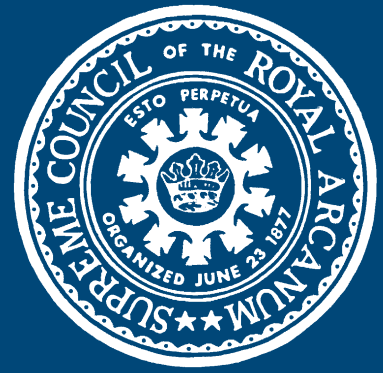
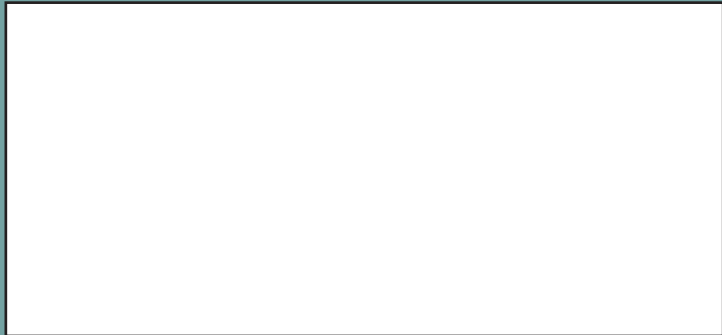


ROYAL  ARCANUM
AN INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY PROVIDING FAMILY PROTECTION



Bulletin

Winter Edition 2023



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 Brother and Sisters,

Let's start off this year with a positive and compassionate attitude by organizing charitable projects throughout our communities and beyond! My main goal of this letter is to be encouraging and to emphasize encouragement to others.

This past year, the Royal Arcanum did an amazing job by donating over \$40,000 and so much more for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and in neighboring countries. Many councils also participated in the International Fraternal Service Program.

I invite our councils to join the effort for the 'Cereal Box Collection' and have members donate as many boxes as possible for the hungry, poor, and those in need.

We must encourage one another and volunteer together for our Society to grow stronger as we step **Into the Future!** The Juniors are the future and there are many benefits that the Royal Arcanum provides for them: from scholarships and grants to being involved in charitable activities and volunteerism, to getting recognized in the Bulletin and even being rewarded for their good work!

I had the pleasure of meeting newly appointed insurance agent, Maurice Jones, and his wife, Althea. Maurice gifted me a first edition, historical book from 1904. It is appreciated.

The Royal Arcanum's annuity credited interest rate has been increased to 4%. The rate also applies for existing annuities. You may wish to take advantage of this benefit this year.

I'll soon present the **Into the Future** program in our jurisdictions. I look forward to sharing the importance of 'Charity' - the heart of our organization with everyone.

Fraternally in VMC,

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

Maria Bettina DiBartolo
Supreme Regent

Chers frères et sœurs,

Commençons cette année avec une attitude positive et compatissante en organisant des projets caritatifs dans nos communautés et au-delà ! Mon objectif principal de cette lettre est d'être encourageant et de mettre l'accent sur l'encouragement aux autres.

L'année dernière, le Royal Arcanum a fait un travail incroyable en faisant don de plus de 40 000 \$ et bien plus encore pour les réfugiés ukrainiens en Pologne et dans les pays voisins. De nombreux conseils ont également participé au programme de service fraternel international.

J'invite nos conseils à se joindre à l'effort pour la "Collection de boîtes de céréales" et à demander aux membres de donner autant de boîtes que possible pour les affamés, les pauvres et ceux dans le besoin.

Nous devons nous encourager les uns les autres et faire du bénévolat ensemble pour que notre Société devienne plus forte alors que nous entrons dans l'avenir ! Les Juniors sont l'avenir et le Royal Arcanum leur offre de nombreux avantages: qu'il s'agisse de bourses d'études et de subventions, de s'impliquer dans des activités caritatives et de bénévolat, d'être reconnu dans le Bulletin et même d'être récompensé pour son bon travail!

J'ai eu le plaisir de rencontrer l'agent d'assurance nouvellement nommé, Maurice Jones, et son épouse, Althea. Maurice m'a offert une édition originale, livre historique de 1904. C'est apprécié.

Le taux d'intérêt crédité sur la rente de le Royal Arcanum a été augmenté à 4 %. Le taux s'applique également aux rentes existantes. Vous voudrez peut-être profiter de cet avantage cette année.

Je présenterai prochainement le programme **Into the Future** dans nos juridictions. J'ai hâte de partager l'importance de la «charité» - le cœur de notre organisation avec tout le monde.

Fraternellement en VMC,

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

Maria Bettina DiBartolo
Régente Suprême

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Official publication (Publication number USPS 472-260) of the Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum, 61 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110-3208. Published quarterly. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA 02110 and additional mailing offices. Subscription terms: one dollar per year. Printed in the U.S.A.

Postmaster: In the event magazine is undeliverable, please send Form 3579 addressed to Royal Arcanum, 61 Batterymarch St., Boston, MA 02110-3208.

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Bulletin Deadline

Articles and photos must be in the editorial office by **March 28, 2023**. Mail to the Royal Arcanum Bulletin, Home Office, 61 Batterymarch Street, Boston, MA 02110-3208.
Next Publication Date: May 4, 2023

INTERNATIONAL FRATERNAL SERVICE

Members of Claremont Council #1655 in New York sponsored their International Fraternal Service projects in collaboration with the Supreme Council by making monetary donations of \$500 each to three charitable organizations in the Bronx community. The gifts were presented by Maria and Freddy DiBartolo, Errica and Joe Conforto, Augie Magnotta, and Teresa Di Bartolo.

