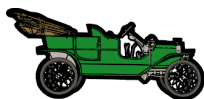




*Maria L. Parrish*

High Priestess

*Andie X. Curry*  
Recorder



# Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona  
February—March 2024

Lady Karen Przytula, Grand High Priestess

Motto: "Each One, Reach One"

## NOTICE!

**2024 LOSNA DUES HAVE INCREASED**  
**\$35 FOR MEMBERS**  
**\$17 FOR PHPs**  
**DUE BY APRIL 1, 2024**

### High Priestess

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your holidays with family, friends and all the joy of the season.

We are very busy as the last three months of our year typically are. In January, I made Official Visits to the Director Staff and Patrol Units. Thank you for the amazing food and hospitality. Lady Lou Ann Speas also coordinated a very successful Membership Tea. Many thanks to all who invited guests, attended and provided food for the event. At our January meeting, it was my pleasure to honor our PHPs. I can't say it enough ladies, "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all." At the end of January, we helped the Shrine put on the CrabFest. A portion of the proceeds will come back to Sphinx Court as part of our Ways and Means.

The next few months show no signs of slowing down. Our biggest fundraiser of the year will be on Saturday, February 3rd. Please plan to attend as we need your support to finish out the year strong. I am also looking forward to the Ceremonial Pageantry OV and of course our February stated meeting where we will be voting on new candidates and holding officer elections. Our next Ceremonial will be held on Saturday, March 16th. Please plan to attend and welcome our new members.

Thank you again for your continued kindness and support.

**Classy Car Kisses,**

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



### Princess

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Christmas and New year. The Clown unit started the year off with a chili cook off. We had 9 entries of some of the most amazing chili. The winner of the Chili contest went to Mary Hammer for her Red Chili. Also, if there had been a prize for the best corn bread that would have gone to Andria Granado. I want to thank Daniel Granado for his part in helping at the end. It is much appreciated.

Our Murder Mystery dinner will be amazing. The food will be out of this world with the Director Staff planning it. We set sail at 5 PM and the fun begins right away and will keep you on the edge of your seats until the end.

**Lady Marcia Cherry, Princess**  
**Phone: 480-620-9570, Email: mscherry317@gmail.com**

## Officers' Offerings



### Associate Princess

What an amazing year! As quickly as the year began, it is also coming to a close. I have enjoyed representing Sphinx Court as Associate Princess, and being the hospital chairman. As of this newsletter, we have collected \$2208.50 towards the monetary goal of \$5,000.00 I set at the beginning of the year and \$6849.70 of goods and gift cards. There has been so much love given to the hospital project this year, Salt Lake City Hospital, Pediatric Orthotic and Prosthetic Services AKA POPS, and various community agencies in the Phoenix area by the members of our Court and from outside donations. I would like to give a HUGE SHOUT OUT to my Aides, Ladies Margie Brakefield and Christy Connelly, I would not have been as successful without you ladies keeping me on track, your record keeping, knowledge and on the fly research. Thank you so much, ladies.

Great News! The Christmas Card is being published again with a typed list of the ladies whom signed the card. Be on the lookout for it in the newsletter. Thank you again to all the ladies that participated.

OOH! AAH! Have you started seeing the red and black jackets around the court? There is still time to get your order in before the Feb 26<sup>th</sup> deadline to have a portion of the proceeds gifted back to the hospital project. The jacket will be available for purchase after Feb 26<sup>th</sup>; however, it will not be eligible for the Associate Princess project. 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.

Lastly, Congratulations and Welcome to our newest members. We are all very excited that you have joined us, and please know that we are here to help you and answer any questions you may have. You will hear many times, if you haven't already heard many times, "You get out of LOS what you put into it".

In closing, thank you everyone for your continued support and guidance. I look forward to the opportunity to being Princess. There is even more work ahead, and I/we will be successful with the help of the amazing mentors, leaders, and ladies of our court working together.

Thank you for a wonderful and memorable year!

**Lady Mechelle Gaines, Associate Princess**

**Phone: 719-229-9226, Email: [emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com)**



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**Leo Balthazor**

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

Cell: 602.740.5635  
FAX: 602.237.5526

### 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

\*\*\*\*\*2024 DUES of \$35.00 ARE DUE ON APRIL 1, 2024\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*2023 DUES of \$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! Hope everyone had a wonderful and happy new year. On January 14<sup>th</sup> we had a Membership Team. What a great turn out! We had several ladies from Mo-have/Bullhead City area come to join us and many other ladies. I would like to thank all the Units for their help to make this a great success.

We have some events coming up that I hope everyone will join us for some fun. March 16<sup>th</sup> will be our next Ceremonial to invite the ladies that signed up to join our organization. Don't forget we have Election of Officers at our February Court meeting. The position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceremonial Lady needs to be filled. If this is something that sounds like it might be for you, put your name in and give it a try.

