Matrons and Past Patrons Association of NJ. We are looking forward to a year filled with JOY and Service. My theme this year is "Being of **Service** to others is what brings true happiness" and my scripture is Hebrews 13:16 "Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God".

I am excited to be working with the Association's members, its Board of Directors, Committee Chairpersons, committee members, and governors to assist those in need. If you know of anyone who is in need, whether they are a member of Eastern Star or not, please notify the governor of your district. The assistance we provide is handled with the greatest care and privacy of those involved.

If you are a Past Matron or a Past Patron and are not already a member, please consider joining. Our dues are \$5.00 a year. The dues we collect, State and District Fundraisers, and donations are what we use to assist those in need.

Br. Joe Herx, the 2nd Vice President, will be hosting this year's state project. He is encouraging everyone to virtually journey through the universe and donate based on the distance you travel. Look for his flyer, or contact your governor, myself, or brother Joe for more information.

Each governor will host a district fundraiser. Please contact your district governor if you would like more information on their fundraisers.

- 31 Cheryl Butler, GO
- 33 Roberta Russell, PGO
- 34 Elsie Van Dusen, PGO
- 35 Anna Tews, PGO
- 36 Jeanette Wallace, PGM
- 37 Dawn Sherlock, PGO
- 38 Tammy Wilkie, GO
- 39 Stephanie Donaly, GO

I would like to thank Sr. Meg Williams, PGO, 1st Vice President; Br. Joe Herx, PGP, 2nd Vice President; the Board of Directors; Committee Chairpersons; committee members; governors; and members at large for your support and dedication to our organization.

In Star Love and Service,  
Judith K. Wood, RWGT, President



## Memorial 2024-2025

God looked around His garden and found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.  
He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb,  
So He closed your weary eyelids, and whispered, "Peace be Thine".  
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you, the day God called you HOME.

### **DISTRICT #31**

#### **STELLA NO. 20**

Lou Jane Bickert  
Edith Glospie, PGO  
Arlene Roth  
Loretta Lippens, PGO

#### **TILDEN #59**

Joan M. Ace  
Violet Emker  
George Hodges, WP  
Carole Lee Morrison, PGO  
Claire Quinzer  
Barbara Silvia

#### **LINCOLN #95**

Robyn Albert  
Lillian Anderson  
Susan Bien, PGO  
Betty Brodo  
Yvonne Jones  
Sara Kinn  
Evelyn MacKenzie, PGM (dual)  
Nauratil Roger  
George Olson, PP  
Joyce Cougan  
Joan Fischer

#### **PEACE NO. 98**

William Wells, PGO

#### **NUTLEY NO. 121**

Evelyn MacKenzie, PGM  
Joyce Kieffer  
Laura Schuemann  
Helen I. Howell  
Christine Kaywork  
Helen Connon

#### **JEPHTHA NO. 134**

Ronald Colvin, PP

#### **MOUNTAIN VIEW NO. 205**

None

#### **LITTLE FALLS NO. 224**

Sonia Roskop  
Rachel Roibu  
Joan Ferrell, PM  
Loretta Lippens, PGO (dual)  
Jean DeWilde  
Maureen Batalias, PGO  
Rita Good, PGO

### **DISTRICT NO 33**

#### **LYDIA NO. 41**

Margaret Dassori  
Frances Mundock  
Nevita Ramos  
Lena Thomas  
Cornella Thum  
Pauline Vantaggi

#### **RARITAN NO. 58**

Myra Lind, PM  
Janet D. Schultz  
Lorraine Shelters  
Diane Ash  
Emily Price

#### **ATLAS NO. 99**

Betty Lutz, PGO (dual)  
Eleanor Burns  
Elizabeth LaBracio  
Ruth Mega  
Marie Piesche

#### **EMMAUS NO. 183**

Arlene Neary  
Elizabeth Janco, PGO  
Arlene Reuss, GO

### **DISTRICT NO 34**

#### **WALL NO. 143**

Frances Carter, PM  
Beth Danon  
Elizabeth Meyer  
Helen Norris

#### **MOLLY PITCHER NO. 198**

Kathleen Murphy, PGO  
Virginia Lee McCallum, PM  
Eva Lou McLaren  
Madeline Jacobus  
Marcia L. Anderson

#### **OCEAN NO. 214**

Ludema Coleman  
Jacqueline Leefe  
Beverlyann Hubbard, PGO  
Jeanne R. Haller  
Jean N. Ridner  
Hazel Beling  
Darlene Herberg

