



High Priestess

*Arvida K. Curry*

Recorder



# Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona  
August—September 2025

Lady Cynthia Rudd, Grand High Priestess

**Motto:** "Have Courage and Be Kind"

## High Priestess

Happy summer; what a busy summer it has been. I kicked off the month of June by representing the Court at Grand Lodge, followed by attending the Arizona DeMolay Conclave in July, a pillowcase workshop, and our Court WAOUM meetings, where everyone is working hard to get things ready for our guests in September. I managed to sneak a quick trip to Boston and Cape Cod over the 4th of July weekend for some R&R before our schedule kicks into high gear, which will begin shortly after you receive the newsletter.

The month of August finds me representing the Court at Grand Chapter for the Order of the Eastern Star, attending the Grand York Rite Session, the Masonic Family picnic with our Ladies of Mohave club, and Corn-Fez. I will also be helping with the final preparations for WAOUM, wherever I may be needed. I hope your summer has been well, and everyone will be well-rested for the busy upcoming schedule, which demands our attention (check out the calendar at the back of the newsletter).

...And we are off and running. We begin the month of September with the Membership Tea on the 6th, followed by the audit on the 7th for the upcoming visit of our Grand High Priestess; watch for information in the Cactus Chatter Blast about dropping off your books. On September 12th, we begin hosting our Grand High Priestess for a week in sunny Scottsdale. The first of many events during this week is the Ritual Practice for the Grand High Priestess OV, September 12th. The Grand High Priestess' casual dinner will be held on September 13th; this is a great opportunity to get to know her and ask questions. More information will be sent out through the Cactus Chatter blast as the date gets closer. The Grand High Priestess OV meeting is September 15th, and we close out the month by hosting WAOUM, September 18th through the 20th. Yay, all the hard work and preparations over the last year will have been completed, and on display for all of our guests to enjoy and make new memories. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** To allow for rest after a busy and successful month, there **will not** be a meeting held on September 22nd – all business will be conducted during the Grand High Priestess meeting. Please plan to attend the business meeting to hear about her special project and the fun things she and her committee have planned for Grand Council 2026 in Orlando, FL.

As if there wasn't enough going on, be on the lookout for communications from the Ways and Means Committee, as there are many fun things they are planning.

Lastly, Life is happening to everyone. I encourage everyone to reach out by phone, text message, or mail to say HI! to our ladies, whether or not we see them often. A quick thought or note goes a long way in brightening someone's day.



Mermaid Splashes and Butterfly Whispers,

**Lady Mechelle Gaines, High Priestess**

**Phone: 719-229-9226,**

**Email: [emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com)**

# Officers' Offerings

## Princess



Hello Ladies, I hope your summer has been eventful and fun. Looks like September is going to be a very busy month with our first Court meeting and our Grand High Priestess Official Visit. I hope to see all your beautiful faces, I've missed you all! I can't believe that WAOUM is also in September and our Court is hosting this year. I hope you all are ready for this, I can't wait. Keep an eye out for up coming fundraisers for the Court and Travel Fund and please support them. May The Force Be With You!

***Lady Lou Ann Speas, Princess***  
***Phone: 480-510-2896, Email: littletyrant1960@aol.com***

## Associate Princess



It has been a busy summer with WAOUM preparations, it's been good to see everyone more often. July 19<sup>th</sup> was a very successful pillowcase workshop. I'm happy to see so many getting involved and enjoying this project.

The Christmas Card is finished and ready for donations and signatures. The donations will go toward our Court Hospital Project (Unlimited Camp). A donation of \$5.00 or more and you sign your name to the Christmas Card. If you can't attend a meeting please send your donation to me and I will get your name on the card. Just a reminder the Unlimited Camp is for teens who are missing a limb to learn how to hike, swim, kayak etc. and be around other teens who have the same condition.

