



Marcia Cherry  
High Priestess

Arvida K. Curry  
Recorder



# Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona  
October - November 2024

Lady LaDonna Seger, Grand High Priestess

**Motto:** "Believe in yourself and you will be unstoppable."

## High Priestess



We have just gotten back from Knotts Berry Farm for the 67th Annual Western Area Organized Unit Meet which was hosted by RA-MA Court No.95. The ladies did an amazing job, and everyone had a fun filled time at the "Good Vibrations" WAOUM. A special thanks goes out to Ladies Judy Lough and Mary Hammer, PHP, of Director Staff, who did an amazing job of our hospitality room. It was well stocked with food and beverages. Also, a very special thank you to the Clown Unit for the beautiful bouquet of flowers. They made it home and look so beautiful on my dining room table.



Ladies Debbie Smith, PHP, and Janet LaBell, PHP, put together our bid for the 68th annual Western Area Organized Unit Meet to be held here in Phoenix next year. They also held an open house on Friday afternoon that was well attended by many WAOUM ladies. The bid was accepted, and I am happy to say that we will be the host for the 68th annual WAOUM Unit Meet in 2025. The officers are Ladies Debbie Smith, PHP, President; Janet LaBell, PHP, Vice President; Maria Parrish, JPHP, Secretary; Pam Wade Treasurer; and Diane Wehmeyer, Grand Marshal, Directress.

There are many opportunities to participate in Sphinx Court activities in the coming months:

- Oct 12, dinner at Count Dracula's castle. Cost: Adult \$15 Children 12 and under \$10. A costume contest, kids can trick or treat from table to table, 50/50 opportunity. Dinner will be Taco Pile Up (Fritos or Nachos, Ground Beef, lettuce, cheese, tomatoes) Dessert will be cupcakes. RSVP by October 4th. [janet\\_label@yahoo.com](mailto:janet_label@yahoo.com).
- November 16 is our Ceremonial and lunch.
- November 23 we will join El Zaribah in Winslow for the Winslow parade.
- November 29<sup>th</sup> through Dec 1 will be El Zaribah's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Trees.
- November 30 is the annual Florence parade. It is a short and really fun parade. We usually get together at a local restaurant for lunch afterwards for good food and to socialize.

I am really looking forward to the cooler weather they keep reporting that is coming but just doesn't seem to make it.

**Lady Marcia Cherry, High Priestess**  
**Phone: 480-620-9570**  
**Email: [mscherry317@gmail.com](mailto:mscherry317@gmail.com)**

**TGIF**  
Thank Goodness It's Fall

## Officers' Offerings



How did that happen?! The summer slumber is over and we are in full swing doing what we love, playing with our friends, helping the children, doing community projects, and other fun things. This article finds us returning home safely after a successful WAOUN. Thank you to all the ladies who attended and lent a helping hand. SHOUTING THANKS to Ladies Debbie Smith and Janet LaBell, for a fantastic, well-attended Open House, and to Ladies Mary Hammer and Judy Lough for an outstanding hospitality room.

As Travel Chairman, there isn't much on my calendar yet, but I would start squirrel-ling away funds for Grand Council 2025, in beautiful Kansas City, MO, May 18-23, at the Embassy Suites at the Airport, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy. The room rates are \$145 Single/Double Occupancy, \$155 Triple Occupancy, and \$165 Quadruple Occupancy per night, which includes breakfast, parking, and an evening reception from 5-7 pm. I will share more information as it becomes available.

Mermaid Splashes and Butterfly Whispers

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

### Associate Princess

Hello Ladies, We are back into full swing again, our summer break is over, and now the fun begins. We just got back from WAOUN at Knotts Berry Farm in sunny California! We had twenty-four Sphinx Court ladies attend including several of our new ladies and I hope they had as much fun as I did. All five of our units performed at the Exhibition Drills on Saturday afternoon. It has been a very long time since this has happened. Every unit did an outstanding job. Fun Night was so much fun filled with good music and a lot of dancing. Thank you Lady Judy Lough, Director Staff Chief and Lady Mary Hammer, PHP for the wonderful hospitality room; good food, drinks, and fellowship.



Everyone did a great job at the September Membership Tea.

We also had our first 68<sup>th</sup> Annual WAOUN planning meeting in September to get all our plans ready to host it in 2025.

I hope you are planning to come to Dracula's Castle and put on your spookiest costume.

