

Stargazer

Of Florida

Leduc-Schrock Grand Family



The Wind Beneath Our Wings



A Message From the Worthy Grand Matron *and Worthy Grand Patron*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Brother Dayle and I are honored to be your Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron for the ensuing year 2025-2026. The Leduc-Schrock Grand family is off and running throughout the State and looking forward to our Official Visits in your Chapters. Our Elected and Appointed 9 are working so well together as a united team and look forward to all the fun and fellowship we are about to have all year with you, our members of this great Order.

My Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project is Regenerative Medicine. This project will aid those in need to find a cure for conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart and kidney disease and other dreadful diseases. Through research, we may be able to use our body's own cells to restore diseased organs or tissue to full health or grow replacement organs.

Several fundraisers for the WGM Special Project are planned for this year that you won't want to miss like our WGM Special Project Cruise to Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao. We will tour the Island of Aruba with Aruba Chapter members who will host us for lunch while we are in Aruba. Watch for the flyers and information coming soon.

Remember, together we can make a difference. We can grow our beautiful Order only with your assistance. Only with each one of you can we achieve our desires and goals.

Brother Dayle and I wish you all the best in your Chapters in the coming year and are here to serve you and our Grand Chapter to the best of our ability. Never hesitate to call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have. We are here for you.

With Star love,

Sandy Leduc

Worthy Grand Matron

Dayle Schrock

Worthy Grand Patron

The Wind Beneath Our Wings Session

Scriptures Proverbs 3:5-6; John 11:25-26	Honor Station	Martha
Watchword Believe	Emblems	Bible, Dragonfly
Motto Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.	Flowers	Lilacs, Hydrangeas
	Colors	Green, Black, and Silver
	Songs	"I Believe", "He"

Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project
Regenerative Medicine





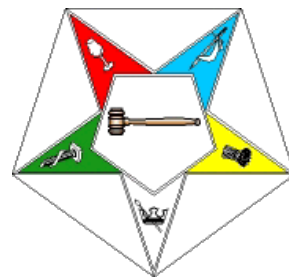
Meet the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family





Sandy Leduc

Worthy Grand Matron



Congratulations on your election as Worthy Grand Matron! I know you are excited. Tell me, Now that you are the WGM, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

Someone once told me "Heavy is the head that wears the Crown," so I do think of that. It is quite difficult to comprehend that after three years, I have made it to this position. I know there are great responsibilities that come with the Title and many decisions that will be very difficult to make. The good of the Order, what is best for Grand Chapter is what I will always try to do.

What makes the Order special to you personally?

I wanted to belong to an organization to feel like I was contributing to something outside of the home when we were young and didn't have a lot of activities that Gerry and I did together. My husband told me about Eastern Star as he had heard about it in his Masonic Meetings. He suggested we look into it. The friendliest people in New Hampshire took me under their wings and taught me right away everything I needed to know and soon we became active members of the Chapter. No matter where we moved due our job transfers, we knew we would find a Masonic Lodge and Chapter to join that would welcome us with open arms.

If you could accomplish only one major goal by the end of your term, what would that be and why?

If I could accomplish one major goal by the end of my year as Worthy Grand Matron, it would be to see our Chapters grow and survive in these trying times. We are losing members, some due to age, some just not returning after being initiated. We need to find out why and encourage our membership to seek qualified new members to continue our growth. We need to all realize that we come from different walks of life and everyone thinks in different ways. We need to understand each other and learn to communicate our thoughts with each other and not always disagree and get upset.

Outside the Chapter room, where might we find you on a perfect Saturday?

I just love my family and could spend the whole day talking to my grandchildren and listening to what they are doing in their lives. I'm so proud of each of them and where their life is taking them as they grow older. Even after all these years, Gerry and I still enjoy each other's company. Whether it's watching television, sitting on the porch talking, or going to gym, we are always together.

That's so wonderful! I know how important Eastern Star is to you, so let's fast-forward five years. How do you hope of how the Order will have evolved?

I pray we will have grown into a larger Order with more qualified members who care about what Rob Morris' vision was years and years ago. That we don't lose the values we have had in the past and don't change much of the protocol that has always made us stand out amongst other States.

What advice would future-you give to today-you about serving in this office?

Listen to everyone, don't judge people by what others say. Listen carefully and make your own opinion as to what action you think you need to take as the leader of our Order.

After your term wraps up, how would you like fellow members to describe your impact in one word?

COMPASSIONATE

Thank you, Sister Sandy, for sharing your hopes and expectations for Eastern Star with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Worthy Grand Matron and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

Thank you! I look forward to your future editions and seeing what our chapters in our State are doing to keep us growing and enjoying fellowship.

Thank you for your kind words!



Dayle Schrock

Worthy Grand Patron



Congratulations on your election as Worthy Grand Patron! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were elected to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

Once Sandy Leduc was elected Associate Grand Conductress in 2022, I knew right then I wanted to run as Grand Sentinel and be her Worthy Grand Patron.

Tell us a little about your journey to Eastern Star—who or what first inspired you to join?

My wife Donna Schrock, PGM inspired me to join Masonry in 1978, so I could join the Order of the Eastern Star in 1979.

Which previous Chapter or Grand Chapter role has shaped you the most, and how?

When I was assigned Webmaster in 2004 by Joy W. Feit, PGM it gave me a sense of purpose on how I could serve Eastern Star and make a small difference.

What makes the Order special to you personally?

The sense of unity, shared faith, and support among members is deeply meaningful. It's about growing spiritually while encouraging one another in faith and good works.

Every office has its hidden challenges. Which challenge are you already strategizing for?

Harmony within the membership through faith and love of the fraternity. Building unity through faith and love requires intentional efforts—fostering open communication, encouraging mutual respect, and ensuring that every member feels valued and heard.

Outside the Chapter room, where might we find you on a perfect Saturday?

On the golf course with my wife, Donna.

Fast-forward five years: how do you hope the Order will have evolved?

Embracing electronic payments for events and donations would streamline processes, making it easier for members to contribute and participate. Digital forms could enhance efficiency, ensure transparency and accessibility while reducing administrative burdens.

What advice would future-you give to today-you about serving in this office?

Be kind, attentive to the membership and listen.

Thank you, Brother Dayle Schrock, for sharing with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Worthy Grand Patron and look forward to watching you continue your journey in The Order of the Eastern Star!

Thank you, Sister Carla, for the opportunity to share my thoughts and dreams with my Sisters and Brothers. The Stargazer of Florida is a wonderful way to share the fellowship and love that the members have for each other and a meaningful space for fostering connection, faith, and unity among members.