Hummingbird Hugs and Butterfly Kisses,  
***Lady Dennice Dunaway, Associate Princess***  
***Phone: 602-628-7820, Email: dundealaz@gmail.com***

## First Ceremonial Lady



Welcome back ladies! Hopefully everyone is well rested and ready to party. Lady Dennice Dunaway and I spent some time this summer cleaning and freshening up the used fezzes that will be available for our new member prospects at the Tea that's just around the corner. Our next Membership Tea is coming up on Saturday, September 6th at 11:00am. I hope many of you will attend to support our prospective members and showcase what we are all about. **Please bring and wear your Fez.**

Our next Ceremonial is coming up on Sunday, November 23rd, with lunch at 12:30pm and the meeting starting at 2:00pm. I will be taking the luncheon reservations this time and will need to hear from you by November 10th. Cost is \$15. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let me know so our kitchen can accommodate you.

We will have a table at Corn-Fez, August 23-24, and I'm looking for some help during those days. We will be talking to ladies about LOSNA and inviting them to the Membership Tea coming up on September 6th. If you can help for an hour or so, please give me a call. All the work you ladies have been doing this summer (WAOUM and GHP OV) with such vigor and fun has made me so proud to be a member. Thank you, Ladies, for all you do,

***Lady Debbie Sise, 1st Ceremonial Lady***  
***Phone: 810-923-0024, Email: mypolasha@icloud.com***



# Officers' Offerings

## Second Ceremonial Lady

Hello Ladies, I hope you are having a nice summer. At Grand Council in May I got to meet my Grand Officer, Lady Sherri Black, PHP, Grand Second Ceremonial Lady. Our new class is called "Sherri's Bright Morning Stars". So I'm not a mushroom anymore!

Everything is going well with the upcoming WAOUM event. It should be a great time to meet with other Court members. The Greeters had a fun Un-birthday and we are learning how to perform with a song. The Clowns have been working on a gift for the WAOUM event, too.

Now let's talk about the Grand High Priestess, Lady Cynthia Rudd, who will be at the Court meeting on September 15, 2025. The dinner will be at 5:30pm with the Court meeting at 7:00pm. We will be having Grilled Chicken Salad and lemon bars. Please let me know if you will be attending the dinner at least 10 days prior to the meeting. The cost of the meal is \$15.00. If you are on the permanent list, I only need to know 10 days prior to the dinner if you are not attending.

On October 27, 2025, the dinner will be at 5:30pm with the Court meeting at 7:00pm. We will be having Beef Fajitas with cheese, rice and beans, dinner is \$15.00. Once again, I need to know if you are coming for dinner at least 10 days prior to the meeting. If you are on the permanent list, I only need to know 10 days prior to the dinner if you are not attending.

***Lady Margie Brakefield, 2nd Ceremonial Lady,***  
**Phone: 928-587-2133, Email: [davenmargie2000@gmail.com](mailto:davenmargie2000@gmail.com)**

## Recorder

### ROSTER CHANGES

Lady Janet Mielke, 909 E Northern Ave #205, Phoenix, AZ 85020-4192, Telephone 480-556-6789

**Add:**

Lady Christena Weisman (Greg) 4/28

8213 E. Meadowbrook, Scottsdale, AZ 85251-1738, Telephone 480-414-0105, Email: [azcourt6@aol.com](mailto:azcourt6@aol.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*2025 DUES of \$35.00 WERE DUE ON APRIL 1, 2025\*\*\*\*\***

**Make your check payable to Sphinx Court #65**

Mail to c/o Linda Curry, 1550 N El Camino Drive, Tempe, AZ 85288-1426

**Your self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your dues card is greatly appreciated.**

### ATTENTION:

**We can now accept Zelle payments. Use the following email address:**

**[recorder@sphinxcourt65.org](mailto:recorder@sphinxcourt65.org) Be sure to include the purpose of your payment.**

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](mailto:lkcurry1@cox.net)**

# Unit and Club Happenings

## Ceremonial Pageantry

Ladies, I hope you are enjoying your summer. It is a relief that we haven't had too many really hot days, at least so far, nor flooding like in other parts of the country.

The Ceremonial Pageantry is ready to host our WAOUM Game Night, and we will need helpers to make sure there is not too much antagonizing going on among the players. If you haven't already registered, please do so. Time is running out quickly!

