

ROYAL ARCANUM
AN INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY PROVIDING FAMILY PROTECTION

Bulletin



Winter Edition



Official Publication of the
**Supreme Council of the
Royal Arcanum**

.....
**Fraternal Services to Our
Members Since 1877**

A Message from the Supreme Regent Un Message Du Régente Suprême

Maria Bettina DiBartolo - Supreme Regent



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I take this moment to wish you and your families a happy new year. I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. May you find joy, laughter, and precious moments to cherish.

I hope you have some time to enjoy some comfort and peace. Whether it's curling up with a good book, taking a brisk walk, or snuggling up to watch a good movie, try to embrace the moment and all its charms.

The past year has been challenging for many but it has also been very rewarding and successful. Much appreciation is sent to all of our members and councils for the charitable work that has been done throughout our jurisdictions. It is heart-warming to learn that charitable spirit and generosity overflow in our supreme, grand, and subordinate councils.

I am grateful for your friendship and look forward to staying touch. May 2024 be filled with new adventures, opportunities, and blessings. I hope to visit your councils in the months ahead and greet you at the Supreme Council Session in Baltimore, Maryland in July.

Sincerely yours in V.M.C.,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Bettina DiBartolo".

Maria-Bettina DiBartolo
Supreme Regent

Chers frères et sœurs,

J'en profite pour vous souhaiter, à vous et à vos familles, une bonne année. J'espère que cette lettre vous trouvera en bonne santé et de bonne humeur. Puissiez-vous trouver de la joie, des rires et des moments précieux à chérir.

J'espère que vous aurez le temps de profiter d'un peu de confort et de paix. Qu'il s'agisse de vous détendre avec un bon livre, de faire une promenade rapide ou de vous blottir pour regarder un bon film, essayez de profiter du moment présent et de tous ses charmes. J'espère que vous aurez le temps de profiter d'un peu de confort et de paix. Qu'il s'agisse de vous détendre avec un bon livre, de faire une promenade rapide ou de vous blottir pour regarder un bon film, essayez de profiter du moment présent et de tous ses charmes.

L'année écoulée a été difficile pour beaucoup, mais elle a également été très enrichissante et fructueuse. Une grande gratitude est adressée à tous nos membres et conseils pour le travail caritatif qui a été accompli dans toutes nos juridictions. Il est réconfortant d'apprendre que l'esprit charitable et la générosité débordent dans nos conseils suprêmes, grands et subordonnés.

Je suis reconnaissant pour votre amitié et j'ai hâte de rester en contact. Que l'année 2024 soit remplie de nouvelles aventures, opportunités et bénédictions. J'espère rendre visite à vos conseils dans les mois à venir et vous saluer lors de la session du Conseil suprême à Baltimore, dans le Maryland, en juillet.

Cordialement vôtre en VMC,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Bettina DiBartolo".

Maria Bettina Di Bartolo
Régente suprême

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CHRISTMAS AT CLAREMONT COUNCIL



On December 3, 2023, Claremont Council #1655 held its annual Junior Christmas party at San Martino Ristorante in Yonkers, New York. After a hearty lunch, our special Santa (member Dennis De Leo) presented the children with gifts from both Claremont Council and the Supreme Council Junior Department. The Juniors were thrilled with their presents. Before partaking in the array of desserts, the children enjoyed doing holiday crafts and face painting. Fraternal Director Cindy Macon and Evelyn Magarban from New

Jersey joined the festivities. It was truly a wonderful afternoon with everyone having a “holly, jolly” good time! The group was grateful to ring in the Christmas season together as the Royal Arcanum family and welcome Santa before his worldwide travels began.



ONE HUNDRED CANDLES

The members in Bayonne, New Jersey are delighted to congratulate Sister Jane Barton of Versatility Council #2501 who attained her 100th birthday in December 2023.

This fraternal sister has been immersed in service for most of her life. Jane enrolled into the Royal Arcanum in 1975.

Throughout the past 48 years, she was elected to hold various offices and volunteered for numerous fraternal committees. She attended the Royal Arcanum's premiere mini-vacation in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in 1975 and since then participated in a host of Supreme Council



New Jersey Deputy Supreme Regent Gen Macon and Grand Regent Richard Macon, FIC extend good wishes to Jane Barton for her 100th birthday.

Sessions and additional mini-vacations. She has many fond memories of venues and locales and especially the friendships that were formed across the country – all because of the Royal Arcanum.

Jane continues to be an avid reader and an exceptional chef. She is a great supporter of the Society's fraternal and charitable programs on all council levels and enjoys being part of the good works of the organization.

The Royal Arcanum wishes Jane an abundance of happiness, wonder and health for this special milestone and Into the Future!

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS

The Supreme Council congratulates Errica and Joseph Conforto on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary that was celebrated in December 2023. The Arcanian brothers and sisters across the country wish them many more years of love, health, and happiness to add to their treasured golden memories.



CALIFORNIA TOY DRIVE



The Royal Arcanum of California donated brand new toys for the Toy Drive sponsored by Los Bomberos of Northern California for children that do not get toys for Christmas! Our team players did a great job for this event!

Jim O'Neill and Joanie Francis delivered the toys to San Jose Fire Station #5, along with two boxes of cookies for the firefighters as a gift of appreciation for their work risking their lives while saving others and keeping the community safe. Our contact, Captain Jerry May, helped the fraternalists make it happen.

God Bless the firefighters and keep them safe from harm.



IMPORTANT OFFICER NOTICE

**Calling
All
Officers**

Attention All Supreme, Grand and Subordinate Council Officers

I am updating our Roster of Council Officers and want to include you. Several Councils are missing information.

Please email me at Abasa@royalarcanum.com with your name, official position, address, email address and phone number. (Please indicate cell or home phone.)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Tony Basa
Supreme Secretary
Abasa@royalarcanum.com
617-429-8763

MEDORA COUNCIL CELEBRATES

Medora Council #1648 has made it a habit to take up a collection, usually for a local food pantry, at each meeting they hold. The food collected for the October session was special, as Medora collaborated with the Knights of Columbus Holy Rosary Council. The Knights were sponsoring a food drive on the Sunday after Medora's meeting, so the trunkful of non-perishable food collected at Medora's meeting was combined with the rest of the food to provide a substantial impact in the community.



Medora Council members Carl and Christine Krzystofczyk (in Royal Arcanum hats) filled a cart with food donations from the council's last meeting, aided by Knights of Columbus members Mike McNickolas and Art Tluczek.

A food pantry collection was also a part of the annual Christmas dinner meeting. Medora's members gathered for a delicious dinner at Cucina Biagio, celebrating their fraternal friendship and another year of community service. The food collected was dropped off at the St. Edna Food Pantry collection box, which serves the needy in the Arlington Heights, IL area.



Nine bags full of food were collected for the food pantry, ranging from cereals and staples to treats and desserts.



Medora members gather around the table for a Christmas celebration: Jo Ann Serpico, Lilian Juarez, Judy Pigoni, Donna Hahn, Gregory Hahn, Michelle DeHainaut, Rick DeHainaut, Rick DeHainaut, Jr., Darlene DeHainaut, Geoff Raye, Stephanie Lingis, Christine Krzystofczyk, Carl Krzystofczyk, Juanita Glassi and Iole Chiesa

HOLIDAY CHEER FOR UKRAINE

Members of Versatility Council #2501 in Bayonne, New Jersey shared Christmas season cheer with the Ukrainian children who are in the care of the Felician Sisters in Warsaw, Poland. The fraternalists sent a bit of “holiday hope” across the miles in time for St. Nicholas Day, a festive holiday that is celebrated throughout many parts of Europe on December 6th.