Mary Ann Holt

Associate Grand Matron



Congratulations on your election as Associate Grand Matron! What was the first thought that crossed your mind when elected to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family?

My first thought at being elected Associate Grand Matron was "my goodness, this is real!" As reality began to sink in, reality suddenly struck me that only one more year and I will have the responsibility of this Grand Chapter in my hands.

"Heavy is the head that wears the crown." So saith Shakespeare!

(laughs) Don't you know it!

Tell us a little about your journey to Eastern Star.

When I joined my local Chapter in 1984, I was younger than most of the currently active members. I was very fortunate to have mentors who encouraged me to take an active part, and I was very soon on a journey that has led me to seek new and exciting experiences from my membership. I learned that to get something positive from joining an organization, you must also be willing to contribute to it. Receiving the telephone call in December 1995 from Sister Helen Westmoreland asking me to serve as one of her Grand Officers was something I thought could never happen to me. By that time in my OES life, I had been a Grand Instructor and a Grand Representative and was serving as Secretary of my Chapter and was very active in my District. Having formed life-long friendships is the most precious gift I could ever receive as a member of our beautiful Order.

Every office has its hidden challenges. Which challenge are you already strategizing for?

Membership is a topic that plagues every leader of our Order – whether you are a leader in your Chapter, Grand Chapter or even our General Grand Chapter, an optimistic and enthusiastic future is what we all desire for the Order of the Eastern Star. First and foremost, we must all be active in our subordinate Chapters by making and carrying out plans to rejuvenate and revive our Order. Many tend to blame COVID for the decline in our membership and, while I do believe it played a part, complacency in our Chapters has played a bigger part. I have faith in our members that we can see growth in our jurisdiction. It's not going to be an easy task but if we work diligently and actively toward increasing our membership numbers, we can accomplish great things. Let's stop talking about the decline in membership and let's do something about it!

Outside the Chapter room, where might we find you on a perfect Saturday?

Most of my Saturdays are spent doing paperwork and working on plans for the 2026 – 2027 year, but I do take a break when I get a message that my great-grandson, Archie, is coming to town! He will soon be five years old – I know, I'm not old enough to be a Gigi – and has just been moved into the VPK at his school and, of course, he's the smartest in the class. Being a widow, I no longer cook a lot of meals. Baking is probably my favorite hobby. I love baking treats and sweets – cakes, breads, brownies – and sharing these and other culinary creations with family and friends. I do have a few that tend to be favorites and are most often requested.

Fast forward five years: how do you hope the Order will have evolved?

It is my sincere desire that in five years, we will have seen a vast growth in membership in our Order. That our subordinate Chapters have sidelines full of visitors for not only special events, but also for regular Chapter meetings. That we all work in harmony with our Sisters and Brothers and that we are all joined firmly together in a golden chain of unity, one aim, one hope for the future.

Thank you, Sister Mary Ann, for sharing with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Associate Grand Matron and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

Thank you, Sister Carla, for the opportunity to share my story with our members. As I have traveled throughout our beautiful state, I have made many new friends, I have renewed old friendships, and I have tried to serve at the will of our members. I sincerely thank the members of the Grand Chapter of Florida for the faith they have placed in me and my ability to serve. May God continue to shower his blessings down on you, my Sisters and Brothers, and may love, peace and joy abide with you.



Richard Keepin

Associate Grand Patron



Congratulations on your election as Associate Grand Patron! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you elected to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

I started my journey with the Rosenthal/Clevens Grand Family. Now Sister Sandy and Brother Dayle have become family, and I enjoy learning with them. I was blessed to be partnered with Sister Mary Ann Holt. We help each other and I couldn't ask for a better person to be with for this journey.

Tell us a little about your journey to Eastern Star—who or what first inspired you to join?

It all began about 47 years ago. I was stationed at Pensacola Naval Station when I met Brenda. As it turned out I was her military supervisor, and we finally got married. She and her parents were members of OES. (I was clueless of what this was!) After retiring, we lived with her parents while our house was being built. Every couple of weeks they had their meetings at Wewahitchka No. 229. After a couple of months, her father said, son we sure hate to leave you sitting at home while we go to Chapter meetings and asked if I had thought about becoming a Mason. He sponsored me and was my mentor. Eventually I became a Master Mason. Then he said you should join our Wewahitchka Chapter, which I did, and the rest is history.

Which previous Chapter or Grand Chapter role has shaped you the most, and how?

Wewahitchka Chapter No 229 pretty much shaped me. The Lodge members and Star work well together. I enjoy helping people so everything the Masons and Star do is pleasing to me. My oldest grandson had Acute T-cell leukemia and at the age of 16 passed. When we visited Wake Forest labs, I was impressed. I have been able to visit Wake Forest for the last three years. I call it Star Wars magic. I'm convinced they will be able to find a cure for cancer.

If you could accomplish only one major goal by the end of your term, what would it be and why?

My major goal is to reinforce traditional work. If you follow the Ritual and Green Book, you can't go wrong. We need to try and increase quality membership, not just cardholders.

Which OES tenet (Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, or Love) will guide your decisions most this year?

I would say have Faith in God and He will lead the way.

Thank you, Brother Rich, for sharing your thoughts with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Associate Grand Patron and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

Thank you.



Brenda Keepin

Grand Secretary



Congratulations on your re-election as Grand Secretary! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were elected to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

That I am happy to continue as Grand Secretary. I still have lots to learn.

Every office has its hidden challenges. Which challenge are you already strategizing for?

As Grand Secretary, the Chapter Secretaries look to me for guidance on matters concerning petitions, paying taxes, filing forms with the IRS, banking, minutes, etc. Each question is just a little different. The Green Book is very important and useful for answering most of these questions but it changes every year. This means I have to keep up with these changes.

Which OES tenet (Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, or Love) will guide your decisions most this year?

Love. I deal with many people in the office of Grand Secretary and it's important to show love and respect to everyone.

Outside the Chapter room, where might we find you on a perfect Saturday?

Perfect Sunday will find me in my PJs in my sewing room.

After your term wraps up, how would you like fellow members to describe your impact in one word?

I hope my fellow members will describe my impact as "kindly helpful."

Thank you, Sister Brenda, for sharing your thoughts with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Secretary and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

Thank you.



Margaret Nathurst

Grand Treasurer



Congratulations, Sister Margaret, on your reelection as Grand Treasurer! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were reelected to become part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the first thought that crossed your mind?

