



# Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona  
February—March 2025

Lady LaDonna Seger, Grand High Priestess



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

*Marcia Cherry*

High Priestess

*Arvida K. Curry*

Recorder

Sphinx Court had the honor of attending the installation of officers of the Ladies of Mohave Club in January. It was my horror to install Jessica Tary as President, Jamie McCune as Vice President, Megan Lindemanis as Secretary, and April Stewart as Treasurer. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch and fellowship with some amazing ladies. The Sphinx Court Director Staff unit presented 6 blankets they had made.

We honored our PHPs at our January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for their continued service to our Court through the years. The PHP club plays an integral part in supporting the line officers as they go up the line. They answer questions and mentor each one of us. They help us to be successful in each office as we progress.

I want to thank everyone for their support in helping to make the budget for 2024-2025. We still have tickets for the Cash opportunity drawing to win First prize of \$250, Second prize of \$150 or Third prize of \$100. The drawing will take place at our court meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Also, on February 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have the Bunco Party Fund Raiser for the Court. Beverages and snacks @ 6:00 games begin @ 6:30. There will be prizes and a Silent Auction. Please bring your family and friends for a very special fun-filled night.

Then on March 16<sup>th</sup> we will be having our last meeting of the 2024-2025 year. This is our Spring Ceremonial, so come out and meet our newest members who will be joining us.



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



## From Deonna Ruff:

Congratulations and a HUGE THANK YOU to ALL the ladies from Sphinx Court that worked at the Stadium and made this a great fund raiser for the Court and Units. Over \$23,700 was earned so far.

Debbie Sise, Dennice Dunaway, Amy Wilson, Debbie Smith, Judy Lough, Janet LaBell, Mary Hammer, Deonna Ruff, Maria Parrish, Leandra Beard, Lori Tricco, Lou Ann Speas, Ginny Fain, Marcia Cherry, Taime Ben-gochea, Kacy Baxter, Dorothy Mather



# Officers' Offerings



Busy, Busy, Busy! There have been exciting and fun things keeping us busy, running from here to there including a trip to Bullhead City to support our newest club, Ladies of Mohave. I look forward to more trips up North as we get to know some of our newest members and the opportunity to support them in their growth.

As we are winding down Lady Marcia's year, there are a couple of upcoming travel dates; the first, Mar 15th, Oasis Ct #35, Tucson, Installation of Officers. The festivities are to begin at 4 pm. Let's get together and surprise our friends down South. Please RSVP to me (text or email) by Mar 1st if you will be attending or if you would like more information. The second, is Grand Council in beautiful Kansas City, MO, May 18-23, at the Embassy Suites at the Airport. 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. The registration packet is due by April 1st to avoid the late fee. **IMPORTANT REGISTRATION NOTE**, there is a fun night on Thursday, however, this is the evening of our court dinner. Looking ahead at the flights, OH ME, OH MY!...the average cost for a one way or non-stop flight is \$500 on Southwest, United, American, and Delta.

As Princess, in keeping with my theme, making a mess and having fun cleaning it up; I would like to thank everyone for your continued support, guidance, and patience. In preparation for the upcoming year, there have been so many details, so many questions, and so many changes. With even more work ahead, I, as an individual, and we as a court, will be successful with the help of the amazing mentors, leaders, and ladies of our court **WORKING TOGETHER**. It truly takes a village to have a successful, healthy, and happy village.

*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, Happy New Year, Hope your holidays were filled with joy, love, fun, and happiness. The ladies of this Court are making this year's Court project a very rewarding job, best job ever!! I would also like to take the time to thank the Ladies of Mohave for the gift cards, and all the things they do for our Court. Keep up the good work ladies.

Our last fundraiser of the year is a Bunco party, I have never played it myself but sounds like fun, so make sure you buy your tickets and join us for some fun. Our February Court meeting is election of officers, so if you would like to run for the line just put your name out there. We have our CEREMONIAL on March 16th. On March 29th we have our Installation of officers where we say farewell to our out going H.P. and welcome in our new H.P. for the ensuing year. Thanks to our Court this past year has been great. *May The Force Be With You*

**Lady Lou Ann Speas, Associate Princess,**

**Phone: 480-510-2896, Email: [littletyrant1960@aol.com](mailto:littletyrant1960@aol.com)**



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## Director Staff

Fez Hard Cases \$55  
Plastic Fez Cases \$15  
Ginny Fain

# Officers' Offerings



## First Ceremonial Lady

Dear Ladies,  
We had a beautiful tea on January 19th, as a result we have 7 new petitioners that will be at our next Ceremonial along with a few others that couldn't make our last Ceremonial. March 16th is the next Ceremonial and it will be held at the Shrine beginning with a luncheon at 12:30pm. Thank you to all the ladies who helped and attended.