#### **MONMOUTH NO. 251**

Kathleen Murphy, PGO  
Gerda Waalwijk, PGO  
Carolyn Kirk, PM  
Blanche W. Watson

### **DISTRICT 35**

#### **TUCKERTON NO. 54**

Richard Leitz, PP  
Esther Gille  
Christina Bobinski



**GLORIA NO. 159**

Dorothy Budd  
Marilyn Brooksbank  
Helen Ferbiak  
Orpha Jane Burton

**DISTRICT 36****SHEKINAH NO. 82**

Jean Holshue  
Marjorie Astheimer, PGO  
Mary Lilliston  
Judith Bassett, PGO  
JoAnn Pike  
Mabel Kitchen

**DEWEY NO. 155**

Elizabeth Snyder  
Joan Lunnon, PM  
Ida M. Martin, PGO  
Stephen Daniels, PP  
Ellen Cossaboon, PGO  
Shirley Madara, PM  
Barbara Boakes

**DISTRICT NO. 37****PENNS GROVE NO. 86**

Rebecca Buff  
William Buff  
Jane Morgan  
Edwin J. Woodside

**HADDONFIELD #140**

June Anderson, PGO  
Dorothy Beatty, PM  
Shirley Guntz  
Yolanda Hales  
Nancy Hammel, PM  
Albert Hann, PGO  
Jacqueline Miller, PM  
Gary Moore, PGO (dual)  
Gail Nelson, PM  
John O'Neill  
Harriet Owenby  
Laura Pierce  
Ellen Reader  
Luretta  
Nancy Trail

**WILLIAMSTOWN NO. 149**

Vivian Bennie  
Shirley Thompson  
Howard Lathrop, PP  
Doris Mill

Gary Moore, PGO  
Alberta Dodd  
Marion Doermann  
Linda Marbaugh.  
Grace Iezzi, PM  
Gary Moore, PGO  
Carolyn Richards  
John Simensen, PGP  
Andrea Johnson, PGO

**ATHENE NO. 201**

Mary Gilpin  
Grace Iezzi, PM  
Gary Moore, PGO  
Carolyn Richards  
John Simensen, PGP  
Andrea Johnson, PGO

**FAIRVIEW NO. 219**

Jennifer Heath, PGO  
Steven Kingsbury, PP  
Janet Little  
Parl Martin  
Jane Vigna, PGO

**DISTRICT NO. 38****MORNING STAR NO. 22**

Jane Steiner  
Irma Lou Hubbs  
Joyce Harbourt  
Elaine Bellan, PGO  
Lynn Anzuni  
Dorlores Stark  
E. Gail Weber

**MOUNT HOLLY NO 147**

Muriel Gordon  
Charles Gray  
Dorothy Johnston  
Stephen Lankenau  
Paul Loveland, PP  
Mildred Smith

**BORDENTOWN NO. 257**

Patricia Simpson  
Caroline Husted  
Eleanor Young  
Robert Alpaugh, PP  
William Yost, PP  
Lynn Lasser, PGO  
Margaret Kern

**BEVERLY MAQUEDA NO. 276**

Firman Abdill, PP  
Florence Paulo, PGO  
Joan Lynch  
Charlotte Eager, PGO  
Frances Harris  
Shirley Ibbitson  
Jacqueline Flynn, PGO

**MEDFORD NO. 287**

June Anderson, PGO  
Carolyn Kates

**DISTRICT NO. 39****NORTHERN NO. 38**

Betty Jean Richards, PM  
Eugene Whitesell, PP  
Jean Textor, PM  
Daniel McCole  
Mary L. Stuphin, PM

**DELAWARE NO. 50**

Leslie Caswell, PGO  
Garrett Van Vliet  
Gloria Decker  
Prudence Kline  
Wanda Carmen, PGO  
Sandra Sirotnak  
HOBART NO. 63  
Marjorie Dick  
Dorothy Muller, PGO  
STARLIGHT NO. 107  
Jane Ruerup  
Betty Jenkins  
Katheryn Willahan  
Irene Burdge  
Betty Curnow  
Kay Walker, PM  
Lillian Sydrock  
James Wilkinson  
Wanda Carmen, PGO  
Barbara Bennett  
Edith Miners  
Mary Stuphin, PM

