

# Bulletin



Summer Edition

## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



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

Nicole M. Covelli - Supreme Regent



Hello Members,

Happy Summer! The warm air has finally arrived, and I am sure we are all ready to enjoy it.

On Saturday June 14th I presented my program “**REVIVE the Royal Arcanum Family**” at my home jurisdiction of Illinois. Grand Regent Lisa Crawford hosted the luncheon and we were happy to welcome a fantastic turnout of members to the event! Lisa introduced Deputy Supreme Regent and Life Member David Covelli, and Elective Member of the Executive Committee Carl Krzystofczyk. It made my heart feel so good to see so many familiar faces that I haven’t seen in quite a while.

The Grand Council of Illinois donated over three hundred books to Shriners Children’s Hospital in Oak Park. Dan Winter, their senior philanthropist, was in attendance to explain how the Shriners help thousands of children every year with some of the most complicated diseases children have to endure. He was amazed to see the number of books we collected. He told us that when the children select a book during their visit to the hospital for treatment, they are able to take the book home with them, as it becomes theirs. I am very happy that my initiative to collect books is so beneficial to many worthwhile organizations.

Please remember all those who have been affected by the horrendous floods in Texas. Anything you can do to help them would be greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to my next visitation to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in September.

Fondly,

*Nicole M. Covelli*

Bonjour à tous,

Bon été ! Le beau temps est enfin arrivé, et je suis sûr que nous sommes tous prêts à en profiter.

Le samedi 14 juin, j’ai présenté mon programme « **REVIVE the Royal Arcanum Family** » dans ma juridiction d’origine, l’Illinois. La Grande Régente Lisa Crawford a animé le déjeuner et nous avons été ravis d’accueillir une foule nombreuse de membres ! Lisa a présenté le Régent suprême adjoint et membre à vie, David Covelli, ainsi que le membre élu du Comité exécutif, Carl Krzystofczyk. J’ai été ravi de revoir autant de visages familiers que je n’avais pas vus depuis longtemps.

Le Grand Conseil de l’Illinois a fait don de plus de trois cents livres à l’hôpital pour enfants Shriners d’Oak Park. Dan Winter, leur principal philanthrope, était présent pour expliquer comment les Shriners aident chaque année des milliers d’enfants atteints de certaines des maladies les plus graves. Il a été impressionné par le nombre de livres que nous avons collectés. Il nous a expliqué que lorsque les enfants choisissent un livre lors de leur visite à l’hôpital pour y être soignés, ils peuvent le repartir chez eux, car il devient leur. Je suis très heureux que mon initiative de collecte de livres soit si bénéfique pour de nombreuses organisations philanthropiques.

N’oubliez pas nos membres touchés par les terribles inondations au Texas. Toute aide que vous pourrez apporter sera grandement appréciée.

J’ai hâte de me rendre à Philadelphie, en Pennsylvanie, en septembre.

Sincèrement,

*Nicole M. Covelli*

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**Bulletin**  
**Deadline**

Articles and photos must be in the editorial office by **October 9, 2025**. Mail to the Royal Arcanum Bulletin, Home Office, 61 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110-3208.  
**Next Publication Date: November 17, 2025**

Recycling electronics is important for reducing e-waste and conserving valuable materials. Here are some ways to recycle your old electronics responsibly:

## 1. Take them to an E-Waste Recycling Center

Many cities have designated e-waste recycling facilities where you can drop off electronics for proper recycling. These centers safely dismantle electronics and recover precious metals, plastics, and other materials for reuse.

## 2. Manufacturer Take-Back Programs

Many electronics manufacturers and retailers offer take-back or trade-in programs. These programs allow you to return old products for recycling or receive discounts on new purchases. Examples include:

- Apple's Recycling Program
- Best Buy's Trade-In Program
- Samsung's Recycling Initiative

## 3. Donate Working Electronics

If your electronics are still in good working condition, consider donating them to schools, non-profits, or individuals in need. Many organizations accept used electronics to refurbish and distribute them.



## 4. Retailer Collection Bins

Some retailers have collection bins in their stores where you can drop off small electronics like phones, batteries, chargers, and tablets. For example:

- Staples and Office Depot often have recycling bins for old electronics.
- Electronics stores like Best Buy often provide free recycling of small electronics.

## 5. Sell or Trade Your Electronics

If your electronics are still functional, you can sell or trade them. Websites like eBay, Craigslist, or specialized platforms like Gazelle or Swappa allow you to sell old phones, laptops, and other devices.

## 6. Certified E-Waste Recyclers

Ensure the company handling your e-waste is certified by organizations like:

- R2 (Responsible Recycling) Certification
- e-Stewards Certification

These certifications guarantee that the recycling process is environmentally sound and that no toxic materials are improperly disposed of.

## 7. Recycling Programs for Specific Items

- Batteries: Many places have recycling bins specifically for batteries, which contain harmful materials like cadmium and mercury.

- Televisions: Old TVs, especially CRTs (tube TVs), can be hazardous.

Many local recycling programs accept them for proper disposal.

- Cell Phones: Old phones can be recycled through manufacturer programs or

through organizations like Call2Recycle, which accept phones and other small electronics.

## 8. Upcycle or Repurpose Parts

If you enjoy DIY projects, you can repurpose old electronics into new, functional items. For example, old computer parts can be used in art projects, or an old phone could be converted into a home security camera.

## 9. Community E-Waste Collection Events

Some cities and communities host e-waste recycling events where you can drop off old electronics at no cost. Keep an eye out for these events, especially around Earth Day or during specific recycling awareness campaigns.

By recycling electronics responsibly, you help prevent harmful chemicals from entering the environment and contribute to the reuse of valuable materials.



# ROYAL ARCANUM SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Royal Arcanum awarded \$60,000 in  
scholarships and grants in 2025.

**Apply today!!**

Our competitive scholarships: based on merit and membership

(Two) \$10,000 scholarships awarded at \$2,500 per year for four years

(Two) \$8,000 scholarships awarded at \$2,000 per year for four years

(Two) \$5,000 scholarships awarded at \$1,250 per year for four years

(Ten) \$2,000 scholarships awarded at \$500 per year for four years

Our competitive college grants: based on membership

(Six) Continuing Education Grants • \$1,200 each

Our non-competitive college grants: based on membership

(Five) Grants • \$600 each for high school seniors

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and below taking a SAT,  
ACT, PSAT, or LSAT training  
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# READERS FOR UKRAINE

In support of Supreme Regent Nicole Covelli campaign's project of providing book donations to help foster a love of reading, the members of Versatility Council #2501, New Jersey continued their efforts for the Royal Arcanum's fraternal program for Ukraine. As members participated in a summer "mystery" read-a-thon challenge, support was generated for preschool, kindergarten, and grade school Ukrainian students.

With help from the Fraternal Director's contacts in Poland, members were able to select books (in the Polish and Ukrainian languages) for the children. Many Disney classics, story time favorites, and other scholastic readers were available. In addition to the selections made by the members, the council "matched" the efforts for a total of 144 books being gifted for the children.

