



Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona
February 2026—March 2026

Lady Cynthia Rudd, Grand High Priestess

Motto: "Have Courage and Be Kind"

High Priestess

Wow...and the month of January is gone. We began the month greeting and speaking with ladies interested in LOS at our membership tea and an After-Holiday Party hosted by the Greeter unit. During the month, I was able to pop in and enjoy a visit to the Clown Unit, conduct Official Visits to the Patrol Unit, and the Ladies of Mohave Club. The court closed out the month with the Laveen Parade and the Ways and Means Mardi Gras party. The month of January was full of creativity, fellowship, laughter, and momentum, which we will foster and grow as we head into the final months of the 25/26 Whimsical Mystic Ladies year.

Looking to February, the Greeter Unit will entertain us on Valentine's Day with a Bunco Party. I will visit the Ceremonial Pageantry Unit, and during the stated meeting, we will honor the PHPs, ballot, and elections for the 26/27 officers will be held. As we float into March, we will welcome new ladies to our court on March 21st at 9 a.m. at our Spring Ceremonial. Lunch will be around 12 p.m., following performances by our Director Staff, Greeter, and Patrol units. If you haven't been able to join us in a while, I hope your schedule will allow you to stop by an activity and say Hi!

OH! I almost forgot. At the beginning of the year, scrapbook pages were given to officers and club and unit leaders in your ditty bag. If you haven't already begun putting them together, now is the time. When completed, please turn them in to me or one of my aides, Ladies Christy Connelly, Connie Massey, or Nancy Beffel, so I can begin building my memory book. If you didn't receive a scrapbook page, please know you're still welcome to participate. Just build a scrapbook page of the year; pictures, thoughts, signatures, phrases, anything to help commemorate the 25/26 year. I look forward to the submissions and sharing my book with everyone once it has been built. The expected completion date, sometime in the future after a brief break or vacation. LOL.

To the members of Sphinx Court — **THANK YOU!** Your support, enthusiasm, and willingness to show up for one another...means everything. Serving as your High Priestess has been one of the greatest honors of my life. It has truly been an honor and a privilege. The memories, the laughter, the travels, and the friendships are treasures I will cherish forever.

Mermaid Splashes and Butterfly Whispers,

Lady Mechelle Gaines, High Priestess
Phone: 719-229-9226,
Email: emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com



Officers' Offerings



Hello Ladies , Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a Happier New Year. Wow the year went by fast, can't believe it is already 2026, it has been a fun filled year. High Priestess Lady Mechelle has been an awesome leader, with her kindness and grace, she helped guide the line Officers into doing their post as an officer should. Thank you Lady Mechelle! I would personally like to give my heartfelt thanks to all the ladies in our court for their support this past year as being your Princess, I could not have done it without each and everyone of you. I can't wait to see what is in store for us this year. May the Force Be With You....

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



Associate Princess

Happy 2026 everyone, good health and happiness to all. It's been a great year for my term as Associate Princess. Thank you all for all the UnLimited Camp donations and the Pillowcase Project participation. I was able to present to the Shrine Salt Lake Hospital representatives 63 pillowcases and all the gift cards from the Clown Unit, they greatly appreciated all. Twenty of our pillowcases were passed out at the Patients Christmas Party last month, the kids loved them and filled them with all their goodies from the Party. In the next couple of months I am going to continue to try and schedule another workshop. I really want to give 100 pillowcases to the Hospital. Thanks again for all your work and participation in supporting our projects.

Heavenly Hawk Hugs,

Lady Dennice Dunaway, Associate Princess
Phone: 602-628-7820, Email: dundalaz@gmail.com



1st Ceremonial Lady

With the hectic, yet fun, holiday season over, let us all bask in the knowledge that we made this past holiday much brighter for a lot of people.