**STEWART NO. 166**

Letha Andrew  
Doris Gorab  
Betty Lee McPherson, PM  
Elwood Stump, PP  
Wilma Goarcke  
Charlotte Brader  
Shirley Covert



# Letter from Scholarship Winner

Dear Mrs. Van Houten,

I'm writing this note to thank you again for the scholarship I received last year. I had an incredible first year at Oberlin, and you are a big part of what helped me get there. At the end of last year, I declared my major! I'm going to be studying psychology. It's a subject I'm very passionate about, and I can't wait to continue my studies in the fall. I earned a 4.0 over this past year, and I hope to keep that gpa the next 3 years as well. I feel truly grateful that I ended up at Oberlin. I found the perfect place for me, and I have met so many amazing people already. I truly feel that Oberlin is my home.

Your scholarship played a big role in getting me where I am today, so I just wanted to express my gratitude again. I am very proud of my accomplishments, and I plan on continuing to succeed in the future.

Thank you so much, and I hope all is well with you!

Best,

*Abigail Boyd*

Abigail Boyd





## Eastern Charity Foundation of New Jersey

### 2025 Recipients

The Charity Foundation is proud to spotlight this year's recipients who were awarded a one time \$5,000.00 scholarship to help them in furthering their education. This year 3 of the 4 students were able to attend our Grand Session on Monday 5/19/2025.

Our 1st recipient is Ezekiel Celia and he will be attending The College of New Jersey in the fall. He is the son of Barbara and Robert Celia and is the grandson of Sister Freda Anderson of Laurel Spring's Chapter #227. His teacher's speak of his intellectual curiosity, work ethic, positive attitude, integrity, and the community would benefit from his willingness and determination to succeed. Zeke's interest are music, working with cars, working with kids with special needs and hockey. From a young age he would always take apart very large lego sets, age appropriate for older children, then he would work on it until completed all in the same day. He would like to pursue the mechanical engineering field. His father is a master mechanic for over 40 years and he would often tag along and watch him meticulously take apart cars, then put them back together again. His favorite subjects were math and science. He says there is a beauty in writing down equations, rattling his brain to resolve and reach the end result in solving that problem. Zeke aspires to learn from the ground up and work his way up the corporate ladder by working hard and learning the ins and outs of the industry.

Our 2nd recipient is Milan K. Everhart who will be attending Georgia State University and is the daughter of Paris and Antoine Everhart-Chappelle and she is the Great-granddaughter of Sister Anna Chappelle who is a member of Haddonfield Chapter #140. She is described by her teachers as an incredibly talented, intelligent, driven young person, a superb leader in her community, a great work ethic and keeps her priorities in perspective. Milan's undeniable passion is interior design. She is attending a CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation) accredited school to obtain a better education in her field. By taking multiple honors, AP, and dual enrolment classes in high school she feels it surely helps her in achieving her goal. Milan would like to someday start her own firm. Milan says the interior design leaves a lot of room for creativity, and although you are following your customers' requests, the client trusts your judgement. She wants to design for residential or commercial and have her clients feel the sense of joy and happiness that she feels doing her work. Milan lives in GA and was able to come bringing 6 family members as her dad is a flight attendant.

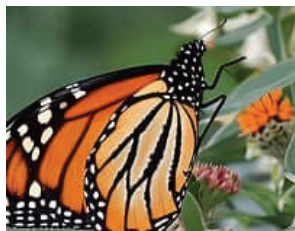
Our 3rd recipient is Kevin Dill and he will be attending Mississippi State University. He is the son of Audrey and Frank Dill and great nephew of Sister Lisa Couch who is a member of Starlight Chapter #107. He is described by his teachers as intelligent, having impeccable attention to detail, dedicated to his projects, kind and well liked amongst his peers. He approaches his studies with genuine enthusiasm and inspires others to elevate their own engagement. Kevin's passion began when he was working on the Architecture Merit Badge as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. That experience opened his eyes to the possibilities of it being a career choice that fulfills both his artistic ability and love for design. Architecture 1 & 2 in high school allowed Kevin to explore design principles, technical drafting and model building, deepening his understanding and appreciation for the field. Kevin's dream is to become a licensed architect who designs affordable, low-energy-use, sustainable housing and contribute to innovative projects.