The generosity of the Arcanian family has enabled the fraternal project for Ukraine, that began in February 2022 to continue without interruption. Cartons of useful new items including clothing, bedding, accessories, medical supplies, and an assortment of children's items are sent each month for Ukrainian "guests" who are residing in convents and dormitories in Poland and directly to Ukraine to aid families who remained there (when transport into the region is safe to do so). Urgent needs exist and the sisters at the convents remain steadfast in dedicated, compassionate service to their neighbors and to those in their care.

It is our fervent hope that as a new school year begins, good news of harmony and peace will prevail so that children around the world can look forward to a bright and hopeful future.



**Deputy Supreme Regent Gen Macon with English version books that were gifted in the Polish and Ukrainian languages for the students.**



**Ukrainian kindergarten students love to read.**

# INSPIRE: CONSERVATION CLEAN UP



While reading the last Bulletin, I came across the article about the Inspire program. It motivated me to get out into our community and lend a hand. Our 100% Royal Arcanum family noticed a

cleanup at a local pond and we signed up. You don't often witness a display of environmental concern and community spirit as inspiring as what took place near the end of June at Horn Pond in Woburn, MA. The Mystic River Watershed Association and Friends of Horn Pond teamed up to organize a volunteer event aimed at ridding Horn Pond's lagoon of the invasive water chestnut, first spotted in the wild in Concord, MA in the 1870s. Since then, the water chestnut has spread all over New England, rooting itself in the shallow, nutrient-rich waters of rivers, lakes, and ponds, latching onto native water flora with its barbed seed pods, and spreading its wide leaves over the surface of the water, crowding out competition for sunlight and impeding recreational swimming and boating.

Beginning at 9AM on Saturday, June 28, community members of all ages appeared at the Causeway on Woburn Parkway in shifts to help remove these water chestnuts from the lagoon. Organizers provided canoes and other equipment, and when the volunteers were ready to go, they paired up and took to the water. The canoes scattered to each corner of the lagoon and waded deep into clusters of water chestnuts, allowing the

volunteers to reach into the water, remove the plants, and throw them into collection baskets. Volunteers were warned to avoid forceful tugging, as that could dislodge the seed pod from the chestnut plant (aiding in its spread across the lagoon), or worse yet, damage the plants around it. Fortunately, careful twisting was enough to untangle a water chestnut from nearby native roots.



**Alpha-Agassiz members Patrick, Shane and Amy Fitzgerald**

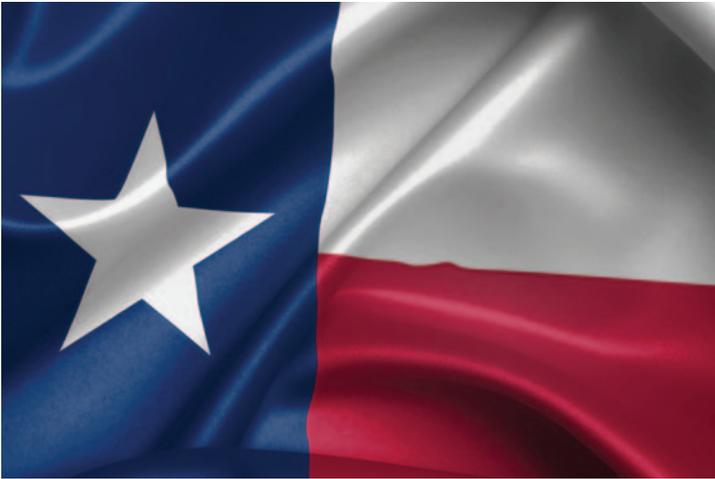
One by one, canoes returned to shore to empty their baskets, and then set out again for further collection. But the work didn't stop when the water chestnuts hit land: other volunteers swooped in to lift buckets out of the canoes and dump their contents into a 15-yard dumpster next to the causeway. In just that one day, the volunteers filled the dumpster with water chestnut plants beyond its capacity, despite the best efforts of those tamping down the pile. The day's work finished with ~750

baskets (an estimated 15,000 pounds) of water chestnuts extracted from the water. When the last shift of volunteers finally said goodbye at 4PM, the dumpster was hauled off to be composted at an offsite facility.

Just a month ago, the lagoon's surface was a big, green mat of leaves. Today, humans and wildlife alike can enjoy the open waters of the lagoon once more. One can only hope that further water chestnut removal won't be necessary for a while, but when the time comes, you can be sure that the Mystic River Watershed Association, Friends of Horn Pond, and community members in and around Woburn will get the job done.

*Submitted by: Shane Fitzgerald - Alpha-Agassiz Council*





In times of natural disasters, fraternal benefit societies have answered the call to provide relief to victims of the tragedies through funding efforts, goods, supportive services, and prayers.

From July 4 through July 7, 2025, flash floods along the Guadalupe River in the Hill Country (Kerr County) in the state of Texas caused one of the most horrific catastrophes in our nation's history. The river rose quickly (about 26 feet in 45 minutes), with water flowing through homes and youth camps in the early morning hours of July 4 and then forcefully continuing to neighboring areas in the hours and days that followed.

The loss of life from the intensely destructive floods had a profound impact not only on the people in Texas but for the entire U.S. nation. Everyone was extremely saddened by the deaths of young children who were away at summer camp when the flood waters ravaged the campgrounds. As the death toll rose and people remained missing, we learned how truly fragile life is and how things can adversely

change in a short time. The children, in particular, had enjoyed all sorts of camp activities throughout the day and then during the night, their lives were taken by the unforgiving flood waters. Many material things that were lost can probably be replaced, but the loss of a loved one especially in such a tragic way, leaves an open wound that may never mend.

The Royal Arcanum is asking all grand and subordinate councils to support the people of Texas by making a monetary donation to a reputable charitable organization that will provide aid directly to the people during this difficult time.

Please inform the Fraternal Department by letter, email ([info@royalarcanum.com](mailto:info@royalarcanum.com)) or phone call of the donations and/or activities being done by your members and councils for this cause.



A sincere "Thank you" is extended to all of our fraternalists who responded to the initial request that appeared in the RA newsletters that were originally circulated in councils.

Please keep in prayer the people in Texas and those volunteers who were "on

the scene" in the aftermath of the devastation to provide rescue, recovery, and relief efforts. May they experience comfort, consolation, and healing during their time of insurmountable grief.

## VOLUNTEERISM IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Alpha-Agassiz Council is at it again. Anthony Basa, Grand Regent of Massachusetts (photos to the right) along with Antal Basa, Jr., the Supreme Secretary, received awards for ten years of volunteer service at the New England Hemophilia Association (NEHA). Every year they participate in the weeklong Family Camp that's held at Geneva Point Center in New Hampshire. The objective of the camp is to help children learn to live with a bleeding disorder.

*Submitted by: Tony Basa  
Secretary, Alpha-Agassiz*



## 67 YEARS OF SERVICE



The Grand Council of Massachusetts had the honor of formally recognizing Polly Veino of Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 for her 67 years of service as a member of the Royal Arcanum. Sister Veino joined the Royal Arcanum in April 1958. The Grand Regent of Massachusetts, Anthony Basa presented her (his grandmother) with the citation and service pin. The Grand

Council thanks Sister Veino for her years of service and looks forward to many more.

