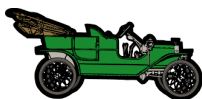




**Maria L. Parrish**

High Priestess

*Arvida K. Curry*  
Recorder



# Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona  
December 2023—January 2024

Lady Karen Przytula, Grand High Priestess

Motto: "Each One, Reach One"

## High Priestess

Ladies! By the time you read this Thanksgiving will have come and gone. My holiday was made a lot more festive as my daughter was able to come home for a few days. The 14-pound turkey for three people was probably a bit over the top but we all really enjoyed it. I am looking forward to Christmas as well.

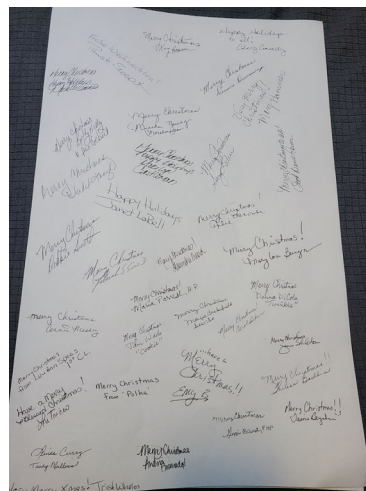
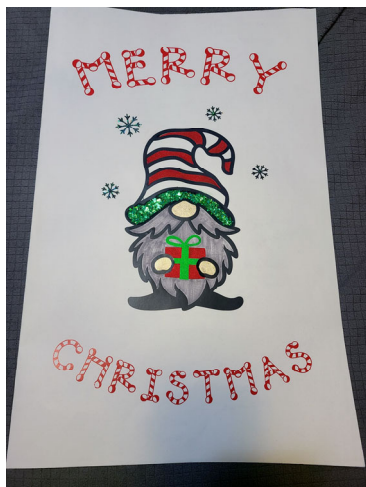
There are a lot of events and activities coming up that you will want to attend. Our December Court Meeting will be held on Monday, December 18th. Dinner is at 5:30pm and the meeting will begin at 7pm. The cost for dinner is \$15 and reservations must be made in advance with Lady Dennice Dunnaway. I hope to see all our new members there and encourage everyone to wear festive holiday attire. I am also looking forward to attending as many of our Unit Holiday Parties as I can. Sphinx Court will be providing a tree and will have a table at the Winterfest/FEZtival of Trees

Our next Membership Tea will be held on January 14th. If you know of anyone who would like to learn more about LOS, please invite them and provide their contact information to Lady Lou Ann Speas so she can send out formal invitations. We will also be holding our biggest fundraiser of the year, Set Sail For Disaster on the HMS Sphinx on February 3rd. There will be dinner, silent auctions and great entertainment. Tickets are on sale and are \$25. Please plan on attending and bringing a friend.

I wish everyone peace, joy and love this Christmas and always.

**Classy Car Kisses,**

**Lady Maria Parrish, High Priestess**  
**Phone: 602-956-9639**  
**Email: mariaparrishh@gmail.com**



## Officers' Offerings



### Princess

December is a very busy month. We start the month off with the Festival of Trees and Luke Air Force Christmas party. The Clown unit has a great time facing painting. Then we move on to the Shrine patient Christmas party. The children and their family have a great time and enjoy visiting with Santa. The rest of December is filled with wonderful Christmas parties hosted by all the Court Units. We start 2024 off with a Chili Cookoff fundraiser for the Travel fund. The chili is amazing, and the competition outstanding. The Nobles will join in and the ladies thought this might turn in to an annual event.

***Lady Marcia Cherry, Princess***

***Phone: 480-620-9570, Email: mscherry317@gmail.com***



### Associate Princess

Kicking off the holiday season we have many things keeping us busy in LOS. We have just welcomed a new class of ladies, who are just as excited about LOS as we are. WELCOME LADIES! We are so happy you have come to play with us. We also have all the fun Unit parties, gatherings, and holiday commitments through the month of January, which will be 2024!

The ladies of our Court, including members who are not able to join us regularly and a member of El Zaribah Shrine, Patrick AKA Turtle were busy during September and October raising funds and other donations towards the hospital project, POPS (Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services at Shriners Children's) and the Winslow Hospital. The Court Christmas Card – look for it in the newsletter- (beautifully decorated by Lady Andria Granado) made a one night appearance at the October meeting. The donations from the Christmas Card totaled \$441.00. The Clown Unit, collected \$450 in gift cards for the OV of the High Priestess, and Director's Staff, collected \$2074 in Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing, Blankets, Hats, Toys, Art Supplies, Dolls and Action Figures; plus member monetary donations totaling \$175.00. I am humbled and my heart is super full with all the love you have for helping the children and our community. YOU, the ladies of Sphinx Court #65 are ROCK STARS!