I look forward to seeing you all soon and sharing fun and fellowship.

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

## Director Staff

Director Staff was honored to prepare and serve dinner for 200+ homeless on June 26, 2025. This is one of our community projects that warms my heart! THANK YOU, to all of our ladies that donated prepared and served.

We are looking forward to the upcoming FUN in the Sonoran Desert (WAOUM) in September (18-20) if you haven't sent your registration in PLEASE do before deadline.

Our next meeting is September 3, 2025, at El Zaribah 5:30pm dinner/social hour and meeting is at 7:00pm. We will have Practice at 6:30pm prior to our meeting. Please bring your drums.

Our Grand High will be here just prior to WAOUM on September 15, 2025 so please note as it will be our Court meeting.

We have several of our ladies that have had health issues, Lady Renate Sweat and Lady Gina Baird PHP PC, Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. October meeting will be 10/01/2025.

Indian Love,

**Lady Judy Lough, Chief**

## ***SPHINX PATROL***

*We work hard at having fun executing choreographed marches and acting as escorts at Court events.*

**Monthly meetings and practice**  
(Third Tuesday of September-May).

**Any questions, text Sphinx Patrol Captain,  
Lady Amy Wilson @ 480-309-9212**

## Clown Unit

At our last meeting we honored Boots aka HP Mechelle Gaines, as Boots will be dancing and visiting the other acts (units) we will surely miss her. Our own Bubbles aka Andria Granado received "Clown of the year". She proved she can balance on the tightrope this year. She volunteered to cook for our unit plus others. She designed our luggage wraps and bags that will be handed out at WAOUM. Who can beat this balancing act?

As the summer continues to heat up, us clowns knocked down Cookie's, Aka President Pam's, door. We brought snacks and drinks to share. Working hard putting the luggage wraps together, learning new make up tricks, dancing away while learning a new performance act.

Wiping off our sweaty foreheads, we lead into August for the Corn-Fez. We'll be face painting all who dare to sit in front of us. Our summer act is coming to an end.

Our meetings in Sept and October will focus on Florence and Wickenburg parades. Talk about who went to Mohave's Tea in August. How we can help with our own Membership Tea coming up. Also, we will be learning new ways to paint our nose.

Stay hydrated, giggle, and throw glitter.

***Lady Greer Baldwin, aka Glitter - V.P.***





# Unit and Club Happenings

## Sphinx Patrol

Welcome back, Sphinx Court Ladies, from your fabulous summer adventures that have energized you for what is coming! Over the summer, we pitched in alongside all of the other units to help with the final preparations for W.A.O.U.M. Our Uniform Committee has also been diligently working on a new logo and performance uniforms for us. I hope that you, your family and friends can join us at the exciting events that are coming up for the Court and El Zaribah in August and September. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun!

The date for our first meeting has been pushed back by a week to accommodate the Grand High Priestess Official Visit and W.A.O.U.M., so it will be on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. (no practice and no dinner) at El Zaribah. Also, we will have a practice to polish our marching skills at 6:00pm, immediately before the next W.A.O.U.M. planning meeting on August 20, 2025. If we need any additional practices before W.A.O.U.M. (who knows how rusty we will be after the summer off!), members will be notified of those dates/times.

Our October practice and meeting will be on its usual third Tuesday of the month (October 16, 2025): practice will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Red Fez Room (where you can order off of their normal menu) will be open for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for any of our meetings. And please stay tuned for the unveiling of Sphinx Patrol's new logo and performance uniform! Looking forward to seeing everyone and marching on!

***Lady Amy Wilson, Captain***

## Greeters

Ladies: Hope everyone is staying cool this summer. Our "un-birthday" party was fun with lots of great food and friendship. It was nice to catch up with what the ladies have been doing over the summer. Thank you ladies for all the help with set up, clean up and, of course, the yummy food. We even managed to get in a practice session of our performance for WAOUM which went very well considering I sprang this on the ladies for the first time. Thank you Lady Debbie for your help!