*Submitted by: Antal Basa, Jr.  
Grand Secretary, Grand Council of Massachusetts*



# GRAND COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS

On June 7, 2025, members of Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 participated in the American Heart Association (AHA) Walk held at Rhode Island College. It was a great day for walking and meeting new people who all have one cause in mind. Arcanians Tony Basa and his daughter, Grace participated in the event, together with Grace's boyfriend, Geri.

Tony is a heart attack survivor and like others who have experienced such a life-changing event, is grateful for a second chance in life. He reminds everyone to listen to their body and get checked out. Shout out to the Massachusetts Grand Council and Alpha-Agassiz to help Tony reach his goal in support of the AHA.



Grace Basa, Tony Basa and Geri Balazs - "Tony and His Heart Attacks" walking for healthy hearts

# INTERNATIONAL FRATERNAL SERVICE

"Charity" has always been the underpinning of the Royal Arcanum's fraternal mission. The International Fraternal Service (IFS) Program was established to assist subordinate councils, grand councils, and councils that volunteer together to promote the Society by sponsoring community projects.

The Supreme Council is proud to share in the charitable projects of the councils through the IFS Program and will provide funds, up to \$1,000 per calendar year, per council, to help make their donations go farther. The project selected by the council must be for the general welfare of the community or cause, locally or at-large. A carefully chosen project, well planned and executed, will promote good will and a favorable awareness of the council, and the Royal Arcanum Projects may include goods or monetary donations, providing they comply with the guidelines of the IFS Program. A brochure with instructions and a one-page request form can be obtained from the Royal Arcanum website ([www.royalarcanum.com](http://www.royalarcanum.com)) or by calling the Home Office (1-888-ARCANUM).



Recent IFS Projects have been conducted for pediatric hospitals, hospices, walk-a-thons for finding medical cures, schools for special-needs children, programs for the blind and sight-impaired, food pantries and soup kitchens, programs for the active military and veterans, holiday toy drives for underprivileged children, crisis shelters, relief efforts, humane societies, and a host of other charitable causes across the United States.

Since its inception, the program has been a huge success and continues to present a wonderful opportunity for councils to render support, as members share fraternal spirit and form community partnerships.

We look forward to making 2025 another record-breaking year with a further increase in council participation. We can do it! Highlights of completed projects will appear in upcoming Bulletins and on the Royal Arcanum Facebook Page and in the monthly e-newsletters. All councils are invited to share their good news with our readers!

# ILLINOIS WELCOMES THE SUPREME REGENT



On June 14, 2025, Supreme Regent Nicole Covelli presented her program to her home jurisdiction of Illinois. A luncheon arranged by Deputy Supreme Regent David Covelli was held at Wildfire Restaurant in Glenview. We were pleased at the large number of members who attended Nicole's

presentation of her 2024-2026 Program, "**REVIVE the Royal Arcanum Family**". Some members traveled as far away as Wisconsin.

Grand Regent Lisa Crawford welcomed the members. She thanked Deputy Supreme Regent David Covelli for arranging the beautiful luncheon. She then

asked Past Supreme Regent and Executive Committee member Carl Krzystofczyk to give the opening prayer.

Nicole's program shared her journey, starting as a child in the Royal Arcanum. She continued the journey as a Supreme Representative and then was elected to the Finance Committee where she served for eight years. She was elected to the office of Supreme Regent in 2024.

She discussed the importance of bringing in new members to enable the Royal Arcanum to continue into the future. She discussed her initiative of the importance of providing books for children and young adults.

In addition to the luncheon, the Grand Council of Illinois donated over three hundred books to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Oak Park, Illinois. The members brought dozens of additional books. A representative of



the Shriners Hospital, Mr. Dan Winter, spoke to the members in great detail about all the pediatric specialty care services they provide for many deserving children. He was thrilled with the number of books. He explained that when a child visits the hospital for treatment, they

can select a book and are able to take it home with them when they leave.

Supreme Regent Nicole brought a nice selection of gifts for all of the members in attendance. These included a

cooler/duffle bag, a stadium blanket and of course an infamous Royal Arcanum pen. Grand Regent Lisa Crawford of Illinois provided a lovely insulated cup to the members.

Supreme Regent Nicole held a raffle. The winners were Mary Olson, Carl Krzystofczyk, Christine Krzystofczyk, and Betty Pierson.

Grand Regent Lisa Crawford acknowledged the members for their continued support and introduced the officers. The program concluded with Nicole thanking the members for their service to the Royal Arcanum and sharing her hopes to see many new faces in the future.

Submitted by: *Joanne Covelli*  
Secretary, Fort Dearborn Council



# NEW JERSEY'S MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES

Members of the New Jersey Grand Council continued their tradition of conducting activities in observance of Memorial Day. Led by Grand Regent Richard Macon, FIC, the Fraternal Service Committee members decorated the graves of Royal Arcanum veterans of the Armed Forces with flags and geranium plants in cemeteries in the Garden State, as well as at memorial markers at parishes in

the Bayonne community. The members participated in a Sunday liturgy at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (OLMC) Church, Bayonne and hosted an Appreciation Breakfast for members of eight Veterans Posts and their families. It was a weekend filled with remembrance, patriotism, and fellowship shared by the Arcanian fraternalists and friends in the community.



**Left: Gen and Evelyn at the grave of Stanley Skowronski. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marines from 1944 through 1950 and was a member of Bayonne Council #695.**



**Right: Patriotic tributes at the OLMC memorial for veterans of the Armed Forces**



# BAKER'S BOX: FLOWER COOKIES

Enjoy this recipe shared by Past Supreme Regent Errica Conforto. Make baking a family activity! These cookies will surely become a favorite for every season and holiday gathering!

## INGREDIENTS:

1 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 1/2 cup good quality butter, at room temperature  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
3 egg yolks  
2 3/4 cups of flour  
1 jar peach marmalade or other fruit flavor

## DIRECTIONS:

For preparing the dough, you can use your hands or electric mixer.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine confectioners' sugar, butter and vanilla. Mix well.

Add eggs and mix a few minutes more. Add flour. Form the dough into a ball-shape and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes for dough to rest.

Dust work surface with flour. With a rolling pin, roll the dough into a circle (making sure that the bottom is dusted with flour).

With a metal stamp form, cut the dough (I use the form of a flower or just a round disc) into many pieces, one for the bottom of the cookie and another for the top. For the top pieces of cookie, use a small round stamp to make a hole in the center.

Arrange the pieces on a parchment paper-lined cookie tray and bake for 13-15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Remove tray from oven and cool completely. Assemble the cookies with your favorite marmalade (as shown in photos). Dust with confectioners' sugar and enjoy with family and friends.



# FRATERNAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As the summer season finds us out and about to discover new activities, visit new places, and seek new adventures, chances are that somewhere in our travels we'll encounter trekking over a bridge. Whether it's the Golden Gate in San Francisco, the Tower in London, the Charles in Prague, or the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, bridges possess historical, scenic, architectural, and engineering interest. Most importantly, these spanning structures have a vital role for allowing us to safely pass over a gap to reach another point on our journey.