Calvary Hospital was the recipient of the first donation. The acute care specialty hospital provides palliative care for adult patients with advanced cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

The second donation was made to the Sisters of Life. Founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O'Connor, the Sisters, in vowing to protect and enhance the sacredness of every human life, serve women who are pregnant. They offer retreats, hope and healing as part of their mission. Their extraordinary work saves babies at risk of abortion.

The third donation was delivered to the Sisters, Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick; a religious community and nursing

order that is devoted to tendering compassionate, home health nursing for the sick and dying, day or night, free of charge.

The members presented the Grand Council of New York's \$500 IFS donation to Children of Promise, NYC to further its work of supporting and advocating for the children of incarcerated parents. Staff and volunteers create opportunities for the youngsters to thrive and achieve their full potential through programs that include mental health services, academic enrichment, and one-to-one mentoring. In addition to the monetary contribution, clothes, coats, toys, and 80 boxes of cereal were provided by the fraternalists for the children.

The recipient organizations acknowledged the Royal Arcanum for having been selected as beneficiaries of the 2022 International Fraternal Service Fund. It is gratifying to witness that the Society's founding objective of 'Charity' continues to guide fraternal work in New York and throughout the Supreme Council.

Submitted by: Errica Conforto



Mother Superior Sr. Silvia Juarez S. de M. and the Sisters, Servants of Mary receive the IFS donation from the Arcanians.



Mariella Arroba (center), Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations at Calvary Hospital accepts the donation from Royal Arcanum members. Christopher Ayson and Amy Cassidy, representing the hospital, are also pictured.



Lisette Rojano, Assistant Director (center) and Misses Dotti and Shoshana, Counselors at Children of Promise, NYC accept the monetary donation and assortment of gifts from the New York Grand Council.



Members present the IFS contribution to Sr. Maria Laetitia for the Sisters of Life.

HOLIDAY WISHES FOR UKRAINE

Members of Versatility Council #2501 in Bayonne, New Jersey conducted a St. Nicholas Day project for Ukrainian children. Youngsters are residing with Sisters in convents in Poland as war sadly continues in their homeland. The Royal Arcanum fraternalists wished to send a bit of "Holiday Hope" across the miles, as the children had much to endure throughout the year. As always, the RA girls sprung into action and secured St. Nick's List, complete with ages and sizes of the children in the Sisters' care. The fraternal elves then prepared individualized gift boxes for the children to know that St. Nick was thinking especially of each of them. New clothing articles, winter outerwear, toys, and sweets were wrapped and tagged for St. Nick's delivery to the children.

The Royal Arcanum has received heartwarming letters of appreciation from the Sisters for the tremendous support that

councils and members have provided for the Ukrainian effort. The "Sunflower Project and Shower" held in Annapolis continues to help the Ukrainian children, as more are leaving their country because of the war. Winter arrived and there is no heat, sparse food, and little shelter.

The familiar Christmas song, "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" had special meaning for Versatility's members in December. It's difficult to imagine not knowing if you'll ever be able to return to your home; a fear that's upon the Ukrainian people.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Royal Arcanum's fraternal-charitable program for Ukraine throughout 2022. May international peace soon be a reality for all.



NJ Grand Regent Richard Macon and DSR Gen Macon sort gifts for the Ukrainian children.



Elaine, Gen, Chris, and Evelyn shop for the St. Nick project for Ukrainian children.