The fraternal elves shopped for 24 youngsters. Mrs. Claus provided ages and sizes of the Ukrainian children who continue adapting away from home and loved ones. The elves searched for “just the right gifts” for each of them. A tremendous assortment

of new clothing articles, pajamas, winter outerwear, and other treats were wrapped and tagged before being shipped overseas.

The council received beautiful acknowledgments from the Sisters and handcrafted cards from the very grateful children. The familiar song, “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” held special meaning for the Arcanians this year, as the members gave thanks during their holiday luncheon for the bountiful blessings that are enjoyed in the USA and offered a prayer for peace to soon be everlasting, worldwide.



Gen sorts and prepares gifts for the Ukrainian children.



New Jersey Grand Regent Richard Macon, FIC and Deputy Supreme Regent Gen Macon were happy to check off gifts on St. Nick’s list.

TREASURE FROM OUR PAST

Pictured is a commemorative pin that was presented to members during the 1974-1975 “Arcanians Unite” program. It was the campaign theme for J. Jelet Christopher, who served the Society as Supreme Regent at that time. Arcanians enthusiastically

responded by participating in activities to promote the Royal Arcanum. A significant increase in membership, expansion of Grand Councils, and furtherance of fraternal and charitable endeavors were highlights of the very successful campaign.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

INTEGRITY COUNCIL #586 AND THE PENNSYLVANIA GRAND COUNCIL CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BY GETTING AND GIVING

Embracing a most festive and holiday atmosphere on December 7th, the "Philadelphia gang" gathered at Buca d'Oro Restaurant for their annual holiday dinner party. A delicious dinner, non-stop chattering, and Christmas music made for a very delightful occasion.

However, charitable service - particularly the commitment to the Buddy Program to do a charitable act over the holidays - was not forgotten. Each person brought a



box of Christmas cards to be donated to the EPA Conference prison ministry to be given to prisoners. The ministry helps prisoners to have the incentive, resources, and opportunity to remember their loved ones and friends back home with a greeting at Christmas time.

Those pictured about the table going clockwise are Pete Ferrara, Joe and Nettie Malone, Jay Newlin, Herb Snyder, Lillie Mae and Carmen Panichelli, Loretta Wehbe, Joe Tedesco, Kylee Tedesco, Anita and Ralph Ferrara.

Submitted by: Herb Snyder

VISITING THE WHITE HOUSE

Royal Arcanum's COO, Nick Benoit, joined American Fraternal Alliance Executives to visit the White House for the Arrival Ceremony for the Prime Minister of Australia. The executives were in Washington, DC to promote the Fraternal Tax Resolution [H.Con.Res. 28] to members of Congress. While in DC, two additional congressmen signed on to the resolution in support of fraternalists.



NEW YORK HELPS NEIGHBORS, NEAR AND FAR

At the November 15, 2023 meeting of the New York Grand Council held at San Martino Ristorante in Yonkers, members happily shared plans for the jurisdiction's charitable projects for the holiday season and *Into the Future*. To begin the season's program, fraternalists brought food items to be donated to St. Theresa's Church in the Bronx. In addition, they toted boxes and bags of adult and children's clothes that would be sent to Iglesia Ciudad de Dios Quilmes in Argentina to help people in need.

A delicious meal was enjoyed. Following the conclusion of the business of the council, members exchanged good wishes for a blessed, healthy, and joyful holiday season.



Right: Phyllis Passafiume, a new member of Claremont Council #1655, is welcomed by Supreme Regent Maria DiBartolo.



Parcels of donated clothing for Argentina



The holiday food project gets underway.



BALTIMORE CALLING!

The 106th Supreme Council Session will be conducted in scenic Baltimore, Maryland from July 28 through July 31, 2024. The area at the Inner Harbor offers many activities for families and the surrounding area provides a variety of great opportunities for summer visitors.

First, a look back to some of the city's history. During the American Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress moved deliberations to Henry Fite House from December 1776 to February 1777, permitting Baltimore to serve briefly as the nation's capital before the capital returned to Independence Hall in Philadelphia in March 1777. In the mid-18th century, the first printing press and newspapers were introduced to Baltimore.

During the War of 1812, the Battle of Baltimore was a pivotal engagement, culminating in the failed British

Baltimore may be the last place in the country where one can still find vendors who sell fresh fruits and vegetables from a horse-drawn cart that goes up and down neighborhood streets.

The city is especially known for its blue crabs and crab cakes. Visitors can enjoy a dinner cruise to see the sights, or try a Chinese Dragon paddleboat or ride an electric Pirate Ship for some added fun!

The Maryland Science Center contains a massive collection of dinosaur replicas and the Davis Planetarium offers a grand experience to "see the stars." Visitors can learn of the contributions of African Americans to Baltimore's shipbuilding industry at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Park. Students of literature and those who love to read can follow in Edgar Allan Poe's footsteps by visiting his one-time home, his



bombardment of Fort McHenry. At this time Francis Scott Key wrote a poem that would become 'The Star-Spangled Banner'; the American national anthem since 1931. Fort McHenry is now a museum and public park.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the nation's oldest railroad, cemented Baltimore's status as a major transportation hub, and the Inner Harbor was once the second leading port of entry for immigrants to the United States.

The city's history and attractions have made Baltimore a popular tourist destination. The National Aquarium showcases sealife of all sorts. Baltimore Harbor's restoration has made it a "city of boats", with several historic ships on display and open to the public; these include the USS Constellation, the USS Torsk, and the Coast Guard cutter WHEC-37 (the last surviving U.S. warship that was in Pearl Harbor during the attack on December 7, 1941).

gravesite, or his favorite pub. Motivated visitors can climb the 227 marble steps to Baltimore's Washington Monument for a spectacular city view.

Three floors of adventure await at the Port Discovery Children's Museum, and The Maryland Zoo houses an award-winning Penguin Coast exhibit that's sure to delight.

For baseball enthusiasts, cheering on the home team, The Orioles (or their challengers, if you prefer) is a fun experience at Camden Yards.

Whether you want to take in as much as you can in the charming city or savor the summer sunshine relaxing poolside, Baltimore awaits. Additional information about the Session can be found in this Bulletin, on the website, and in member e-mail newsletters.

BAYONNE SHARES BLESSINGS

The Community Outreach Committee members in Bayonne and Versatility Councils in New Jersey were busy throughout the month of December to help Santa and his reindeer deliver Christmas parcels to several community charities. The Twelve Days of Christmas were celebrated with gifting projects to a dozen charitable causes, both near to and far from the Garden State.

The members supported homeless-transitional shelters, senior care homes, schools for special needs children, facilities that serve the underprivileged, and humane societies. Wish List items and monetary donations were contributed to help make the season brighter for those in need.

After the last delivery was made, members met for a relaxing luncheon in Bayonne. The occasion provided the opportunity to complete one additional project – making it a holiday baker’s dozen this year! The members filled stockings for students at the Felician School for Exceptional Children, Lodi as a “Secret Santa” project that was organized by the Fraternal Committee.

The projects were a meaningful way for the members to “wrap up” 2023 together. New friends were made with staff and volunteers at the charities and the fraternalists look forward to continuing their support to them in the new year.



Evelyn delivers handcrafted gifts for the retired sisters to Nancy and Sr. Timothy at Our Lady of Lourdes Care Center, Lodi.



A holiday delivery of pet supplies to the Teterboro Animal Shelter



“Snowball”, the council mascot, helped secure pet food donations for the humane society.



