



# Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona  
April—May 2026

Lady Cynthia Rudd, Grand High Priestess

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

*Lou Ann Speas*  
High Priestess  
*Arvida X Curry*  
Recorder

## High Priestess

Hello Ladies,

I would like to thank all of you for a wonderful year as your Princess for our Court. Now for the big thank you for voting me in as your High Priestess for the ensuing year. I have some really big shoes to follow; Lady Mechelle Gaines now Jr Past High Priestess. She was a very outstanding High Priestess and I will try my utmost to carry on the Dignity and Honor of being a High Priestess of our wonderful Court. That being said let's make this a fun filled and eventful year. It was so nice to see all of my beautiful sisters at the Installation of officers, the food was outstanding as always, I commend you all.

Congratulations to all the line officers on accepting their elected offices, also to all the Unit and Club leaders for stepping up and keeping our Court going strong. I can't forget the aides who are helping our line Officers thank you all so much. I hope many of you are going to Grand Council this May in Florida we always have a blast when we get together. JUST A reminder our Grand High Priestess O.V. is July 9th. She will be arriving on the 8th and I will be setting up something for a little gathering. Again Thank you Ladies for all your support for these years.



May The Force Be With You,

**Lady Lou Ann Speas, High Priestess**

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



**WELCOME**  
**TO OUR**  
**NEW MEMBERS!**

**From:**  
**Past High Priestess Club**

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  
Greer Balwin, President @ 602-696-3832  
[sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com](mailto:sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com)

# Officers' Offerings

## Princess



Ladies: Thank all of you for electing me as your Princess, I'm honored. I'm looking forward to the next year. I have no new news to report on until May after Grand Council, then I will have all the information for the 2027 session and will help with travel plans for those members attending.

I had a very successful year as Associate Princess, we raised a lot of money for the UnLimited Camp and had fun making pillow cases for the kids at the hospital.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new members, I hope LOS is as rewarding to you as it has been to me. Visit the Units get involved, and have fun.

Hawk Hugs and Kisses,

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

## Associate Princess



Happy Spring, Ladies!

As we welcome this beautiful new season of renewal and growth, I want to thank you for electing me to serve as your Associate Princess. I am truly honored, and I look forward to representing our Court with enthusiasm, integrity, and a heartfelt commitment to our philanthropic mission.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members. Each of us brings our own strengths and experiences, yet we are united by a shared purpose: helping others while enjoying the fellowship and fun that make our Court so special.

Our Court project this year will support the Shriners Children's Salt Lake City Wheelchair and Seating Program (WSP). This remarkable program provides essential durable medical equipment (DME) and customized mobility solutions for children with specialized needs. Their dedicated staff custom-fits wheelchairs, adapts car seats, and performs vital adjustments and repairs—services that greatly ease the financial burden on families.

Last year, the program provided 445 new wheelchairs and completed 1,532 repairs. Thanks to the generosity of donors, children continue to receive safe, effective mobility equipment regardless of insurance coverage or a family's ability to pay. Increased mobility brings greater independence and a better quality of life, and we are proud to support such meaningful work.

How can you help? I'm asking everyone to collect and bring in aluminum cans—not just the tabs. I will take them to the recycling center and have the proceeds donated directly to our Court for this year's project. Shriners Children's Salt Lake City also offers an Amazon Wish List for those who prefer to contribute in that way.

We will also continue our Hobo Pillowcase initiative. Whether you sew, cut patterns, iron (yes, the lost art!), or simply lend a helping hand, every contribution is appreciated. I will share dates and times for our work sessions soon and will send updates through the Cactus Chatter Update emails as they become available. Thank you, ladies, for all that you do.

Your kindness, creativity, and dedication make our Court shine brighter with each passing season.

**Lady Debbie Sise, Associate Princess**  
**Phone: 810-923-0024, Email: mypolasha@icloud.com**

## First Ceremonial Lady



Ladies, thank you so much for allowing me to continue with the line as 1st Ceremonial Lady. I will do my best to make you proud. Looking forward to a lot of new members.