From the earliest bridges made from stepping stones and fallen trees, to suspension bridges that are supported by cables (such as the Mackinac Bridge that connects the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan), to double-decker bridges with two levels (such as the George Washington Bridge that connects New York and New Jersey), bridges are important structures for everyday commuting. Engineers combine structural principles with materials science and construction techniques to create safe, durable, efficient crossings over obstacles such as rivers, valleys, roads, and railways. It's notable to mention that bridges connect community! In essence, fraternalists are bridge builders, too! Across the jurisdictions, fraternalists unite members, join new friends, and connect with charitable causes.

Since the Royal Arcanum was founded 148 years ago, the Society has remained well-connected in the fraternal industry to offer solid permanent life insurance plans for newborns through seniors. Additionally, the Royal Arcanum sponsors Junior opportunities, social outings, member benefits, and a host of fraternal activities. It's always a great time to have our fraternal family grow by connecting with family and friends to introduce them to our Society and potentially welcome them as new members.

Just like the mortar, steel, and cables that bolster bridges, the fraternal attributes of Virtue, Mercy, and Charity continue to strengthen and guide our work by having councils and members engaged, journeying onward with anticipation of exciting things to come; much like crossing a bridge and getting a glimpse of a new place that awaits!

Through the International Fraternal Service Program, the Supreme Council provides matching funds to charitable

projects, up to \$1,000 per council, annually. The program connects members with community causes, locally, nationally, and globally and we encourage grand and subordinate councils to sponsor a project this year.

The Buddy Project is forging ahead with four teams of members volunteering together with brothers and sisters of other jurisdictions and promoting the Royal



Arcanum while extending support for the Helping Our Neighbors Ministry at Arch Street Church in Philadelphia, New England Hemophilia Association, and Shriners Children's Hospitals across the country. Our fraternalists-in-action are building bridges of support to help these fine organizations continue the much-needed services they provide to those in need.

Sadly, the horrific flooding in Texas in July gravely impacted local areas but also affected our entire nation, particularly with the tragic deaths of the children. In times of disaster, fraternal benefit societies offer support with funds, goods, services, and prayers to help neighbors, both near and far. I ask all councils to consider making a donation to a charitable cause that is working directly to aid families who are suffering as a result of the catastrophe.

I congratulate the RA scholarship and grant recipients and wish success to students in all grades as they begin a new academic year and embark on the bridge into their future.

I hope that you'll enjoy the remaining weeks of summer. If there should be a bridge along your travel route, remember that it may connect you to an amazing new opportunity!

In friendship,

*Cynthia A. Macon*

Cindy Macon  
Fraternal-Communications Director

# 20 PAY LIFE

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# 2025 ROYAL ARCANUM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



JOSEPH E. HALLINAN  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
**Emily Solondz**  
Woodside Council #1358

**\$10,000**



LLOYD E. WILLIAMS  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
**Jacob Olano**  
Group California #1999

**\$10,000**



**Isabella Wisniewski**  
Sons of Poland Council #2016

**\$8,000**

# 2025 ROYAL ARCANUM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Gabriela Potoczak**  
Sons of Poland Council #2016

**\$8,000**



**Brianna LaFreed**  
Integrity Council #586

**\$5,000**



**Edward Aboud**  
Integrity Council #586

**\$5,000**

# 2025 ROYAL ARCANUM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Jake Bourhill**  
Sons of Poland Council #2016

**\$2,000**



**Finnegan Dougherty**  
Integrity Council #586

**\$2,000**



**Julia Hammond**  
Group New Jersey #2002

**\$2,000**

# 2025 ROYAL ARCANUM GRANT RECIPIENT



**Connor Voisine**  
Haut St-Jean Council #59

**\$1,200**

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BENEFITS LIKE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS?**

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**WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME  
PART OF OUR FRATERNITY!**

## IN MEMORIAM: GLORIA DONALDSON



**Gloria Donaldson**  
1948-2024

The jurisdiction of Ontario sadly reports the passing of Sister Gloria Donaldson on July 12, 2024.

Enrolled into Coronation Council #2224 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Gloria was an active member who held several positions in the subordinate council, was elected as Grand Regent of Ontario, and served as a Supreme Council

Representative. For having introduced family and friends who enrolled as members, Gloria earned the distinguished service award with two diamonds.

Gloria truly enjoyed Royal Arcanum activities and was an avid organizer of the council's charity BINGO events. Her allegiance to the fraternal objective of 'Charity' was witnessed in the many projects that she coordinated with members for the benefit of local causes and for the community-at-large. The poor and homeless, those with disabilities, sheltered women and children, and causes to find medical cures were beneficiaries of Sister Donaldson's fraternal leadership and good work.

Gloria was a talented quilter and knitter. She enjoyed adventurous travels and looked forward with much enthusiasm to attending the Royal Arcanum's Sessions and mini vacations where she volunteered for many committees and special projects.

Gloria is survived by her loving family and the Royal Arcanum members who are most grateful for her unwavering devotedness to sharing fraternalism and friendship in the hope of making the days better and brighter for those in need.

*May she rest in eternal peace.*

## IN MEMORIAM: LEIGH B. SPORTUN



**Leigh B. Sportun**  
1941-2025

The jurisdiction of Illinois sadly reports that Brother Leigh B. Sportun passed away on May 4, 2025. A member of Fort Dearborn Council #278 in Chicago, Brother Sportun notably served the subordinate council and was elected to serve as the Grand Regent of the jurisdiction of Illinois. The members rallied for his Grand Council campaigns

and years later elected him to serve in the distinguished office for another term. A Supreme Council Representative, Leigh led the Illinois delegation at many Sessions held throughout

the U.S. and in Canada and delighted in the opportunity that the events provided for connecting with fellow Arcanians where fraternalism and fellowship abounded.

A native of Chicago, Brother Sportun served in the U.S. Army from 1959 through 1963 with much time of the enlistment having him stationed at Fort Richardson in Alaska. Upon his return home to Illinois, Leigh began a plumbing apprenticeship and soon afterwards found his true calling as an electrician. A highlight of his impressive career in the field was working to build the main switchboards for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). Later, Leigh enjoyed owning and operating a construction company that focused on home repair projects, particularly finishing basements.

Brother Leigh is survived by his loving family and friends and many "brothers and sisters" in the Royal Arcanum who will long remember his joyful spirit and dedicated service.

*May he rest in eternal peace.*

# IN MEMORIAM: JOSEPH G. CONFORTO



**Joseph G. Conforto**  
1938-2025

The Supreme Council sadly announces that Brother Joseph G. Conforto passed from his earthly life on June 20, 2025. “Joe”, as he was affectionately known, was born in San Fratello, Messina, Italy. He emigrated to the United States at age 18 and made New York his new home. He met

his future bride, Errica, while she was visiting from Italy during the summer of 1973 and they married in December of that same year.

Joe established himself in the orthopedic industry and worked tirelessly during his career, specializing in making braces and other related implements for patients across the country. He started his own business, JC Orthopedic in Manhattan and later moved operations to the Bronx, where he was respected for his expertise, meticulous labor, strong work ethic, and the concerned interest he had taken for each and every patient that he served. Errica worked alongside Joe in the business and shared the same dedication to improving the lives of others by applying skills and creativity to best accommodate the varied needs which they witnessed.

Errica and Joe raised their children, Fred and Gabriella in their home in the Bronx; a dwelling filled with love, faith, harmony, family, and friends.