The Community Outreach Committee (also known as Santa’s Helpers)

IRISH SODA BREAD

We hope you enjoy this recipe shared by Past Supreme Regent Errica Conforto. Irish soda bread is traditionally baked for St. Patrick's Day. Unlike regular yeast bread, this one has no rising time, and once the dough comes together, it is ready to be baked.

Ingredients:

4 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
4 tbsp. sugar
4 tbsp. cold butter
zest of one orange
1 cup dried cranberries or raisins
1 egg
1 2/3 cup of buttermilk



Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In a large bowl, mix together flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Whisk well; add cut

cold butter into small pieces and use your fingers to work the butter into the flour until fine crumbs form. Stir in cranberries and the orange zest.

In a large measuring cup, whisk buttermilk and egg and add to the flour mixture. Use a wooden spoon and mix just until lightly moist and dough starts to come together.

Transfer to floured surface and use your hands to shape dough into a round loaf. Flour your hands to prevent sticking. Do not over mix.

Transfer dough loaf to a buttered pan or a parchment paper-lined pan. Use a knife to score an X on the top.

Bake at 375 degrees for 50-55 minutes or until golden brown.

Remove pan from oven and transfer to wire rack to cool.



FRATERNAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we anxiously await the arrival of spring, many of us are already planning to pack up the snow boots, clean the shovels and ice scrapers, and store the buckets of ice melt. Hopefully there won't be any snowstorms for us in the near future!

While making room for the winter supplies in the basement or garage, you might want to take some time to remove the tarp and dust off the bicycles. Taking a bike ride when the spring sun is shining and there's a gentle breeze in the air can be a refreshing activity to greet the new season!

Did you know that the tandem bicycle (designed to be ridden by more than one person) was created in 1898?

The term 'tandem' refers to the seating arrangement (fore to aft). A twin version (or two-seater) is sometimes called "Daisy Bell". This name originated from the song, *Bicycle Built for Two* that was composed by British songwriter Harry Dacre. Interestingly, the two-seater model was invented in an effort to make bicycling faster and it was often used by soldiers. Historically, bicycles in the military lessened the need for horses, fuel and vehicle maintenance.



Bike riding can be a pleasurable form of exercise and relaxation. There are also competitive styles such as the Tour de France for serious, trained contenders. To have fun and see the sights is a great motivator, and bike riding with a friend in your neighborhood or when vacationing in a new locale can be a rewarding experience. It's good to have a buddy, whether you're peddling on a single or tandem bike, down the narrow alleys and up the lofty hills.

Although there's rarely an opportunity for us to bike ride together, Royal Arcanum members across the Supreme Council are enthusiastic buddies, year-long. The recently introduced "Buddy Project" has had a tremendous start in our councils. We look forward to making this a banner year for the Supreme Regent's *Into the Future* Program. Buddies are interacting with members in other jurisdictions and sharing ideas, making plans, and conducting volunteer activities. Together, we're sharing the spirit of Royal Arcanum fraternalism in communities, near and far!

We often rely on our buddies to lift our spirit or when we need a helping hand or an ear to listen. A word of thanks is extended to the members of our grand and subordinate councils for being buddies as well, with donations through the International Fraternal Service Program to a host of charities last year. The Supreme Council will partner as a council buddy, too in the IFS Program with a

contribution to the selected charity. Guidelines and application forms are available on the website (www.royalarcanum.com) or by contacting the Home Office (1-888-272-2686).



The Royal Arcanum 'Timeline Brochure' gives a snapshot of our Society and the plans of insurance and annuities that are available for those seeking to increase their protection or for potential applicants wishing to enroll. Invite your family and friends who may be unacquainted with our fraternal benefit society to learn about the Royal Arcanum – products, activities, fraternal benefits, Junior opportunities, service

initiatives, and more. The Society continues to grow and evolve to best serve our members and our communities. Brochures are available.

I hope to see many of you at the Supreme Council Session, July 28th through July 31st as we celebrate the Royal Arcanum at the event in Baltimore, Maryland.

Please stay safe, keep well, and have a blessed Easter and Passover. If you have some leisure time for a bike ride, enjoy the venture with a buddy and maybe make a new friend along the way!

In Friendship,

Cindy Macon

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Section 19(1), 20 and 21 of the Constitution

The offices, including the committees, shall remain the same.

Forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the Supreme Council Session, the Chairperson of the Supreme Council Executive Committee shall appoint a Committee on Nominations consisting of four Supreme Council Session members (current or past), representing the diversity of our Order, plus the Supreme Regent, who will serve as chairperson for the purpose of developing a slate of officers for the ensuing Supreme Council Session. It is suggested that an announcement of this appointed committee and the nominations procedure be included in the "CALL" to the Session and in the Spring Edition of the Bulletin.

The nomination committee report will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting prior to the Session. At the Registration Desk on Opening Day of the Supreme Council Session, a list of the Nominations will be distributed to the representatives. It is recommended that a brief bio for each nominee be included. For positions that will serve on the Executive Committee, it is recommended that the bio contain relevant information such as qualifications, aspirations for office, their Royal Arcanum history, etc.

At the Supreme Council Session, additional nominations may be made from the floor. All those being nominated shall have been contacted by the member making the nomination in order to insure that those being nominated are willing to have their names on the slate. A bio on each nominee would be helpful. (A resolution will be presented calling for nominations).

For the election of officers, printed ballots including the names of all nominees shall be distributed. In the case of Line Officers and the Executive Committee, there must be individual ballots (unless the Constitution is changed), but the other committees may be elected on one ballot. Additional nominations will not be entertained at this time. Delegates and Officers will cast their votes, which will be counted by the two appointed tellers and the Judge of Elections, who will count the votes. (A resolution will be presented at the beginning to nominate and elect all Committeepersons and Trustees, collectively, unless there is a contested election. In the case of the two Finance Committee Members, Supreme Trustees, Committee on Juniors and Committee on Appeals, if there are more than four nominees, the four receiving the highest vote will be declared winners).

The NOMINEE with the majority of votes based on the Order's established ratio between delegates and officers shall win the election to his or her respective office. In the case of the committees, the required members for each committee with the highest number of votes shall be elected (the four Trustees, the three members of the Committee on Laws, the two additional members of the Finance Committee, the four members of the Committee on Juniors, and the four members of the Committee on Appeals).

Send bios to Chairman Cynthia Macon, 24 East 43rd Street, Bayonne NJ 07002 or email to CAJMacon@aol.com.

Bios should be in the Chairman's hands by June 20, 2024.

HARRISBURG COUNCIL #499 CHRISTMAS

This year's Christmas event was held at a completely different location as we heard of an arena that actually had live animals included in the show, and we thought that would be very entertaining for the Juniors and we believe it was more exciting for the adults! The location was held at the Christian Life Assembly. It was the first time for many and the show was spectacular!

Prior to the show, the families gathered for lunch and the council gifts for the Juniors were handed out. The koalas were a hit! The newest Juniors, Charlotte and Natalie Karl, along with Ruby and Josephine Blahusch loved the koalas, while the senior Juniors appreciated the ear pods. Thank you!

Philip Thomas, Ruby and Josephine Blahusch with Aunt Nikki



Aunt Josephine with Juniors Josephine and Ruby Blahusch



Rick Rubin and Judie Marcus



During this time, Harrisburg Council #499 members specifically want to pray for peace in our times, especially for Judie Marcus and Rick Rubin, who are Jewish members of our council and we wish them a Happy Hanukkah as well.

Here's to a peaceful and healthy New Year!