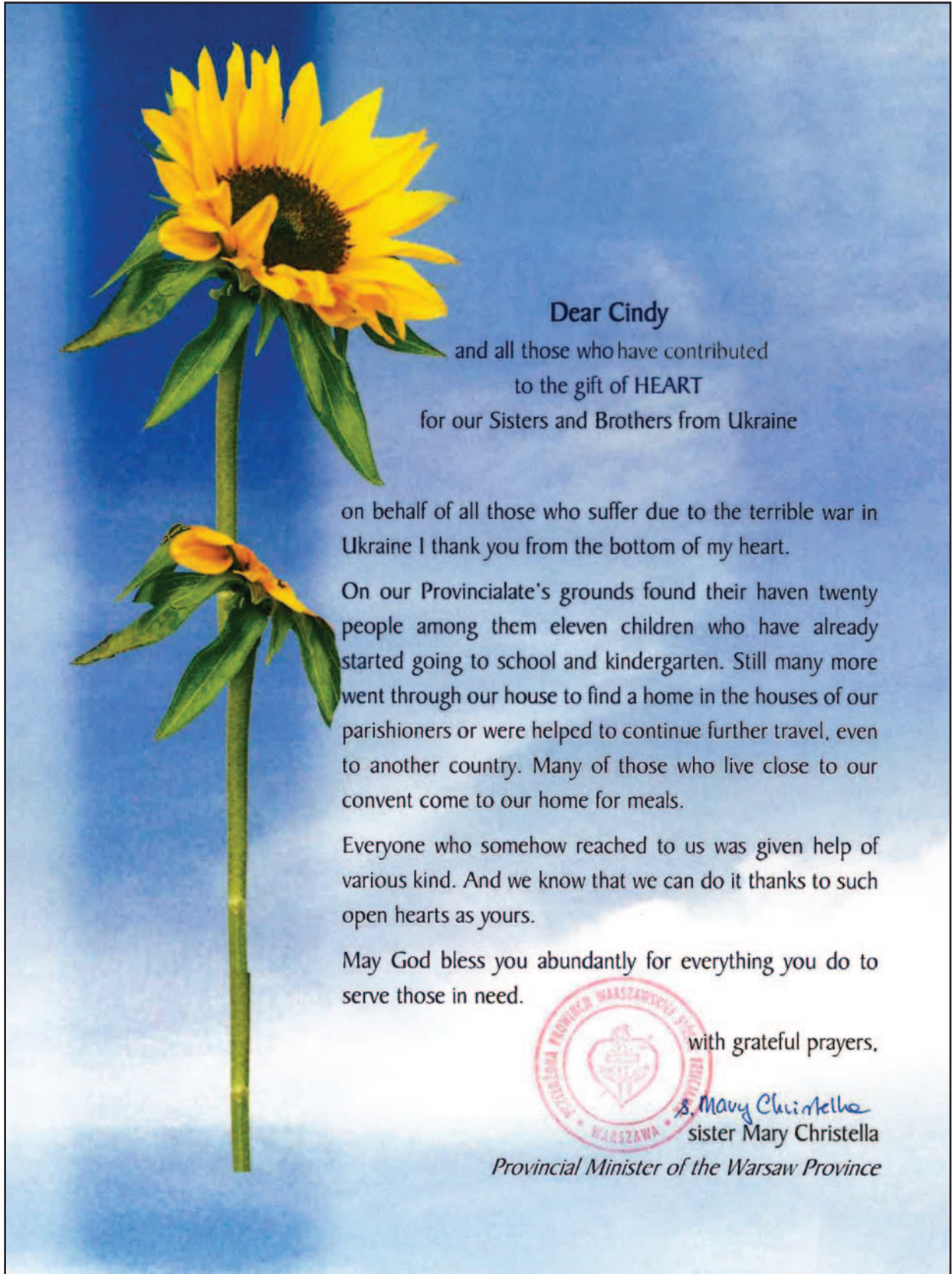


Felician Sisters Julitta, Inga, and Marilyn, visiting from Haiti, are thankful for the Arcanian support of the Sisters' work around the globe.

THANK YOU FROM THE UKRAINE

Sharing one of the many letters and messages of gratitude to our councils, members and friends for their donations

to the Royal Arcanum Fraternal Department's projects for helping the people of Ukraine. Thank you, all!



Dear Cindy

and all those who have contributed
to the gift of HEART
for our Sisters and Brothers from Ukraine

on behalf of all those who suffer due to the terrible war in Ukraine I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

On our Provincialate's grounds found their haven twenty people among them eleven children who have already started going to school and kindergarten. Still many more went through our house to find a home in the houses of our parishioners or were helped to continue further travel, even to another country. Many of those who live close to our convent come to our home for meals.

Everyone who somehow reached to us was given help of various kind. And we know that we can do it thanks to such open hearts as yours.

May God bless you abundantly for everything you do to serve those in need.

with grateful prayers,

S. Mary Chirakelka
sister Mary Christella

Provincial Minister of the Warsaw Province



PLYMOUTH AREA COALITION CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND

A few Home Office associates gathered gifts for the Plymouth Area Coalition Children's Holiday Fund. This remarkable program provides toys, gifts, and winter

clothing, and holiday meal baskets to deserving children in the South Shore communities.



MEREDITH BENOIT VOLUNTEERS IN COMMUNITY

Meredith Benoit, age 12, a Junior member of Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 in Massachusetts shared her talents by volunteering to provide a "spook"-tacular holiday for seniors.

She created 30 Halloween greeting cards and baked cupcakes for seniors at the Plymouth Community Council on Aging (PCCA), a non-profit organization that coordinates programs which promote and safeguard the independence and well being of senior citizens of the greater Plymouth community.

Great job, Meredith!



THE WINNING ESSAY

One night a teacher was correcting essays written by her students. As she read one essay, tears began streaming down her cheeks. Her husband looked up from the TV and asked her what the matter was.

She handed him the essay she was reading. In the essay, the child wrote that he wished he was a TV so he could win the love and attention of his parents. He told how his mother



watched the TV to be happy and how his father watched it for hours to rest after coming home from work. The child wished to be a TV so he could be the center of attention and earn the love of his parents.

The husband turned and said, "What a poor kid! Such horrible parents!"

She looked at him and said, "That essay is by our own son."

INTEGRITY COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

In preparation for the autumn and winter holidays, as in years past, Joe & Joan Tedesco of Integrity Council #586 in Pennsylvania volunteered for various charities. In 2022 they helped Toys for Tots, Philabundance Food Bank, and MANNA, as well as securing pies for Thanksgiving dinner at St. John's Hospice.



Collection boxes for Toys for Tots



Joe Tedesco packing boxes of pie donations

The Toys for Tots program is run by the US Marine Corps Reserve to distribute toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. Philabundance helps ensure that children, families, and seniors in a 9-county service area in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey receive nutritious meals. MANNA brings together dieticians, 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.

Joe & Joan were instrumental in collecting gifts for Toys for Tots and promoting MANNA pie sales in the community. In support of their efforts, Integrity Council donated \$500 to purchase pies for feeding the homeless and helped the Tedescos reach their goal of 70 pie donations.

They are thankful to all for the support and look forward to 2023's projects.



Joan Tedesco leaving St. John's Hospice after delivering holiday pies

HARRISBURG COUNCIL #499

After several years of not holding the Christmas event, due to COVID and health issues, we finally gathered together once more for another show at The Allenberry Playhouse. A few members attended, as we are getting smaller each year. The families dined separately this year, but joined after lunch for photos and gifts for the Juniors. This year's show was called Harry Connick, Jr.'s - The Happy Elf.

It is always so good to see the young Juniors attend these events, whether they understand the show or not, the look in their eyes when they see the entertainers is always such a delight. This year several Juniors, who included Charlotte and Natalie Karl and Landon Ferry, watched in amazement. We are hoping that next year's gathering will include many more.