Joe and Errica enrolled into Royal Arcanum’s Claremont Council #1655 in the Bronx, New York in 1992. From their initial introduction to the Society and its mission of volunteer service, the Confortos quickly became immersed in council activity and engaged in its charitable works. Joe served the subordinate council in many offices and was elected as Regent. He led the council in advancing fraternalism and expanding charitable projects - a most successful term that was credited to Joe’s leadership and involvement in council programs. Joe advanced through “the chairs” and was elected to the Grand Council of New York; most recently serving as

Grand Orator. He was proud to serve as a Supreme Council Representative from 2006 through 2022 and was elected as a Supreme Trustee in 2022, a position he held until his passing.

It was evident in the most admirable way that Joe and Errica were almost inseparable and fully lived a genuine love story. Perhaps the proudest memory Joe held for his association with the Royal Arcanum was seeing Errica elected as Supreme Regent for the 2016-2018 term. Serving as our “First Gentleman”, Joe trekked with Errica across the U.S. and Canada to promote the **TEAMWORK** campaign and greatly inspired members to help the less fortunate.

Joe was instrumental in coordinating the council’s ongoing efforts to offer assistance for a host of charitable causes, many times volunteering behind the scenes to accomplish project goals. A member of the Fraternal Events Committee, Joe rallied support for the national gifting projects and volunteered with the members from inception to completion of these endeavors.

Joe enjoyed attending Royal Arcanum events and often said that if not for the Royal Arcanum, he probably would not have gotten to visit as many places as he did with Errica and form so many lasting friendships from coast to coast. He always had a story (with a bit of humor attached) to share and was a willing participant in a variety of performances staged at council gatherings. If you had the opportunity to see Joe appear as an opera singer, for sure you thought it was the acclaimed Luciano Pavarotti in the spotlight! His presence brought us an infinite joy that will not be forgotten and his legacy of service will be carried forth in our future fraternal work and allegiance to the attributes of Virtue, Mercy, and Charity.

Joe is survived by his loving family – wife, Errica; son, Fred; daughter, Gabriella; son-in-law, Steve; grandchildren, Alexandra, Luca and Logan; a sister, two brothers, and their families.

Our officers and members are grateful to have had Joe in our extended fraternal family and remain honored to call him “Brother”.

*May he rest in eternal peace.*

# BAYONNE CELEBRATES FLAG DAY



One of the totes for the military that was filled with comforts from home.

Members of Bayonne Council #695 and Versatility Council #2501 hosted festivities in honor of 'The Stars and Stripes' to welcome the summer season and to provide the opportunity for the fraternalists to assemble appreciation parcels with care items from home that would be sent to service men and women who are currently on active duty; we have many troops stationed overseas. The project was conducted for Operation Shoebox and was well-received by the Arcanians and their families and friends.

Flag-themed totes were filled to the brim with healthcare essentials, sun screen, bug block, socks, non-perishable snacks, batteries, and mystery books. Along with a variety of other 'Thinking of You' gifts that were added, the parcels were prepared with much gratitude for the troops and in recognition of their selfless service to protecting our nation and safeguarding our freedom.



# FLAG DAY



Community Service Committee members taking part in the councils' Flag Day fraternal project

# ANOTHER CANDLE ON OUR CAKE

On June 23rd of this year the Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum celebrated its 148th anniversary! This milestone of our fraternal benefit society was made possible by the generations of fraternalists who have enrolled as members and have held allegiance to the fraternal mission and the Society's unwavering service to members and to community.

We take this opportunity to share with our new members a brief synopsis of the Arcanian history as we look forward to its continual growth, progress, and accomplishment into the future.

Over a century ago in the United States, people joined together to share friendship, common goals, and support. From their interaction, fraternal societies were born with members helping fellow members, especially in times of need.

The Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum was organized by nine men as a fraternal benefit society on June 23, 1877 in Boston, Massachusetts. It was founded on the principles of fraternalism and sound business practices for offering affordable life insurance protection based on a scale of assessment. This was a new concept in fraternal circles.

Dr. Darius Wilson, a medical doctor by profession, and founder of the organization, became the first Supreme Regent. He chose to name the Society, "Royal Arcanum". He envisioned the Society to be "the source and origin for sending forth an endless stream of fraternity, flowing constantly onward and enriching every individual and every community with whom it may come in contact." The Society's incorporation charter was granted on November 5, 1877.

Soon subordinate councils became established in local communities and grand councils were formed to

represent statewide jurisdictions and provinces. In 1940 boys were admitted into membership and in 1956 girls were invited to enroll and the Junior Department was created. In 1958 women were accepted into membership and with this step, the Royal Arcanum became a family fraternal benefit society. The Society is based on the founding principles of Virtue, Mercy and Charity.

Members promote love of country, home and friends; faithfulness to family; honor in dealings with humankind, generosity with those in need, and compassion for the bereaved and distressed.

Since its founding, the Royal Arcanum has promoted quality products and opportunities for members as they prepare for their futures. A varied and impressive portfolio of life protection policies for birth through 85 years of age has been developed and remains in force, with new products consistently being researched and marketed to address consumer needs.

The Society, being organized under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is subject to examinations of its operations by the Massachusetts Department of Insurance and by the other 30 states and District of Columbia where it is licensed to conduct business.

Royal Arcanians are always welcome to participate in socials, family outings, recreational activities, and other council-sponsored events. As new members enroll, the Society continues the legacy of its founding fathers: Having Virtue in their thoughts, Mercy in their hearts, and Charity in their actions.

"Cheers" to the Royal Arcanum and "Thank you" to all of our members for remembering the past, celebrating today, and anticipating the future with great expectation!



# SUMMERTIME FUN

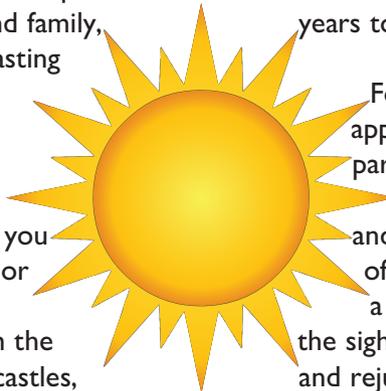
Summertime is a season filled with excitement and fun for people of all ages. From splashing around in the pool to enjoying outdoor barbecues with friends and family, there are endless opportunities to create lasting memories during the sunny months of summer.

One of the most popular summertime activities is heading to the beach. Whether you prefer basking in the sun on a lounge chair or riding the waves on a surfboard, the beach offers a relaxing and refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Building sandcastles, collecting seashells, and playing beach volleyball are just a few of the many ways to have fun at the shore.

For those who prefer to stay closer to home, a backyard barbecue is the perfect way to enjoy the warm weather and good company. Firing up the grill, sizzling hot dogs and hamburgers, and sharing stories and laughs with loved ones create a sense of camaraderie and joy that is hard to replicate in any other setting. Add some refreshing beverages, lively music, and games like cornhole or frisbee, and you have the recipe for a perfect summer day.

Of course, no summertime is complete without a visit to an amusement park or water park. The thrill of riding roller coasters, splashing down water slides, and indulging in sweet treats like cotton candy and ice cream make these attractions a favorite destination for thrill-seekers and families alike. The anticipation of waiting in line, the rush of adrenaline on a thrilling ride, and the sense of

accomplishment after conquering a fear all combine to create a memorable experience that will be cherished for years to come.