Sincerely,
Paulina P. Thomas
Secretary



Adam Karl family



Jason, Paige and Stacy Harshbarger



Harold and Autumn Harshbarger

INTEGRITY COUNCIL'S VOLUNTEERS

Joe and Joan Tedesco, with support from Integrity Council #586 in Pennsylvania, neighbors, family, and friends, helped several Philadelphia area charities during the holiday season. Toys for Tots, MANNA, St. John's Hospice, and St. James School's Service Program were the beneficiaries of their volunteer efforts.

The Toys for Tots program is run by the US Marine Corps Reserve to distribute toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. MANNA brings together dietitians, chefs, drivers, and volunteers to cook and deliver medically-appropriate meals and offer nutrition counseling to people who are battling life-threatening illnesses. St. John's Hospice/Shelter provides life-sustaining services with dignity, compassion, and respect to homeless men in Center

City Philadelphia. St. James' service volunteers distribute blankets and comforters to people in need.

Integrity Council's \$500 donation helped provide 33 pies for charity and enabled the Tedescos to surpass their goal of securing 87 pies from MANNA. Joan crafted several warm blankets to be gifted for the holidays through the program at St. James and many children received toys, plush pals, arts and craft kits, and other Wish List items from the collection for Toys for Tots.

Joe and Joan are thankful to all for the support and look forward to organizing projects in 2024.

Submitted by: Joe Tedesco



Covers crafted by Joan



Joe packs boxes of pies for delivery to St. John's Hospice.



The toy box was filled every day in early December.



Joan prepares the collection box for Toys for Tots.



MANNA volunteers and Joan help pack pies.

SEWING FOR CHILDREN



Inspired by the gifting project at the last Supreme Council Session, Sister Diane Calain is still sewing. After making hand sewn outfits for that activity, Sister Diane continued stitching. Recently she has been busy creating and donating gifts to two Lions Clubs to help with their projects.

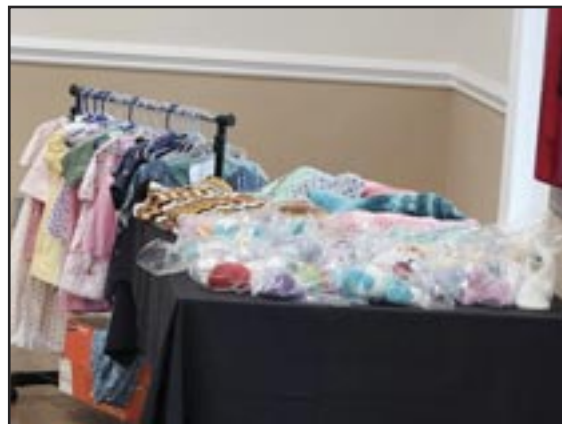
Graceway Village is a 501(c) (3) charity in the Fort Pierce, Florida area that helps underserved and underprivileged families. Its

Clothing Boutique makes new and gently used clothing available for children, ages 0 through 18. New socks and underwear are also offered. The boutique is always excited to receive clothing, especially handmade articles. Afghans, baby blankets, and quilts, and useable toys are appreciated, too.

Sister Diane has been seen crocheting or knitting during Session meetings and all of her creative items are donated to help those in need. She is thankful to everyone who has supported the efforts.

Royal Arcanum members continue to work with other charities for the good of all.

Submitted by: Diane Calain



AWARD IN FLORIDA

Life Member of the Supreme Council and Acting Grand Regent/Deputy Supreme Regent of the Florida Grand Council, Sister Diane Calain, was recently presented with The Melvin Jones Fellow from the Lions Club International.

Nominated by the Saint Lucie West Lions Club of Florida, the award was presented for "Dedicated Humanitarian Services Lions Clubs International Foundation."



Led into Lionism by her late husband Ed [also a Fellowship recipient], Diane was a lion in Ohio before she moved to Florida. She has been a member of the Saint Lucie West Club for 9 years and is currently the Vice President. She shares her time for charitable work with both the Royal Arcanum and the Lions Club.

*Submitted by:
Diane Calain*

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER CORNER

We experienced exceptional growth in 2023, seeing a significant increase in life insurance production. Our application volume increased by over 25% compared to 2022. According to MIB, Inc. United States life insurance application activity finished 2023 for growth with year-to-date (YTD) activity up +2.9% compared with 2022. When taking a historical lookback, total activity YTD for 2023 was down -2.8% compared to 2021. Our significant increase in production was attributed to the result of many operational initiatives, along with partnerships with several new distribution channels. Significant strides were made to enhance the application experience, making the process more efficient for the applicant and for the producer completing the application.

This summer we will hold the Royal Arcanum's 106th Supreme Council Session in Baltimore, Maryland. The Hyatt venue and its spectacular location near the harbor will provide a wonderful atmosphere for our activities. I look forward to seeing many of our members from July 28th through the 31st at the Session. We'll reconnect, build on successful fraternal programs, and learn of new opportunities that await.

I was pleased to learn of the many council activities that were sponsored last year. Financial contributions, the donation of goods and services - including support for food drives and other charities - and hosting celebrations and special events are a highlight of our Society's service to members and to communities.

I encourage members to make 2024 a year of involvement. Become more involved with your local council for developing new programs, attending council events, or contributing articles about council work to the Bulletin.

I envision a future for Royal Arcanum to grow, increasing membership and the impact we have across all communities. This objective will require a significant effort by all councils. If you were involved in one activity

in 2023, I challenge you to become involved in two or three for this year.

As we look towards spring, I anticipate a new beginning and the goal to continue moving forward as a Society. It's vital to adjust with the times and find new ways to impact those around us.

When I meet with our Senior Management Team and the Board of Directors, a topic that we frequently discuss is ways to enhance member experience. We added a Medicare Supplement product to our portfolio, which has seen significant increases in production and membership. This product was added since we felt there was a missed

opportunity with none previously being available. Perhaps there is a product or member benefit that you think could be beneficial for the Royal Arcanum to consider. If so, please reach out and provide your thoughts to your local councils and to the Home Office.

It's important to review your insurance coverage to ensure your beneficiaries are up to date, as well as your current contact information. Should

you want to update any information, there is a 'Forms' section on our website that contains many of our member service forms -

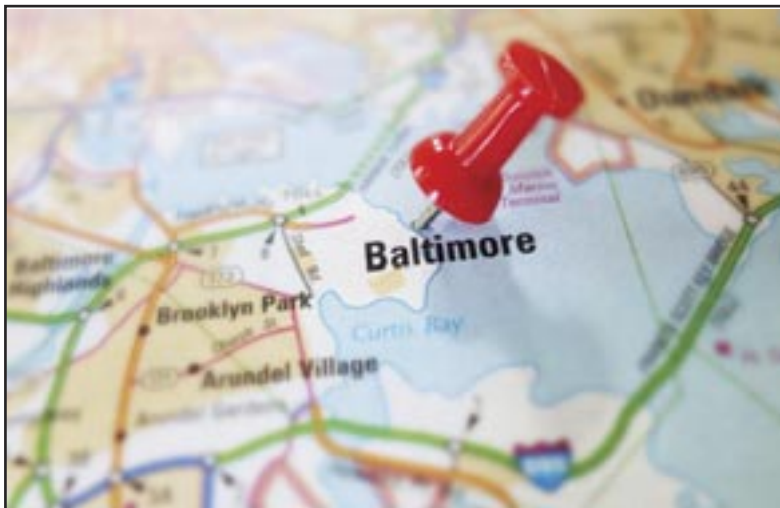
<https://www.royalarcanum.com/forms.html>

The Home Office continues to operate Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (EST). If you have any question or concerns, please call the office (888)-272-2686 or e-mail info@royalarcanum.com.