Sunday, January 4th, 2026, was our Membership Tea which did have many unforeseen glitches. No one said a word and the Ladies took action all working together, taking down, packing and storing the holiday decorations for the Shrine, and setting up the tables for our use. Even though due to illness some of the sandwiches were not there, we all got to thoroughly enjoy the PB & Js brought by Lady Janet LaBell, PHP. Who doesn't like PB & Js?

Saturday, March 21, 2026, will be our next Ceremonial, starting at 9:00 am. We are planning a Luncheon at 12:00 pm, with a cost of \$15.00 per person. Please RSVP to me via Text at (810) 923-0024 by Friday, March 13th, so the kitchen can order the food. Here's the menu: Lemon Pepper Chicken, Green Beans, Roasted Potatoes, Tossed Salad with Lemon Bars for dessert.

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



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Director Staff

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



Officers' Offerings

Second Ceremonial Lady



Hello ladies, Oh my gosh where has this year gone? Can you believe it is already 2026. I can't wait to see all of you at the Court Meetings and all the events that will be coming up this year.

The February Court meeting will be on February 23, 2026, dinner will be at 5:30pm with the meeting at 7:00pm. We will be having Chicken Quesadilla, Rice, Refried Beans, Salsa, Sour Cream, Salad and Ice Cream . The dinner cost is \$15.00. I will need to know if you are coming to dinner. If you are on the permanent list, I only need to know if you are not attending.

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

Recorder

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Lady Lorena Rodriguez, 16457 N 46th Dr, Glendale, AZ 85306-2117, 201-401-6433, lorenashorty@hotmail.com birthday April 5, partner Jeff Serene
 Lady Jennifer Rouse, 4821 W Ellis St, Laveen, AZ 85339-8232, 602-488-2933, Jennifer.rouse@gmail.com, birthday August 17, husband Nicolas
 Lady Mary Rouse, 4821 E Ellis St, Laveen, AZ 85339-8232, 602-550-4179, Pandagirl5600@gmail.com birthday November 21

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW DUAL MEMBER

Lady Linda Figler, PGHP, PHP Shaaru Court #57, San Diego, CA, 14438 Harvest Ct, Poway, CA 92064-2372, 858-692-9738, grwolf2022@gmail.com birthday June 28

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY REINSTATED MEMBER

Lady Toni Dennis (previously Karnas), 3664 E Camden Ave, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140-6757, 916-889-4647, tonidennis2660@yahoo.com, birthday October 15, husband Scott

*******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**

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.

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

Unit and Club Happenings

The Ladies of Mohave Club

As we move into the spring months, the Ladies of Mohave continue to stay busy with fellowship, service, and exciting plans for the future. Our focus remains on establishing Mohave Court, and we are working diligently toward this goal. Our membership has now reached twenty-six ladies, and while we are proud of that growth, we are still actively welcoming women who wish to join our special sisterhood. In March, we will host another membership drive, inviting ladies from the community to learn more about LOSNA and the Ladies of Mohave.

In February, we look forward to hosting our Garden Fairy Tea Party Fundraiser on February 28th from 1:00 –3:00 p.m. at the Mohave Shrine Club. Tickets are \$35, and this whimsical afternoon of fellowship supports our ongoing philanthropic efforts.

Recently, the Ladies of Mohave completed a successful Senior Needs Drive, donating many much-needed items to seniors living in care facilities throughout our community. Our Sewing Committee has also been hard at work, completing over one hundred pillowcases for the Associate Princess Project—an accomplishment we are incredibly proud of.

Looking ahead to April, we will host our Annual Easter Family Gathering on Easter Sunday and invite all the Masonic bodies in our building to attend. This event is always a wonderful time of fellowship for families and friends.

We extend our sincere thanks to High Priestess Lady Mechelle and the Ladies of Sphinx Court for attending our Official Visit on January 24th. We were honored to roll out the purple carpet and appreciate everyone who joined us. Please note that our January stated meeting was held in conjunction with the Official Visit. We typically meet on the last Tuesday of each month, with fellowship at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Finally, **congratulations** to Lady Lindsey Alverson, our Lady of the Quarter. As a new member of Ladies of Mohave, she has stepped up with grace and made all feel welcome and included.