For those who prefer a more laid-back approach to summertime fun, a picnic in the park or a leisurely hike through nature can offer a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Packing a basket full of sandwiches, fruit, and snacks, spreading out a blanket under a shady tree, and taking in the sights and sounds of nature can be a soothing and rejuvenating way to spend a summer afternoon.

In conclusion, summertime is a season that is meant to be enjoyed to the fullest. Whether you prefer the excitement of the beach, the relaxation of a backyard barbecue, the thrill of an amusement park, or the tranquility of a picnic in the park, there are countless ways to make the most of the warm weather and long days that characterize the summer months. So, grab your sunscreen, sunglasses, and sense of adventure, and make the most of summertime fun!

Remember to be safe and take care of each other during this fun time of year.

Yours in V.M.C.,  
Antal Basa, Jr.  
Supreme Secretary  
Abasa@royalarcanum.com  
617-429-8763



## TREASURE FROM OUR PAST

Pictured is a marble paperweight memento from the Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum's 95th Session that was held in San Diego, California in August 2000. Brother James O'Neill of San Jose Council #2384 was elected as the Society's Supreme Regent at the event, twenty-five years ago!

Emblazoned on the piece is the permanent symbol of The Order - a replica of the DSA award enhanced with the letters V.M.C. and the numbers 1105 which hold special significance for the Royal Arcanum and are highlighted to new members when they are introduced to their council.



# SIMPLIFIED ISSUE PLAN

**Premiums never increase and death benefit never decreases**

**Issue Ages  
No Medical Exam**  
Age 20-85\*

**Minimum Face  
Amount**  
Age 20-85\* \$2,500

**Maximum  
Amount**  
Age 20-69\* \$50,000  
Age 70-85\* \$25,000

\*Not Available in all  
States

**This plan  
offers  
permanent  
protection  
for your  
loved ones  
that builds  
cash value  
each year.**

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The members of Versatility Council #2501, New Jersey were in “Elf Mode” as they welcomed summer and conducted a ‘Christmas in July’ fraternal project in support of the Felician Sisters’ programs for children throughout the country. The sisters, stationed in various areas on the East Coast and out West in New Mexico and California, are celebrating their 150th Anniversary of service in North America this year. Their faith-driven commitment and selfless work is demonstrated in the host of ministries of which they are engaged; they serve where they are needed.

As educators, medical professionals, social concern leaders, and in other roles, they provide hope in action through their response to answering the call to compassion, work,

and prayer. In several parts of the country, the sisters tend to the needs of the poor, suffering, and underprivileged; many of whom are children.

The Arcanian fraternalists prepared holiday gift totes containing new games, dolls, plush animals, toys, puzzle and coloring books, and other “Wish List” items that were sent to the sisters for the children in their care. Santa would surely be proud of their bountiful contributions. Sharing the “Spirit of the Season” with joy and fellowship was the “heart” of this endeavor and the members look forward to coordinating future projects at the North Pole workshop before the year ends.



Evelyn and Gen with one of Santa’s sacks for the children

# JUNIOR DEPARTMENT NEWS AND VIEWS

Every year, the summer edition of our Royal Arcanum Bulletin is special to all of us because we salute and feature the happy faces of our Junior scholarship winners. As Junior Director, I congratulate our college-bound students on the awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for scholarships and grants up to \$1,200.

Did you know that, since its inception, the Royal Arcanum program has awarded over one and a half million dollars in scholarships and grants to eligible Juniors? Through a

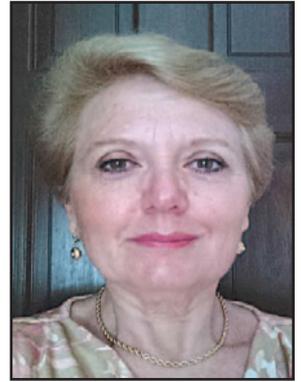
wide variety of programs, our Society provides many opportunities for our Juniors, and we want to make sure that their educational needs are a priority. We want to remind and encourage Junior members in good standing to apply for the available scholarships and grants. As a reminder of the application process, as we have done in the past, postal cards will be mailed out in the fall to members who are entering their senior year of high school

and will be going to college or trade school in the fall of 2026. The deadline for the application is December 31st, 2025. To all of our past scholarship winners, please remember that you are required to submit your tuition bill (including your student ID) every year in order for the funds to be sent to your college.

I take this opportunity to wish our members, family, and friends a happy, fun, and safe summer.



We are so proud of the accomplishments of our Juniors, and wish you continued success in whatever the future may hold. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Home Office at 888-272-2686 or email [info@royalarcanum.com](mailto:info@royalarcanum.com).



**Junior Department  
Director  
Errica Conforto**

Many thanks to the Home

Office staff for coordinating the scholarship process and for assembling all the required documents from the candidates before the deadline.

I also remind members of the "Youth of the Year Award Program" which has an application deadline of November 30th, 2025. The program is designed to recognize our Junior members who distinguish themselves with leadership and volunteerism within their councils and community. Winners receive a \$300 award. You can find more information and application forms on our website, [www.royalarcanum.com](http://www.royalarcanum.com) and

in the spring edition of our Bulletin.

Sincerely yours in V.M.C.,

Errica Conforto  
Junior Director

# SUMMER WORD SEARCH

## Word List

Strawberry

Flower

Butterfly

Ladybug

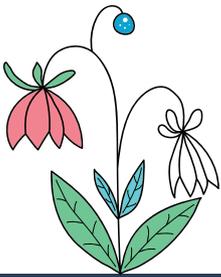
Snail

Dragonfly

Pineapple

Icecream

Mushroom



S	A	H	F	L	O	W	E	R	L
T	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y
A	R	S	E	S	Y	W	I	C	H
W	L	A	L	A	D	Y	B	U	G
B	S	N	A	I	L	L	E	T	R
E	N	E	A	G	O	W	F	R	Y
R	D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y
R	P	I	N	E	A	P	P	L	E
Y	A	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M
M	U	S	H	R	O	O	M	C	Y