I am so very thankful that the members have confident in my abilities to continue to elect me to serve as Grand Treasurer.

Tell us a little about your journey to Eastern Star—who or what first inspired you to join?

I was privileged to have a mother who was a devoted member of the Order and who lived her obligations. As a charter member of Temple Assembly No. 46, International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Jacksonville, many Past Grand Matrons, Past Grand Patrons and dedicated members of the Order of the Eastern Star, set wonderful examples for us to follow, as well as a legacy of love for the Order.

Which previous Chapter or Grand Chapter role has shaped you the most, and how?

When I was initiated into Fort Myers Chapter No. 31, we had many Past Grand Officers of Florida and other Grand Jurisdictions that guided and encouraged and as a result over the past 62 years the members of my chapter have always shaped my love for the Order and the members with their kindness, understanding and encouragement.

What makes the Order special to you personally?

This is an easy question. It is the members and their friendship and love that makes the Order special to me personally.

Every office has its hidden challenges. Which challenge are you already strategizing for?

Every month of the year it can be a challenge to meet all the deadlines and timelines required in fulfilling my duties as Grand Treasurer. It takes constancy in meeting all the requirements and self-discipline to do the work required.

If you could accomplish only one major goal by the end of your term, what would it be and why?

A major goal that I would like to accomplish is to be helpful to the Secretaries and Treasurers so that no chapter would receive an irregularity form for any improper or uncompleted act by the chapter Secretary or Treasurer.

Which OES tenet (Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, or Love) will guide your decisions most this year?

Faith: faith in the members, their love, wisdom and kindness; most of all in God to lead our paths as we strive to live up to the lessons of each tenet.

Give us a snapshot of who you are—family, career, hobbies.

My wonderful daughter, Sheryl, and my grandson, Logan, are the light and joy of my life.

Outside the Chapter room, where might we find you on a perfect Saturday?

Relaxing and playing with Buddy and Simba, our two dogs.

Share a fun fact about yourself that most Sisters and Brothers don't know.

(laughs) I really am crazy and not prim and proper all the time.

Fast-forward five years: how do you hope the Order will have evolved?

I hope that our Order will have grown and that all the members would always be loving and kind in all their actions, realizing what a privilege it is to belong to an organization such as ours.

What advice would the "future-you" give the "today-you" about serving as Grand Treasurer?

Be prepared to give up a lot of free time to perform the duties of the Grand Treasurer but know that every moment is worth the time and effort you put forth.

After your term wraps up, how would you like fellow members to describe your impact in one word?

Lovingly

Thank you so very much, Sister Margaret, for sharing your thoughts with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Treasurer and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

Thank you for all that you do for us to have the enjoyment of reading the Stargazer.

I appreciate your kind words!





Jolene Goodwin

Grand Conductress



Congratulations on your election as Grand Conductress! I know you are excited.

Thank you. I sure am!

Tell us a little about your journey to Eastern Star—who or what first inspired you to join?

My father was instrumental in me joining Eastern Star. When I turned eighteen, he was very persistent, but I was not ready. I was a freshman at Florida State University and had no aspirations to join. His persistence finally paid off in 1988. I told him I would only join where I knew someone, since I was living in Tallahassee and did not know anyone in Eastern Star. I thought I had given him a reasonable answer, and he would relent. Boy, was I wrong! Being an Air Force retired Lieutenant Colonel pilot just sent him on a mission. He immediately contacted Myrtle Baird who was a member at Miracle Chapter No. 306 in Panama City Beach and between the two of them, they got the ball rolling. Joel and Myrtle Baird were military friends of my parents, who I am named after. Dad knew he could count on Myrtle to accomplish this mission. He traveled to Tallahassee from Belleview to drive me to Seagrove Beach for my investigation. Myrtle took care of the paperwork since I lived in a different district and their persistence paid off. I was initiated into Miracle Chapter No. 306 on December 20, 1988. My Mom was there for my initiation, but Dad never became an Eastern Star, so he could not attend. However, he was there afterwards to place my Eastern Star ring on my finger. Every first and third Tuesday he would drive me to Panama City Beach for meetings and drive me back to Tallahassee after the meeting so I could make it to work the next morning. In February 1990 I was elected as Associate Conductress, a few months after that I moved to Panama City to become an active member of the chapter. I am extremely grateful for his persistence. It has afforded me opportunities to grow and succeed.

If you could accomplish only one major goal by the end of your term, what would it be and why?

Membership growth. We need to reflect on our obligation and stop polarizing our Order. How can we attract new members when the actions of existing members are causing dissension in our chapters and members are leaving and not coming back? Unkind words and actions are all too often becoming the norm in our chapters, resulting in chapters surrendering their charters because feelings have been hurt and members are not attending. Why should they support their chapter when their chapter doesn't support them? We need to put aside our differences and agree to disagree.

The chapter room should be a sanctuary for our members not a battleground. By correcting the internal turmoil, we can make Eastern Star a more inviting place for others to want to join. Sometimes you may not respect the person, but you should respect the title. We should all try to put aside our differences during a meeting and focus on how we can strengthen our chapters through loving kindness. We are all sisters and brothers; we should be depending upon one another not alienating one another. One positive gesture could be the turning point in saving your chapter, and our beautiful order.

Share a fun fact about yourself that most Sisters and Brothers don't know.

I was an FSU Marching Chief, oh the memories! I played the flute. One of the best memories was attending the 1984 Super Bowl in Tampa when FSU and UF did a combined band pre-game show. I still support the Marching Chiefs today. The football team may be struggling, but the Marching Chiefs have never lost a halftime show. The Hymn to the Garnet and The Gold still bring tears to my eyes. Go Noles! MCATDT!

Fast-forward five years: how do you hope the Order will have evolved?

I hope our Order will see growth through positivity where peace and harmony will prevail over hurtful negativity.

What advice would future-you give to today-you about serving in this office?

Stay true to your convictions, don't give up, there will be struggles but it will be worth it in the end. Take advice from your mentors and peers, and make your decisions based on what you think is the best option. Continue to work for the good of the order. Focus on the positive and remember to do something today to make somebody smile because you never know it might just change the world.

Thank you, Sister Jolene, for sharing with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Conductress and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

It was my pleasure sharing with you. I look forward to serving the Grand Chapter and making wonderful memories with the Leduc/Schrock Grand Family. Carla, thank you for your dedication as Stargazer Editor.

Thank you for your kind words!



Karen Sargent-Rankl

Associate Grand Conductress



Congratulations on your election as Associate Grand Conductress! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

OMG! What was I thinking? What if I lose my mind during this long journey? LOL! Really, I am most honored that the members chose me for this journey.