The next Membership Tea will be on September 19, 2026 with the Ceremonial on November 21, 2026. If you have any friends or acquaintances that may be interested please send me their names with phone numbers, addresses and email.

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

# Officers' Offerings

## Second Ceremonial Lady



Thank you all for selecting me as your Second Ceremonial Lady. I'm honored, delighted, and fully prepared to bring a little sparkle to our Court gatherings. To kick things off, our April 27th Court dinner will feature a build-your-own taco bowl with ground beef, lettuce, tomatoes, red beans, cheese, salsa, and sour cream, followed by ice cream for dessert. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM, with the Court meeting starting at 7:00 PM, and the cost is \$15. Please let me know by April 16 if you plan to attend; if you're on the permanent list, I only need to hear from you if you will *not* be attending, consider silence your RSVP.

Looking ahead, the May 21st Court meal will be a baked potato bar complete with chili, cheese, onion, sour cream, salad, and, of course, ice cream for dessert. This dinner is also \$15, and I'll need your RSVP at least ten days before the meeting. Permanent list members, the same rule applies: just let me know ten days prior if you won't be joining us. I'm excited to serve in this role and look forward to keeping our meals delicious, our communication clear, and our gatherings running smoother than a fresh jar of peanut butter. Now mark those calendars and keep me posted, because while I can organize a Court dinner like nobody's business, I still can't read minds.

**Lady Juliette Hurz, 2nd Ceremonial Lady**  
Phone: 480-205-6904, Email: [julietteherz@gmail.com](mailto:julietteherz@gmail.com)

## Recorder

### A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**Lady Karen Cooper**, 1205 E Lawrence Ln, Phoenix, AZ 85020-3031, 602-334-0425, birthday 04-25, spouse Gregory, [kjtcme@outlook.com](mailto:kjtcme@outlook.com)

**Lady Gail Reed**, 212 w Caroline Ln, Chandler, AZ 85225-7022, 480-206-9930; birthday 03/10, spouse Don, [gsing10r@aol.com](mailto:gsing10r@aol.com)

**Lady Barb Zarzycki**, 2350 Adobe Rd, Lot 291, Bullhead City, AZ 86442-4771, birthday 02/04, [castawaynbs@gmail.com](mailto:castawaynbs@gmail.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*2026 DUES of \$35.00 ARE DUE ON APRIL 1, 2026\*\*\*\*\***

**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

## The Ladies of Mohave Club

The Ladies of Mohave welcomed spring with a wonderful season of fellowship and progress. Our Annual Easter Gathering, held at the end of March, was a great day filled with laughter, good food, and time spent with our extended Masonic family. It was a joyful celebration and a reminder of the strong bonds we share within our building.

March was also an exciting month for leadership. We held our annual elections and are pleased to announce the following officers: President Lady Jessica Tary, Vice President Lady April Stewart, Secretary Lady Barb Zarzycki, and Treasurer Lady Megan Lindemanis. We look forward to our Installation of Officers at our April 28th meeting as we officially begin this next chapter of service together.

In addition, we hosted a March Membership Drive and enjoyed a fun evening introducing women from our community to LOSNA and the Ladies of Mohave. We are encouraged by the interest shown and look forward to welcoming new ladies into our club in the coming months.

We continue moving forward with planning for the Institution of Mohave Court and are excited about the future of our organization. Our meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, and we always welcome visitors who would like to learn more about our growing sisterhood.

Fraternally,

**Lady Jessica Tary, President**

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## Director Staff

We had a great installation of officers for the unit. A new year with this great unit. We have some pretty big shoes to fill.

We are sending a wonderful welcome to all of the new members. Please stop by and see us. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Pay no mind what you hear about us, we like to get a little rowdy. We work really hard for the Court and the kids.

Congratulations to all the new officers of the Court. A big thank you to all of the ladies who are staying in their positions. I'm sure this year's gonna be a lot of fun.

We're gonna have several events over the summer, so stay tuned for the dates, times and what we will be doing.