Lastly, are you starting to see the super cool red and black jackets around the Court. The jacket with the LOS emblem, Sphinx Court #65, Phoenix, AZ, embroidered on the left side is \$70 and if you would like to have a single name embroidered on the right side is \$75. It is available in a Ladies' cut, sizes XS - 4XL (does run a size small), and in a Men's cut, size XS- 4XL. The jacket is made of a 100% polyester shell (waterproof rating), has a 100% polyester microfleece lining and is washable. The jacket project will close Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the jackets will be gifted back to the hospital project; but don't fret, there is still plenty of time to get your order in. Thank you ladies for participating in the jacket project.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Sending HUGS and THANKS for all the support you continue to give to the hospitals and our community.

**Lady Mechelle Gaines, Associate Princess**

### **NOTICE**

If you would like to have your email address in the next Court roster, please send an email to [lkcurry1@cox.net](mailto:lkcurry1@cox.net) from the address you would like included giving permission to publish it.

### **CACTUS CHATTER UPDATE EMAILS**

If you are not receiving emails from the Cactus Chatter Updates list, please contact Linda Curry, PHP to be added. [lkcurry1@cox.net](mailto:lkcurry1@cox.net)

# Officers' Offerings

## Recorder

### **A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Lady Kaitlyn Alton, 14240 N 39<sup>th</sup> Way, Phoenix, AZ 85232-5712 Tele. 480-200-6035  
 Lady Amy Chism, 1835 E Denim Trail, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143-4475 Tele 480-272-5388  
 Lady Katrina Collins, 6316 W Prickly Pear Trail, Phoenix, AZ 85083-1001 Tele 661-675-8720  
 Lady Melanie Clover, 5332 E Baltimore St, Mesa, AZ 85205-8116 Tele 480-765-8849  
 Lady Karen Smith, 276 S Starr Rd, Apache Junction, AZ 85119-2210 Tele 815-540-7021  
 Lady Elizabeth Swerda, 6209 E McKellips Rd, Mesa, AZ 85215-2832 Tele 858-214-4977  
 Lady Je Tuttle, 6316 W Prickly Pear Trail, Phoenix, AZ 85083-1001 Tele 818-471-1017

**\*\*\*\*\*2023 DUES ARE \$30.00 WERE DUE ON APRIL 1, 2023\*\*\*\*\***

Make your check payable to Sphinx Court #65 and mail to c/o Linda Curry, 1550 N El Camino Drive, Tempe, AZ 85288-1426 Your self-addressed, stamped envelope for your dues card is appreciated.

***Lady Linda Curry, PHP***

***Phone: 602-619-4313, Email: lkcurry1@cox.net***



## First Ceremonial Lady

Hello Ladies! The Ceremonial in November had a great turn out. I'd like to thank everyone that came to welcome our new members to our Court. December is a busy month with all the Christmas parties from all of our Units. All the new members are invited to attend, just contact the Unit leaders. You'll find the details to all the parties in this newsletter.

We have another Membership Tea scheduled for January 14th at 2:00PM at the Shrine. If you know anyone that you would like to recommend or would like more information, please send me their name, address, and phone number so that I can send them an invitation.

I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year. And may the force be with you...

***Lady Lou Ann Speas, 1st Ceremonial Lady***

***Phone: 480-510-2896, Email: littletyrant1960@aol.com***



## Second Ceremonial Lady

Thanks everyone for supporting the Court meeting dinners. Our next meeting and dinner will December 18th. and the menu will be roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans and ice cream. Reservation for this dinner will close Dec. 7th.

January's menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes, baby carrots and dessert. Those reservations close Jan. 12th. Please send your reservations to or cancellation to:

[dundealaz@gmail.com](mailto:dundealaz@gmail.com). Dinners start at 5:30 and are \$15.00. Hope to see you at dinner.

***Lady Dennice Dunaway, 2nd Ceremonial Lady***

***Phone: 602-628-7820, Email: dundealaz@gmail.com***

### No Bake - Bake Sale No Sugar No Carbs

Delicious Cakes	\$20.00
Wonderful Cupcakes	\$15.00 doz
Mom's best Cookies	\$10.00 doz
Dad's Brownies	
Sm sheet	\$10.00
Full sheet	\$18.00



Make checks payable to:

**Sphinx Court #65**

**Note: Travel Fund**

Or bring cash to our next meeting. Hurry.. while they last.

### Clown Unit Travel Fund Project

## SPHINX COURT #65—Presents Murder Mystery Dinner Theater



**Benefiting:** Sphinx Court Ways & Means—2023/2024

**When:** February 3, 2024

**Where:** Aboard the **HMS SPHINX**

**Boarding:** 5:00pm from the Fiesta Room at El Zaribah Shrine

**Details:** Sphinx Court is setting sail for disaster on a fun filled four hour tour! Join your fellow shipmates for an island themed dinner, fun & laughter

as we try to solve a murder after being ship-wrecked on a desert island. Everyone is welcome, so bring ALL your friends. Don't miss out!