Keep on sharing this wonderful organization with others.

**Lady Dennice Dunaway, 1st Ceremonial Lady,  
Phone: 602-628-7820, Email: dundealaz@gmail.com**



## Second Ceremonial Lady

Hopefully, everyone had a fun-filled drama-free holiday, totally recovered from all the parties, and obligations, and tucked all the decorations away. I love holidays but find them exhausting. Couldn't be that I am getting older! Just more experienced.

I would like to thank all the ladies who have worked at our booth at State Farm Stadium. We worked like borrowed mules, had a blast doing it, and made money for the Court all at the same time. Mostly I would like to give a huge shout out to Lady Deonna Ruff.

If it were not for her hard work and long hours, we would not have had this opportunity. Only one soldier got injured at the stadium. that was Lady Judy Lough, (Deonna's Mom), who is recovering, and not letting it get her down. Cruising with her cast.

February's Court dinner will be on Monday the 24th at 5:30 pm with Corned beef and cabbage on the menu. Followed by our meeting at 7:00 pm. Sunday, March 16th will be our Ceremonial. Please come share in our welcoming of all the new members and the luncheon.

Saturday, March 29th will be the installation of our new Officers. Busy spring, and you thought you could relax!

Thank you, Ladies, for all you do.


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

**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**

**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  
OUR NEW MEMBERS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Jennifer Griffin, 827 S Chestnut, Mesa, AZ 85204-4537, telephone #317-910-0942, email [crazyread-head@gmail.com](mailto:crazyread-head@gmail.com)  
 Vicki Hayes, 3410 E Ebony Dr., Chandler, AZ 85286-2902, telephone #254-681-4767, email [vickihayes3@gmail.com](mailto:vickihayes3@gmail.com)  
 Tracy Martocchia, 6454 E Jenan Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5054, telephone #602-319-0348, email [tipitytoe@aol.com](mailto:tipitytoe@aol.com)  
 Valerie Pajak, 1023 N 90th Circle, Mesa, AZ 85207-5036, telephone #480-773-3016, email [vpa-jak1234@gmail.com](mailto:vpa-jak1234@gmail.com)  
 Robin Reed, 6740 N 32nd Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85017-1009, telephone #602-689-1328, email [rob-in\\_reed@ymail.com](mailto:rob-in_reed@ymail.com)  
 Barbara Roth, 24688 N 106th Lane, Peoria, AZ 85383-5743, telephone #602-622-3200, email [broth1875@gmail.com](mailto:broth1875@gmail.com)  
 Gevey Vaughn, 787 Ramar Rd, Bullhead City, AZ 86442-6353, telephone #928-444-9431, email [gevey.vaughn@gmail.com](mailto:gevey.vaughn@gmail.com)

**ROSTER CHANGES**

Lady Kirsten Click, 14240 N 39th Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032-5712  
 Lady Mary Lou Salyer, 7886 W Piute, Glendale, AZ 85308-6167

**\*\*\*\*\*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\*\*\*\*\***

**Sphinx Court #65 is NOT able to accept Zelle payments yet. We hit a snag at the bank. Lady Andie Lacombe and I will be working on it as soon as she recovers from her surgery.**

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**

**Court Ways & Means Update**

As we head into the end of this year we have two last opportunities to help the Court meet and exceed our budget. Please join us on Saturday, February 22nd for a fun filled night of dice, friends, and prizes! We will be playing Bunco with the beverages and snacks being available at 6:00pm and the game starting at 6:30pm. There will be prizes for the game and we will have a silent auction with various baskets. The cost is \$20 per person and we would love to have your RSVP to Debbie Smith.

We continue to sell cash opportunity tickets for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20 with the winners being drawn after the February 24th court meeting. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Lady Kacy Baxter, Chairman

# Unit and Club Happenings

## **Sphinx Patrol**

Welcome to a chilly beginning of the new year, it finally cooled down for Spring. We made it to 2025 and it looks like it's going to be busy, busy, busy. Many events going on please keep track on the calendar. Or phone a friend to get information or a ride to the event.