## 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

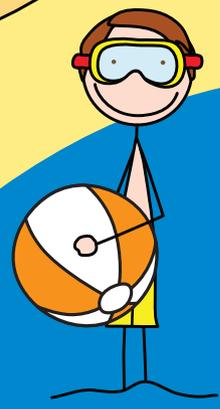
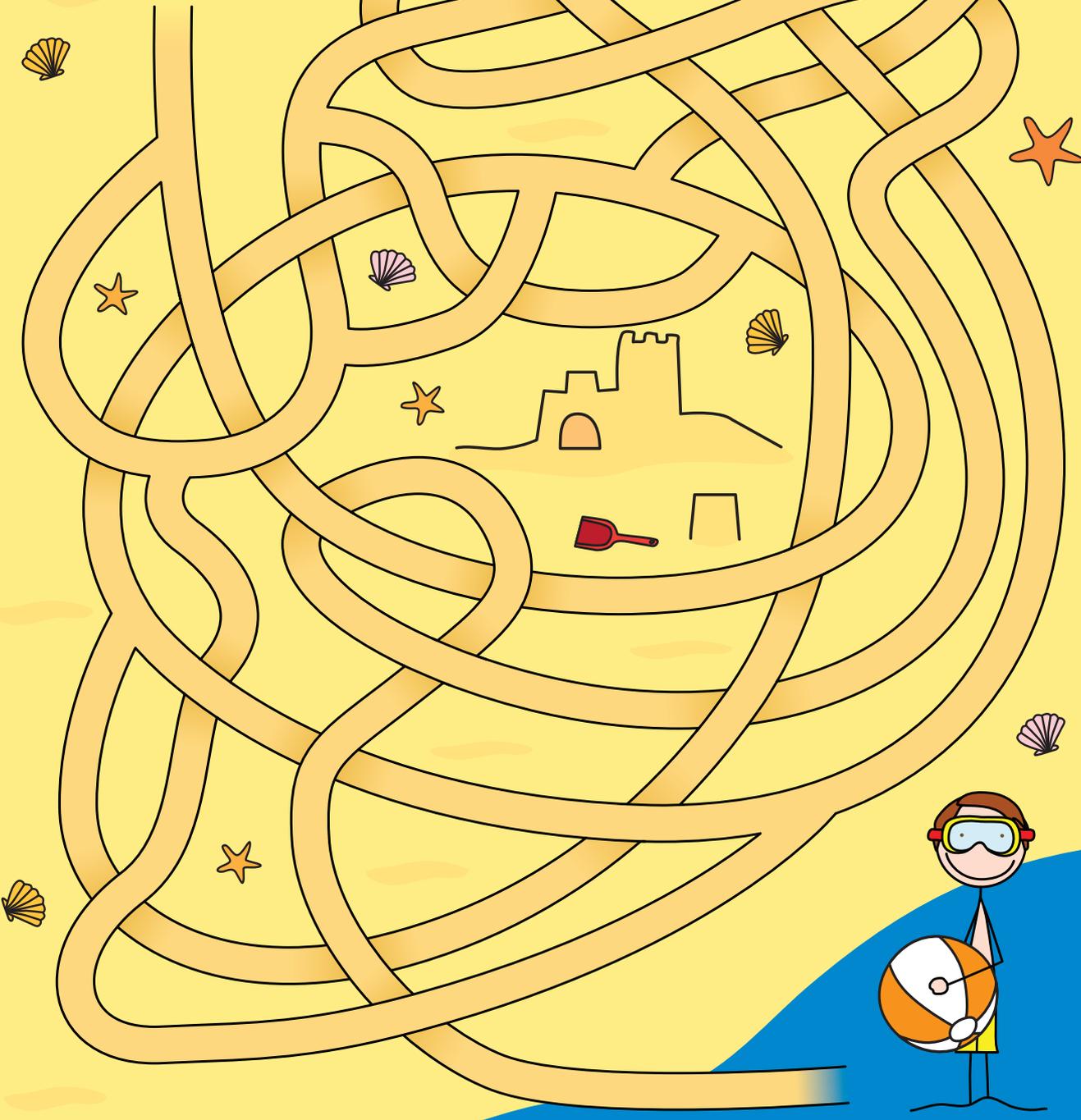
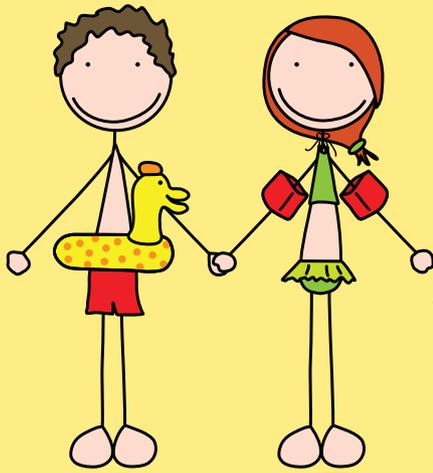
Age

Council

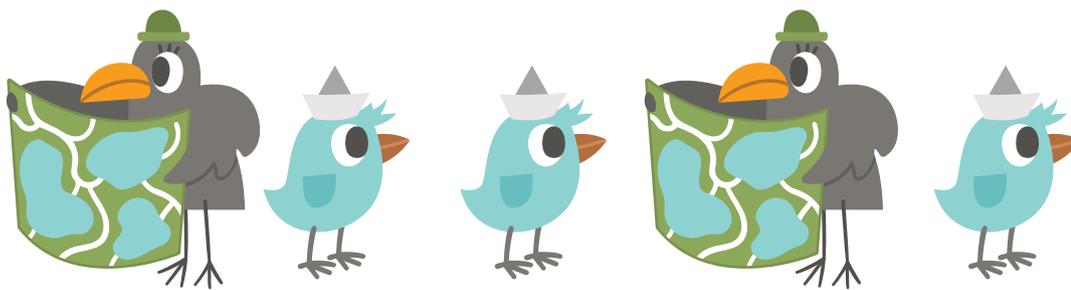
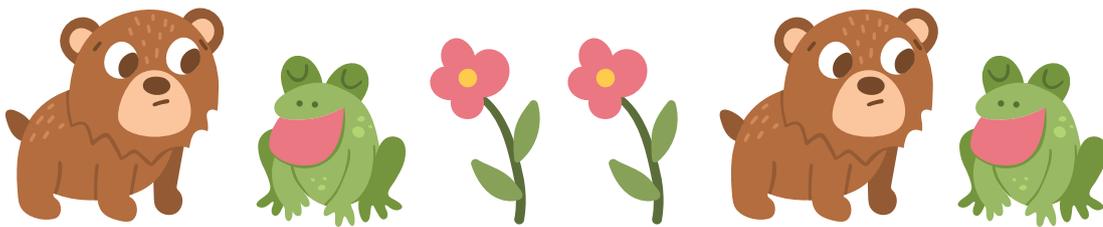
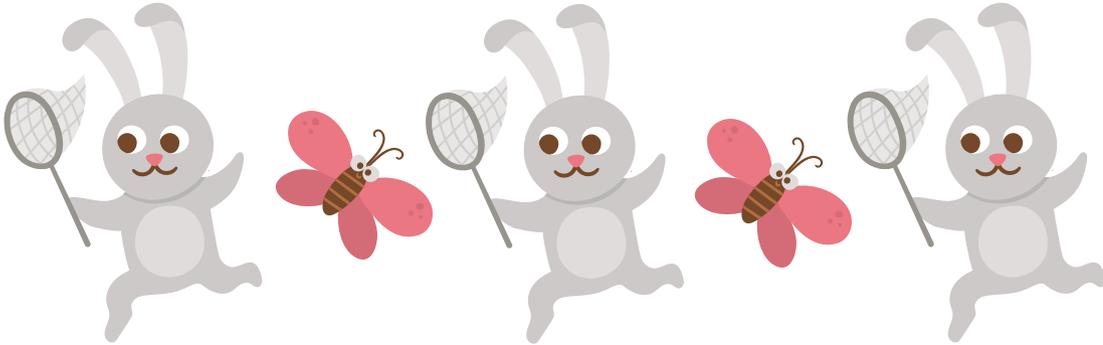
Email Address

**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**

# SUMMERTIME MAZE



# WHAT COMES NEXT?



# JUNIOR SUMMER COLORING



# FALL GARDENING

In the Northeast, fall gardening can be quite rewarding due to the cooler temperatures, which are ideal for many vegetables. Here are some of the best vegetables to plant in the fall:

**Kale:** This hardy green thrives in cooler temperatures and can be harvested well into winter.

**Collard Greens:** Similar to kale, collard greens are frost-tolerant and can withstand cold weather.

**Spinach:** Spinach can be planted in early fall for a late harvest and can also tolerate frost.

**Garlic:** Late fall is the perfect time to plant garlic, as it will establish roots before winter and be ready to harvest the following summer.