Sincerely,



Nicholas G. Benoit
Chief Operations Officer
nbenoit@royalarcanum.com



INTERNATIONAL FRATERNAL SERVICE

Under the IFS program, Claremont Council #1655 and the Grand Council of New York made monetary donations in collaboration with the Supreme Council to community charities. The recipients acknowledged the

Royal Arcanum and its members for the generosity and support. Donations help the organizations maintain vital services for those that are served through their programs.



Josephine Riley accepts Claremont Council's IFS donation of \$500 for the Institute for Special Education for the Blind in the Bronx from Errica Conforto, Maria DiBartolo, and Freddy DiBartolo.



Father Jose Felix Ortega accepts Claremont Council's IFS donation of \$500 for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish's annual Thanksgiving food drive in the Bronx from Joseph Conforto, Errica Conforto, and Maria DiBartolo.



Christopher Ayson (holding check), Amy Cassidy, Angela Keating, and Mariella Arroba, representing Calvary Hospital, accept the Grand Council of New York's IFS donation of \$1,000 from Grand Council Officers Errica Conforto, Maria DiBartolo, and Joseph Conforto. The mission of Calvary Hospital is to care for the medical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients and their families, at the end of their lives. The hospital provides hospice and palliative care to adult patients with advanced cancer and other life-limiting illness.

BUDDIES VOLUNTEER FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Royal Arcanum fraternalists are rallying together for “The Buddy Project” that was introduced in the last quarter of 2023.

Jurisdictions are part of teams to help make a positive difference for charitable causes that are selected by council members. Volunteering together is a great way for members in the jurisdictions to get to know fellow members in other states, learn of their activities, and be introduced to different charitable organizations. The Supreme Regent continues to encourage members to welcome the opportunity to get together and do good things *Into the Future* as a fraternal family. The reality exists that donations to charitable causes in parts of the country remain low since the pandemic and many have had to close their doors because they could not meet the needs of a growing number of people seeking help.

Members of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania learned of the inspiring programs being done at Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia from Past Supreme Regent, The Rev. Dr. Herbert J. Snyder and Pennsylvania Past Grand Regent Jay Newlin. The congregation, in collaboration with its non-profit, The Center – Philadelphia operates Grace Café, one of

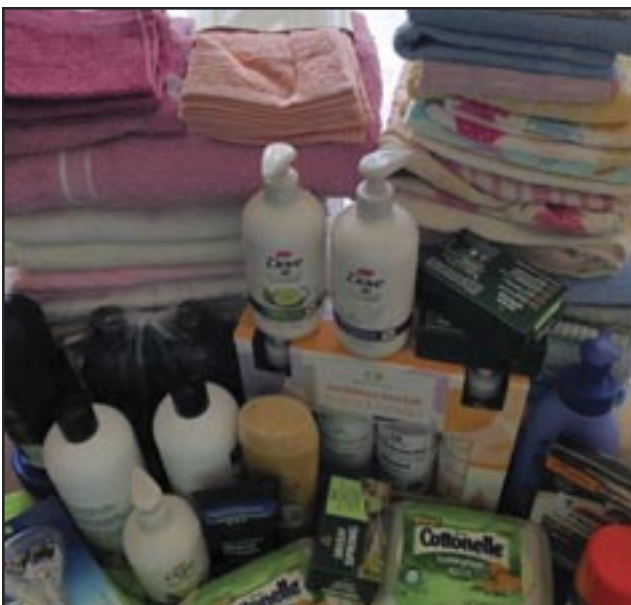


New Jersey members are part of The Buddy Team.

several programs that serve those in need. Grace Café is a restaurant-style meal service for the community’s most vulnerable residents, neighbors experiencing homelessness and struggling with food insecurity. Daily showers, refreshed clothing, a chance for “tea”, a weekly wellness clinic and medical testing options are also available to aid those in need. The Center seeks to

connect people through creativity, compassion, and community engagement; programs are continually being developed and volunteers are making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Royal Arcanum members provided new and gently used clothing articles for men and women, winter coats, blankets, totes, towels, and healthcare essentials to restock the community closet so that items would be readily available for distribution to neighbors in need during the snowy and chilly winter months ahead. The members were happy “to connect” for the activity and anticipate continuing support to the community programs sponsored by Arch Street United Methodist Church and The Center in 2024. The vision of “Friends Helping Neighbors” will drive the Buddy Program this year!



A sample of shower supplies



Herb Snyder, Jay Newlin, and Evelyn Magarban with a van filled with donations.

IN MEMORIAM: BILLY “JOE” MERRILL



Billy “Joe” Merrill
1938-2024

The Supreme Council is sad to report the passing of Brother Billy “Joe” Merrill on January 5, 2024.

Joe was a firefighter for 30 years with the Asheville Fire Department and was a volunteer at Barnardsville for 23 years.

He hailed from Royal Arcanum’s Rhododendron Council #703 in Asheville, North Carolina where he

enrolled as a member in 1968. Joe served the jurisdiction in many offices, including Grand Regent. He will long be remembered for his dedication as Grand Secretary-Treasurer and for mentoring new officers as they were elected to serve the subordinate and grand councils. Joe spearheaded a host of International Fraternal Service Projects, many for the benefit of children.

Brother Joe welcomed family and friends to enroll into the Royal Arcanum and became the 69th member of The

Order’s prestigious Legion of Honor. He led the Carolinas as a Supreme Representative and was appointed as Deputy Supreme Regent by several Supreme Regents. He also was elected a member of the Supreme Council Junior Committee and member of the Appeals Committee. He and his wife, Jane looked forward to the Supreme Council Sessions and mini-vacations and the opportunities the events provided for members of the extended fraternal family to gather for both business meetings and social-charitable activities. They trekked many miles across the country for Arcanian events and frequently recalled driving to New Jersey for a Grand Council Session in 1979 while a gas shortage plagued the country. Fellow members in The Garden State filled milk containers with gasoline to ensure the Carolinians of having an ample supply for the trip back to Asheville.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife Jane, son C.D. and a host of family members and friends, many in the Royal Arcanum. His untiring service and loyalty to the principles of Virtue, Mercy, and Charity will endure in the continued fraternal work of the council and Society.

May he rest in eternal peace.

IN MEMORIAM: DOROTHY KOSTECKA-WIECZERZAK



**Dorothy Kostecka-
Wieczerek**
1941-2023

Sons of Poland Council #2016 sadly reports that Sister Dorothy Kostecka-Wieczerek passed away on December 4, 2023. Dorothy served for many years as secretary of the Sons of Poland fraternal in Carlstadt. She was a key fraternalist for office operations and the endeavors that were provided to uphold Polish culture and tradition.

Dorothy was instrumental in organizing charitable gifting

projects to countless charities in Poland; these included orphanages, hospitals, shelters, special needs youth homes, senior care facilities, and more. She coordinated the fraternal’s annual debutante ball, meritorious service award reception, and “Our Kids” fundraisers to promote fraternal awareness in community and to highlight the work being done by fraternal members. She was a member of several Polish American professional

organizations and an attentive and dedicated community volunteer.

Dorothy penned many columns on the mission of the fraternal benefit system that were published in Polish American newspapers and represented the Sons of Poland (SOP) at state fraternal alliance meetings and activities. She mastered the art of Polish paper cutting (wycinanki) and taught classes to eager students wishing to learn the skilled craft.

When the Sons of Poland merged into the Royal Arcanum in 2016, Dorothy helped establish the SOP #2016 subordinate council and served as its secretary until her death.

Dorothy’s allegiance to the fraternal objective of service to members and to communities was the underpinning of her strong work ethic and involvement in many organizations which she capably served. She will be deeply missed by family and friends; her legacy of service will continue to guide the council in its charitable works.