Lady Jessica Tary, President



Happy Valentine's Day!!

Past High Priestess Club

Clown Unit

Our return meeting on Jan 6, 2026, brought 3 new prospects. Ladies Darla Guinn, Jennifer Rouse, and Mary Rouse, who all filled out a petition to join. Our HP Mechelle Gaines aka "Boots", came for some laughter, hugs, and just old-fashioned clown love. I hope she felt it because I felt it as the room gleamed. If you are wondering why we are growing, come to our next meeting on February 12 at 7 pm. Dinner and social hour start at 5:30pm, at the El Zaribah Shrine. Actually, everyone should come to our meeting in February, this meeting will be our elections. If you miss the meeting, the anticipation of finding out who won might be just too stressful to wait for the month. Will Pam Wade remain as President? Will Marsha Young finally have her dream, and end writing all the minutes? (Joking, she loves it) Will I be replaced as VP? Oh no, I can't handle this. Will Nancy have freedom from our finances or will she be in control for another year? Please come to see who is who in 2026-2027. I can't believe this year went by so fast. I truly loved being vice president and being Pam's side girl.

Our clowns have been busy this past holiday season. October came and we left with our bellies full of Halloween candy, but we were active. We met up at Pioneer Living History Museum, where we face-painted for Great Hearts Arizona school for their fall festival. We had a blast while laughing with the kids and enjoying the fall weather. Then came November where we hung low, but not for long because December zoomed by. We had our Annual Christmas Party, where we donated to the Homeless Youth Connection and helped donate gift cards worth \$2875, and other items valued at \$1520. Before our Christmas party we had a small group that face-painted at the annual Luke Air Force 944th Fighter Wing family holiday event. Then we just relaxed through January.

Clown hugs, and laughter,

Lady Greer Baldwin, aka Glitter - V.P.

Past High Priestess Club

Happy New Year! I hope everyone survived the Holidays and are ready to get back to work. Welcome to the new Ladies. I hope you will all take the time to visit all the Units and hopefully find a good fit for you. Joining a Unit is really the best way to get to know the ladies and our organization. February 19th will be our Election of Officers. March will be our Lady Mechelle's last Ceremonial. Lady Mechelle, Your Past High Priestess's are so proud of you and the wonderful year you have had! We can't wait to have you sit back, relax and join us as a Past High! I hope 2026 brings you all good health and prosperity! Raggedy Ann Hugs,

Lady Debbie Smith, PHP, President

Unit and Club Happenings

Sphinx Patrol

Ladies, we finished off 2025 in style and now we're off to a great start for 2026! We met some lovely new ladies at the Membership Tea who are ready to join us in March. Patrol also had a wonderful OV with our HP Mechelle Gaines in January as she nears the finish line of her year as HP. Are you all ready for the whirlwind of events over the next couple of months as we roll towards Grand Council in May?

Our next two meetings will be on February 17 and March 17, 2026 at El Zaribah. Practice will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 7:00 p.m. If you want to eat dinner with us before practice, the Shrine's dining room (the Red Fez Room) opens at 5:30 p.m. and its normal dinner menu will be available. Our next two practices are important because Patrol will be performing at the next Ceremonial and we want to put our best feet forward (pun intended)! And don't forget that Patrol will be electing next year's officers at our February meeting, too. Please come join us in the fun!

Lady Amy Wilson, Captain

Ceremonial Pageantry

Happy New Year everyone. Hope your holidays weren't too stressful.

Ceremonial Pageantry will start the new year with the OV of our HP, Lady Mechelle Gaines, on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the El Zaribah Shrine Center. There will be dinner starting at 5:30pm in the Red Fez Room. Elections for the ensuing year will be held and we'll also discuss our role for the upcoming Ceremonial. Hope to see you there!

