

NEBRASKA OES NEWS

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“Let Your Light Shine”



Jottings from

Jan: Thank you to each and everyone that had a part in helping make Grand

Chapter a success again this year.. The Younes staff as always did a wonderful job

Meet your Worthy Grand Matron

Sheli Rice:

Sheli was born at Ehrling Bergquist USAF Hospital, located at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. As a child of a military family, she grew up in a variety of places including Okinawa, Japan (Kadena Airforce Base), Key West, Florida (Key West Naval Air Station) and Tinley Park, IL. With her Mom and Dad, Stanley and Claudia Jurek; older brothers Kenneth and Warren and younger sister, Erika, the family returned to Offutt where Sheli completed High School at Bellevue West.

After graduation she attended College of Saint Mary in Omaha earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Legal Administration and began work as the Office Manager at Technical Support, Inc., a Software Engineering and Hardware Manufacturing company designing and building ballot scanning devices used in national elections. Sheli returned to school to earn an MBA from Creighton University in 1998.

Sheli and Bryan met in her senior year of high school and were married October of 1994. Bryan completed his Master of Divinity at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA and was ordained June 2000 from their home congregation at Christ Lutheran in

Louisville, NE. They accepted a call in Florence (North Omaha) and moved from Bellevue to Florence, spending the next eight years in faith and ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church. During this time they welcomed twins Daniel and Katheryn, both now 21. Daniel is attending UNL majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife; Katheryn is attending Concordia University majoring in Music Education.

In 2008 they returned to Bellevue after accepting a call at Christ the King Lutheran Church. They live just blocks from where Sheli was born and where they spent their high school years. In 2010 Sheli made a career move to join PayPal, Inc. leading a global team of cash accountants in Global Financial Operations. Bryan and Sheli enjoy traveling and new experiences. Sheli has been to 43 states and 14 countries, which include 4 continents. She has traveled to several Southeast Asian countries; together they have traveled to Tanzania and as a family to several European countries.

Sheli's masonic journey began in Key West where her father was an active member of Dade Lodge #14. As the younger sister of an active DeMolay, her family helped serve dinners and attended Installations, where she was first introduced to Rainbow Girls. Years later, in Bellevue, during a middle school speech class a classmate asked if she would be interested in joining Rainbow Girls. Sheli jumped at the chance to join, and became a Rainbow Girl at Athena Assembly #24 in 1985. Her mother joined Alpha Chapter #325 in order to attend Rainbow meetings. Sheli received her Majority in Rainbow in 1994. She continues to be involved with Rainbow, having served as Mother

Advisor (1997–2000), then as a Grand Deputy and currently on the Grand Executive Board.

At the urging of then Worthy Matron, Sister Ann Phillips (and one of Sheli's Past Mother Advisors), Sheli joined Alpha Chapter #325 in 1997. She served as Worthy Matron 2003 and again in 2017; served as Grand Esther for Judy Wehrbein, PGM and Alvin Benemerito, PGP, was appointed a District Grand Supervisor 2020–2022, served as Grand Warder for Karan Birdsall, PGM and Bruce Baker, PGP, elected and served as Associate Grand Conductress for Dottie Arent, PGM and David Wetrosky, PGP; as Grand Conductress for Laurie Sieg, PGM and Wayne Andreasen, PGP and as Associate Grand Matron for Linda Dubry, PGM and Cecil Smith, PGP. Sheli thanks everyone for their support and encouragement and looks forward to visiting and helping our Chapters Shine through Service, Share with others and Invite participation.

Meet your Worthy Grand Patron

Keith Lindvall:

My childhood was in Farnam, Nebraska. My parents were both teachers and I was instilled with a desire to learn. My youth was basically spent in agriculture where I was active in 4-H and small town activities. I attended college in Lincoln at the University of Nebraska, graduated in Animal Science and took an extra year taking accounting courses.

When I graduated I went to work in Mason City, Iowa as a staff accountant. I got my CPA and became an Audit Specialist reviewing files and reports prepared by the various offices in the firm.

I then went to work for another firm and opened an office in Kearney, Nebraska doing audits in Nebraska. Eventually the firm broke up and I spent most of my working career as a sole practitioner doing tax work. I retired in 2017 and have been involved basically in Eastern Star and Habitat for Humanity since then. Since retirement I have gotten involved with a couple nonprofit Boards; it seems normally in some type of treasurer position. I married my first wife while I was in college and we had two sons, Scott and Eric. We were divorced in 1982. I was single for 12 years, remarried in 1994 and divorced again in 2006 and married Rita in 2009. I am a slow learner but I really feel like I have it figured out this time. I gained a daughter with Rita, Jennifer Godfrey. My sons are married and we have four grandchildren in our family.

When I was about 30 I had reached my basic financial goal but felt incomplete so I kind of went middle age crazy, developed a set of goals, went broke, took my inventory and grew a spiritual life. I spent a lot of time in Alanon and have come to believe that life is more about the process than reaching the end. During my single life I developed an interest in riding motorcycles. I traveled to several states, particularly the mountain states. I took my dog, Fred, with me. (All my dogs are named Fred.) I developed several close friendships and spent considerable time on those self improvement books. I did some part-time DJ activities and joined a friend in the DJ business. I became a better Dad and learned to love my home, myself and my God. My masonic life started with my second wife with a daughter that was having "teen age" problems

so we ended up sending her to the children's home in Fremont. We thought we should know something about Eastern Star and I found the only way I could get into Star was to become a Mason. So I became a Mason and an Eastern Star in 1998. I was not very active in Blue Lodge in my early years but I have been since my retirement and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I feel a special kinship to those that have gone before us. But as it has been said before it is for us the living to carry on the work and consecrate the ideals that they have prepared for us. My hope for the next year is that we be involved in our Eastern Star world and our communities, make the world just a little better and have fun.



THE "SHINE, SHARE, INVITE" CALENDAR

PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JULY NEWS BY JUNE 10TH

- Jun 1 Shrine bowl and parade
- Jun 2 2024-2025 Grand Officer Reception 2:00-4:00 at Scottish Rite, 202 S 20th, Omaha
- Jun 8 2024-2025 Grand Officer Reception 2:00-4:00 Minden Opera House, 322 E Fifth St, Minden
- Jun 14-16 Rainbow Grand Assembly, Marriott Riverfront, South Sioux City, NE
- Jun 18-22 Job's Daughters Grand Session, Holiday Inn, Kearney
- Jul 20 DeMolay Conclave in Fremont
- Aug 7 MESHCH Achievement Day and Cornerstone Ceremony
- Oct 24-Nov 1 General Grand Chapter in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (For more information contact Sister Dottie Arent, PGM) Dottie would like to know how many are interested in going to GGC, so send her your name and contact information.

Enclosed with this OES News:

 2024-2025 Officer & Companion list

Visit us on the web at: neoes.org

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Call the Grand Chapter Office at 402-937-7056