May she rest in eternal peace.

IN MEMORIAM: STANLEY SKOWRONSKI



**Stanley Skowronski
1928-2023**

The jurisdiction of New Jersey is sad to report the passing of Brother Stanley Skowronski on December 20, 2023.

Stanley served in the United States Merchant Marines from 1944 through 1950. After that time, he was employed by General Cable of Bayonne and then by the Board of

Education. Stanley was predeceased by his beloved wife, Blanche. He was a recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the Merchant Marines during World War II; the honor was bestowed in 2022.

Stanley enrolled as a Royal Arcanum member into Bayonne Council #695 in 1993 and was actively involved in the fraternal and charitable endeavors of the Society.

He served in several offices of the council and although he declined to be elected Regent, he was one of the first to volunteer for special projects that were conducted by the council. From being "Santa" at a host of holiday parties, to leading Juniors at the miniature golf course, cheering the participants at the council's bowling tournaments, acting in Supreme Council "skits", and many more activities, Stanley's enthusiasm for life and love for people were genuine.

Stanley enjoyed the adventure of travel and trekked to many Supreme Council Sessions and mini-vacations, from north to Canada, out west to California, and down south to Florida. He had a natural gift for making others welcomed and at ease. He was known for saying, "I had a good time!" after every event. (And he truly meant it). Always upbeat, Stanley's generous heart and compassionate spirit were admired qualities of an authentic fraternal brother.

The members are grateful for Stanley's dedication to the Royal Arcanum and most especially for his friendship.

May he rest in eternal peace.

FIVE GENERATIONS



Pictured are five generations of Royal Arcanum members; all of Integrity Council #586 in Pennsylvania.

Left to right: Past Grand Regent Lillie Mae Panichelli, daughter Cynthia Harmer, granddaughter Sabrina Condron, great-granddaughter Deaniece Comacho, and great great-granddaughter Maelaini Woods

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT NEWS AND VIEWS

As I reflect on the past years, I cannot be happier with all of the accomplishments that the Junior Department has achieved and for what it continues to do for our young members. Christmas gifts were made available from the Supreme Council Junior Department to all our councils that requested them. We had plush koala bears for the little ones and wireless earbuds for the older Junior members.

Congratulations to all of our high school seniors who have applied for our Royal Arcanum scholarships and grants. Each applicant should have received a confirmation of their application from the Home Office, along with the list of items needed to complete the paperwork before March 31st, 2024. We also reimburse up to \$50 to Junior members that participate in SAT programs or other preparatory courses focused on improving test

scores. Current Royal Arcanum college students that provide us with their mailing address of either their college dorm or home will receive a small "care package" from our department in the spring as they study for exams. Call or email us the information. The deadline for requests is March 31st.

The Royal Arcanum is very happy to recognize two Juniors selected to receive the Youth of the Year Award for 2023. Marilou Decha of Versatility Council # 2501, New Jersey and Meredith Benoit of Alpha-Agassiz Council #1, Massachusetts are the recipients. These two young members distinguish themselves in their councils, communities and schools for volunteerism, leadership, and dedication to fraternal-charitable work. I hope they continue their good work and will inspire other young fraternal

members. Read more of their achievements in this Bulletin. If any member wishes to nominate a Royal Arcanum Junior member in good standing, the application form with rules and regulations for the 2024 program can be found on our website and in the spring Bulletin.

Birthday cards are being sent out by our Junior Committee



**Junior Department
Director
Errica Conforto**



ladies - Anita, Antoinette, Ruth, and Kaitlyn. Genevieve sent out Valentine's Day cards to our Junior members, six years old and younger. Many thanks for their good work.

Don't forget to send in your puzzle or coloring page from the Bulletin

in order to receive a \$10 Amazon gift card.

Mark your calendar for our 106th Supreme Council Session in Baltimore, Maryland this July. Juniors can attend with family at no extra cost and we will have games, gifts, prizes, and much more to enjoy.

I wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's / St. Joseph's Day and a Blessed Easter and Passover.

Yours in V.M.C.,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Errica Conforto".

Errica Conforto

YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Royal Arcanum is pleased to announce that Meredith Benoit and Marilou Decha were selected to receive the Society's 2023 Youth of the Year Award in recognition of their volunteer service and active participation in their councils and in their communities.

Meredith Benoit is a 13 year-old Junior member of Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 in Massachusetts. She has become an inspiration to others for her compassion and creativity to bring joy to those in need.

Currently an eighth-grade student at Plymouth Middle School, Meredith excels academically. She has been a volunteer member of the school's virtual delegation that participated in studies and communications with students in Japan. She is a member of the Drama Club and performs in the school's theatrical productions. Always availing herself to assist younger or new students to acclimating to the school and navigating studies, Meredith volunteers as a "big sister" by taking students "under her wing".

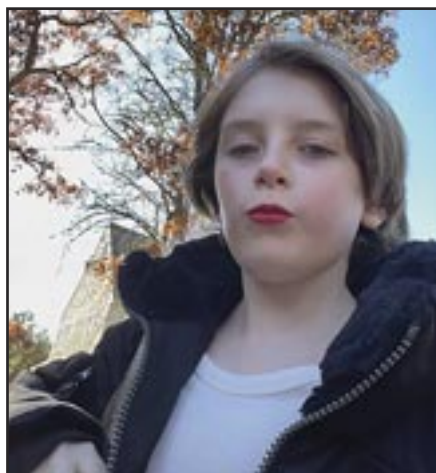
Meredith developed a gifting project for a local senior residence, crafting "Thinking of You" cards that were delivered with small gifts to very grateful recipients. She is very attentive to people who are struggling and can often be seen sharing allowance to help the poor. She continues to be a dependable volunteer for the council, assisting with efforts for the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless. A major project entails serving as an "anonymous" elf so that families in need can have a merrier holiday. She participates with the council for preparing non-perishable groceries for the Mansfield Food Pantry, and in the ongoing project for the "Cereal Box" campaign.

Meredith enjoys tennis, track, ballet, and reading. The motivation to be "a helpful friend" has had a positive impact on others and it's certain to continue **Into the Future**.



Marilou Decha is a 15 year-old Junior member of Versatility Council #2501 in New Jersey. Her example for seeing the best in others has inspired others to the call to service. She is currently a sophomore at St. Mary's High School in Rutherford and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Marilou has an extensive list of extracurricular activities and she is a member of several clubs. Since her former high school closed unexpectedly after her freshman year, attending a new school brought new opportunities and new challenges and she has excelled!



Meredith Benoit

Marilou volunteers at Queen of Peace Food Pantry in North Arlington, assisting with donations and preparing groceries for distribution to those in need in the community. She is a reliable and courteous volunteer.

She and her family are engaged in the charitable programs conducted by the New Jersey councils. Support to Ukrainian children, baby showers for the underprivileged, and projects for pet shelters are a few of the activities of the past year.

Marilou has been a student of ballet and tap dance and she has also mastered the piano. She enjoys tennis, painting, sketching, and writing. Her original short story, "Mr. Linden's Library" was featured in the Royal Arcanum Bulletin.

Marilou continually shares joy to provide comfort and support where it is needed most. Her dedication to make the world a better place for others will surely guide her to attain goals **Into the Future**.