At this time, Harrisburg Council #499, is sad to report that one of our dearest members has passed away, Mrs. Grace Hepford. Grace passed away on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at her home. Grace had always attended our events and was so gracious and lovely. I had known Grace and her husband H. Joseph Hepford almost my entire adult life. Grace graduated from Albright College in 1948 and was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, but her biggest pride in life was raising her two daughters and being a devoted wife to Joseph Hepford.

She loved to travel and she and Joe had been to 50 states, as well as to six of the seven continents (only missing Antarctica). She also enjoyed playing golf, spending time at the Jersey shore and in Florida with her friends, and watching Penn State football. She lived a full life and she will be dearly missed.

We, at Harrisburg Council #499, wish everyone a Happy and HEALTHY New Year!

Submitted by Paulina P. Thomas - Secretary



The Karl Family



**Rick Rubin and Judie
Marcus**



The Keesaman-Ferry Family



Mr. and Mrs. Harold Harshberger

NEW JERSEY SUPPORTS VETS

Grand Regent Richard J. Macon, FIC led the members of New Jersey in a project to bring holiday cheer to veterans in the Garden State. The "Pack the Parcels" campaign got underway in November as the fraternalists observed Veterans Day. Throughout the month of November and as part of the Grand Council's 'Thanks and Gifting' program that has a charitable cause

designated for each month of the year, members and friends contributed snacks and sweet treats to be gifted to veterans for the Christmas season. The effort was a tremendous success with many gift bags being filled to the brim with tasty favorites; these were sent with cards of appreciation and warm wishes to veterans and their families who reside in New Jersey.



Committee members for the Pack the Parcels campaign



A package ready for gifting

NEW YORK'S THANKSGIVING PROJECT

Members of the Grand Council of New York and Claremont Council #1655 conducted their Thanksgiving Food Drive for the 'Feeding the Hungry' program at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish on Belmont Avenue in the Bronx.

Funds to purchase the turkeys and groceries were contributed by the Grand Council, Claremont Council and their members. The project is anticipated each year. The members are dedicated to being fraternalists-in-action so that the holidays can be brighter for those in need.

Twenty-four turkeys, plus boxed stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, rice, pasta, cake mixes, coffee and other tasty fixings were donated to the church on November 21, 2022. Fr. José Felix Ortega thanked the Royal Arcanians for their compassion and donations shared to help the poor.

Submitted by: Errica Conforto



New York members organize Thanksgiving meal donations with Fr. José Felix Ortega.

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CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK



Members of New York hosted Family and Friends Christmas Sunday, December 12, at Buon Amici Restaurant in Arcanians. Sixty adults and thirty Juniors enjoyed the festivities as they “rang in” the holiday season together.

Arcanians from New Jersey – Fraternal Director Cindy Macon, Christine Piscitelli and Evelyn Magarban – were happy to join in all the fun!

Supreme Regent Maria DiBartolo welcomed newly appointed agent Maurice Jones and his wife, Althea to the gathering. Mr. Jones presented Maria with a historical record of the Society from 1904.



**Maurice Jones, NY Grand Regent
Freddy DiBartolo and Supreme Regent
Maria DiBartolo**

A very special guest – Santa Claus (Dennis De Leo) brought wonderful gifts from the Supreme Council Junior Department and Claremont Council #1655 for all of the Juniors in attendance.

The party continued with a hearty meal and lively music. Before long, snowflakes were falling to blanket the streets and walkways. It was beginning to look a lot like

Christmas as everyone exchanged holiday wishes before departing for home.



A Ho-Ho-Ho welcome for Santa in New York

MEDORA FOOD DONATION

It has become a tradition for Medora Council #1648 in Illinois to combine their Christmas dinner meeting with a collection of food for those in need in their community. For years, Medora members Donald Glassi and Gregory Hahn spearheaded the collection and delivery of the food items enthusiastically. Don passed away suddenly in 2020, but Medora has continued his legacy of their food collection for the needy.



Medora Council's Christmas food collection was delivered by Carl and Christine Krzystofczyk.

Medora members collected a truckload of needed items and delivered them to Leyden Family Service Aftercare. They provide a range of counseling, treatment, and preventative care services for adults and adolescents, senior citizens, children, and families in the area. Their Aftercare program provides additional

outpatient programs for those in transition and those still suffering, and in need of help in meeting their basic food needs. The friendly staff helped to unload the delivery to their holding area, which quickly distributed it to their clients.

DON'T SLIP IN THE BATHROOM

Are you safe in your bathroom? Consumer Reports has some tips for ensuring you don't injure yourself in or out of the tub:

- **Get rubber-backed rugs.** Your bathroom rugs should have rubber on the bottom to prevent slips and falls.
- **Check your shower doors.** Small nicks and scratches can create stress points which may break and cause cuts and injuries. Replace glass doors if they're damaged, and be sure they're aligned properly.
- **Make your shower safe.** Keep the temperature on your water heater at 120 degrees to prevent scalding. Add grab bars to keep yourself steady.



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The first game at the “old” Yankee Stadium, home of the New York Yankees was played one hundred years ago in 1923! The game ended with the Yankees victory over the Boston Red Sox, by a score of 4-1. Babe Ruth hit a three-run homer into the right-field stands to secure the win.

At the time, Yankee Stadium had the largest number of seats of any ballpark in America. It was hailed as a one-of-a-kind facility and was often referred to as “The House That Ruth Built” and “The Cathedral of Baseball.” Over time, the stadium became a famous venue, hosting World Series games, boxing matches, concerts and three papal masses.