Our 4th recipient is Leah Ulmer who is the daughter of Donna and Gary and is the granddaughter of Sister Virginia Stevenson. In the fall of 2025 Leah will be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University. Leah's teachers say that she is very motivated and demonstrates the ability to balance her academic schedule with the demands of being an athlete. Leah embodies the value of hard work, perseverance, conscientiousness and empathy and will make an impact on the world. She plans on studying nursing and would like to choose either pediatrics, critical care or oncology. When her grandmother was sick she wanted to help take care of her. It has always been her family's way to give back to their community. Her father is a retired police officer, and her brother followed in his footsteps. Watching her parents as caregivers to her grandmother helped Leah decide that she wants to care for and help others. Leah was not able to attend Grand Session but has sent a very nice thank you note. She thanks the membership for the very generous scholarship and appreciates the help that it will give her as she pursues her nursing career.

The three students that were able to attend Grand Session each spoke very lovely to our membership. They thanked them for the very generous scholarship check and certificate. They all said that the money truly helps in so many ways. It has been my absolute honor and pleasure to have been the Scholarship Chairperson again this year. Each student should be commended on their accomplishments throughout their past school years.

Their recommendation letters sent in by teacher, friends, clergy, etc., spoke very highly regarding their character, community service, activities in and outside of school, faith, love of family and so on. So let us all say a pray for all graduates and ask God to protect, guide and bless them all as they pursue goals in life.

Respectfully submitted  
Sister Dale Van Houten, GO  
Scholarship Chairperson, 2025-2026



### **Life Skills Grant**

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 \$2,000.00 each is available to each applicant.

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

Linda Penin, GO, 24 Kimble Court, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

The application is on the Grand Chapter Web Site. Please help us assist you or your family member burst into a butterfly and spread his or her wings!

---

### **GRAND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY**

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I am excited to greet you as President of Grand Representatives Association of New Jersey. I will be at Rainbow Convention August 8 and 9 to see the costumes on Friday night and award the prizes Saturday night for the best costumes worn by The Grand Representatives of New Jersey Rainbow.

Our meeting will be on Saturday October 4, at 11 am at Burlington Lodge in Burlington, NJ. We will be hosting the Rainbow Girls at that meeting. I plan on having a disco party. When the MWGM, MaryElaine and I were in Rainbow, disco was popular. So when I ran for 2nd Vice President I already had this in mind. Please be on the look out for our newsletter and flyer. I hope that many of you can join us as we welcome the Rainbow Girls of New Jersey.

To those of you who have just gotten commissions, I say congratulations and welcome to the best seat in the house. It is up to you to bring greetings from New Jersey and our MWGM to our sister jurisdictions. Travel safely and enjoy the JOurneY.

Fraternally,  
Barbara Helfrey, President  
GRANJ





# Take JOY in your JOurneY





New Jersey Eastern Star Home Board  
Ellen Mason, President

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It's been a bit of a whirlwind in my life. At the annual meeting of the Home Board in June, I attended as my chapter's delegate, and my name was submitted in nomination for a three-year term. I was elected to the Board, and I'm grateful for the trust the delegates put in my ability to serve. Soon, however, my day took a turn I never expected; while completing the paperwork that had been handed to all the Board members, I heard a voice nominate me for President which was quickly followed by a second. In a stunned moment, I found myself accepting the nomination, and before I knew it, I was President of the Home Board!

To the members of the Board, thank you for your confidence in my ability to lead us this year. I know with the help of the amazing people I am serving with that we will handle the business of the Home in an efficient and caring manner.

The mortgage negotiations are ongoing, and we are coming into the final stretch before a final resolution will be agreed upon. We have consistently been meeting the requirements the bank has asked us for; our daily bed census remains close to 90% occupancy. As of our June 26 meeting, we had a bed census of 77. There are currently 9 Members of the Eastern Star that are residents.

We encourage everyone who might need rehabilitation, respite care or skilled nursing services to consider using the NJ Eastern Star Home. Our services are first rate and our facility is modern, clean and comfortable.

Thank you to Sister Sharon Rosequist, Jr. PGM, for hosting Home Away From Home Day. It was a great day supporting our Home. I, personally, have missed our Home Days, and I enjoyed being able to share this day with everyone that attended. A Gown Boutique was held, and many of us were able to increase our wardrobes with beautiful formal attire.