Our next Greeters meeting will be on Saturday, August 30th, 11:30 a.m. at El Zaribah - hope you can join us. We are all looking forward to having fun at WAOUM greeting all the ladies and judging the room doors that the ladies have decorated. September will be here before you know it. Stay cool!

***Lady Andie Lacombe, President***

## Past High Priestess Club

I hope everyone has been surviving this crazy heat! The Past Highs are looking forward to getting back to business with the Court. Be on the look out for an upcoming How To Be A Lady class. This will be for old members as a nice refresher and for all of our new Ladies. We want you to feel more at ease and comfortable, and to help you understand why we do all the things we do. Ceremonial and your initiation can all be a blur with so much going on. I am working with our High Priestess for a date. I am hoping sometime in October or November.

Our next meeting will be September 25 and our Official Visit with our High Priestess will be November 20. Line Officers this is your opportunity so please get your questions ready. Raggedy Ann Hugs,

***Lady Debbie Smith, PHP, President***

### **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)



- Web Design
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FAX: 602.237.5526



## Director Staff

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

Ginny Fain  
480-548-2725

# Unit and Club Happenings

## The Ladies of Mohave Club

We hope this message finds you well and enjoying a beautiful summer season. The Ladies of Mohave have remained active these past months, finding meaningful ways to serve, connect, and grow together. In July, we had the privilege of visiting the Salt Lake City Shriners Children's Hospital to personally deliver the donations collected through our recent efforts. Thanks to our community's generosity, we were able to provide over \$1,000 in gift cards, more than 50 stuffed animals, and a wide variety of toys and essential items for children and teens. It was a touching and rewarding experience that reminded us of the incredible impact we can make when we work together.

Looking ahead, we're excited for what the next few months have in store. On August 9th, we will host our Summer Beach Tea Party from 12:00 to 2:00 PM at the Mohave Shrine Club. This cheerful afternoon will feature iced tea, light refreshments, and fun in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Later in the month, we'll gather at Hualapai Mountain Park (Recreation Area 3) for Masonic Family Fun Day on August 23rd from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM—a day of laughter, food, and fellowship surrounded by the beauty of the mountains.

In September, we invite you to join us for our Purse BINGO Fundraiser on September 5th at the Mohave Shrine Club at 6:30 PM. With 28 purses up for grabs, VIP tables, and extra cards available, it promises to be a lively and entertaining evening supporting our organization. The event also offers a wonderful opportunity to welcome visiting ladies ahead of the Mohave Shrine Club OV the following day. We're excited to be attending and assisting in any way we can with WAOUM in September!

In October, we'll join forces with the Masonic bodies in our building to host a Community Trunk or Treat and Haunted House. This family-friendly event is sure to be a festive and fun way to celebrate the season with our community—details to come!

Our Stated Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month (dark in June) at the Mohave Shrine Club. Fellowship begins at 6:00 PM, followed by our meeting at 7:00 PM. In addition, we've been actively meeting and introducing women across Mohave County to the Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America, and we look forward to welcoming new members at ceremonial in November.

We remain grateful for the continued support of the court and are excited for the opportunities ahead. Together, we're building something truly special.

***Jessica Tary, President***

**SPHINX  
NO. 65**



Contact: Andie Lacombe  
602-329-2015  
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**

**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**



***Have Fun At WAOUM!!!!***

***Past High  
Priestess Club***

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



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

# The Value of Your Name



Calling all members of Sphinx Court #65!

All of our names have value - see a fun way below to determine how much your name is worth.

Directions: Using the alphabet below add up the VALUE of all the letters in your name to get the total amount of your donation.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
\$1.30	\$0.55	\$0.60	\$0.95	\$1.10	\$0.35	\$0.95	\$0.30	\$1.15	\$0.50	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$1.20

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
\$0.25	\$1.05	\$0.80	\$0.05	\$0.85	\$0.70	\$1.00	\$0.40	\$0.65	\$0.15	\$0.20	\$1.25	\$0.10

For example:

A	N	D	I	E		L	A	C	O	M	B	E
\$1.30	\$0.25	\$0.95	\$1.15	\$1.10		\$0.50	\$1.30	\$0.60	\$1.05	\$1.20	\$0.55	\$1.10

Your donation would be \$11.05



Consider making a donation in the name of family members, friends and even your pets!