Give us a snapshot about you and your family.

I grew up on a farm in Kentucky. The first of seven children, born to Millard and Louise Bradford Sargent, began the fifth generation, in my masonic family. It was expected that I be a dedicated and faithful Rainbow Girl, then a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. I don't really remember it being a choice, just the way we grew up. Always involved in Lodge, Rainbow and Eastern Star functions. After graduating from college, I returned to Kentucky to work at a local hospital and my home chapter.

My professional career, spanning 54-years, included managerial positions as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Manager of Medical Develop, Sr. Clinical Research Associate, a Trainer, Global Project Manager, and Director of Quality Assurance in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries (Bristol Myers Squibb, GE Medical Systems, Polaris Compliance Consultants). A lot of travel, willingness to learn, and no fear of doing the riskier jobs others were afraid to take on.

How did you meet your spouse?

Being a career oriented and independent woman, everyone was surprised when Ray and I met at work and eventually married. None more surprised than me. It was all about a career. Marriage and family were not on my radar. But meeting Ray with two wonderful daughters, Erica and Christi, melted the heart and changed my life forever. Becoming a mom to two beautiful and smart stepdaughters, whom we encouraged to become well-educated, strong, self-sufficient, and independent career women, has been most rewarding. I'm very proud of my daughters.

What brought you to Florida?

We relocated to Florida in 2001 for Ray's work. Since my job was all travel-related it didn't matter where we lived as long as there was an airport.

Grandkids? Fur-kids?

Our lovely 12-year-old granddaughter, Alex, is our shining star. She excels in everything from competitive dance to

to academics. At age two she told us she was going to be a "betinarian" as she cuddled and cared for her puppy, George. As Alex has grown, her goal has not wavered. She has always wanted to be a veterinarian, and we wholeheartedly support her goal. She will be a very compassionate and dedicated veterinarian.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that most Sisters and Brothers don't know about you?

I was lucky to have a traveling job since 1980 and have been to all 50 states, all Canadian provinces five of the seven continents. With so much international travel, I had banked over a million Delta frequent flier miles to use for a retirement trip to Australia and New Zealand, When we were thirty-six hours in Australia, the pandemic happened! The tour company cancelled the trip, and we were back on the plane to the US. Within 12 hours of returning home, we received a text message and an email from the U.S. State Department informing us we were under quarantine for two weeks. Our daughter would place groceries at the garage door and send a text that our food was delivered. Technically, I've visited six of seven continents, but I don't count that as a true visit. I just want my retirement trip back!

What makes Eastern Star special to you?

Rainbow was a launching pad for public speaking and leadership skills. Learning to conquer fear when speaking to a group was probably the biggest help, and it taught essential career skills like cooperation, teamwork, flexibility to lead or follow depending on the committee or the task at hand. I was initiated in March 1971 into Electa Chapter No. 3 Greenup, Kentucky.

Eastern Star has always been a part of my life. With my active parents, the Lodge, Eastern Star, and Rainbow Girls, I didn't know there was another way to live. My vision for OES is 4-fold: Promote loving kindness, peace and harmony; focus on the community outreach to build OES name recognition; and promote aid and education for the needy and homeless children in our communities.

Do you have any thoughts for newer members?

Don't be intimidated by the ritualistic work during the opening or initiation. It will come with repetition. Don't be afraid to ask for help from other members. They will feel complimented that you asked.

Thank you, Sister Karen, for sharing your story with our readers. We look forward to seeing your journey to the East!

My pleasure and thank you!





Mickey Brown

Grand Sentinel



Congratulations on your election as Grand Sentinel! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were elected to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

First of all, I was excited to be elected. It has been a long journey. I have been running off and on since 2011. I campaigned with Sandy some when she was running and Dayle and I were Grand Spouses together in 2004-2005. Our wives were Grand Officers for Past Grand Matron Joy Feit. It was like I was already a member of their family in a different manner. It is also special because many of the other Grand Officers have been a special part of my life in other capacities.

Tell us a little about your journey to Eastern Star—who or what first inspired you to join?

Growing up I didn't know if any of my relatives were Masons. My dad was a member of the Lions Club. It wasn't until Covid hit that I learned that my great great-grandfather Nelson Mixon was a Mason. I found a picture of his grave in a cemetery in Alabama on Find-A-Grave. There was the Masonic symbol. My exposure to Masonry came through my wife Roberta and her family. Her father, mother and twin sister were Eastern Stars. After we got married, she moved her membership from her Alabama chapter to Jay Chapter No. 208. Past Grand Matron, Anita Atkins, took her under her wing. They traveled together everywhere. One time, they went on a bus trip to Miami to an honor night for Pat Williams. She told me some cockamamie story about how the bus broke down and they had to get another one which made them late getting there. So, I began asking questions about why this guy Pat Williams was so important that they would travel over six hundred miles to be there. She told me if I was so curious, I should become a Mason. I did and then immediately joined the Order of the Eastern Star. Never have I made so many new friends so fast. And then, on one of my first travels, I met Sister Patricia Williams the year before she became Worthy Grand Matron. I was relieved.

Which OES tenet (Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, or Love) will guide your decisions most this year?

My wife was Grand Adah, so think I will say Fidelity. I like to be referred to as a man of his word who will keep his promises. It's funny, I have a Merriam Webster dictionary app on my cell phone. When I looked up the word fidelity, it gave me synonyms of constancy, faith and loyalty.

Share a fun fact about yourself that most Sisters and Brothers don't know.

In 2005, I went on my first OES cruise which was for Past Grand Matron Joy Feit. As I was about to disembark the ship, two customs agents and a security guard came to arrest me on drug charges. I thought this was a "you're on candid camera" prank. It took some time to convince them that I was not the convicted felon named William Brown born on April 7, 1950 they were looking for. The only thing that saved me was one of the custom agents realized that I had just renewed my driver's license. This also gave me trouble buying a gun and getting my concealed weapons license. If they had only checked our middle names, they would have known I wasn't him.

Goodness, that is an interesting story!

(laughs) Sure is!

After your term wraps up, how would you like fellow members to describe your impact in one word?

Fun. There is a time when we must be serious. It is important that we do our ritualistic work without any clowning around, but we should be able to enjoy going to meetings and having a good time with our Sisters and Brothers.

Thank you, Brother Mickey, for sharing your thoughts with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Sentinel and look forward to watching you continue your journey in the Order of the Eastern Star!

It was my pleasure!