In November we have our ceremonial and will welcome in our new members.

In December the units have their Christmas parties.

Don't forget about the Court's special project. We are raising money for Hand Camp which is for children with hand issues. The money is to help send families for one week to camp. We are also raising money for POPS Helmets. The helmets cost \$500.00 each and are for babies born with flat head syndrome. We are also collecting gift cards so the patients and their families can go eat together.

May The Force Be With You

**Lady Lou Ann Speas, Associate Princess,**  
**Phone: 480-510-2896, Email: [littletyrant1960@aol.com](mailto:littletyrant1960@aol.com)**

# Officers' Offerings



## First Ceremonial Lady

Dear Ladies,

I hope those who attended the Fall Tea had a good time. We will have our **Ceremonial on November 16th starting at 9:00a.m.** Please be there at 8: 00AM. We will have practice before this date so expect directions on the practice in the near future.

Lunch for the Ceremonial will be Grilled Chicken Salad with Lemon Bars. Please make your reservations to me [dunddealaz@gmail.com](mailto:dunddealaz@gmail.com). I will be using the permanent list so if you are on it you don't need to make further reservations. The luncheon will be **\$15.00** and will be held as soon as the Ceremonial and Meeting are finished.

I hope you are enjoying this cooler weather.

**Lady Dennice Dunaway, 2nd Ceremonial Lady,  
Phone: 602-628-7820, Email: [dunddealaz@gmail.com](mailto:dunddealaz@gmail.com)**



## Second Ceremonial Lady

Happy fall Ladies! This year was my first WAOUM and it was wow, not going to be my last. There were 24 of us in attendance from Sphinx. Now that we are all back in full swing let the parties begin/continue.

We have our Court dinners and fund-raisers, which are great catch-up times to interact with each other while supporting our causes.

Saturday, October 12, is a fundraising event—dinner at Count Dracula's with a costume contest. A Mexican build-up, made by the Directors staff will be served.

Monday, October 28 is court dinner we will be having Grilled Chicken at 5:30 pm. The meeting is to follow at 7 pm.

Saturday, November 16 at 11 am will be the Ceremonial and luncheon. Please contact Lady Dennice Dunaway for reservations. Let's all welcome the new ladies.

Monday, December 16 at 5:30 pm Court Dinner will be Salisbury steak. The Meeting to follow is at 7 pm. Please note the date change for the December Court due to Christmas.

**Reminder: RSVP for Court dinners so that the kitchen can order accordingly.**

**Lady Debbie Sise, 2nd Ceremonial Lady,  
Phone: 810-923-0024, Email: [mypolasha@icloud.com](mailto:mypolasha@icloud.com)**



**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)

**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.

**Recorder**

**ROSTER CHANGES**

Lady Sharon Fischer, 301 Lloyd St, Eden, NC 27288-3134  
Lady Sara Weaver, 806 W Longhorn Rd., Apt 114, Payson, AZ 85541-6278  
Lady Kay Akers, 3201 Pine Rd NE, Apt 247, Bremerton, WA 98310-2189  
[K99adah@tisos.com](mailto:K99adah@tisos.com), Telephone 602-743-9462

**\*\*\*\*\*2024 DUES ARE \$35.00 WERE DUE ON APRIL 1, 2024\*\*\*\*\***

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.

**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.

**Lady Linda Curry, PHP**  
**Phone: 602-619-4313, Email: lkcurry1@cox.net**

<b>Membership @05/20/2024</b>	<b>208</b>
Correction	0
Initiated	0
Dual	0
Reinstated	0
Demitted	-0
Deceased	-0
Suspended	-0
<b>Membership @08/31/2024</b>	<b>208</b>



From your Editor:


A big **SHOUT OUT** to Lady Bobbie Balthazor for helping with the newsletter! It does take a village....

**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



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

**Jim Reid, CMCA, AMS®**      **Andie Lacombe**  
Community Association Manager      Community Manager

Specializing in Management of Community Associations  
website: [www.curtismanagement.net](http://www.curtismanagement.net)



**Director Staff**



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

# Unit and Club Happenings

## Sphinx Patrol

This is a great time of the year as we say goodbye to a long hot summer and welcome Fall in. Our travels were fun and adventurous. Now we are back in business and having meetings again planning the next few upcoming events. Speaking of events we have Dinner at Count Dracula's castle. It will be spooky fun. We would love to see you in your best costume. It will be on October 12th, social starts at 5:30pm RSVP to me at janet\_label@yahoo.com.