**Lady Janet LaBell, PHP, Assistant Chief**

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## Clown Unit

We voted, and April 9 will be the Clown Unit Installation! Please join us as we celebrate and install our new council for the 2026–2027 year: President—Lady Greer Baldwin (Glitter), Vice President: Lady Barbara Roth (Freckles), Secretary: Lady Juliette Herz (Ginger), Treasurer: Lady Nancy Beffel (Dot). Come enjoy refreshments, celebrate together, and cheer on our new council as they begin their exciting year of leadership. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

These past few months our clowns have been busy! On February 14, we celebrated together with our Friends Valentine Bunco Night. It was such a fun evening filled with laughter and friendship. A special thank you to Lady Maria Parrish and Lady Debbie Smith, and Greeter Unit who did an amazing job. The night was filled with laughter, and welcoming for everyone. Then on March 7, we were invited to the Baahani Court Order of Amaranth Car Show in Mesa. Ladies Janet, Debbie, and Sue attended and spent the day face painting, bringing smiles and colorful fun to all who stopped by.

Our Clown Unit would like to congratulate everyone on their newly installed positions on March 29! We are excited for the new term and look forward to Lou Ann Spies as High Priestess and her up coming year.

During the summer months, we will be getting together for clown training, we get together to learn, practice, and enjoy time together. We will also be returning to Paz De Cristo Community Center to serve on July 11 and October 10. All are welcome to join us and help! Please remember to wear your unit vest and closed-toe shoes when volunteering. More to come.

Clown hugs, and laughter,

**Lady Greer Baldwin, aka Glitter - President**

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### 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.

# Unit and Club Happenings

## Sphinx Patrol

The ladies of the Sphinx Patrol Unit wish to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of Sphinx Court, as well as congratulations to the newly installed High Priestess Lou Ann Speas and all of the 2026-27 Court officers. Sphinx Patrol relished putting our best feet forward during our performance at the Spring Ceremonial, exhibiting what we do for the new members and their guests.

In fact, Sphinx Patrol performs choreographed marches and has the honor of acting as escorts during certain Court events upon request. We meet at El Zaribah Shrine on the third Tuesday of every month except June, July and August. Marching practice starts promptly at 6:30 p.m., followed by our meeting at 7:00 p.m. If you want to join us for dinner 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 meeting on April 21, 2026 will be the installation of our newly-elected officers for the coming year: Captain, Lady Amy Wilson; Lieutenant, Lady Nancy Beffel; Secretary, Lady Maria Parrish, PHP; and Treasurer, Lady Andie Lacombe. We'll also be dialing in our performance for Grand Council in early May. Our last meeting before going dark for the summer will be on May 19, 2026, which because it's the week after Grand Council, we'll likely skip our usual practice to give our feet a rest. If you are interested in being a member of a unit that is light of heart and light on our feet (most of the time), please join us! All Sphinx Court members are welcome.

***Lady Amy Wilson, Captain***

## Ceremonial Pageantry

Welcome to the new ladies who were initiated on March 21st. We invite you to our next meeting on Tuesday April 7th at 6:30pm. It's also our Installation of Officers. Dinner will be provided by the Unit, so please let us know if you are attending. We only meet 3 times a year and our main function is to do the story for Ceremonial. The Officers for this year are: President—Lady Jane Sheldon, Vice President—Lady Gina Baird, PHP, Secretary—Lady Bobbie Balthazor, Treasurer—Lady Nancy Beffel.

Summer heat is fast approaching, so stay cool and hydrated over the summer.

***Lady Gina Baird, PHP—Vice 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***

## Greeters

Our new slate of officers are: President—Lady Gina Baird, PHP, Vice President—Lady Marcia Cherry, PHP, Secretary—Lady Leandra Beard, Treasurer—Lady Nancy Beffel.

Many thanks to Lady Andie Lacombe, who was our President for the past 5 years. We wish you well in your future endeavors. Your shoes will be hard to fill.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday April 11th. Time and place yet to be determined, so it'll be sent out via the Cactus Chatter update. This meeting will be the Installation of Officers, as well as, our OV.

As usual, we will host the unbirthday party in July. Again the time & place is yet to be determined & you'll be informed via the Cactus Chatter update.

We welcome all ladies, especially those who were initiated on March 21st. We wish everyone an enjoyable summer! Stay cool & hydrated!