The stadium became a symbol of American culture and its legacy carries on through the team’s current stadium that opened in 2009. You could say that fans in the stadium add to the excitement of each game and become a great part of that legacy, too! All across the country they exhibit pride for their favorite baseball team by wearing jerseys and caps, cheering as players run the bases, and purchasing yearbooks, pennants and nifty souvenirs to take back home.

Yankee Stadium and other MLB parks evolved over time with the addition of suites, electronic scoreboards and other state-of-the-art features. Providing a great experience for the fans has always remained a prime objective. As a fraternal benefit society that has been in operation for more than 145 years, the Royal Arcanum, too, has evolved to best serve members and communities across the country. The portfolio of permanent life insurance plans has expanded, Junior activities have grown, new fraternal benefits and opportunities have been introduced, and charitable service initiatives are continuously being implemented. The Boston Home Office team of professional, knowledgeable and courteous staff members are genuinely dedicated to best serving members and potential applicants. The Royal Arcanum upholds a steadfast commitment to exceptional service and the Society’s longevity is a testament to such determination.



Councils, officers, and members in all jurisdictions continue to build upon the strong foundation for which the Society was established. Though some things have changed over time as they have in the stadiums, the principles of ‘Virtue, Mercy and Charity’ guide our work to further advance the organization for future



generations. Sound business practices and exemplary volunteerism have always been constant in the Royal Arcanum and for which we credit its success.

Soon fans will head to the stadiums for the first pitch of the new MLB season. Umpires will bellow, “Batter up!” and broadcasters will call each play as cheers fill the air. Let’s share that same excitement in the Royal Arcanum and rally for Supreme Regent Maria’s ‘**Into the Future**’

program. Introduce family and friends to the Society. Organize a gifting project in your council, take part in the IFS program, and invite others to join the Dime a Day Drive. Share kindness **Into the Future** and you’ll be sure to see winning results! Hopefully the Supreme Regent will have a 100% roster of jurisdictions embracing a cause with a project **Into the Future!** The Fraternal Department’s programs continue this year to recognize the good work of the grand and subordinate councils. Instructions and additional information can be found on the website, www.royalarcanum.com. We’ll be cheering you on!

Please stay safe, keep well, and be grateful for all of your blessings. If you have the chance to go to the stadium, enjoy the ballgame and a footlong frankfurter, too!

In Friendship,

Cynthia A. Macon

Cindy Macon

LEGION OF HONOR RECIPIENT AWARDED

At the 105th Supreme Council Session in Annapolis, Maryland, Gregory Hahn of Medora Council #1648 was awarded his Legion of Honor, by proxy. Greg was not able to attend the Session, so it was accepted on his behalf by fellow Medora Council and fellow Legion of Honor member Carl Krzystofczyk. At the first council meeting held after the Session, Greg was presented with his Legion of Honor award.

Greg joined the Royal Arcanum in May 1975 and has been active in his council ever since. In his more than 45 years as an Arcanian, he has served in Medora Council, the Illinois Grand Council, and the Supreme Council. He has served as Treasurer of Medora Council for decades, often joking that when he took the job, he was told he should keep doing it until he “got it right.” His commitment to the Royal Arcanum extends to his children and grandchildren, who are all Royal Arcanum members.



Newest Legion of Honor member Gregory Hahn and his wife Donna Hahn



Medora's three Legion of Honor Members: William Wire, Gregory Hahn, and Carl Krzystofczyk

THREE SMART USES FOR RUBBING ALCOHOL

Rubbing alcohol has many uses for health and well-being. Check out these from the Healthgrades website:

- **Wounds and bites.** Use rubbing alcohol or alcohol pads for minor wounds that puncture the skin. Be careful, though; alcohol can slow skin healing, kill new cell growth, and dry out your skin. (It may also sting!)

- **Tick bites.** After removing the tick from your skin with tweezers, clean the site of the bite with



rubbing alcohol (or soap and water). Place the tick in alcohol or flush it down the toilet. Call your doctor if a rash or fever develops.

- **Swimmer's ear.** If your ear canal becomes inflamed, mix a solution of one part alcohol and one part vinegar. Apply a few drops to your ear. Again, call your doctor if the condition doesn't improve.

IN MEMORIAM: CARMINE CAMPO



Carmine Campo
1927-2022

The members of Claremont Council #1655 In New York sadly report the passing of Brother Carmine Campo on September 13, 2022.

Carmine grew up in the Belmont section of the Bronx, "Little Italy"; the neighborhood that he would be fond of for his entire life. After high school, Carmine was drafted into service during World War II. When he returned to the states, he met his future wife, Antoinette [Annette]. Blessed with 72 years of marriage, they raised three children and over time the family grew with the children's spouses and later with eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Brother Campo was a member of the Royal Arcanum for 44 years. He served the Society as Regent, in several offices of the Grand Council, and as Supreme Council Representative. He was a DSA recipient, was actively involved with the fraternal and charitable initiatives of the New York jurisdiction, was an organizer of its Hospital Association, and participated in the Supreme Council Sessions and mini vacations. He also volunteered for many community organizations and was a dedicated communicant and volunteer at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Carmine lived a life of service and was always willing to help those in need, treating everyone with respect and giving his support to make a positive difference.

The Royal Arcanum is grateful for Brother Campo's friendship and service.

May he rest in eternal peace.

IN MEMORIAM: GRACE HEPFORD



Grace Hepford
1927-2022

The Supreme Council was saddened by the news of the passing of Sister Grace Hepford on September 20, 2022.

A graduate of Albright College, Grace's degree in home economics led her to working for the United Gas Improvement Company in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She also appeared in popular television advertisements for gas powered appliances; in one, she demonstrated baking a

boxed cake mix by using a gas oven. Grace became a skilled cook and baker; her dishes and desserts were favorites of family and friends.