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

Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New year! 2024 is open for new beginnings, the opportunity to embrace old and new friends, experiences and opportunities.



Our next Court dinner is February 26<sup>th</sup> and the menu is Corned beef and cabbage with potatoes and lemon bars. Deadline for reservations is February 16<sup>th</sup>.

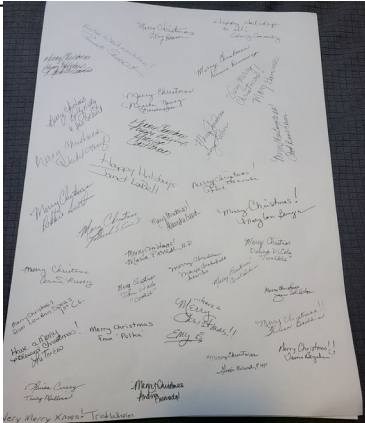
Dinners are served at 5:30pm and the cost is \$15.00. Please contact me to make reservations at [dundealaz@gmail.com](mailto:dundealaz@gmail.com). If you are not on the permanent list or need to cancel, if you are on the list. I look forward to seeing you at the dinners and meetings.

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

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





Lady Kay Hoover	Lady Christy Connolly	Lady Renate Sweat	Lady Dennice Dunaway
Lady Mechelle Gaines	Lady Kathy Kelley	Lady Iris Colbert	Lady Mary Hammer
Lady Taime Bengochea	Lady Judy Lough	Lady Marilyn Castleman	
Lady Suzy Lieber	Lady Pat Bandhauer	Lady Janet LaBell	Lady Andie Lacombe
Lady Debbie Smith	Lady Debbie Sise	Lady Leandra Beard	Lady Mary Lou Burger
Lady Connie Massey	Lady Maria Parish, HP	Lady Carol Anton	Lady Jane Sheldon
Lady Donna "Twinkle" DiCola		Lady Lou Ann Speas	Lady Lori Tricco
Lady Pam "Cookie" Wade		Lady Emy Bartula	Lady Theresa Bouldin
Lady Margie "Sew-So" Brakefield		Lady Linda Curry	Lady Trudy Mullins
Lady Nancy "Polka" Beffel		Lady Andria Granado	Lady Gina Baird, PHP
Lady Trish Whalen	Lady Marsha "Marshmallow" Young		

## 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 shipwrecked 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 started 2024 with a successful Chili Cook-off on Jan. 6, benefiting the Travel Fund. With 9 varieties of chili to sample, the ballot boxes eventually revealed the winner to be Mary Hammer, who promptly donated her \$50 prize to the Director Staff. Congratulations, and thanks to all the entrants for their participation.

The Membership tea was well attended on Jan. 14, with 13 ladies submitting petitions to join LOSNA. A bountiful spread was enjoyed by all, thank you ladies who contributed.

The HMS Sphinx sets sail on Feb 3, with a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. Check the flyer, and beware: clowns are involved, so anything goes!

Our next Clown meeting is on Feb. 8, when elections will be held for next year's officers. Your attendance is encouraged, and much appreciated. You may place your T-shirt orders then, and also at this meeting, the clowns and their puppets will be practicing their performance that will debut at Grand Council in May.

The Potentate of El Zaribah has invited us to join them for the "Bash before the Ball" on Feb. 23, and the Black Tie event on the 24th. A nice gesture, as we're all working for the same goal, the children.

Our final travel fundraiser will be a Paint & Sip on March 3. Please rsvp to Andria by Feb. 25. March 14, Clown meeting, followed on the 16th by our Ceremonial and April meeting on the 11th. Stay well, keep clowning around.

**Lady Emy Bartula – Vice President**

### **Ceremonial Pageantry**

Happy 2024!

Our Christmas Party with the Director Staff was so much fun! Thank you ladies for inviting us to participate with you. Lou Ann and Andria did a great job on the food. Thank you ladies.

Our next unit meeting will be the Official Visit of our High Priestess, Lady Maria, and election of officers on Thursday, February 22nd. This is the same night as El Zaribah's Unit and Club Leaders meeting, so there will be food available beginning at 5:30pm. Our meeting will begin at 6:30pm in one of the meeting rooms.

**Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP—Secretary**

### **Sphinx Patrol**

WOW! We had so much fun over the holidays. What great parties. I would like to give a huge shout out to Andie Lacombe for having 30 people at her house. We collected lots of goods that will be going to the Women's Hope Center. We really need to work on getting some people off the naughty list. Or not it was great fun when they found out.