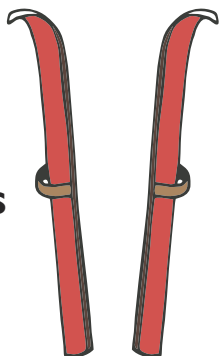
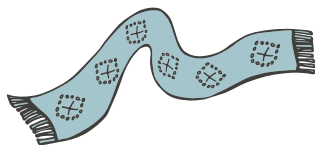


Marilou Decha

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

WORD LIST

ICICLE
SKATE
BELOWZERO
COFFEE
WINTER
FLAKE
SCARF
OWL
SKIPOLES
BERRIES
BELLS
SKIS
JACKET
SNOWBOARD



W R Z C Z O G L S H W Y M G E D T Q P T
 L I S N O W B O A R D B Q E B A G K C U
 J Q N H W F N D S J B X G C F Q S O F U
 S U M T B X F P L U J G S K I S T G C L
 A K P R E T D E Z O W O S S R A V X F A
 A M I T H R U E E F G Q Q D C V T V M G
 A H M P V E R H T M X W C Y G A S M B K
 Y A F I O F F I M V H L K H R Y R Z E A
 L X N N E L I V R T D Z G D I S H F R Q
 C Y V B M T E X E C R Y Z Z U Z O V R S
 A B W R U R O S R L Z S I A U L H E I K
 O D N Z Z V P H F C K S F L A K E Q E A
 J C X S D B G N A X K E R T V R F A S T
 A A K W L D W J D U G U V A Q I X Q F E
 E O C G Q C S B Z H M Y Y H Z O O E O V
 J W O K K A H W Z C Q A U F E W J Z W U
 W L F E E K U M F O B E L O W Z E R O P
 M A Q S Y T D Q U P B V C H W D V K M Q
 N K Y D V P A M T B C R M W B E L L S Q
 V K A I C I C L E D C J X B Q T F H A K

JUNIOR CONTEST RULES

Our rules provide that a Junior can win only one prize per issue of the Bulletin. Members from the same family can submit answers to same puzzles in order to win. Puzzle entrants are restricted to Juniors no older than 17 years 11 months. All entries must be received prior to distribution of the next Bulletin.

All Junior entrants can earn a \$10.00 gift certificate award from Amazon.com!



Junior Must Submit:

Name

Age

Council

Email Address

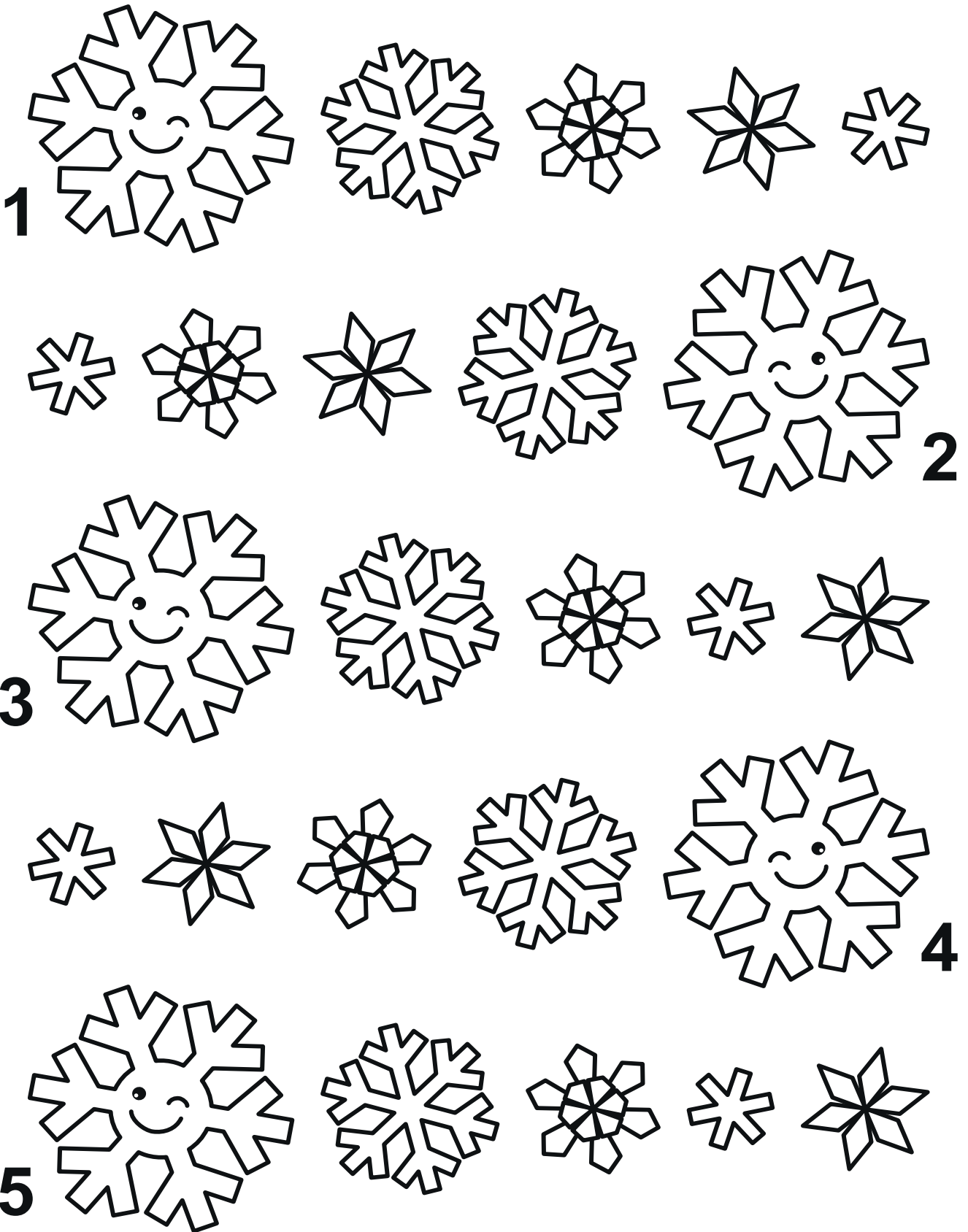
PLEASE SEND ALL ANSWERS TO:
JUNIOR DEPARTMENT, ROYAL ARCANUM,
61 BATTERYMARCH ST., BOSTON, MA 02110-3208
OR EMAIL YOUR ENTRY AND ADDRESS TO
INFO@ROYALARCANUM.COM

