

Grand Council Gazette

Third edition of the Grand Council Gazette

Lady Linda Figler,
Grand High Priestess

BREAKING NEWS!

Ladies, we are about to make history...Instituting a new Court in Mexico City, Mexico. How exciting is that.

Sekhmet Court will be instituted on Friday, February 17, 2023. Their Ceremonial & Installation will be on Saturday, February 18, 2023. The Grand Recorder has shared the registration packet with all the Court Recorders. If you did not receive one & wish to go, please check with your Recorder.

We look forward to seeing you & if you are unable to attend, I will make sure to have news & pictures in the next edition of the Grand Council Gazette.

Candidates for Grand Inner/Outer Guard

Have you ever thought about becoming a Grand Officer. Now is your time. Please review (2021 Red Book) pages 30 to 33 for instructions. The deadline to have your paperwork in order & mailed to the Grand Chairman Lady Jan Hiebert, PGHP no later than February 15, 2023.

Lady Jan Hiebert, PGHP
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Did you see the article in **Shriner Magazine** (Volume 12 Issue 4 winter 2022). There are some great pictures of our Ladies wearing their gorgeous fezzes, some great reading & quotes from our very own Lady Karen Przytula, Grand Princess.

It is truly an amazing opportunity Shriner International provided LOSNA and showed cased our organization and the emphasis on the fun we have & our philanthropy in their international publication.



Ladies' Organizations Share Shriners' Emphasis on Fun and Philanthropy

In the land of Shrinedom, there could be an argument over who has more fun: The Shriners or two of our allied women's organizations? Ladies' organizations have supported our philanthropy since the early 1900s. Like the Shriners fraternity, the Daughters of the Nile and the Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America have long traditions of fun and philanthropy, and both are led by their own brand of royalty.

Daughters of the Nile

When it formed in 1913, the Daughters of the Nile opted to use the same Near-Eastern theme as Shriners. "And who was the most known person in history in that world?" asked Supreme Queen Vickie Hill. "Cleopatra, the Queen of the Nile."

That's why the organization's dedication to bettering themselves and the world around them while having fun and making and keeping friendships along the way is decorated with such beautiful, elaborate pageantry, including stunning crowns for the royals.

Hill is very generous with letting others try hers on. "People are fascinated with it," she said. "First, that we actually wear it on our heads, because it is quite heavy. But, when we go to the hospitals, there are very few little girls who don't want to be a princess. So if they can have my crown on their head for just one minute, and maybe have their picture made, they are a princess. It makes it very special to their hearts, and to think of what those kiddos are going through? It touches me. Sometimes the boys want to put it on too."

Daughters of the Nile was established in 1913 to promote social events and other activities for members and elevate standards of morality. The organization has been supporting Shriners Children's since 1924.

Fellowship and Philanthropy

Hill and her next-door neighbor joined the 16,000-member organization in 2003, because their husbands had become Shriners and the local Daughters of the Nile chapter met on the same night. Hill said that since her parents and only sibling had passed away, the group provided a bonding experience for her.

"It became an extended family," she said. "We had so many social events, and there was so much fun and kindness. Everybody had my back from the start."

Hill also believes strongly in the organization's purpose and support of Shriners Children's. What really touches her is how hard the organization works with children to help them return to their homes, communities and schools successfully.

"For these children to go through what they go through, orthopedically or having cleft lip and palate or severe burns, and then be able to reintroduce them to a normal life where they are accepting of themselves and those around them – that really is what struck a chord with me," she said.

The organization donates more than \$2 million a year to Shriners Children's. It has 130 temples in the U.S., Canada and Brazil, as well as clubs in Europe, Mexico, Bolivia and the Philippines. To join, a woman needs to be related by birth or marriage to a Shriner, Master Mason or a Daughter of the Nile. She may also be a majority member in good standing of a Masonic-related organization for girls, or a former Shriners Children's patient.

Ladies in Leadership

The Daughters of the Nile is led by six elected officers: the Supreme Queen and five Supreme Princesses. The Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America is led by the Grand Council. The top official of the Grand Council is known as the Grand High Priestess, and the Executive Officer in a local Court is known as the High Priestess.

SHRINER MAGAZINE: PRIDE AND TRADITION



Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America

LOSNA is another women-led organization that does great work for Shriners Children's. With 6,000 members in 61 local groups called courts, it is a group of dedicated women with a long history of giving. LOSNA was formed in 1903 when some West Virginia women wanted to have fun while their husbands were attending their local events. Promoting sociability, good fellowship and the betterment of all ladies connected with the organization, the group grew quickly, and the Grand Council formed in 1914 to meet the need.

"In 1914, everything belonged to the husband – the money, the house, the property. Women couldn't even vote," said Karen Przytula, who is the Grand Princess and First Vice President of LOSNA and is in line to be the Grand High Priestess next May, pending election. "It was important to let the public know they were forward thinkers and this group was independent of the Shrine."