Grace married H. Joseph Hepford in 1952 and together they raised two daughters. She enrolled into Royal Arcanum's Harrisburg Council #499 in 1964 and from the start, she and Joe became immersed in service to our Society. Following the election of Brother Hepford as Supreme Regent in 1990, Grace, as the Royal Arcanum's

First Lady, accompanied him on ventures throughout the United States and Canada to lead the innovative "Be a Performer" and "Go for the Gold" campaigns.

Sister Grace organized the golf tournaments at many Supreme Council Sessions and was instrumental in developing fraternal and charitable service projects that were conducted on behalf of the Society. Joe and Grace had traveled extensively across the globe. They were frequent guest speakers at councils throughout the Northeast to share their experiences and adventures of many countries, including a thrilling African safari.

Sister Hepford was active in volunteering for a host of community organizations throughout her life. She was a humble, gracious and generous person whose kindness touched countless individuals. She was always encouraging and engaged in the fraternal work being done in the Royal Arcanum. Blessed with a marriage of 57 years, Grace was predeceased by her beloved husband Joe. In addition to their two daughters and their spouses, they are survived by five grandchildren.

The Royal Arcanum is grateful for Sister Grace Hepford; she was a genuine fraternalist and loyal friend.

May she rest in eternal peace.

IN MEMORIAM: JACQUELINE BEDARD



Jacqueline Bedard
1937-2022

The jurisdiction of Quebec is sad to report the passing of Sister Jacqueline Wilson Bedard on November 17, 2022.

Jacqueline, who was affectionately known as Jackie, enrolled as a Royal Arcanum member in 1962 into Jeanne Mance Council #2490 in Montreal. She served the council in various offices, culminating with her election as Regent. She was one of the first women to be elected as

the province Grand Regent. She later mentored other members and prompted them to challenge their energies and aspire to the position, always availing herself to ensure the success of their programs and activities. She coordinated a host of International Fraternal Service and gifting projects, by which the Quebec Councils provided support, through monetary donations, goods, and services to charitable causes; many specially tailored for pediatric hospitals and children's organizations.

As a Supreme Council Representative, Sister Jackie attended the Sessions and mini vacations and served on

several committees. She and her beloved husband, Gilles, LOH member and Supreme Council Officer, volunteered tirelessly to promote the good work of the Royal Arcanum. They were always enthusiastic and supportive of the RA annual national gifting program and sought to further the fraternal-charitable mission of the Society through their leadership and example.

Jackie and Gilles truly enjoyed the friendships made through the Royal Arcanum and were always happy to welcome visiting officers to Montreal, escorting them throughout the region as hospitable and knowledgeable travel guides, assuring the guests of taking a unique memory of Canada back to their home. She was a wonderful hostess who arranged bi-jurisdictional socials when buses from the Northeast, filled with Arcanian brothers and sisters, journeyed to Canada. Sister Jackie embodied goodness to the core, always seeing the best in others and helping wherever and whenever she could with a dedicated and compassionate heart.

Sister Bedard was predeceased by her loving husband Gilles and is survived by their daughter, Christiane and son-in-law, Luc, two grandchildren and their spouses, and three great grandchildren. The Royal Arcanum will fondly remember Jackie as a cherished sister and friend.

May she rest in eternal peace.

ANNUAL DON FERRY, JR MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



On October 22nd, 2022, the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament in honor of the late Don Ferry, Jr took place at the Sagamore Spring Golf Club.

Unfortunately, I had come down with a case of COVID

and missed the tournament. However, John Crisanti represented Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 out on the course.

The weather was unseasonably beautiful and once more, in spite of my absence, Donald's golf clubs played the course one more time.

Submitted by:
Patrick Fitzgerald



PAWTUCKET COUNCIL

Hand painted pumpkins sit on stairs awaiting their trip to Summit Commons Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Providence, RI. Members of Pawtucket Council #539 decorated the pumpkins hoping to bring a little Halloween spirit to the residents. We look forward to the day when, once again, delivering the pumpkins in person will be allowed.

Submitted by: Judy Kolek



SIMPLIFIED ISSUE PLAN

Premiums never increase and
death benefit never decreases



PROGRAM BENEFITS INCLUDE

- * No increase of premium
- * No decrease of death benefit
- * No medical exam
- * Cash accumulation values

CERTIFICATE LOANS
PAYMENT TO BENEFICIARY

SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION

- * Full underwriting not required
- * Full face amount payable in first year
- * Subject to contestable period in first 2 years

CONTACT THE HOME OFFICE FOR DETAILS
BY CALLING 1-888-272-2686

FOLLOW THESE HABITS FOR A LONG LIFE

All of us want to live a long and healthy life. Fortunately, it's not just a matter of genetics and luck. CNN suggests taking these steps for safeguarding your health and happiness for a long time to come:

- **See your doctor regularly.** Get screenings for prediabetes and other health conditions so you can take action before a problem becomes serious.

Consistent visits help you and your doctor get to know each other, building trust and allowing your doctor to spot potential problems early.

- **Exercise consistently.** Regular physical activity can reduce your risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, and other complications as you grow older. Try to get about two and a half hours of moderate to vigorous exercise a week to stay fit.

- **Eat right.** Limit your consumption of processed foods and eat more fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, and nuts. Your plate should be at least

half fruits and/or vegetables at mealtimes. A plant-based diet supplies more antioxidants, which relieve stress and fight the buildup of plaque in your arteries.

- **Pay attention to mental health.** Stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues can have a negative impact on sleep, digestion, and your overall physical health. Practice meditation and other relaxation techniques. See a therapist to deal with underlying issues.