**Radishes:** Quick-growing and can be planted in late summer or early fall for a rapid harvest.

**Turnips:** These root vegetables can be sown in late summer to early

fall and tend to taste better after a frost.

**Beets:** Beets can be planted until mid-fall and can be harvested into the winter.

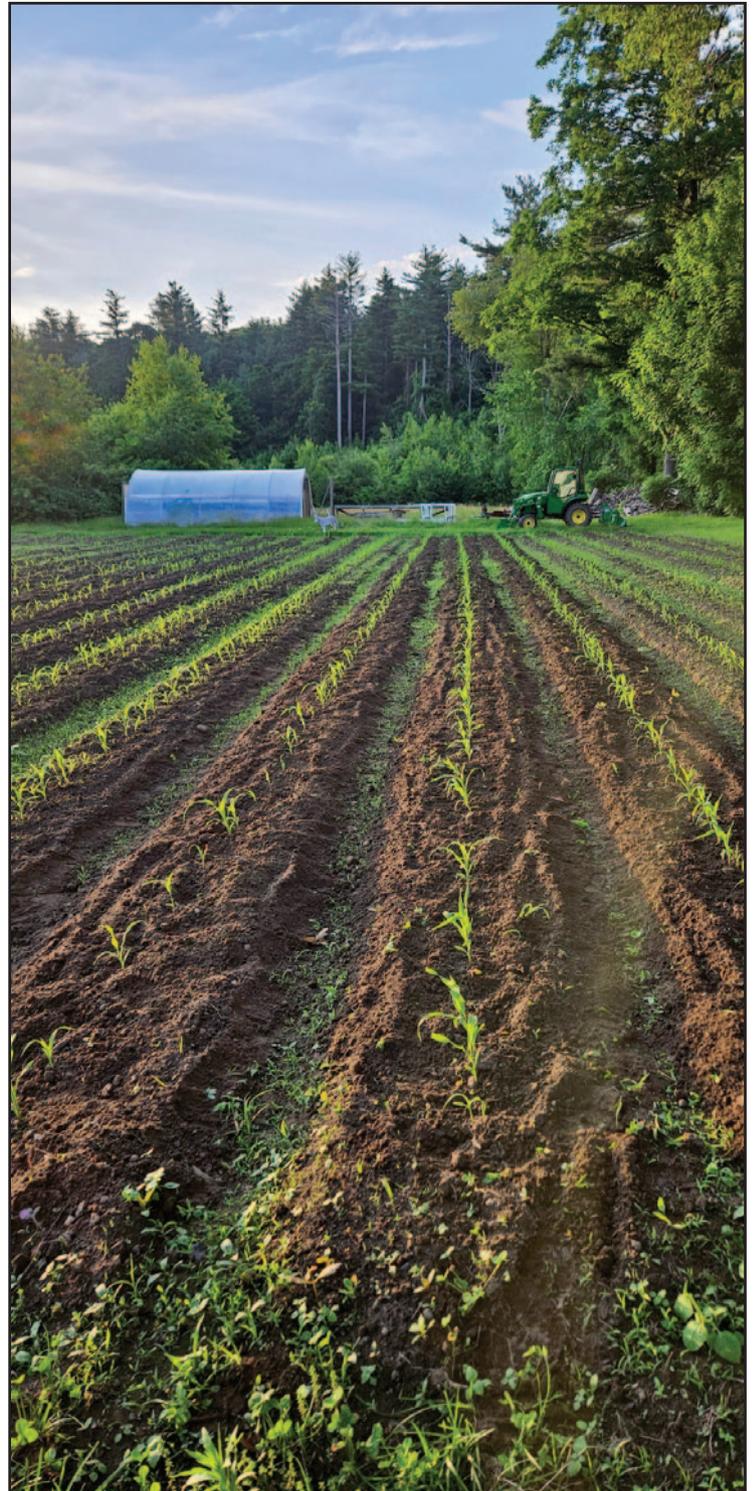
**Carrots:** Sowing carrots in late summer or early fall allows them to mature into winter.

**Broccoli:** Depending on the variety, broccoli can be planted in late summer for a fall harvest.

**Brussels Sprouts:** These are best planted in early summer for a fall harvest but can also be established earlier to mature in fall.

**Swiss Chard:** This vegetable can grow well into the fall and withstand frost.

When planting fall crops, it's essential to consider your local frost dates and select varieties that have time to mature before the first hard frost. Additionally, using row covers can help protect plants from unexpected cold spells and extend the growing season.



## A WORD FROM THE SUPREME SECRETARY

Life insurance and annuities are crucial financial tools that can provide peace of mind and financial security for families in the event of an unexpected death or financial hardship. These insurance products offer a way to protect loved ones and ensure their financial stability, even in difficult times.

One of the key benefits of life insurance is the death benefit, which provides a lump sum payment to beneficiaries upon the death of the insured. This can be used to cover funeral expenses, outstanding debts, mortgage payments, college tuition, and other financial obligations. In the absence of a primary breadwinner, life insurance can help maintain the family's standard of living and provide financial support during a difficult transition period.

In addition to the death benefit, life insurance can also function as a savings vehicle with the potential for cash value accumulation over time. This can be particularly beneficial for families looking to build an emergency fund or save for their children's education. With the option to choose between term life insurance, which provides coverage for a specific period of time, and permanent life insurance, which offers lifelong protection, families have the flexibility to tailor their coverage to their specific needs and budget.

Annuities, on the other hand, offer a reliable source of income during retirement years. By investing in an annuity, individuals can create a steady stream of income that can supplement Social Security benefits and other retirement savings. Annuities come in



various forms, including fixed annuities, variable annuities, and indexed annuities, each with its own unique features and benefits. These products can provide peace of mind and financial security for retirees, ensuring that they have a reliable source of income to support their lifestyle and cover essential expenses.

Protecting a family with life insurance and annuities is a smart financial decision that can provide valuable protection and security for loved ones. By planning and investing in these insurance products, families can safeguard their financial future and ensure that their loved ones are taken care of no matter what life throws their way. With the right coverage in place, families can have peace of mind knowing that they have a safety net in place to protect them from financial hardship and uncertainty.



Royal Arcanum provides a Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity for our members; please feel free to reach out and let's get you started to financial security.

Yours in V.M.C.,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antal Basa, Jr." in a cursive style.

Antal Basa, Jr  
Supreme Secretary  
Abasa@royalarcanum.com  
617-429-8763

# ANNUITIES

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

- **Tax-Deferred Until Withdrawal**
- **\$500 Minimum Deposit**
- **No Service Charges**
- **6-Year Declining Surrender Charge**
- **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.