Before you know it Thanksgiving will be here. Please if you aren't able to travel to see your family or your family can't be here with you for the holidays please reach out. We are a family here and holidays can be very difficult.

Our next meetings are 10/15 and 11/19. We have practice before our meetings at 6:15 pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there. Owl be seeing you!

**Lady Janet LaBell PHP, Captain**

## Greeters

Ladies

Our Secretary, Lady Debbie Smith, PHP was finally installed at our September meeting by Lady Lynn Hatch, PHP. Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., place TBD

We are all looking forward to the many Court fundraisers and holiday parties coming up.

WAOUM was a busy time as usual...we even experienced an earthquake which was a first for me - just a 4.7 but still scary.

Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th, place and time TBD. More information to follow.

**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](http://www.sphinxcourt65.org)

## Ceremonial Pageantry

Well, if nothing else, we gave the audience something to chuckle about at WAOUM. Lynn had them laughing from the beginning with the Ben Gay Brigade.

What a great time we had getting to know each other better. Several of our new court members attended and learned a lot about us older ones, however they are sworn to secrecy so don't even bother to ask them what they learned, cuz we learned a lot about them too, and you know what paybacks are...

We are looking forward to all the activities that are coming up and hope to see all of you soon.

**Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP—Secretary**

## Past High Priestess Club


Our next meeting will be the 3rd week of November. Date and place TBD.

**Lady Mary Lou Burger, PHP, President**



**Enjoy the Fall  
Holidays with  
Friends and  
Family!**

**Past High  
Priestess Club**

<p><b>SPHINX NO. 65</b></p> 	<p><b>GREETERS</b></p>
<p><b>Court and Unit Name Tags</b>                  Choice of Red or Blue Ink                  Magnetic Name Tag - \$15.00                  Pin Back Name Tag - \$10.00                  Unit Bar - \$7.00</p>	
<p>Contact: Andie Lacombe                  602-329-2015                  Andie@curtismanagement.biz</p>	

# Unit and Club Happenings

## Director Staff

The Director Staff prepared and served dinner to the homeless on August 29, 2024. We provided and served Mexican build up with all the trimmings, oranges, snacks, lemonade with other food provided by Trevor's Vision. To our ladies who donated food items a huge Thank You as well as our 11 ladies who served including our HP, Lady Marcia Cherry. Hopefully we can continue this community project. We were able to do this with some of the funds we earned working at Cardinal Stadium.

We had 14 members attend WAOUM 2024 along with 10 other Court members. Our Court's attendees were 24 and the host Court, Ra Ma were 25! Well done, Ladies.

We will be presenting food gift cards to our Associate Princess ( Raisin' Canes Chicken, Chick-fil-A, Domino's Pizza & Panera Bakery in \$10.00 increments) at our Court meeting on September 23, 2024.

Our next meeting will be October 2, 2024, at El Zaribah, 5:30 Dinner/Social Hour with meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.

We will also be having social gatherings ( when time allows ) for blanket making, so stay tuned.

Our November 6, 2024 meeting will be our Official Visit honoring our High Priestess and our line officers.

Indian Love,

**Lady Judy Lough, PC- Chief**

## Clown Unit

Hey there, Ladies! Can you feel the change in weather starting?

We sure got a good taste of it at WAOUM recently. Ten colorful Clowns performed at the meet in Buena Park, Cal., and there were no makeup meltdowns!! Many thanks for all your excellent effort. It has certainly energized us to begin plans for next year's event, as it will be held in Scottsdale by our Sphinx Court. We'll need your cooperation and creative ideas. Hope to see you at the planning meeting on Sept. 26.

Our next regular meeting is on Oct. 10, this coincides with the Official Visit. Dinner will be available in the Red Fez room at 5:30 PM. Please bring your gift cards for her special project at that time. Our meeting will follow at 7 PM.

President Pam Wade is scheduling some mini-training sessions at upcoming meetings. More info on these will be sent by email.

We witch you will join in on the spooky fun at Count Dracula's Castle on Oct. 12. T'will be a bloody good time. (fangs for playing)

In November we will meet on the 14th, followed by the Ceremonial on the 16th.

Wishboning you a happy Thanksgiving. We're always grateful for the amazing work you all are accomplishing for the kids. Stay well, get some rest, and don't forget that you are blessed!