Appointed Officers





Beth Chag

Grand Chaplain



Congratulations, Sister Beth, on your appointment as Grand Chaplain! I know you are excited. when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

Honestly, the first thing was that I thought a mistake had been made. BUT I was thrilled to have the opportunity, especially because I am so fond of Sister Sandy.

Can you give our readers snapshot of who you are—family, career, hobbies?

I have proudly lived my whole life in Florida (Jacksonville, Middleburg, Gainesville, Orlando) but things have changed here and I'm toying with the idea of leaving the state. I met my husband, Chris Chag, while working at Cox Radio. The story is a funny one but super long to tell, so you'll just have to wonder. He passed away in March of 2020. I have two super amazing genius babies: Hazel who is 22 and studying environmental science at UCF and Dirk, who is 20 and studying game design at UCF. Both have beautiful kind hearts. I work in the Communications field, as a Valencia College professor and the producer and host of a public affairs radio show. I also do a little of this and that on the side. Gig economy and all that. I was a Girl Scout leader for 13 years. I enjoy studying politics, doing word puzzles, reading about history (particularly 18th and 19th century U.S. history). I like watching space launches because it always reminds me of what people can accomplish when they work together and advancing the knowledge of how our planet and universe work. I still study early space programs and follow JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) accomplishments. I enjoy shopping for art and antiques at garage sales, visit museums because I'm interested in art history, and enjoying nature wherever possible. I like topical and sketch comedy—a lot! I like making stuff—whatever that might mean. Also, I want to start a garden. (winks) People might not know I was once a writer for a sketch comedy troupe.

Just one more question, what makes you you?

I am very much into sustainability as I believe that it is every human's responsibility to leave the world a cleaner place than she entered it. I am a Christian who believes ALL people of all faiths must be respected and treated with dignity—and that we accomplish more together because good ideas come from all corners. Therefore, I am a person who believes that the American dream and success is based in diversity, equity, and inclusion. I believe women's voices must be heard and I believe that truth matters, so I stay off social media. These are my beliefs because they allow me to manifest a better world for my two amazing children.

What are your Eastern Star roots?

I was a majority Rainbow Girl but didn't go straight into OES. I joined Pioneer Chapter back in 2008-ish. Chris was a member of Winter Park 239 and we joined OES together. I've been every star point multiple times (just once as Martha), Chaplain, Conductress, Associate Matron, and Worthy Matron. My favorite is Esther with Ruth a close second. Both share a lesson of sacrificing for others. BUT I love serving as Chaplain.

Do you have a favorite Eastern Star memory?

I get a kick out of the opportunities to volunteer in the community. When I was Worthy Matron, our Chapter members graciously helped out with so many efforts: writing greeting cards for seniors, donating to a dog rescue, marching for Seniors First, collecting for the children at a women's shelter, donating to a workforce program and more.

What makes the Order special to you personally?

Its spirit of community. Eastern Star has given me a sense of purpose. I also appreciate the mentoring that "older" members offer to the other women in their Chapters. It has been a constant in my family's life; my children grew up with my husband at lodge or me at Chapter.

What is your vision for the Order of Eastern Star?

To continue to build community among our members and to positively impact our local communities. We know we need to increase membership, but we have to let people know who we are and what we offer. Statistics show that in our society people are lonely, but they don't 'join' anything anymore. The community we can offer is of tremendous value to the people who join us and our Chapters will benefit from the energy and talents those people could offer us. But you don't know what you don't know. We have to have a presence in our community.

A pearl of advice for newer members?

Actually, my advice is for older members, especially Worthy Matrons: give new members a way to be involved. Ask. People want to contribute. And assign new members a mentor so they can ask questions. Remember to have fun!

Sister Beth, thank you for sharing your story. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Chaplain with the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

The Leduc-Schrock Grand Family is amazing; each one of these sisters and brothers just radiates kindness, joy, and good humor. I am privileged to travel and spend time with them. And it has been so fun to meet people around the state and enjoy their kind hospitality.





Rena Buckley

Grand Marshal



Congratulations on your appointment Grand Marshal! I know you are excited!

I sure am! I am really enjoying myself!

Can you tell everyone a little bit about yourself?

I was born in Winter Park Hospital and grew up in Maitland, attending Lake Highland Prep in Orlando. My family also had a home in the mountains of NC and those glorious mountains call my name quite often. I hold a nursing degree, but I no longer work as a nurse.

How about your family, career, hobbies?

A snapshot would have to include my three sons, Adam, Jason and Spencer and, of course, my granddaughter Fiona. Adam holds a PhD in genetics and is Fiona's daddy. My middle son, Jason, is a medical doctor specializing in Family Medicine, currently working as a hospitalist at Halifax Hospital. And everyone should know my Spencer, who is the best escort a grand officer could have.

He is the best! Everyone was proud of him at Grand Chapter.

(Big smile)

What is your favorite Eastern Star station?

My favorite station is Marshal as I love to look out at the room, especially when there are sideliners as well as officers in their chairs. I chose Pioneer because it was my mother's Chapter. My son, Jason, is a 5th generation Mason and my father was also a member of Winter Park Lodge.

Do you have a special or favorite memory of Eastern Star?

A favorite memory of Star is my initiation, as Sister Marcia Burks was my Conductress, and she is still very special to me. I have made so many close friends whom I cherish and, of course, Sister Sandy as we bonded when we were both first-time Worthy Matrons years ago.

Any closing thoughts?

I am enjoying my year as a grand officer very much as I have made new friends and become closer to old ones. Thank you all for making this year a fun one for the grand officers as we are clearly having a great time!

Thank you, Sister Rena, for sharing your story with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as {Grand Marshal and look forward to watching you shine in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

It was my pleasure!



Sharon Link

Grand Organist



Congratulations on your appointment as Grand Organist! I know you are excited.

I sure am!

Tell our readers a little about yourself.

I am a retired registered nurse. I ride bicycles, play the piano and dulcimer.

How did you meet your spouse?

I met Hank while playing in musical jams.

Do you have any children or grandchildren?

Together Hank and I have five children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Among them, there are three nurses, one fireman, one police officer, and the rest are planning to finish school.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that most Sisters and Brothers don't know about you?

In 1997, when I was 55, I traveled cross-country by bicycle from Seattle, Washington to Washington, DC. It was a fundraiser for The American Lung Association.

What activities keep you busy when you are not participating with Star?

Hank and I love to travel. We have visited all 48 contiguous states on our motorbikes and camped in a tent nearly every night.

What are your Eastern Star roots?

