



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 Fall! We kicked off September with a busy and challenging schedule, and together we went above and beyond. Not only were we successful, but we excelled! The membership tea, the visit of the Grand High Priestess, Lady Cyndi Rudd, and hosting WAOUM. I am so proud of you ladies. Thank you for the hard work, memories, and laughter. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to get some rest before the holidays arrive, demanding our attention and time.

October finds me beginning to visit the units and clubs of the court. If you have been curious about the units and the clubs, with the exception of the PHP Club within the court, or if you haven't visited a unit in a while, what a great time to stop and say hello to everyone. If you aren't already a member, you just may be by the time you leave their meeting. Joining a unit is another great way to get to know the ladies.

The month of November finds us picking up speed after a quieter October. There is a Ways and Means fundraiser, ritual practice, Ceremonial, 2 parades -Winslow and Florence, and Winter Fezztival hosted by the Shrine. Let's talk about the Ceremonial on November 23rd; put on your best attire, show off our court and units, and join us as we welcome a new class of ladies. We will begin the day by greeting the candidates and dignitaries with lunch at noon (RSVP to Lady Debbie Sise, 1st Ceremonial Lady), followed by the meeting at 2pm, and the day will close with performances by the Greeters, Clowns, and Ceremonial Pageantry. What better way to greet our new friends than by showing up in numbers and representing the members and spirit of Sphinx Court. To do our best and most impressive work for Ceremonial, practice will be on November 7th at 6 pm with a light snack at 5:30 pm.

Please watch the Chatter blast for updated information and changes throughout the month that are beyond our control.

In the spirit of the upcoming holidays, spread cheer, love, and hospitality. I know time might be tight, and things may feel a little overwhelming and busier than usual, but remember to take a minute to say hello and send well wishes to friends and family. A little bit truly goes a long way in brightening one's day.

Mermaid Splashes and Butterfly Whispers,

Lady Mechelle Gaines, High Priestess

Phone: 719-229-9226,

Email: emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com



Officers' Offerings

Princess



Hello Ladies, I hope everyone is in good health. Boy what a week we had at WAOUM with lots of fun and fellowship. I think you all should give yourself a pat on the back for an outstanding job.

We have a Cerenmonial coming up in November and I hope to see you all there. In December we have a lot of Chirstmas parties too. I hope you can make some of them or all of them. May The Force Be With You!

Lady Lou Ann Speas, Princess

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

Associate Princess



Fall is in full swing and I hope you have recovered from WOAUM. I'm so excited about our travel pillowcase project, so far we have 60 completed and material for 20 more. I am waiting for the approval for a workshop date in late October and will keep you posted. Our funds for the Un-Limited-Camp project is growing every month, Thank you all so much.

Please sign the Christmas Card if you haven't already, a five dollar or more donation will get your beautiful signature on the card with all proceeds going to our special project. Enjoy the cooler weather and see you soon.

Heavenly Hawk Hugs,

Lady Dennice Dunaway, Associate Princess

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

First Ceremonial Lady



Happy Fall Ladies. What a fun, action filled WAOUM we had. I am proud to be a Sphinx Court member, and a huge "Thank you" for all the work and support given by all.

Our tea was very productive, we had 32 Ladies in attendance and of which three ladies signed petitions. Giving us a total of 7 candidates!!

Our Ceremonial is tentatively set for Sunday November 23 starting with a Chicken luncheon at 12:00pm and meeting @ 2pm. The luncheon will be complementary for all candidates. and \$15 dollars for everyone else. Cash or check, I will be collecting at the door. Everyone must RSVP by 11/15/25, so we have enough for all. Please call or text me at (810) 923-0024. I will let everyone know of any changes in the Cactus Chatter Updates.

Our next Membership Tea will be on January 4, 2026. Please forward names, addresses, emails and phone numbers of any Ladies that we can invite..

Have a happy, stress free, family filled, and drama free Holiday. And remember the reason for the season.

Lady Debbie Sise, 1st Ceremonial Lady

Phone: 810-923-0024, Email: mypolasha@icloud.com



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	Project Manager • Owner
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Cell: 602.740.5635 FAX: 602.237.5526	

Officers' Offerings



Second Ceremonial Lady

Hello ladies, if you missed the WAOUM meeting you missed a great time. We had a Fun Night, a real blast, meetings and Unit drills. Think about next year when we go to Washington State, no doubt it will be a great time.