- **Get enough sleep.** Lack of sleep can lead to higher levels of stress

hormones, blood sugar, and blood pressure. Get at least seven hours of sleep every night. Regular exercise and a consistent sleep routine can help.

- **Cut down on alcohol and cigarettes.** Heavy alcohol use can cause weight gain, high blood sugar, heart disease and more. Tobacco use increases your risk of different types of cancers. Limit or eliminate your use of both substances to extend your lifespan.

ALPHA-AGASSIZ SUPPORTS ROBOTICS TEAM

Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 in Massachusetts is proud to support the Oliver Ames High School Iron Tigers. They compete every year in a worldwide robotic competition that starts in January. They build a robot that is designed to perform different tasks provided in the competition packet. All funds for this build come solely from donations the team members collect. As you can see from the picture, they are very competitive (2018 Winner at the Rhode Island Event). Alpha-Agassiz Council #1 is helping them reach their goal in this year's competition.



SHARING BLESSINGS

The Community Outreach Committee members in Bayonne, New Jersey left their workshops in December to help Santa deliver Christmas gifts to charities throughout Hudson, Bergen and Essex counties. The fraternalists teamed up with the jolly fellow in red for the councils' annual tradition of volunteering to make the Twelve Days of Christmas merrier for those in need. Members made stops at homeless-transitional shelters, senior care homes, facilities that serve the underprivileged, and humane societies to bring 'Wish Lift' gifts on behalf of the councils, members and friends of the Royal Arcanum.

After the last packages were delivered, members met for a relaxing holiday luncheon. A festive spirit abounded! The committee supported the Cereal Box campaign that was initiated by Supreme Regent Maria DiBartolo; a contribution of 120 boxes for children in need was made that day. Everyone had a holly, jolly good time and the RA brothers and sisters look forward to being a part of Santa's team again next year.

Right: Santa (David Magarban) gets an assist from Past Regent Evelyn Magarban and Juniors Nicky and Izzy Magarban in delivering gifts for the holiday projects.



Above: Past Regents Marie Baranowski and Chris Piscitelli coordinated the cereal box drive for Children of Promise/NYC.



Left: The Community Outreach Committee (also known as Santa's Helpers)

SUPREME REGENT IN NEW YORK

The Grand Council of New York met on Friday, October 7, 2022, at Juliano's in New Rochelle, New York. This was a special get-together as the members welcomed newly elected Supreme Regent, Maria B. DiBartolo for the presentation of her program in her 'home' jurisdiction.

The Grand Council, Claremont Council, officers, and members pledged their support to Maria's program, "*Into the Future*" and

offered their best wishes for a happy term as our Society leader. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was presented to Maria on behalf of the members by Past Supreme Regent Errica Conforto.

Sister DiBartolo thanked the members for their support of the society's charitable works and for donating many boxes of cereal at the event for Children of Promise NYC Center.



Sister Di Bartolo outlines the *Into the Future* program.



New York Arcanians support the cereal box campaign led by the Supreme Regent.

LISTEN AND LAUGH

Chuckle at these one-liners:

- Taking my dog "Shark" to the beach yesterday was probably not the best idea.
- I just heard the company that makes yardsticks isn't going to make them any longer.
- My wife was shocked when she found out I wasn't a good electrician.
- I have a phobia of German sausage. Yes, I fear the wurst.



- What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a bicycle and a well-dressed man on a unicycle? Attire.
- Nothing tops a plain pizza!
- I lost my wife's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.
- A man tried to sell me a coffin today. I told him that's the last thing I need.
- I just sold my vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was gathering dust.

BAKER'S BOX: SUSUMELLI

Enjoy this recipe shared by Past Supreme Regent Errica Conforto. The Calabrian biscuits are flavored with cocoa, cinnamon and clove spices and coated with melted chocolate. It is an easy recipe and no eggs are needed for these tasty treats.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups sifted flour
- 1 cup sifted cocoa powder (Hershey's 100% cocoa)
- 1 cup sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup milk
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder (mix with the flour)
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons ground clove spice
- 1 cup chocolate chips (semi-sweet morsels)
- 2 baking sheets lined with parchment paper

Preheat oven to 360 degrees.



In a large mixing bowl (with a wooden spoon) or Kitchen Aid (with a flat beater), combine flour with baking powder, sugar and cocoa. Mix together. Add oil, milk, cinnamon and clove. Stir and mix until well-combined into a soft oily dough.

With your hands, roll dough into balls (each as big as a walnut) and shape into oval forms. Place each onto a lined baking sheet.

Bake for 12-15 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.

As a final step, melt chocolate chips in a microwave at intervals of 30 seconds until completely melted. Dip (or brush) the top of each biscuit in the melted chocolate.

Cool completely and then enjoy with family and friends.



CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER CORNER

2022 brought many of our members back together at the Supreme Council Session in Annapolis, MD, held for the first time since 2018. It was certainly great to see many of our members and I look forward to a full capacity Session in 2024. In 2022 we encountered many challenges, yet we endured and continued to progress as a Society as we grew our membership. This is an accomplishment that we should be proud of in a challenging environment. New members were added in 29 of the 30 states in which the Royal Arcanum is licensed, as well as in DC.

Our life insurance operation saw first year premiums increase by 8.9% and renewal premiums increase by 8.5%. These impressive results can be attributed to



the positive impact of distribution firms who have been added to market our insurance products. Sales Director Bill Paulo has been diligent about adding agents who understand our products and the impact Royal Arcanum has across the communities where we are licensed.