Lady Gina Baird, PHP—Vice President



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**

Greeters

The Holiday Parties are officially over, since we had our After Holiday Party today, January 10th. As always, our President Lady Andie Lacombe hosted a wonderful celebration at Manuel's in Tempe.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 7th, at the El Zaribah Shrine Center. We will be having elections. Lady Andie has decided not to run for president. She's held this position for many years and has done an outstanding job. Her shoes will be hard to fill.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 14th, Valentine's Day, for the Travel Unit's Bunco Party Fund Raiser at the Shrine Center. Door opens at 6:00PM, with the games beginning at 6:30PM. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Open to anyone. So gather your friends & family for a fun night! Appetizers & desserts to eat. There will be door prizes & opportunity baskets. See you there!

Lady Gina Baird, Vice President

Director Staff

Wow ladies it is hard to believe 2025 is done and behind us! What a great year we had! All the love and help by our members. Giving to the Winslow Hospital, Serving the homeless for Trevor's Vision! What about our wonderful Indian Blanket Dance we did at Western for our Grand High Priestess. We ended the year strong and full of love! Our Holiday Party was wonderful. The food and camaraderie was amazing! **Speaking of AMAZING....** Your generosity knows no boundaries. For Christmas we took on a new charity helping the Homeless Teen/Youth Connection. We donated \$2,100 in Gift Cards and other items along with 16 gift bags filled with many items each valued at \$100 each.

Welcome to the new ladies. I do hope you will come and visit us at a meeting. We do a lot of great work and would love to have you join us! Our February meeting will be on the 4th and it is our Past Chiefs Night as well as our Elections. March 4th will be the last meeting before we install a new Chief. Our meetings are held at El Zaribah at 7:00pm, with a no host dinner starting at 5:30pm. I personally want to say thank you to our Chief, Lady Judy Lough. You have been an amazing leader and Chief. You are leaving BIG SHOES to fill!!! Indian Love,

Lady Debbie Smith, PHP, Assistant Chief

SPHINX
NO. 65



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



CLOWN FUN!



Travel Fund Norwex Basket Opportunity



Ladies: Don't miss this opportunity to own this wonderful basket of Norwex products put together and donated by PHP Lady Debbie Smith with a value of over \$1,000. The basket includes:

| | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| Mop System (wet and dry) | Forever Bottle | Reusable Bags (2) |
| Mop Spray Attachment | Descaler | Mini Cutting Board |
| Small Chenille Dry Mat | Mattress Spray | Veggie/Fruit Scrub Cloth |
| Rubber Brush | Rinse Aid | Bathroom Cleaner |
| Squeegee Attachment | Kitchen Towel | Toilet Brush/Holder |
| Basic Package (EnviroCloth & window cloth) | Dish Cloths (2) | Stain Remover |
| Mini EnviroWand | Spirinett (2) | Face & Body Pack |
| Dryer Balls | EnviroScrub (3) | Face Mitt |
| | Counter Cloth(3) | and many more items... |

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.00. Please see any Greeters member, send your checks for tickets to Andie at 11523 E. Adobe Road, Mesa, AZ 85207 or send your payment via Zelle using the following email address: recorder@sphinxcourt65.org. Please be sure to include NORWEX as the purpose of your payment.

Thank you so much for supporting the Travel Fund—remember, we will all benefit at one time or another from our fund raising efforts.

Thank you for your support!

The Value of Your Name

Calling all members of Sphinx Court #65!



**Travel Fund
Fundraiser!!**

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 | \$.55 | \$.60 | \$.95 | \$1.10 | \$.35 | \$.95 | \$.30 | \$1.15 | \$.50 | \$.75 | \$.50 | \$1.20 |

| N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| \$.25 | \$1.05 | \$.80 | \$.05 | \$.85 | \$.70 | \$1.00 | \$.40 | \$.65 | \$.15 | \$.20 | \$1.25 | \$.10 |

For example:

| A | N | D | I | E | | L | A | C | O | M | B | E |
|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| \$1.30 | \$.25 | \$.95 | \$1.15 | \$1.10 | | \$.50 | \$1.30 | \$.60 | \$.05 | \$1.20 | \$.55 | \$1.10 |

Your donation would be \$11.05

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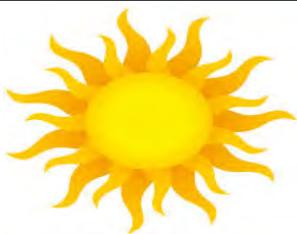
Consider making a donation in the name of family members, friends and even your pets!