WINTER MAZE

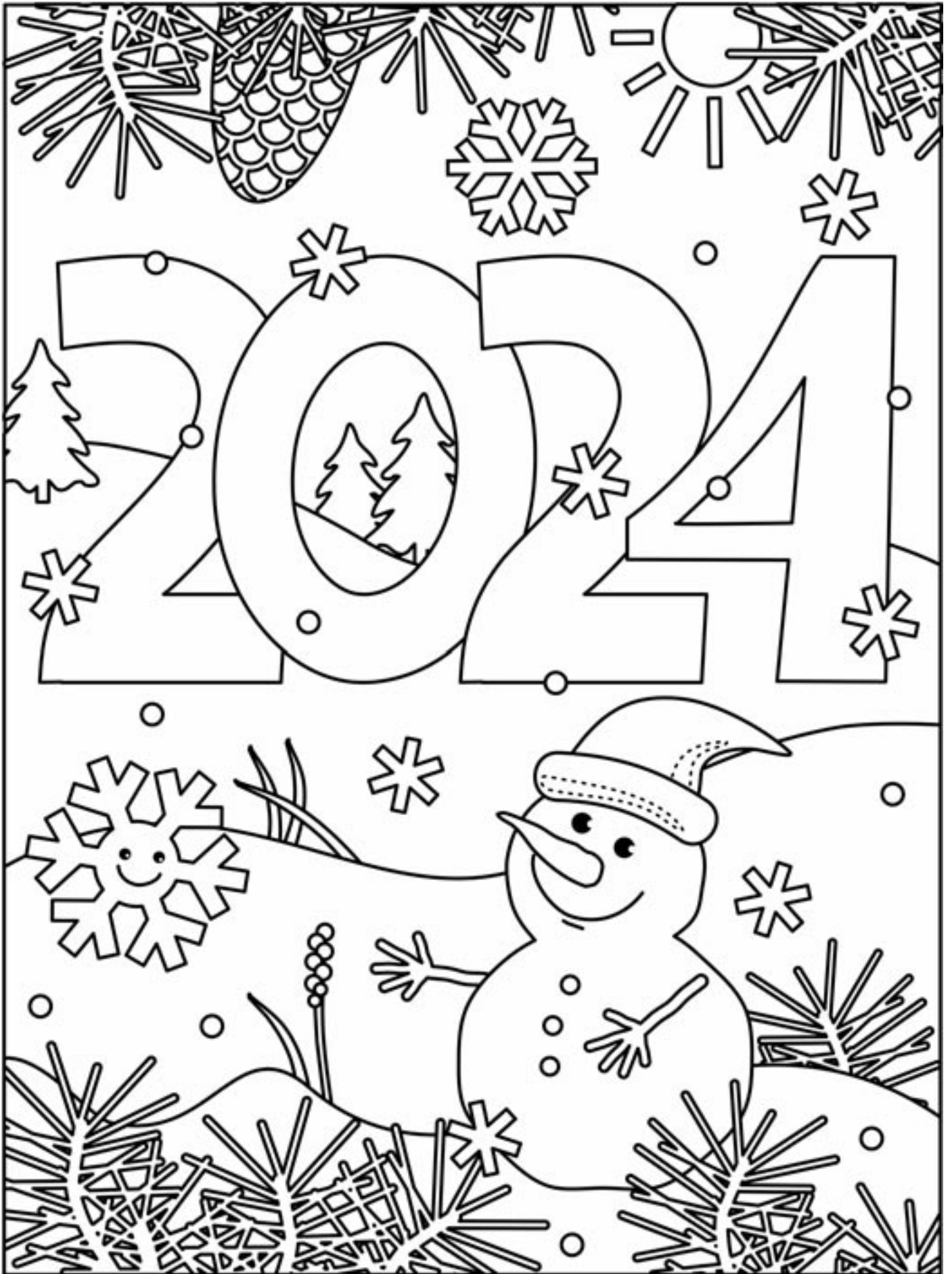
FIND YOUR WAY HOME THROUGH THE CITY



CAN YOU SPOT THE TWO IDENTICAL ROWS?



JUNIOR COLORING



**ROYAL ARCANUM
106th SUPREME COUNCIL SESSION
BALTIMORE HYATT INNER HARBOR
JULY 28-31, 2024
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
baltimore.hyatt.com**



Come join us at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel.

Cost Per Person U.S.	<u>Occupancy</u> <u>Standard Room</u>	Points for Free Trip U.S.
\$ 399	Double	570
\$ 599	Single	860

Please enter my reservation for the Royal Arcanum's Supreme Council Session at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel, 300 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. (Phone: 410-528-1234).

My party will consist of the following persons: (type or print only) / Use additional paper if necessary.

M _____ Council No. _____

Address _____

Spouse (please enter first name) _____

Children (enter names & ages) _____

Room Type (circle) Single Double

Have you earned a prize trip? Yes No No. of trips _____

Package includes: Sunday Welcome Dinner, Tuesday Theme Dinner Party. Daily Breakfast Voucher will be provided. Complimentary standard internet access in guest rooms and social spaces. Guest rooms have flat screen television, climate control, full bath amenities, hair dryer, coffeemaker, iron and ironing board.

Self-parking at hotel is \$20.00 per vehicle per night for registered guests.

BWI is the recommended airport & AMTRAK Station; both approximately 12 miles (20–25-minute ride) to the hotel that can be reached by taxi or Uber from the passenger pick-up areas.

Arrangements for members to extend their hotel stay in Baltimore (if **rooms are available**) can be made for an additional charge.

Arrival date _____ Departure Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

IMPORTANT: Names and home addresses of ALL individuals must be supplied.
Guest rooms will be available after 3 pm on Sunday, July 28, 2024. Departures will be on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

**A Deposit of \$50.00 per person (Adults and Juniors),
including OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES, is required with each reservation.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ROYAL ARCANUM

Mail to: ROYAL ARCANUM

John Crisanti, CFO

61 Batterymarch Street

Boston, MA 02110

Phone: 1-888-272-2686

Email: info@royalarcanum.com



**RESERVATIONS WITH DEPOSITS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 1, 2024.
Changes made after this date are subject to hotel penalties/charges.**

A WORD FROM THE SUPREME SECRETARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

As we're looking into the new year, we also look **Into the Future**. The snow is falling and it's quiet in my house for the first time in a long time. Our baby girl, Grace (She's 17 now) is looking into colleges for the Fall. Time surely flies! Most of you may remember Grace from the mini-vacation in Tennessee; she was dressed in pink from head to toe on theme night (cowgirl hat to boots). I



know I'm not the only one out there who has seen time fly by. Now Grace is stressing over where to go to college; she has applied to nine schools and two have already come back with offers. So here we are looking **Into the Future**, thinking about where she will go, housing, food and so many other incidentals to prep for the college experience. I know we cannot predict what the future will hold for her but we can help guide her down the right path.

There is one thing that we can do now and **Into the Future**; ensure that she and everyone we care about is protected in case of an emergency. With children going off to school, particularly in a different state, please make sure you have these two items covered:

1. A Power of Attorney
2. Health Care Proxy

If your child is 18, then he/she is an adult in the eyes of the law. If he/she has an emergency and you don't have these two items in

place, representatives of hospitals, the police, banks, and any other agencies involved won't be able to speak to you.

With the Royal Arcanum, you and your children can also be protected with life insurance and annuities. We are helping families **Into the Future** and beyond. Whether for long or short term, we are here to help you along the way. Insurance can set up a legacy for your children or grandchildren so they will be able to carry on. They may even say, "WOW! Grandma and Grandpa left this for me."

Let's talk about annuities. If you open an annuity early in life, just think of the possibilities. All it takes is \$500 to start one. Then, over the years, add "deposit gifts" for birthday, Christmas/Hanukkah, and whenever there's extra monies, and watch the annuity value grow!

The great thing about Royal Arcanum is that you can start at any age. While insurance has some guidelines to follow, an annuity can help you **Into the Future** for retirement, legacy funding or to have play money when you retire.

The Royal Arcanum should not be kept a secret. Tell your friends, neighbors, hairdresser, barber that our fraternal benefit society has excellent ways to help now and **Into the Future**.

Everyone in the Home Office will be happy to help you; they're only a phone call away.

Yours in V.M.C.,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Basa". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tony Basa

Supreme Secretary



ANNUITIES

**4% Current Credited rate for Annuities!!
Guaranteed 3% rate of return for
the life of the contract.**

**\$500
Minimum
Deposit**



**Tax-Deferred
Until Withdrawal**



**No Service
Charges**

**6-Year
Declining
Surrender
Charge**

**A DEAL WORTH
GETTING EXCITED
ABOUT!!**

**10% Penalty-
Free Annual
Withdrawal
Available****



For complete information on annuities, please contact the Home Office at 1-888-ARCANUM (272-2686).

Discover the value of a member-based fraternal benefit society.

*The contract will provide a minimum 3% credited rate for the life of the annuity.

**Please contact a tax professional prior to taking any withdrawals for potential tax liabilities.