**Attire:** Wear your best Cruise Casual or Island themed outfits. Swimwear is optional.

**Cost:** \$25.00 per person—includes Cruise Fare, Dinner, and a Show!



## Unit and Club Happenings

### Clown Unit

We had a wonderful turnout for our Dracula's Castle event in October. Thanks to all for joining the fun by dressing up and getting into the spooky spirit. Special thanks to the Clowns who provided the scrumptious meal. And congratulations to our Clown President, Lady Dennice, who, by popular vote, won the coveted Best Costume Award!

Next up is the El Zaribah Children's Christmas Party on Dec. 9. You've all received the flyer with details, and please, if you can, volunteers are needed on Dec. 7 to help with preparations.

Keeping in the holiday spirit, don't forget you can still order goodies from the No Bake Bake Sale, which will help with the Travel Fundraising. This is a fantastic idea for a calorie-free gift. Guaranteed to make you feel better than a box of chocolates!

The Clowns will be celebrating (no challenge there) at our Holiday party on Dec. 30. Fun gift exchange, if you choose to participate, the suggested price limit is \$15-20. We'll gather at 5:30 (that's 1730 for Marsha's watch) at the Shrine.

And kicking off the fundraising for 2024 is the Chili Cook-off (aka Ring of Fire.) See the flyer for all the details, and put January 6 on your calendar.

The next fundraising opportunity is a generous offer from the men, inviting us to be part of their annual Crab Feed on January 26. We'll earn 20% of the net proceeds for our participation. Check out the flyer for all the details, or contact Janet LaBell for more info on how to help the Clown Unit's Travel Fund Raising.

As always, we appreciate the efforts and support of all the Court, and anticipate a joyous, fulfilling, and rewarding 2024.

**Lady Emy Bartula – Vice President**

### **Cactus Chatter Editor**

Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP  
623-337-3226 Email: kcmac999@cox.net  
8103 W. Hess Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85043  
www.sphinxcourt65.org

### Sphinx Patrol

Happy Holiday season from the ladies Patrol Unit. Where we go from party to party and eat our way through the next few months. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month. We have practice just before the meetings at around 6:15 PM, if you are interested in joining us, please check us out. We also have dinner in the Red Fez room off of the menu. We would just like to say congratulations to all of the new court members. We hope everyone has safe and wonderful holidays. We hope we will see you at all of upcoming events. If you are traveling stay safe and see you in the new year.

**Lady Janet LaBell PHP, Captain**

### Greeters

Congratulations to our new members and welcome to Sphinx Court!

We will be having our pot luck holiday party after the holidays on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Madison Gardens, 808 E. Missouri, Phoenix, Arizona. Please RSVP to me if you would like to attend. Our next regular Greeters meeting will be on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. also at 808 E. Missouri. This meeting will be our election of officers. Hope you can join us.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

**Lady Andie Lacombe, President**

### Ceremonial Pageantry

What a great Ceremonial we had, and 6 brand new members, how fortunate we are! Ladies, the Ceremonial Pageantry can always use more actors and participants in our Ceremonials so please come and visit us. We meet 3 times a year and have a great time together.

Speaking of great times together, as we enter the holiday season. Our wish is for each of you and your families to have wonderful celebrations and festivities and make many happy memories.

Here's to a healthy and happy 2024! Happy New Year!

**Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP—Secretary**



## Unit and Club Happenings

### Director Staff

We want to welcome our new members, and are looking forward to seeing you in court. Hopefully you all had a good Thanksgiving.

I want to thank each of you that supported our table at Ceremonial, if it was buying or donating items we did well. We will have a table at our Court meeting in December so come early and have dinner and shop. We will have opportunity tickets available for a "Tiffany Basket" \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00. Drawing will be at January Court meeting, you don't need to be present to win. Our Christmas party is on December 15, at the Shrine. Please RSVP to Mary Hammer, [jusducky2@cox.net](mailto:jusducky2@cox.net) by 12/8/2023. Our OV will be January 10, 2024 and it will be a potluck. If you are interested please contact me, Judy Lough 602-828-8555 call or text. February meeting will be elections of officers and we will be honoring our past Chiefs. It will also be at the Shrine on 2/7/2024 5:30 dinner 7:00 PM meeting. The Clowns' Travel Unit Chili Cook Off January 6, 2024 and Court Mystery Dinner February 3, 2024 are coming up. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT ALL OF OUR UNITS, not just yours. We lost a long time member, Lady Donna Yorston PHP, PC, in November. She will be missed and fondly remembered.