When Shriners Children's was founded, the women raised money but also acted as surrogate caregivers, holding patients and helping them. Although regulations preclude that now, members remain devoted to supporting the healthcare system. In addition to fundraising – LOSNA contributes well over a half million dollars yearly to Shriners Children's – many LOSNA members contribute by sewing. They make scrub hats – big ones for the doctors and nurses, little ones for the patients – as well as blankets and more.

LOSNA differs from other allied bodies in that its philanthropy stretches beyond Shriners International and Shriners Children's. Every year, the Grand High Priestess suggests a Shriners-related project for philanthropy. But the local courts can raise money for other charitable organizations. "We can raise money for the community and promote Shriners at the same time," said Przytula.

To join LOSNA, a woman must either be related to a Master Mason or a Shriner in good standing by birth, marriage or adoption, or be sponsored by two LOSNA members.

Membership Challenges

Like Shriners International, the women's groups also face challenges in recruiting and retaining members.

"The membership issue is critical," said Daughters of the Nile Supreme Queen Vickie Hill. "Retention is just as critical ... Those who are choosing to move away from our organization? I want to know what they want that we are no longer giving them. Why did they join? What were their expectations? What part of those expectations are we not meeting and fulfilling?"

LOSNA Grand Princess and First Vice President Karen Przytula said that when she was High Priestess in 1996, there were 90 courts. Today, there are 61. The average age of members, she said, is over 55, and the membership rolls are a concern.

"In May of 2014, we had just under 9,000 ladies. Today, we have just over 6,000," she said. "So that is a major challenge we face. For so many years, women were in the home. Their fun night out was going to LOSNA. Now, it's rare when a mother and father don't both work, so there isn't a lot of extra time."

For information, visit: daughtersofthenile.org and ladiesorientalshrine.org

Article submission from ANKH CT#92, San Jose, CA

We had our first back in person Court meeting in June and it was wonderful to have the ladies back. The Children's Shrine Hospital in Sacramento now has its official Bear Buddy Cart, and we made an initial delivery of 152 BAB bears/animals in Feb. 2022, we have since made a second large delivery that included another 80 animals, 122 outfits and 75 Shrine Care bears. We are working with the Asiya Shrine members to supply the bears. Our local CA Rainbow Assembly #5 donated a dozen bears for the cart and we have had a donation from one of the Nevada Masonic lodges. We had a great talk at the California Grand Master's Warden and Jr. Warden Retreat and spoke about the Bear Buddy Room and presented Grand Master Jeffrey Wilkins with his own bear in a "Bee Costume". We are working on getting more donations and starting a new campaign in January 2023.

We have been in four parades: 4th of July, Oct. Paso Robles Pioneer days, San Jose Veterans Day and the annual Los Gatos Children's parade on Dec. 3rd and we participated with Asiya Temple at Fezzerama 2022. We have had our car decorated with a white fez and our Lotus Flower Bear mascot waving to all the onlookers. They love the bears looking out the window. Now we have a second large bear, and we are having a contest to get her named! Due to Covid, holiday activities we had to cancel our 46th Birthday party that was scheduled on Dec. 4th, perhaps we can reschedule. Please check out our web page for all of the activities and events. www.ankhcourt92.org

High Priestess, Lady Cathleen Rogers and members of Ankh Ct. #92 San Jose, CA



Grand Council Fundraiser

As you can see from the breakdown above, our Grand Council Operating Fund could use some help. Maybe consider buying a **Gold or Silver Lotus Necklace** or maybe buy one for a Special Lady for Christmas.

They are \$50 plus \$5 shipping. Please see the order form at the end of the newsletter. This fundraiser is assisting the Grand Council's operating fund.



Have you checked out our [Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America, Inc.](https://www.ladiesorientalshrine.org/) website. We have some helpful information on there. There is a link to the 2023 Grand Council packet, our local Courts & how others can join our amazing organization.



DATE:

INVOICE# 100

Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America

BILL TO:

Street Address

Name

City, ST ZIP Code

Street Address

Phone

City, ST ZIP Code

Fax

Phone

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT
Gold Toned Lotus Necklace with clear rhinestones and 20 inch chain		\$50	
Shipping and Handling		\$5	
TOTAL			

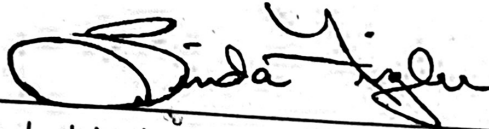
Make all checks payable to **Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America.**

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, contact: Carol Sue Roberts, PGHP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

If your Court would like to add something to the quarterly newsletter, please send it to Lady Kim Cook, GM, Newsletter Editor (alohapearls2018@gmail.com) no later than April 20, 2023.

Turn on your Heart Light, let it shine for all the world to see and always be your own kind of beautiful



Lady Linda Figler, GHP



Lady Janet Larson, GR, PGHP

SEAL