We welcome all donations and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR COURT!

Please either give this completed form to Andie at Court with your payment or mail this form along with your payment payable to Sphinx Court #65 to:

Andie Lacombe  
11523 E. Adobe Road  
Mesa, AZ 85207-2208



## Committee Reports

### Sunshine Report

07/27—Lady Sharon Harrison's son—passed.  
 07/11—Lady Gina Baird PHP, recovering after being hospitalized with complications from gall bladder surgery.  
 06/22—Lady Trudy Mullins, PHP—passed  
 05/08—Lady Ramona Cantrell's mother—passed.  
 04/24—Lady Mary Lou Salyer, PHP—hospice, prayers  
 04/08—Lady Renate Sweat—hospitalized with heart attack, but is recovering now  
 03/23—Lady Dorothy Tandler, GPHP—passed.

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.

#### Membership @03/16/2025 209

Correction	0
Initiated	0
Dual	0
Reinstated	0
Demitted	-3
Deceased	-0
Suspended	-5

#### Membership @05/27/2025 201

### 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)

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

Well ladies, we're on the HOME STRETCH!!!! I hope everyone got their registrations in. If you can't make the Meet, please consider being a well wisher, send a Poke or come and play cards with us Thursday Night. Remember this is not a Court function but a Unit Function. This is our fun meeting! We will have one last meeting August 20 at 6:30pm. This will be the final planning meeting before Western September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. I want to THANK YOU ALL for your love and support while we pull this event together. We truly are a force to be reckoned with!! Here's to the best Party Under the Sonoran Sunset! Hugs,

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

### Sphinx Court Ways and Means

I am excited to get busy "Fun"raising. We have many opportunities to have fun and fundraise in the upcoming months. We begin with Corn-Fez. We will have a booth where we will be selling opportunity tickets for a beautiful jewelry set and a few other must have items. If you are interested in assisting with the booth at Corn-Fez please let me know. We will be selling items at the table to assist us with lessening our Ways and Means budget.

We will be sending dates out in an email for all other events planned. I do understand the need to schedule for these events but I do not wish to divide the Court too thin with our need to prepare for WAOUUM. Please keep a look out for the email with more fabulous information.

**Lady Connie Massey, 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

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**Calendar of Events for 2025 - UPDATED 7/30/2025**  
***All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.***

**August 2025**

08/09—Mohave Club Tea—12:00pm  
Mohave Shrine Club, Bullhead City  
08/20—WAOUM Meeting, 6:30pm  
Sphinx Patrol Practice, 6:00pm  
08/23-08/24—Corn-Fez —Shrine Event  
08/30—Greeters Unit Meeting—11:30am

**September—2025**

09/03—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm  
09/05—Mohave Club Purse Bingo—6:30pm  
Mohave Shrine Club, Bullhead City  
09/06—Membership Tea—11am  
09/07—Court Audit  
09/11—Clowns Meeting, 7pm  
09/12—GHP Court Practice, 5:30pm  
09/13—GHP Visit, Casual Dinner, Location/Time TBD  
**09/15—GHP Official Visit, 7:00pm**  
**Dinner 5:30pm**

**September—2025, cont.**

**09/18—09/20—W.A.O.U.M**

**Scottsdale Embassy Suites**

09/23—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 6:30pm  
09/25—Past High Priestess Club, 6:30pm

**October—2025**

10/01—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm  
10/09—Clowns Meeting, 7pm  
10/16—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm  
**10/27—Court Meeting, 7pm**  
**Dinner at 5:30pm**

**November—2025**

11/05—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm  
11/13—Clowns Meeting, 7pm  
11/18—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm  
11/20—PHP Club OV—Location/Time TBD  
**11/23—Ceremonial Meeting, 2pm**  
**Lunch at 12:30pm**