My father who was a committed Mason, paying his dues even when he wasn't active. I joined Eastern Star in 2001. I have served as Electa, Organist, and was Worthy Matron in 2008 and 2009. Organist is my favorite station, and I really like the Starpoint lectures. I also enjoy visiting other chapters and playing for them.

What makes Eastern Star special to you?

The charities our Order supports and the fellowship. At age 82, I enjoy making new friends and fellowshiping at other chapters.

Any advice for newer members?

Stay with it and go through all the chairs.

Thank, you Sister Sharon, for sharing your story with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Organist and look forward to watching you shine in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

It's my pleasure.



Susan Metcalf

Grand Adah



Congratulations on your appointment as Grand Adah! I know you are excited. Tell me, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family?

I was shocked and awed by this. I still am. I was asked during the Honor Night for Sister Sandy and Brother Dayle in June of 2024. I had just had a conversation with Sister Lois A Wolfe about how I would not expect to ever be in a Grand Family and then less than 10 minutes later was asked - talk about irony!

What can you tell our readers about yourself—family, career, hobbies?

Well, I am a semi-retired Adult Nurse Practitioner and specialize in Pulmonary and Sleep for the last 25 years. Prior to that, I was a Trauma and ICU Registered Nurse. I'm an avid reader and enjoy history, doing needlepoint when I have time, and travel. My family lived in New Jersey and New York. I'm the oldest of four children: , two sisters and two brothers. One of my brothers is now deceased. I have one stepsister and my stepbrother who is also deceased. My mother, who is 90, lives with my husband and me.

How did you meet your spouse?

I have known my husband, Gary, since high school. I didn't really like him at first. He was friends with my younger brother whom I did not get along growing up. Gary and I got reacquainted at that same brother's wedding in 1982. We dated until 1985 when we lost touch with each other. In 2000 we reconnected and have been married ever since. We moved to Florida after we got married.

Can you reveal a fun fact about yourself that most Sisters and Brothers don't know?

Gary and I enjoy really bad movies and rank them in horribleness against the movie Eric the Viking which is very, very BAD!

I've seen that one! Yes, very bad! Have you seen Plan 9 from Outer Space It's supposed to be the worst movie ever made. Let me know how you rank it against Eric the Viking!

Sure will!

What keeps you busy when you're not participating with Star or Masons?

I try to stay active with family, friends, church and my spiritual organization. I haven't fully retired. Not sure I ever will. (laughs) I want to travel as much as I can when I can either with our motorhome or travel to Europe.

My ultimate goal is to see Australia and walk across the Sydney Bridge AND I'd like to bungee-jump from the original bungee-jump bridge in New Zealand.

What does a perfect day off look like for you?

Cooking for my friends and family and spending time enjoying their company.

Tell your readers about your OES journey. When and where did you first join OES and what offices have you held?

My husband I were initiated Feb 14, 2007 into Melbourne 106. I found out later from a cousin my member had been a member of the Order in Staten Island, New York. I am in my 5th turn as Worthy Matron; my 6th will be next year. I have served once as secretary and chaplain. I now serve as Adah in one of my three chapters. Most of my time has been in the line. I have been Grand Representative to Utah and Grand Instructor two times. Grand Representative was my favorite before being asked to be Grand Adah.

Do you have a favorite Eastern Star memory?

Being able to attend Grand Chapter of Utah with my mother, BettyAnne, who was just initiated the week before.

What makes the Order special to you personally?

The reverence and fellowship - I've formed lasting friendships. I especially love the charity work we do while supporting each other.

What is your vision for OES as it moves forward?

I would like to see our membership increase with members who desire to continue this organization.

Any advice for new members?

Relax, make friends, have fun!

Any final thoughts for our readers?

Again, what an honor to be Grand Adah. I am walking in the footsteps of some very big shoes and hope I can be as good an example as those who came before me. What a wonderful Grand Family this is, being a part of it will be a memory for my lifetime.

Thank you, Sister Susan, for sharing your story with us. Good luck in your year as Grand Adah and look forward in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

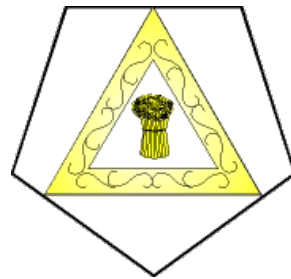
Thank you, Carla, for taking this time with me.





Debbie Whiteman

Grand Ruth



Congratulations on your appointment as Grand Ruth! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

I was so shocked, I just blurted out, "Are you sure?"

Give us a snapshot of who you are—family, career, hobbies.

I am all about my family. My children live within an 8-mile radius of me, so we see each other often. My sister lives three miles up the street from me with her two boys. We are all very close. I work part-time for a Neuropsychologist and really enjoy it. I am also a Guardian ad Litem volunteer for Escambia County.

I lost my husband 4 years ago to cancer. I live with my cat, Cajun, and have a son and daughter who are both married.

My condolences on the loss of your husband. I'm sure it's been hard for you.

Thank you. I have my good days and bad. Cajun's been good for me.

Do you have grandchildren?

Oh yes! Both of my children have two children each, a boy and a girl. I live for my "littles" and get them every chance I can. They are stair-step ages — 7, 5, 4, and 3 and are very active. They do wear me out at times!

Have you always lived in Florida? If not, what brought you here?

I moved around a lot as a child while my dad climbed the corporate ladder. In 1990 I moved to Pensacola where my parents had retired. I have never lived far from my mother, so it was really no surprise I followed them a year after they moved.

What keeps you busy when you're not at Star meetings? Hobbies, passions, guilty pleasures?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, going to my grandchildren's ball games—stuff like that. My parttime work frees me up to spend time with my "littles" and, of course, preparing for Star meetings.

I love working in my yard. You know, there is just something about getting your hands in the dirt. I grow strawberries, tomatoes, and sweet peppers.

And a perfect day?

Ahh (dreamy smile), floating in the pool on a nice day.

Tell our readers about your Eastern Star journey. When did you become a member and what officers have you held?

I joined Eastern Star in 2006 as a member of Myrtle Grove No. 302 before making Ensley No. 244 by primary chapter.

I started in Esther's chair and served that station for two years before moving to Associate Conductress. I did go through the chairs and became Worthy Matron the first time in 2015. Since then, I have been Worthy Matron two more times (in a row!), and I serve as Conductress at Myrtle Grove. When I served as Worthy Matron in 2023-24, we started a district "game night. It turned out to be a lot of fun and very successful.

Tell us a bit about your Masonic affiliations and how they shaped your OES path.