Our OV with the High Priestess was fantastic and all of the good food that we shared was amazing. Please remember that we have election of officers coming up in February. 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 hope we will see you at all of upcoming events. Stay safe and see you all soon.

**Lady Janet LaBell PHP, Captain**

### **Greeters**

Ladies: Hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are staying warm and dry. We had our Holiday Celebration on January 7th with a crazy group of ladies, great food and a rousing White Elephant Exchange. Thanks again to the ladies who helped me set up and clean up and of course for the delicious food. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 17th at 11:30 a.m. at 808 E. Missouri, Phoenix. This meeting will be our election of officers. A belated hearty welcome to Lori Tricco who joined our unit in November. We are growing....please join us at our February meeting. All are welcome.

**Lady Andie Lacombe, 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



## Unit and Club Happenings

### Director Staff

Director Staff had our OV on January 10, 2024. Dinner was prepared by some of our members, Mexican food and it was delicious. We had great attendance all line officers and Recorder, Treasurer with 2 of three Trustees. 26 total in all. We welcome back Barbara Janes after a long absence, 10 Past Highs and a visit by one of our newest court members, Lady Melanie Clover. Thank you Melanie for taking time to see what our unit is about. We also welcomed a new member, Lady Debbie Smith! I think this completes membership for her in all units.

We have been busy and thankful to report our table sales went great as well as the Tiffany basket opportunity ticket sales. Drawing for basket will be January 22, 2024. Our next meeting will be February 7, 2024 at El Zaribah Temple. Dinner/social hour 5:30 PM, meeting at 7:00 PM, this will be our elections and we will be honoring our Past Chief's.

We will be preparing and serving homeless dinner February 29, 2024. This is one of our community projects through Trevor's Vision. 6:00 PM -7:00 PM. If you are interested in serving please contact lady Mary Hammer on or before February 23, 2024. [jusducky2u@cox.net](mailto:jusducky2u@cox.net) or text 602-390-8914 as she works.

Remember to support our Court fund raiser Mystery Dinner February 3, 2024 5:00 PM No-Host social hour 6:00 PM Dinner. \$25.00 per person. All unit heads have tickets for sale. March starts off with travel units last fund raiser, Paint & Sip, this is a fun event so try to attend. \$30.00 to paint & sip or \$15.00 to sip and eat. Our March meeting 3/6/2024, El Zaribah Temple same time as above. Please feel free to visit us. Remember it takes all units to support our court and all of us to support each unit, not just ones we belong to. Be sure to check calendar on back of newsletter to keep up on what's happening.

**Lady Judy Lough, PC—Chief**



### Past High Priestess Club

Our next meeting and election of officers is February 21, 2024. All PHPs, please plan to attend! Meeting starts at 6:30pm at the Shrine.

Court Elections are in February, too. If you are considering running for the 2nd Ceremonial Lady position, please give me or any of the PHPs a call. I can be reached at 623-337-3226. We would like to help you in any way with your decision and can give you an idea of what you will be expected to do as a Line Officer.

**Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP, President**

## Happy Valentines Day!!



**Past High Priestess Club**

**SPHINX  
NO. 65**



Contact: Andie Lacombe  
602-329-2015  
[Andie@curtismanagement.biz](mailto:Andie@curtismanagement.biz)

## GREETERS

**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**

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'll!



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

## Committee Reports

### Membership @12/18/2023 215

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

**Membership @1/22/2024 214**



### Sunshine Report

- 01/13—Lady Andie Lacombe, Treasurer—  
Gall bladder surgery.  
01/05—Lady Martie MacKidd—was in hospital  
for most of December after a fall,  
now home  
12/15—Lady Jane Owens, PGHP—Passed  
12/07—Lady Trish Whalen, PHP—ER visit with  
respiratory issues.  
12/06—Lady Dennice Dunaway, 2nd CL—  
respiratory issues since Thanksgiving.

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.

**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**



### Director Staff



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



**Curtis Management, L. L. C.**  
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**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 2024 — UPDATED 01/28/2024**  
***All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.***

**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

02/22—Ceremonial Pageantry OV &  
Elections, 6:30pm

02/23—Bash Before the Ball

02/24—Potentate's Ball

**02/26—Court Meeting and Elections,  
Dinner 5:30pm, Meeting. 7pm**

**March—2024**

03/03—Paint & Sip Travel Fundraiser, 2pm

03/06—Director Staff Mtg., 7pm

03/14—Clown Unit Mtg., 7pm

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

03/19—Sphinx Patrol Mtg., 7pm

03/14—Clown Unit Mtg., 7pm

**April 2024**

04/03—Installation Practice, 5pm

**04/06—Installation of Officers, 2pm  
Pictures at 1pm**

04/07—Year-End Audit

**04/22—Court Meeting, Dinner 5:30pm,  
Meeting 7pm**