Sending heartfelt wishes to all for a beautiful Holiday/Christmas season. Looking forward to a rewarding and healthy New Year. Indian Love,  
**Lady Judy Lough, PC—Chief**





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Facebook or Twitter: [@webdesignsaz](https://www.facebook.com/webdesignsaz)

Cell: 602.740.5635

FAX: 602.237.5526

### Past High Priestess Club

Welcome to all our New Members! We are glad you are here and hope you will find a Unit to join real soon.

The PHP Club had our Official Visit with our High Priestess, Lady Maria, and her officers. They had some great questions for us! Stay tuned to the Cactus Chatter Update, as we will be having a gathering for anyone thinking about running for an office in February.

Our next meeting and election of officers is February 21, 2024. All PHPs, please plan to attend!


Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

**Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP, President**




## Welcome New Members!!

### Past High Priestess Club

<p><b>SPHINX NO. 65</b></p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Contact: Andie Lacombe 602-329-2015 <a href="mailto:Andie@curtismanagement.biz">Andie@curtismanagement.biz</a></p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">GREETERS</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Court and Unit Name Tags Choice of Red or Blue Ink Magnetic Name Tag - \$15.00 Pin Back Name Tag - \$10.00 Unit Bar - \$7.00</p>
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Clowns like to smile,  
We laugh all the while.  
Balloons are our trick  
And, face painting is slick.  
So give us a call  
And we'll entertain ya!!!



Contact the Sphinx Court #65 Clown Unit  
Dennice Dunaway, President @ 602-628-7820  
[sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com](mailto:sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com)

## Committee Reports

### Membership @09/25/2023 209

Correction	0
Initiated	6
Dual	1
Reinstated	0
Demitted	0
Deceased	-0
Suspended	-0

**Membership @11/18/2023 216**

**Be A  
Lady in Red  
Join the  
Ceremonial Pageantry**



**Contact LADY JANE SHELDON  
480-710-5975**

### SPHINX PATROL



**Water Bottle Holders -  
\$5.00**

**LOS Folding Fans  
\$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00  
See any Patrol member**



### Sunshine Report

- 11/23—Lady Donna Yorston, PHP— Passed  
Funeral set for 12/16/23  
11/07—Lady Gina Baird, PHP—Additional  
shoulder surgery—went well  
10/20—Lady Carol Shephard, PHP—recent  
hospital stay and now move to a  
memory card facility.  
10/12—Lady Doris Miller, not doing well,  
Cancer liver and kidney

If you hear of anyone with good news or sickness, contact Lady Linda Curry, PHP at 602-619-4313 or email lkcurry1@cox.net. She will send out the Cactus Chatter Updates via email and Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP, is her back up. Lady Kacy Baxter and Lady Taime Bengochea will be sending out cards.

### Director Staff



**Fez Hard Cases \$55  
Plastic Fez Cases \$15  
Ginny Fain  
480-548-2725**



**Curtis Management, L. L. C.**  
745 N. Gilbert Rd., #124-269  
Gilbert, Arizona 85234  
(480) 497-6061  
jim@curtismanagement.net

**Jim Reid, CMCA, AMS®**  
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Sphinx Court No. 65  
Ladies' Oriental Shrine  
of North America

Linda Curry  
1550 N. El Camino Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85288-1426

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**Calendar of Events for 2023 — UPDATED 12/03/2023**  
***All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.***

**December—2023**

12/15—Director Staff Holiday Party, 5:30pm  
12/16—Sphinx Patrol Holiday Party, 1:30pm  
Andie Lacombs House  
**12/18—Court Meeting, Dinner 5:30pm**  
**Mtg. 7pm—**Holiday Attire 2nd Reading  
& Vote on Court R&R Changes  
12/30—Clown Unit—Holiday Party

**January—2024**

01/06—Chili Cookoff—Travel Unit Fund  
01/07—Greeters Holiday Party, 11:30am  
808 E. Missouri, Phoenix  
01/10—Director Staff OV, 7:00pm  
01/14—Sphinx Court Membership Tea  
01/16—Sphinx Patrol OV, 7:00pm  
**01/22—Court Meeting, Dinner 5:30pm**  
**Meeting. 7pm—**PHP Honor Day  
01/26—CrabFeed—Travel Fundraiser, 6pm

**February—2024**

**02/03—Murder Mystery Dinner—5:00pm**  
**HMS Sphinx—**Cruise/Island Attire  
02/07—Director Staff Mtg. & Elections, 7pm  
02/08—Clown Unit Mtg. & Elections, 7pm  
02/17—Greeters Mtg. & Elections, 11:30am  
808 E. Missouri, Phoenix  
02/20—Sphinx Patrol Mtg. & Elections, 7pm  
02/21—PHP Club Mtg. & Elections, 6:30pm  
**02/26—Court Meeting and Elections,**  
**Dinner 5:30pm, Meeting. 7pm**

**March—2024**

**03/16—Ceremonial, Meeting 9:00AM**  
**Luncheon to Follow.**