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.

RSVP with Lady Debbie Sise for the Ceremonial luncheon, Nov. 23, 2025. The permanent list will not apply.

On December 22, 2025, the dinner will be at 5:30pm with the Court meeting at 7:00pm. We will be having Sliced Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Salad. The cost is \$15.00. 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

Recorder

ROSTER CHANGES

Lady Mary Harris, 7682 E. Mariposa Grande Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85255-6156
 Lady Melody Vincent, PO Box 850411, Yukon, OK 73085-0411

*******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 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 from the address you would like included giving permission.

Lady Linda Curry, PHP

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

Unit and Club Happenings

Ceremonial Pageantry

HP Lady Mechelle, you hosted a lovely dinner for GHP Lady Cindy at the Phoenix City Grille. The OV Meeting was very informative and finished in record time.

WAOUM was a wonderful success. Many thanks to the officers, committees and all who helped. You did our High Priestess proud!

We hosted Game Night: "Antagonize your Neighbor" was so much fun! You could probably hear the laughter in the lobby. Our skit "The Ben Gay Brigade" brought lots of laughter. And no rehearsal required.

We're looking forward to doing the stage presentation at the upcoming Ceremonial.

Our next meeting will be Thursday October 23rd at the Shrine Center, starting at 6:30PM. Please come join us.

Lady Gina Baird, PHP—Vice President

The Ladies of Mohave Club

The Ladies of Mohave have been busy with a successful Purse Bingo, a lovely Iced Tea Party, and a fun-filled Masonic Family Day. Thank you to all the ladies who came out to support these events and make them such a success!

In September, Lady Jennifer Wood and I had the pleasure of attending WAOUM. The drills were wonderful, the events were so much fun, and we extend heartfelt congratulations to the WAOUM committee on a truly outstanding job. It was an honor to represent our court and share in the fellowship of so many dedicated ladies.

Looking ahead, we invite you to join us for fellowship before our stated meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at the Mohave Shrine Club (fellowship at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.). On Halloween night we'll host our annual Trunk-or-Treat with our Masonic family. We will also celebrate the holidays together at our Christmas Party on December 20th at the Shrine Club—details will be shared soon.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Lady Jessica Tary, President

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***

Clown Unit

This summer flew by, as we cartwheeled into Fall. The summer ended with us meeting up in Scottsdale for WAOUM. Our luggage wraps and tote bags were a hit. At night we danced, ate, and shhhhh some clowns acted up and into jail they went. Our Boot Scootin' performance was a blast, we laughed out loud, while making sure our HP Mechelle Gaines was the hit of the party.

October starts at Paz De Cristo, making and serving dinner for the homeless. We have fun making memories while serving the community of Mesa. On October 25th a group of us will be at Great Hearts School in Anthem, where we will wear full grease as we face-paint close to 700 kids. We'll end October at the Masonic Picnic, soaking up the sun, eating more, and relaxing.

HP Mechelle Gaines will make her Official Visit at our October 9th meeting. All are welcome to join the laughter and story telling.

Fall is gone, and now we will be going into our Winter months. As our Christmas party is coming together, we will dream of the parades, and plums dancing in our dreams.

Stay safe and don't forget to take time to laugh.

Lady Greer Baldwin, aka Glitter - V.P.

Director Staff

Well, WAOUM is behind us and it was a success! Thank you to all that were able to attend. Fun night started out a bit shaky when the band didn't show up. But with the help and knowledge of our Lady Bobbie Balthazor we were able to pull it off. A huge THANK YOU to Lady Clara Macias and her Unit, Star Dusters, from El Tanya Ct Long Beach, CA, as they stepped in and taught line dancing. Thank you also to Noble Gerry Massey as he slid right in as DJ. How very thankful I was and am. Drills went great, and our special performance of the Lord's Prayer by Lady Dorothy Mathers was well received. The Indian dancers did a great job, also.