Both of my children were involved in the Masonic youth programs. I was part of the board for my daughter's Rainbow Assembly. When my daughter was in Rainbow, I got the lodges to start "adopting" Rainbow girls in an effort to help the girls to attend Grand Assembly. I continue to be involved with the Masonic Association.

What makes the Order special to you personally?

When my Uncle passed, OES held the Eastern Star service for him. It was so moving. When I looked at my Aunt, I knew right then I wanted to be a member. Until then, I had no idea what Masonry or Eastern Star was, but I knew I wanted to be part of it. She is a 50-year member, and Eastern Star is something that we now do together.

Do you have a pearl of advice for newer members?

Get involved! You will get so much more of meetings and create some lasting friendships.

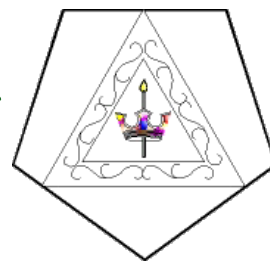
Thank you, Sister Debbie! it has been a pleasure to have you share your story with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Ruth in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family.

Thank you!



Elizabeth von Neumann

Grand Esther



Congratulations on your appointment as Grand Esther! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

I honestly could not believe that she asked me. I mean how could I be someone she would choose? How could I be so honored? So yes, I cried proud and happy tears. She asked me to think about what she was asking and for me to talk to my husband before I answered her. So, I did but I thought how could I turn her down? My husband said he would support me, and of course, I told her yes!

Can you give our readers a snapshot of who you are—family, career, hobbies?

I was born in Maryland because my biological father was in the Coast Guard, but my family moved back to Florida when I was a baby. My mom remarried when I was 5 and he was the best thing that could have ever happened to me and my mom. I will be 45 in August. I work at Plato Academy, a charter school that has grades K-8th grade, in the front office as Student Support Staff, and I am also on the PTO board as the fundraising chair. I was raised as an only child, but I do one half-brother, two half-sisters, one step-brother, and one step-sister. I meet my husband online, and we will celebrate our 10-year anniversary in January. Between the two of us, we have five children. My bonus son CJ, just turned 30 and lives in Pensacola. My son JohnRay is 19 and is trying to get a job with the Sheriff Department. My daughter Katie is 16, is in Grand Service for Florida Rainbow and going to school at TECH High for nursing. My husband and I adopted our 2 youngest boys from foster care. Gabriel is 10 and doing well in school. I think one day he will be a gamer. Israel is 7 and is all about baseball. I do believe his love for the game will lead him places. All together I have been a mother to 16 foster children. I love doing arts and crafts..

What makes you you when you're not busy with Eastern Star?

I like to go line dancing on the Saturday nights I am in town, and I try to learn a new dance every time I go. I like to sing and am a part of our church's praise team. I am the Pledge mom for Largo's Beautiful Butterflies and the Grand Choir mom for Grand Assembly. When we take time to visit my in-laws, I like to go hunting.

Would you be willing to share a fun fact about yourself that that most Sisters and Brothers do not know?

I have been sky diving which was amazing. My husband says that one of my fun facts is that I must put up with him. Little does he know he is putting up with me! (laughs)

Tell everyone about your Eastern Star journey.

My grandfather was a 32nd Mason. When I joined, I then learned that I have many family members who were Masons and my grandmother was also in Star. I do not think I would have learned that if I did not join. I joined OES in 2020, Terri and Sara Justice signed my petition as they knew my daughter through Rainbow. My first station at Magnolia Chapter No. 101 was Esther. In 2022, I became a plural member with Gulf Beach Chapter No. 241. Gulf Beach was about to close its door in 2023 because we didn't have someone who was willing to be Worthy Matron. I felt the call to step up and be Worthy Matron. Even being as new as I was, I would only do it if the Chapter wanted me to. Two years later, here we are, and I still can't believe how much I have learned over these past few years. I couldn't have done any of it without the help of all the members at Magnolia and Gulf Beach. Other offices I have held are Esther, Marshal, Associate Conductress, Conductress, and Worthy Matron. I love floor work, so it is hard to choose between Marshal and Conductress.

Do have a favorite Eastern Star memory?

My first official was with Sister Sandy Leduc and when the evening was over and she was saying her remarks she called me up and said, "I think you lied to me." Of course, I was shocked, and I started to cry because I would never lie to her. She then proceeded to say that there was no way I was a first time Worthy Matron because I had done such a lovely job. Of course, I cried some more because I only wanted to make the chapter proud.

A pearl of advice for newer members?

I feel every new member should have someone to talk with them and show them what they need to know. And that they are free to ask questions no matter how silly they think they might be.

Any closing thoughts?

I truly am honored to be a Grand Officer, and my only hope is that I will make all the members of Florida proud. I would also like to say we have a wonderful grand family, and our Mama and Papa chose the perfect sisters and brother for us.

Thank you, Sister Elizabeth, for sharing your story with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Esther and look forward to watching you shine in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

Thank you for allowing me to tell you a little bit about myself. I look forward to serving all of you this year.



Sara Cruz

Grand Martha



Congratulations on your appointment as Grand Martha! I know you are excited. Tell me, when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind?

I'm not sure I can remember my exact thoughts, but I was most certainly honored to be asked! I was also excited and maybe a bit nervous to find out which office I was selected for and to see who else would be in our Grand Family! When we met for our reveal weekend, I was delightfully surprised to find out that I already knew a few of them to some degree. Once we learned which offices we would hold, I was even more excited for this year, as I was hoping to be either Grand Marshal like my mom, Terri Justice, or Grand Martha like my Fraternal Mama, Sandy!

Can you give our readers some tidbits about yourself?

I was born and raised in Florida. I have one older sister, but so many more Masonic Sisters and Brothers. I grew up in the Masonic family as a 4th generation Rainbow Girl, following my mother - Terri Justice, my Nana, and my great grandmother. I joined Star 13 years ago when I turned 18. I work in OB/GYN office as a "Patient Access Representative." I mostly do check in and check out, but occasionally I work in our phone center. This November will be my 10-year anniversary with Women's Care.

How did you meet your spouse?

I guess you could say we are a "modern day fairy tale" story. Dago and I met online on a dating app during "Covid Summer" in August 2020. We quickly bonded over our mutual love of Disney! We talked for just a couple of days before deciding we wanted to meet and what better place to meet than at Disney! So, we met at Disney Springs for dinner. Then one week later we spent a wonderful day at The Magic Kingdom together and about a week after that we "made things official" on 09/03/2020. Fast forward to 09/03/2021, we went to Disney for the weekend to celebrate our anniversary, during which he proposed! We loved the idea of keeping the same anniversary date for each important step of our relationship and had our "Happily Ever After" wedding on 09/03/2022. Dago and I are currently living in the home I grew up in!