**Lady Emy Bartula - Vice President**



- Web Design
- Brand Analysis
- Online Marketing
- Print Publication

**Web Designs Arizona, LLC**

**Leo Balthazor**  
Project Manager • Owner

5915 East Woodridge Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

email: [leo@webdesignsarizona.com](mailto:leo@webdesignsarizona.com)  
website: [www.webdesignsarizona.com](http://www.webdesignsarizona.com)  
Facebook or Twitter: [@webdesignsaz](https://www.facebook.com/webdesignsaz)

Cell: 602.740.5635  
FAX: 602.237.5526

**Dancing puppets in parades,  
Shriners kids with painted faces,  
Creative costumes made with love,  
Clowns excel in many places.**



**If you would rather smile than frown,  
We like your style, become a CLOWN!**

Contact the Sphinx Court #65 Clown Unit  
Pam Wade, President @ 602-758-2370  
[sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com](mailto:sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com)

## Committee Reports

### Sunshine Report

The summer was pretty good this year with only a couple reports. Let's hope this trend continues and everyone stays well!!

08/18—Lady Gina Baird, PHP—broken ribs from a fall.

09/16—Lady Doris Miller—cancer has returned

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.



### **2025 W.A.O.U.M. Coming to Sphinx!**

Ladies, pull up your bootstraps and get ready to start working! Our bid to host the Western Area Organized Unit Meet was accepted and let me tell you the ladies are EXCITED to come to Scottsdale next year!! We have a lot of work to do before next year.

We have secured the Hotel (Embassy Suites) in Scottsdale and now it is time to get down and dirty. We will be having a Unit meeting, and everyone is needed. The meeting will be Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The men will be serving food so if you want to eat, please call the office and let them know.

We need to start putting together committees for EVERYTHING!!! Profits go to the Units, so we need all members' participation to make this the best event ever. Bring your ideas to the meeting.

I am honored you have chosen me to be your W.A.O.U.M. President. Thank you to Lady Janet LaBell, PHP for stepping up as VP, Lady Maria Parrish, PHP for taking the office of Secretary and Lady Pam Wade for being our Treasurer and of course Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP for being our advisor!

Let's Party under the Sonoran Sunset!!

**Lady Debbie Smith, PHP**  
**W.A.O.U.M. Committee President**

### **2024/2025 - Sphinx Court Ways & Means**

The fundraising for the court is underway for the year and we need your help to reach our goal. Our first event was an Arts & Crafts party in July and was well received.

Ways and Means is also sponsoring a Cash Opportunity Drawing this year with the drawing to take place after our February 24th court meeting. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. First prize is \$250 in cash, Second prize is \$150 in cash and third prize is \$100 in cash.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**10/12/24 Dinner at Count Dracula's (More information to come)**

**December - Festival of Trees Table: Selling crafts, treats, and offering Cash Opportunity Tickets**

**02/01/25 Mardi Gras Shrimp Boil (More information to come)**

**02/24/25—Cash Opportunity Drawing**

***Kacy Baxter,***  
***Ways & Means Chairman***

Sphinx Court No. 65  
Ladies' Oriental Shrine  
of North America

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Permit No. 369

**Calendar of Events for 2024/2025 — UPDATED 9/22/2024**  
***All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.***

**October 2024**

10/02—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm  
10/10—Clowns Meeting/OV, 7pm  
**10/12—Dinner at Count Dracula's  
Court Fundraiser**  
10/15—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm  
**10/28—Court Meeting - 7pm  
Dinner at 5:30pm**

**November 2024**

11/06—Director Staff Meeting/OV, 7pm  
11/09—Greeters Mtg, 11:30am, Place—TBD  
11/14—Clowns Meeting, 7pm  
TBD—Ceremonial Pageantry Meeting  
**11/16—Ceremonial/Court Meeting  
9:00 AM—Lunch to follow**  
11/19—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm  
TBD—PHP Club Meeting, 6:30pm

**December 2024**

**12/16—Court Meeting - 7pm  
Dinner at 5:30pm**  
TBD—Unit Holiday Parties

**January 2025**

**01/11—Membership Tea**  
**01/27—Court Meeting - 7pm  
Dinner at 5:30pm**

**February 2025**

**02/01— Mardi Gras Shrimp Boil  
(More information to come)**  
**02/24—Court Meeting/Elections- 7pm  
Dinner at 5:30pm**