Our next Gown Boutique will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025, in conjunction with the Secretary/Treasurer and Past Matrons/Past Patrons meetings at Molly Pither Chapter in Westfield. We will be open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and we hope that you will take the opportunity to visit the Boutique that day. If you have gowns for donation, please bring them to the lodge that day. Donations should be gently used with no tears or stains. Formal attire only, please. We cannot accept business attire.

We have a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Unit and hope that you consider our facility should you or someone you know need our services which include Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy. Please reach out to Shelretha LaSure at the Eastern Star Home for assistance.



Please consider volunteering at the Home. The residents love to have visitors, and they are always happy to have the chapters participate in BINGO, arts and crafts, Chapter meetings or any activity your chapter may want to bring to the residents. Please call Simone Rudich at the Home to arrange volunteer opportunities. She is always looking for volunteers to push wheelchairs to the Boutique or the salon.

Please think about the NJ Eastern Star Home when planning for the future. A charitable bequest is one of the easiest and greatest gifts you can make. When preparing your will, please consider including the NJ Eastern Star Home. Any amount is always appreciated.

Another way of financially helping our Home is the Tree of Life. There are some new leaves and rocks that would love some company. Please check these out whenever you are visiting the Home. If you would like to add a leaf or rock to the Tree of Life, please call the Eastern Star Home at 908-722-4140 for the form. Leaves are \$500 and rocks are \$1000.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Home, I thank you for always supporting our Home.

As always, we thank the employees who work at our Eastern Star Home. Their dedication and support of our residents is what makes us a world class facility. We would not be able to continue the work of our Home without the support of our Sisters and Brothers. Thank you for everything you do to support our residents. Please continue to visit and help with activities.

Again, thank you to the delegates and the Board members for the confidence you have placed in me. I know that together we will have a successful year and continue to help our Home thrive.

In Star Love,  
Ellen Mason, PGO  
President  
Home Board of Directors





## Achieving a 50, 60

### A message to our members.

Submitted by Patti Rhinesmith PMG

Looking back over fifty years of being a member in our Order, we watch in awe as a Sister or Brother receives a service pin and certificate. There are times it just doesn't seem possible that we have been in Star for as many years as we have.

As we age, I think of it as a number, and nothing more. As I reached my milestone year as a recipient, I still looked at myself as if I just joined but a younger version and not the old person looking back at me in the mirror.

Every day is a gift from God. Learn to focus on the giver and enjoy the gift. We all love to receive gifts, but the greatest gift is giving to others. I truly enjoy presenting to our recipients, the gift of a certificate with pin and giving the hand of friendship.

The times that I have presented to our members have been in a Chapter room, in their homes with their family and friends, or even at a Diner as the recipient was heading back home overseas and wasn't able to attend a meeting. For those Sisters and Brothers who were not active due to family obligations, or just not being able to attend, they also feel that this milestone is important to them and are proud to be a member of our Order.

To all our Sisters and Brothers, I congratulate all of you and look forward to be able to continue to present these pins to you on behalf of the Grand Chapter.







# DISCO NIGHT GRANJ / RAINBOW

**When: October 04, 2025**

**Time: 11:00AM**

**Where: Burlington Lodge**

**2308 Burlington - Mt. Holly Rd,  
Burlington, NJ 08016**

**RSVP BY September 28 TO**

**Jenifer Molinaro 201-803-3760**

**200 Depew Street**

**Dumont, NJ 07628**

**Make \$20 Checks payable to GRANJ**



TEAR OFF HERE AND RETURN

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

MEAL \_\_\_\_\_ DUES \_\_\_\_\_

DUES ARE \$5.00





## Travel with us and Get your Passport Stamped!

### Destinations:

Aug. 28	Mardis Gras River Lady Cruise	South
Dec. 14	Nutcracker Christmas Tea	East
Jan. 24	Winterfest	North
May 2	Hawaiian Luau Murder Mystery	West

**PASSPORTS** available from the **MWGM/MWGP** and at all events.

Drawing at Convention from collected passports with 3 and 4 stamps for luggage!!

++Extra bonus trips qualifying for a stamp:

March 28 Wine Tasting Bus Tour





# Love Makes the World Go Round





## Important Information for Submissions:

Digital photos need to be high resolution. (If not, they will be used in a limited fashion.)

Articles need to be submitted in Microsoft Word.

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 352  
BELLMAWR, NJ

Grand Chapter

Order of the Eastern Star of N.J.

111 Finderne Avenue

Bridgewater, N.J. 08807

---

# The New Jersey Eastern Star Home