Kids? Grandkids?

No kids yet. (smiling) But we're hoping to start a family within the next year or so. I do have two nephews, Cooper and Hudson, who will be 10 and 4 in July this year.

Any hobbies, passions, guilty pleasures?

Of course, Disney as I mentioned before, but I also love cruising! I've only been on two so far, but I'm so looking forward to the WGM's Cruise in January!

Tell us about your Star journey.

I was a 4th generation Rainbow Girl. I grew up in and around IORG as mom was the Mother Advisor for St. Pete Assembly No. 5 well before I was even born and up until about 2001 when she

joined the advisory board at Largo Assembly No. 86, later becoming Mother Advisor of Largo. I joined Largo Assembly in March 2005. I served as Worthy Advisory several times - I think 5 times? During my time in Rainbow, I held two Grand Representative appointments and three Grand Officer appointments. As a member, I was honored to receive The Grand Cross of Color and served on the Grand Cross team a few times. I was initiated into Magnolia Chapter No. 101 in May 2012, right after I turned 18! I've been Ruth, Marshal, Associate Conductress, Conductress, and Worthy Matron. Ironically, I was installed as Martha in my plural chapter before I found out I was going to be Grand Martha! I'm not sure I have one favorite - I like Marshal and Martha, but I also enjoy Conductress!

Do you have a favorite Eastern Star memory?

A very memorable and slightly funny story is from the Official Visit during my term as Worthy Matron last year! We had Sister Debbie visiting, so naturally I planned a Disney themed courtesy - we took her on a "tour" of Walt Disney World complete with a portion of The Happily Ever After fireworks projected in our west. HOWEVER, the power went out just before we did silver drill and I was devastated for a few minutes, thinking we weren't going to be able to take her on her tour! Thankfully, the power came back on in a short period of time. In the end we were able to pull off the fireworks projection and Sister Debbie absolutely loved it!

A pearl of advice for newer members?

Get out and visit our Sisters and Brothers! We all love having visitors/sideliners at our meetings, but also, it's way more fun when you do more than just attend your own meetings. Some of my closest friends from Rainbow and OES are from other areas of the state, even some from other states or countries! Attending Grand Chapter and honor nights/special events or visiting other chapters gives you the opportunity to make friends you may not know if you only attend your own meetings.

Any final thoughts or shout-outs?

A HUGE thank you to Sister Sandy, WGM and my Fraternal Mama for believing in me and selecting me as one of her appointed officers. I also would like to thank you, Sister Carla, for your time and dedication to the Stargazer! You do such beautiful work!

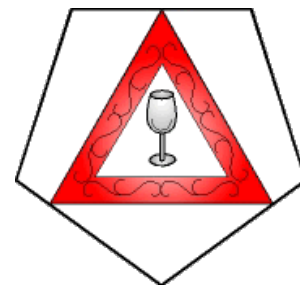
Thank you, Sister Sara, for your kind words, and sharing your story with our Stargazer readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Martha with the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

You're welcome! I know we are going to have a wonderful year! Again, thank you for your hard work on our Stargazer!



Chris Ross

Grand Electa



Congratulations, Sister Chris, on your appointment as Grand Electa! I know you are excited. Tell me, what was the very first thought that crossed your mind when you were asked to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family?

Really?? My eyes filled with tears and Sandy said, "Don't cry! They'll know I asked you!" (laughing)

Give us an insight of who you are—family, career, hobbies.

I was born in the Panama Canal Zone where my dad served in the Air Force. I spent many formative years there.

Kids? Grandkids? Fur-kids?

I have a daughter, stepdaughter and stepson, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Work life or retirement: what keeps you busy?

I'm a semi-retired Executive Assistant. After retiring in 2011 they asked me to come back in 2014 part-time, and I've been working since then. I love being able to engage with people!

Tell us about your Eastern Star journey.

In 2011 my husband was Worshipful Master of the High Springs Lodge, and he asked if we could join OES. Of course, I said yes! The different offices I have held are Ruth, Associate Conductress, Chaplain, and have gone through the line to become Worthy Matron. My favorite office was Chaplain, but now it is Electa!

What makes the Order special to you personally?

My Eastern Star family have been with me through the loss of my darling husband, Ben. They have lifted me up and supported me and have certainly been keeping me busy! But what makes OES special to me is the friendships I've made, not only in my chapter and district, but at Grand Chapter, meeting and making new friends!

Any closing thoughts?

It is, indeed, my honor to be a part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family and my prayer is that I will represent them and our state with love and honor.

Thank you, Sister Chris, for sharing your story with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Electa and look forward to watching you shine in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family!

It has been my pleasure!



Gerry Leduc

Grand Warder



Congratulations, Brother Gerry, on your appointment as Grand Warder. You must be excited! What was going through your mind when your wife, Sister Sandy, asked you to be part of the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family?

(laughs) My first thought was I must be crazy, but I will do anything for that woman!

Can you give us a snapshot of who you are? Family, career, hobbies?

Not really much to tell. I'm the oldest of six and grew up in Nashua, New Hampshire. Played a lot of sports, did a lot of mountaineering, and studied martial arts. I worked over 40 years for Lockheed Martin in Finance Management in New Hampshire, Florida, and Texas.

How did you meet your wife?

Sandy and I went to the same high school. When I saw her step off the school bus in 1963, I knew she was the one! We will have been married for 60 years this coming November. In our free time we have always enjoyed hiking in the mountains of New Hampshire or North Carolina.

Any children? Grandkids?

We have one daughter, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Our adopted daughter passed away at the young age of 40 and taught us all many lessons in life.

I am sorry for your loss. May light perpetual shine upon her soul.

Thank you.

Can you tell us something about your Masonic and OES journey?

Sandy and I joined Eastern Star in New Hampshire over 30 years ago. Both of us have found that no matter where we lived, we always made friends with Star members.

I have served in several Masonic Orders and was Past Master in New Hampshire. In Eastern Star, I have been Marshal, Warder, Associate Patron and am the Past Patron of Orlando Chapter No. 131. I have always enjoyed the ritual Work of our OES Order.

Thank you, Brother Gerry, for sharing some of your life with our readers. We wish you every success in your year as Grand Warder in the Leduc-Schrock Grand Family.

It's been my pleasure!



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