We had a great OV with our HP lady Marcia Cherry. We hope that she has a strong finish to the year. We have elections coming up soon. Please consider taking a seat in the line for the court. Congratulations to the new club in Mohave. You ladies are amazing and are so much fun. Our meetings are on the third Tuesday each month. Except for June. July and August when the we are dark. We have practice just before the meetings at around 6:15 PM, if you are interested in joining us, please stop on by. We also have dinner in the Red Fez room off of the menu. Hope to see you soon.

***Lady Janet LaBell PHP, Captain***

## **Greeters**

Ladies: Hope you all enjoyed your holidays. We had our Holiday Celebration on January 11th with a great taco bar, a few games and lots of reconnecting and friendship. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 5th, place and time TBD. This meeting will be our installation of officers and High Priestess Official Visit. Hope you can join us.

We were saddened by the passing of one of our friends/members, Doris Miller on January 6th after a courageous battle with cancer. Doris was a long time member of the Ladies Oriental Shrine, Order of the Amaranth, Order of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile. She will be missed.

Our members are very excited with our Greeters pin contribution for the swag bags for WAOUM later this year and are looking forward to being in charge of registration and judging the door decorating contest.

***Lady Andie Lacombe, President***

## **Ceremonial Pageantry**

Happy 2025! The Ceremonial Pageantry is looking forward to a healthy and safe 2025 for each member and her family.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 12th. We will meet for dinner at 5:30 and our meeting will begin at 6:30 at the Shrine. This meeting will be election of officers. This is the same night as the Shrine's Unit and Club Leaders meeting.

***Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP—Secretary***




***February  
Is Election month.  
Don't forget to  
Vote***

***Past High  
Priestess Club***

## **Past High Priestess Club**

Well Ladies, we made it through the Holidays! We hope that everyone is having a fantastic 2025 so far. Welcome to the new members from the November Ceremonial. If you have any questions about our organization, please feel free to ask any PHP Club member. Everyone wants to get to know you and help you become part of our Court.

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

<p><b>SPHINX NO. 65</b></p> 	<p><b>GREETERS</b></p> <p><b>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</b></p>
<p>Contact: Andie Lacombe 602-329-2015 Andie@curtismanagement.biz</p>	

# Unit and Club Happenings

## Director Staff

DS had a great Holiday gathering! 8 of the 10 new members were presented with their Indian names. 2 more are waiting in the wings?? They weren't able to attend. Some of our ladies will be traveling to Mohave 1/25/2025 with some tied blankets that we have made to help them with their blanket project. I am so sorry to miss this but this broken foot really has slowed me down. THANK YOU DS LADIES, AGAIN...

We have stayed very busy with Stadium work to help the Shrines Children as well as carry on with our community projects. Our next meeting will be February 5, 2025 at the temple, dinner 5:30PM meeting 7:00PM with Dance practice immediately following. This meeting will be our elections as well as honoring our Past Chiefs so looking forward to seeing YOU!

February 22 will be our last CT fund raiser and should be a hoot. BUNCO! Invite your family and friends for a FUN night. See flyer. March 5, 2025 will be our last meeting of the LOS year at the temple 5:30PM dinner meeting 7:00PM with Dance practice immediately following. Remember we are the travel unit, so we need to be on the spot! April 2, 2025 will be our installation of officer's place and time TBA. We are having a bake less sale for travel fund please order your delicious items thru Lady Linda Curry LOL...notation travel fund \$1.00-????.

As the year slips away, I want our ladies of each unit to know how special each of you are and how Thankful I am to share this journey with you. Thank all for the thoughtful cards..

Indian Love,

**Lady Judy Lough, PC- Chief**

## Clown Unit

The Clowns started the year with another gratifying meeting. We had a fun foto event, learning/tweaking the tricks of how to better express our clownishness in those foto ops that the kids always want. Thanks, Lady Marsha, for your expertise and guidance.

Our next regular meeting, 7 pm on Thursday, Feb. 13, is an important one, and we hope to see you there. It's election time, and your thoughtful input is needed. The office of Vice President will need to be filled. It's also voting time to elect our Clown of the Year. This is by secret ballot, the winner to be announced at our meeting on March 13.