***Lady Gina Baird, President***

## Past High Priestess Club


The Past High Priestess Club will hold its Installation of Officers on April 23, 2026, starting at 6:30 PM at El Zaribah Shrine. Officers to be installed are: President, Lady Marsha Young; Vice-President, Lady Kathy Kelley; Secretary, Lady Maria Parrish, and Treasurer, Lady Marcia Cherry. We will also be inducting our newest member, Lady Mechelle Gaines, Jr. PHP, into our select group. It will be a beautiful event for all Past High Priestesses.

The Past High Priestesses are always available to assist with any questions you may have. Although, we've "put down the gavel" we do attempt to stay up with things around the Court. If we don't know the answer, we'll attempt to find it for you.

As of now, the tentative date for Official Visit with our High Priestess and Line Officers is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026. Line Officers and PHPs please mark this date on your calendar and begin writing your questions down to present at that time. It will be a night of knowledge and maybe some laughter, too!

The PHPs would like to offer our congratulations to the new Court Officers, as well as the new officers of each unit. We know it will be a successful and enjoyable year. Best wishes to all!

***Lady Marsha Young, PHP, President***

<p><b>SPHINX NO. 65</b></p>  <p style="font-size: small;">Contact: Andie Lacombe 602-329-2015 Andie@curtismangement.biz</p>	<p><b>GREETERS</b></p> <p>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</p>
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# Committee Reports



## Sunshine Report

WOW! We haven't heard any news since our last update... Stay Happy and Healthy!

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 @12/15/2025</b>	<b>205</b>
Correction	0
Initiated	3
Dual	0
Reinstated	0
Demitted	-1
Deceased	-0
Suspended	-8
<b>Membership @03/31/2026</b>	<b>199</b>

## **Sphinx Court Ways and Means**

The Ways and Means Committee is excited to work with Lady Lou Ann and pleased to announce the following fund-raisers for the 2026-2027 year. We are very excited to bring back the Sock Hop on September 5<sup>th</sup>, a new fun event, an Old Fashioned Hoe Down on December 12<sup>th</sup> and a Mystery Dinner on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2027. This is a great line-up of events - mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

On behalf of the committee, thank you in advance for your support to reach our goal as we begin another fun year.

**Lady Andie Lacombe, Court Ways & Means Chair**  
**Committee Members:**  
**Lady Leandra Beard, Co-Chairman**  
**Lady Andria Granado**



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 5915 East Woodridge Drive  
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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

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

Contact LADY JANE SHELDON  
480-710-5975

## Director Staff

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

**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

Cactus Chatter Editor

Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP  
 623-337-3226 Email: [kcmac999@cox.net](mailto:kcmac999@cox.net)  
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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 2026 - UPDATED 03/24/2026**  
*All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.*

**March—2026**

**03/29—Officer Installations, 2pm**

03/31—Ladies of Mohave, Mtg./Elections, 7pm  
Mohave Shrine Center

**April—2026**

04/02—Director Staff Mtg. & Installation, 7pm  
04/07—Cere. Pageantry Mtg. & Install., 6:30pm  
04/09—Clowns Mtg. & Installation, 7pm  
04/11—Greeters Installation & OV  
Location and Time—TBD  
04/21—Sphinx Patrol Mtg. & Installation, 7pm  
04/23—PHP Club Mtg. & Installation, 6:30pm  
**04/27—Court Meeting, 7pm**  
**Dinner at 5:30pm**  
04/28—Ladies of Mohave Club Installation  
Mohave Shrine Center

**May-2026**

05/06—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm  
**05/11-15—Grand Council—Orlando**  
05/19—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm  
**05/18—Court Meeting, 7pm**  
**Dinner at 5:30pm**  
05/19—Sphinx Patrol Meeting, 7pm  
05/28—Ladies of Mohave Club Meeting  
Mohave Shrine Center

**Mark Your Calendars**

**07/08-09—GHP Official Visit**  
09/05—Sock Hop Court Fundraiser  
12/12—Hoe Down Court Fundraiser  
02/06/27—Mystery Dinner Court Fundraiser