

# Grand Representatives Association of New Jersey

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to All Grand Representatives, Past and Present.

I hope you all had a blessed Holiday Season. My time as President is winding down and I am a bit sad. This has been a very rewarding and productive year for the Grand Representatives.

We had a wonderful meeting on Saturday, October 5th with the Rainbow Girls. Even though my original plan did not work out, the Girls had a great time dressing up in 18th Century clothing and learning about how women dressed in that time period.

The Committee that put together an instructional booklet completed the task, and the booklets have been handed out at different events around the State to the Grand Representatives, past and present. There are two forms of this booklet, one is a booklet style, and the other is a trifold for the Brothers to be able to have it in their suit pockets. Please be sure to get your copy. The Committee will continue to work on a standard President book for the future Presidents of this Association.

Sister Elsie has the GRANJ pins available for sale. Please see her to get our Association Pin. I have designed and ordered the Past President's pin and a Presidents Pin that could be passed down from President to President. I will have them for our February meeting.

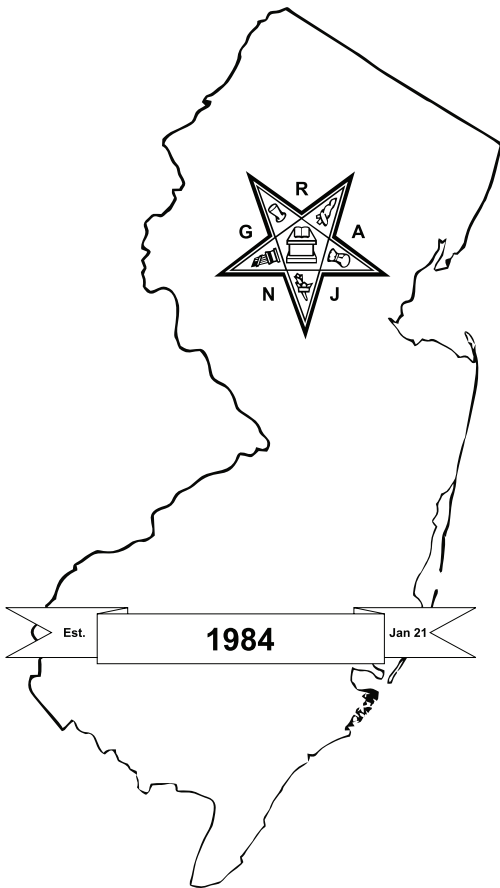
I am hoping to continue the **"Grand Representatives on the Move"** in the Star Journal. This segment will highlight travels of our Grand Representatives as they travel to their jurisdictions and to show how much fun it is to be a Grand Representative.

It has been an honor to serve as President this year. I was also asked to speak at the District Meetings and inform not only the membership but new Grand Representatives about the Association, which I hope continues.

I want to wish Sister Barbara, Sister Heather and our new 2nd Vice President the very best for the respective years. I hope they enjoy being President of the Grand Representatives' Association of New Jersey as much as I have.

Remember, being a Grand Representative is the best seat in the house.

In Star Love and Friendship,  
Lisa Helge, RWGT  
President of the GRANJ



### GRANJ OFFICERS 2024 - 2025

1st Vice Pres.	Barbara Helfrey, GO
2nd Vice Pres.	Heather Shoppas, GO
Secretary	Jennifer Schiffrin, PGO
Treasurer	Dorothy Westdyke, PGO
Chaplain	Debby Mundy, GO
Parliamentarian	Lynn Billingham, PGM
Jewelry Chair	Elsie Van Dusen, PGO
Audit Committee	Alice Good, PGM
	Sue Witty, GO
	David Lorenc, GO
Newsletter	JoAnn Bingenheimer, PGM
Organist	Pamela DeLisa, GO