An early reminder, LOS Court dues are \$35 for the upcoming year, payable before April 1, 2025. This must be done prior to paying your Clown dues of \$15. Our LOS year is from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

In the meantime, info on pending clown events and tutorials will be sent by email, so please ensure that your correct email address has been provided to our Secretary, Lady Marsha Young.

P.S. If you read this and you're not a clown, come to our meeting and find out what we're all about, just having fun, clowning around, making kids smile.

**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



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**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

- 01/30—Lady Leandra Beard’s husband, Stanley—By-pass Surgery
- 01/27—Lady Kay Hoover’s daughter—was hospitalized
- 01/18—Lady Andie Lacombe—Foot Surgery
- 01/14—Lady Mary Hammer, Leg Surgery
- 01/08—Lady Doris Miller, Passed
- 11/27—Lady Ramona Cantrell—in hospital

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 Ben-gochea will be sending out cards.

<b>Membership @11/16/2024 212</b>	
Correction	0
Initiated	0
Dual	0
Reinstated	0
Demitted	-0
Deceased	-1
Suspended	-0
<b>Membership @01/27/2025</b>	<b>211</b>

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

Hi ladies and Happy New Year! Our units and committees are working hard, organizing and deciding what fun items they will put in our goodie bags. A huge thank you Lady Andria for finding the bags and helping with the logo. We had a meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. I might schedule one in March, but we will have one on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. If you have not ordered your beautiful cover let me know so you can get it ordered. We want all ladies to have one, so we are easily identified by our visitors. We have a bank account, and we are very excited to set up our emails and web page. Be on look out. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Directors staff is working hard on our fun night and Pageantry will have a fun game night. Remember this is a Unit Function and everyone is needed to make it successful.

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



### Sphinx Court Travel Fund Bake Less Bake Sale

Sponsored by the Director Staff Unit



Many is the time we heard you say, I’d rather give a “Dollar” than bake today. And so, we are asking you to help to make our Bake Less Bake Sale a big success. Just send us a check for the amount it would take to bake a loaf of bread or a beautiful cake or to buy a dozen rolls or maybe a pie. We know you can help us if you will but try.

**Send Checks by March 31, 2025**

Dozen Cookies	\$10.00
Chocolate Cake	\$20.00
Batch of Brownies	\$15.00
Large Pumpkin Pie	\$20.00

**Payable to: Sphinx Court #65**  
**With Note: Travel Fund**

**Any Donation \$\$\$\$\$**

**Send Checks to: Sphinx Court**  
**C/O Linda Curry**  
**1550 N El Camino Drive**  
**Tempe, AZ 85288-1426**

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 2025 — UPDATED 2/10/2025**  
***All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.***

**February 2025**

02/01—Greeters Mtg/Elections, TBD  
02/05—Director Staff Mtg/Elections, 7:00pm  
02/12—Cere. Pageantry Mtg/Elections, 6:30pm  
02/13—Clowns Mtg/Elections, 7:00pm  
02/18—Sphinx Patrol Mtg/Elections, 7:00pm  
02/19—Court Practice—Elections, 5:30pm  
**02/22—Court Fundraiser—Bunco Party**  
**02/24—Court Meeting/Elections- 7pm**  
**Dinner at 5:30pm**  
02/27—WAOUM Meeting, 6:30pm

**March 2025**

03/05—Director Staff Meeting, 7:00pm  
03/13—Clowns Meeting, 7:00pm  
**03/16—Ceremonial & Court Mtg.— 2pm**  
**Luncheon at 12:30pm**  
03/18—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7:00pm  
03/28—Installation Practice, 5:30pm  
**03/29—Court Officer Installation, 11am**

**April 2025**

04/01—Director Staff Mtg/Installation, 7pm  
04/05—Greeters OV/Installation, TBD  
Location and time—TBD  
04/10—Clowns Mtg/Installation, 7pm  
04/15—Sphinx Patrol Mtg/Installation, 7pm  
04/24—PHP Club Mtg/Installation, 5:30pm  
**04/28—Court Meeting, 7pm**  
**Dinner at 5:30pm**

**May 2025**

05/07—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm  
05/08—Clowns Meeting, 7pm  
**05/18—05/23—Grand Council**  
**05/26—Court Meeting, 7pm**  
**Dinner at 5:30pm**