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

01/21—Lady Mary Lou Salyer, PHP—Turns 99!

Happy Birthday!!

12/17—Lady Jessica Tary—Home from Hospital

12/01—Lady Robin Reed—Father in Law Passed.

11/25—Lady Jessica Contreras—Hospitalized

11/24—Lady Sharon Fisher – Shoulder Injury

11/18—Lady Renate Sweat—Back 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 Bengoechea will be sending out cards.

Membership @10/22/2025 200

| | |
|------------|----|
| Correction | 0 |
| Initiated | 3 |
| Dual | 1 |
| Reinstated | 1 |
| Demitted | -0 |
| Deceased | -0 |
| Suspended | -0 |

Membership @12/15/2025 205

Sphinx Court Ways and Means

Thank you ladies for your support of our Court fundraisers this year. Ways and Means got off to a late start as we hosted WAOUM this year; but with your support, we have had several wonderful activities and contributions from our members.

The Pamper Me Basket kicked off our efforts over the Summer, with the drawing held at Winterfest. Debbie Vasquez, Lady of Grand Lodge Secretary and Past Grand Master Greg Vasquez name was drawn.

Our next event, Rockin' Good Time, was a hit. Ladies Maria Parrish, PHP and Deonna Ruff along with many helping hands, collaborated and put together a fun, beautifully decorated event with great music. Who knew painting rocks could be so much fun. The food was great, beautifully presented and the hostesses were charming. It was an afternoon of creativity and laughter.

The final event of the year, at the end of January, found us at a Mardi Gras Party hosted by myself, and Lady Christy Connelly with assistance from many helpers. The food was amazing, decorations were vibrant and colorful, jazzy and festive music was heard throughout, along with creative costumes and masks. Were you one of the lucky ones who stuck around for the laughter of the parade of costumes, and the chance to take home an opportunity basket?

On behalf of the committee, we hope you enjoyed the laughter and memories of the activities and events planned this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or any one of the committee members. Thank you again for helping to make Ways and Means successful this year.

Lady Connie Massey, Court Ways & Means Chair

Cactus Chatter Editor

Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP

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www.sphinxcourt65.org

Sphinx Court No. 65
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of North America

Linda Curry
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Tempe, AZ 85288-1426

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Calendar of Events for 2025 - UPDATED 01/15/2026
All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.

February—2026

02/04—Director Staff Mtg/Elections, 7pm
02/07—Greeters Mtg/Elections, TBD
02/12—Clowns Mtg/Elections, 7pm
02/14—Bunco Party—6pm
Travel Fund Fundraiser
02/17—Sphinx Patrol Mtg/Elections, 7pm
02/17—Ladies of Mohave, Mtg./Elections, 7pm
Mohave Shrine Center
02/23—Court Meeting, 7pm
Dinner at 5:30pm
02/26—Cere. Pag. OV/Mtg/Elections, 6:30pm
02/19—PHP Club Mtg/Elections, 6:30pm

March—2026

03/04—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm
03/12—Clowns Meeting, 7pm
03/17—Sphinx Patrol Mtg/Elections, 7pm
03/20—Ceremonial/Memorial Practice 5:30 pm
03/21—Ceremonial Meeting, 9am
Luncheon at Noon
03/31—Ladies of Mohave, Mtg. 7pm
Mohave Shrine Center

April—2026

04/04 - Officer Installations, 2pm
04/27—Court Meeting, 7pm
Dinner at 5:30pm