Our next meeting is 10/01/2025 at Temple. 5:30PM dinner/Social Hour with meeting 7:00PM. November meeting same time and place on 11/05/2025 it will be our OV for HP Lady Mechelle Gaines and her officers. Everyone is invited and we will be ordering off the menu.

End of November will be our Ceremonial so watch for date and time. December 7, 2025, will be our Holiday gathering at the Temple. Food offerings and time will come out in an invitation.

As always, appreciate each and every Lady and what they bring to us in our Units and Court.

Indian Love,

Lady Judy Lough, Chief

Unit and Club Happenings

Sphinx Patrol

Congrats Sphinx Court Ladies on a successful 68th Annual W.A.O.U.M.! The entire event was a blast and we finished it off with amazing performances from all of the courts in attendance. I'm super proud of Sphinx Patrol for putting on a great show, as usual (all things considered). Now we're ready to get back into our regularly-scheduled programming... just in time for the busy holiday season!

Invite your family and friends to join you for a "Rock"ing Good Time of rock painting at the Court fundraiser on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at El Zaribah. Please contact Maria Parrish (mariaparrishh@gmail.com or 602-956-9639) with questions or to purchase tickets.

Our next two practices and meetings will be on October 21 and November 18, 2025 at El Zaribah. Practices will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 7:00 p.m. If you want to eat dinner before practice, you can order off of the normal dinner menu in the Red Fez Room starting at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for any of our meetings.

Looking forward to marching with you into the holidays!

Lady Amy Wilson, Captain

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 @ 6:30pm).

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



Director Staff

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



NOTICE

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

Greeters

HP Lady Mechelle, you had an amazing OV. A heartfelt shout out to everyone who made WAOUM a big success! Just shows how team work can be. Our unit did the door decorating judging, which was based on theme, creativity, use of material and overall appearance. The winners were:

First Place: Jessica Tary and Jennifer Wood from Sphinx Court's Ladies of Mohave Second Place: Den-nice Dunaway from Sphinx Court Third Place: Millie Hintergardt and Sharlee Clark from El Tanya Court

Next year we will be the Traveling Unit. One of our fund raisers is the Value of your Name. There's an insert in the newsletter. The great thing about this is that you can participate without leaving your home. So, if you live out of town or are unable to attend meetings or functions, just drop the form and your check in the mail. Lady Debbie Smith, PHP has made an Opportunity Basket of NORWEX Products worth \$1000.00 to benefit the Travel Fund. If you're unfamiliar with this product, it's eco-friendly. Just clean with water, no harmful chemicals involved. The third fund raiser will be a BUNCO Game Night. It was a huge hit last year, so we're hoping for it to be even more successful.

Our next meeting will be Saturday November 1st at 11:30AM. We will let you know where via the Cactus Chatter Updates. We would love to have you join us.

Lady Gina Baird, Vice 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 lookout 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. The Ceremonial can be a blur with so much going on. I am working with our High Priestess for a date. I will keep you posted on a date in Cactus Chatter Update.

We are continuing our "Fill a Purse" project this year and are looking for donations. We have plenty of purses, but need the hygiene products to fill them with. If you would like to help, bring hair brushes, toothpaste, tissues, makeup, etc. to the next Court meetings and see Lady Iris Colbert, PHP.

Our Official Visit with our High Priestess and her elected officers will be **November 20** at 6:30. Dinner will be provided. Line Officers this is your opportunity so please get your questions ready.

Our next Ceremonial is in November. Officers, please take this time to study and work on your floor work and memorization.

Raggedy Ann Hugs,

Lady Debbie Smith, PHP, President

Opportunity to Win Luxury "Pamper Me" Gift Basket

*Proceeds Benefitting
Sphinx Court #85
Ways and Means*

Locally
Sourced



Ticket Pricing:
1 for \$1.00
6 for \$5.00

INCLUDING

Tecora Necklace and Earring
Glass Jewelry Box
Two Bottles of Wine
Wine Glasses
All Natural Bath Salts featuring
Arizona Grown Lavender
All Natural Bath Bombs featuring
Arizona Grown Lavender
Wen Haircare
Philosophy Beauty items
Nest Fragrance Perfume
3 Bars of Goat's Milk Soap
2 Champagne Bath Bombs
Rosewater Bath Bar
Dual Sided Loofah



HAPPY FALL FUN!!