### District Ambassadors

31	Joan Sharma, PGO, No. 59, 201-218-0516
33	Stephanie Bowen, PGO 908-418-2727
34	Joyce Calabro, GO, No.198, 732-865-3237
35	Adair Ruane, PGO 732-270-5976
36	Virginia "Ginny" Dickinson, GO, No. 155, 609-513-0906
37	Isabella Cooper, PGO, No. 219, 856-371-4008
38	Elizabeth "Bettye" Young, PGO, No. 257, 609-371-0153
39	Kim Lorenc, GO, No.166, 908-537-0151/908-413-4625



## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Sisters and Brothers. Happy New Year. May it be healthy and prosperous for you all. Congratulations to Lisa for a great meeting with the girls, they had a good time trying on the clothes and the adults learned about our history. Don't forget to remit your dues. Looking forward to seeing you all in February. Think about taking an office.

Dottie



**JEWELRY:**

GRANJ pins are available from Sister Elsie Van Dusen for \$10.

**DUES:**

Dues are \$5. Please send them to the secretary, or with your lunch reservations, or pay your Ambassador. Checks should be made payable to GRANJ.

**TO OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS:**

*“...for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if you return unto him.”* 2 Chronicles 30:96 Our prayers are for you to feel the Lord with you and our hugs for you.

**TO THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES:**

*“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:7  
May your memories of cherished times bring you peace during this difficult time.

If someone you know is in need of a card – healing, encouragement, sympathy or joy – please notify the Chaplain, Sister Debby Mundy, PGO – (cell) 908-337-7077

**FROM 1st VICE PRESIDENT**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I was sorry to have missed Lisa’s 18th century tea for the Rainbow Girls. I understand from my daughter and granddaughters that our youth had a pleasant afternoon playing dress up and learning new things about our history from President Lisa Helge, RWGT.

I am sincerely planning that I will be well for my Installation as your next President on February 22.

I went to the Triennial in the fall with 14 members of NJOES. Twelve of those members are also members of GRANJ.

Our MWGM and MWGP are both card carrying members of GRANJ. They were accompanied by 5 PGM’s who are also members. It was a proud time for our group.

We got invited to Oklahoma’s luau because of connections and friendships made by Sister Nancy Rudolph Myers, PGO.

I truly believe that being a Grand Representative is not just the best seat in the house but the best part of Eastern Star.

Happy New Year and I hope to see many of you in February.

Barbara Helfrey  
1st Vice President

**FROM THE 2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

I hope you all had a blessed holiday season and I wish you all a healthy and happy 2025!

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, February 22, 2025. It is an important time as we will be holding elections and our installation of those officers.

Please send your reservation to me at your earliest convenience.

In Star friendship,  
Heather Shoppas  
2nd Vice President

**MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY**

Hello to everyone! I pray everyone had a fun-filled time with family and loved ones during the holidays. As the Secretary, I need to be made aware of changes of address, emails, and sadly, deaths. You can reach out to your District Ambassador, or email me directly with updates. I will have dues cards ready at the February meeting – but remember, **you pay \$5** only once a year (**not every newsletter!**).

Please invite all Grand Representatives, past – present – and future, to join GRANJ as a way to keep in touch and promote excitement among the Rainbow Girls. I look forward to greeting you at the meeting...until then, blessings be yours...

Fraternally,  
Jennifer Schiffrin, PGO  
Secretary, GRANJ

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**GRANJ – MEETING and LUNCHEON**

BURLINGTON MASONIC LODGE  
Route 541 North  
Burlington, NJ 08016

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2025**  
**MEETING 11:00 A.M. LUNCH 12:00 P.M. CONTINUE. MEETING AFTER LUNCH**

MENU: Tossed Salad, Meatloaf, Mac & Cheese, Veggie, Rolls & butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Water

**RESERVATIONS TO:** Sister Heather Shoppas  
517 Fountain Avenue, Burlington, NJ 08016  
Phone: 609-234-6980 • hshoppas@comcast.net

**COST: \$20.00      CHECKS PAYABLE TO – GRANJ**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15TH, 2025**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (Past) GR of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT INCLUDED: : \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATION FORM:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE NOMINATED FOR: \_\_\_\_\_