**Past High
Priestess Club**

**SPHINX
NO. 65**



Contact: Andie Lacombe
602-329-2015
Andie@courtsmanagement.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

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	\$1.55	\$1.60	\$1.95	\$1.10	\$1.35	\$1.95	\$1.30	\$1.15	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$1.20

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
\$1.25	\$1.05	\$1.80	\$1.05	\$1.85	\$1.70	\$1.00	\$1.40	\$1.65	\$1.15	\$1.20	\$1.25	\$1.10

For example:

A	N	D	I	E		L	A	C	O	M	B	E
\$1.30	\$1.25	\$1.95	\$1.15	\$1.10		\$1.50	\$1.30	\$1.60	\$1.05	\$1.20	\$1.55	\$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

09/08—Lady Mary Hammer, PHP, Husband, Fred—Surgery
 08/25—Lady Lynn Hatch, PHP, recovering after being hospitalized with complications from injury.
 08/09—Lady Nancy Beffel—Mohs Surgery
 08/05—Lady Vicky Sutphin's Husband—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 @05/27/2025 201

Correction	0
Initiated	0
Dual	0
Reinstated	0
Demitted	-0
Deceased	-1
Suspended	-0
Membership @09/15/2025	200

2025 W.A.O.U.M. Committee

Well ladies WE DID IT!!!!!! I can't thank you ALL enough for making this event so successful. I received nothing but compliments from all the ladies and the Grand Officers! The card game on Thursday night was a huge success and everyone had a great time. Fun Night OMG so much fun and we raised a lot money arresting people, me included. The Gift Baskets were AMAZING!!!! The business meeting went smoothly and quickly. Again, thank you to all the Units and ladies for stepping up and helping whenever I asked and wherever I needed you to be. We missed all that could not be with us. We have two meetings to wrap up the event and the books. Wednesday 9/24 at 6:30pm and Wednesday 10/22 for the FINAL close out and mailing the books to our Grand Directress. I want to personally thank all my officers, Unit heads and Committee heads for taking on your tasks as needed. A sincere thank you for the confidence you had in me to be your President and representative for Sphinx Court and the 68th Annual W.A.O.U.W.

Your humble servant!

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

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



Contact LADY JANE SHELDON
480-710-5975

**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

Cactus Chatter Editor

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

**Join us for a
 "Rock" ing Good Time!**
LOSNA Sphinx Court # 65



**An afternoon of Fellowship, Food and Fundraising for
 Sphinx Court Ways and Means.**

Date: Sunday, November 16th
Time: 1:30pm-4:30pm
Where: El Zaribah Shrine Center, Fiesta Room
Cost: \$40 Adults/\$15 Children under 18

**Includes rock painting, beverages and food. There will be
 a 50:50 Raffle and fun for the whole family!**

Questions or to RSVP contact:
mariaparrishh@gmail.com or 602.956.9639

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 9/28/2025
All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.

October—2025

10/01—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm
10/09—Clowns Meeting—OV, 7pm
10/21—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm
10/23—Ceremonial Pageantry, 6:30pm
10/27—Court Meeting, 7pm
Dinner at 5:30pm
10/28—Ladies of Mohave, 7pm
Mohave Shrine Club

November—2025

11/01—Greeters Meeting—11:30am
Place—TBD
11/05—Director Staff Mtg & OV, 7pm
11/07—Ceremonial Practice, 5:30pm
11/13—Clowns Meeting, 7pm
11/16—Court Fund Raiser—1:30—4:30pm
“Rock”ing Good Time—Fiesta Room
11/18—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm
11/20—PHP Club OV—5:30pm

November—2025, Cont.

11/23—Ceremonial Meeting, 2pm
Lunch at 12:00pm
11/28—Ladies of Mohave, 7pm
Mohave Shrine Club

December—2025

12/07—Directory Staff Holiday Party
12/12—Sphinx Patrol Holiday Party
12/20—Ladies of Mohave Holiday Party
Mohave Shrine Club
12/22—Court Meeting, 7pm
Dinner at 5:30pm