In 2022, one of the challenges we faced was the realization that we needed to complete a reinsurance assumption agreement to have another insurer administer our Canadian insurance business, due to continued increases in expenses when compared to limited production. Therefore, the Executive Committee, General Counsel, and Senior

Management worked diligently to find a partner who would align with our fraternal mission and be able to administer our Canadian members' insurance policies. We found this partner in Teachers Life, a fellow fraternal society.

Members were also able to continue to be Royal Arcanum members since another class of members was added to our Constitution with the approval that was granted at the Session. As a result of the transaction, there will be a one-time charge against our surplus in 2022. However, there will be a significant operational savings annually, starting in 2023.

With the ever-rising interest rates, we were pleased to announce an increase to the current annuity credited rate to 4% as of October 1st, 2022. It's important that we offer competitive insurance products while being prudent as an operation.

Be sure to review your insurance coverages 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 questions or concerns, we ask you to call the office 1-888-272-2686 or e-mail info@royalarcanum.com.

Stay Safe and Best Wishes!

Sincerely,

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



As we head into the New Year together, I hope our Juniors will get more involved in volunteer activities within their communities, schools, and councils. You don't need a big project to help your community. Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference.

Congratulations to Junior member, Alexandra Orr of Claremont Council #1655. She is the 2022 Royal Arcanum Youth of the Year Award recipient. Congratulations, also to Amanda Butto of Versatility Council #2501, the 2022 Youth Leadership Award recipient of the NJ-NY Fraternal Alliance. Please read more about our young members' achievements in this Bulletin.

Any member that wishes to nominate a Royal Arcanum Junior member in good standing who distinguishes themselves in their councils and communities and is eligible for the RA award, can submit the application form found on our website. Program rules and regulations are also on the website. This opportunity awards the winner with a \$300 prize.

Christmas gifts were made available from the Supreme Council Junior Department to all councils that requested them. I am looking forward to seeing pictures of the activities in the Bulletin and I hope that everyone enjoyed the gifts selected for our young members.

Birthday cards are being sent out by our Junior Committee ladies, Anita, Antoinette, Ruth, and Kaitlyn. Genevieve sent out Valentine's Day cards to our Junior members, ages six and younger. Many thanks for their good work.

To all our high school seniors who have applied for our scholarships and grants, make sure that you have sent in all the documentation and a recent picture of yourself, as requested, before the deadline of March 31, 2023. Wishing you all good luck in your college planning and preparation.

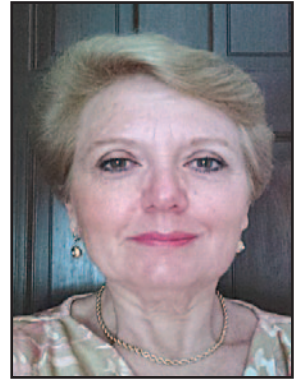
Care packages will be sent out in the spring to all current Royal Arcanum college students who provide their name and mailing address of either their college dorm or home to the office of the Junior Director. They will receive a little something from our department. For additional information, please access

our website at www.royalarcanum.com or contact the Home Office at 1-888-272-2686.

Please take advantage of the Society's wide variety of benefits and programs:

- **Reimbursement of up to \$50** to Junior members who participate in SAT programs or other preparatory courses in order to improve their grades
- **Gift cards of \$25**, a certificate, and trophy awarded to our young members who love to write and share stories, poems, or articles to be published in the Bulletin
- **Amazon \$10 gift cards** when Juniors submit the Bulletin coloring pages, games, or puzzles
- **Youth of the Year Award Program:** \$300 for recognition of volunteerism of our Junior members in their council and community
- **Information on colleges, majors, careers, and scholarships** by accessing our website or contacting the Home Office
- Every year the Royal Arcanum awards over **\$65,000 in college scholarships and grants.**

Wishing everyone a Happy St. Patrick's / St. Joseph's Day and a blessed Easter and Passover.



**Junior Department
Director
Errica Conforto**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Errica Conforto".

Errica Conforto
Junior Director



STATE FRATERNAL ALLIANCE HONORS

The Royal Arcanum congratulates Amanda Butto of Versatility Council #2501 in Bayonne, New Jersey for being honored as the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance's Youth Volunteer Leadership Award recipient in 2022. The award was presented by Robert Galdon, a past president of the Alliance and Royal Arcanum officer. Twenty-two fraternal benefit societies are members of the state fraternal alliance.

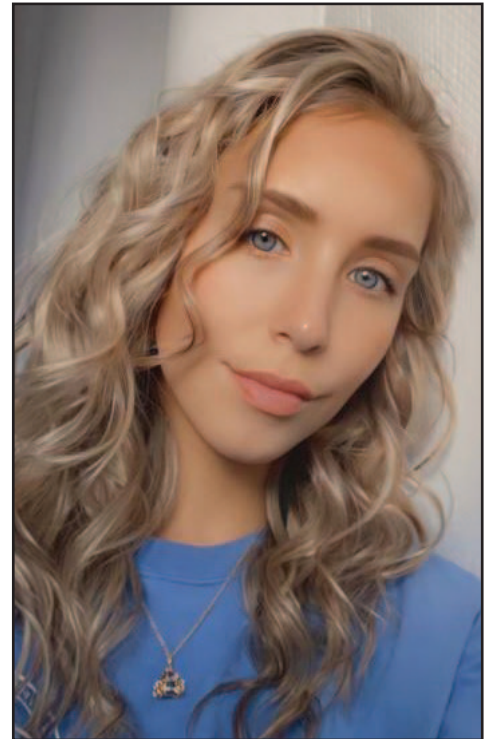
Amanda is a freshman at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey; her ambition is to become an occupational therapist. She was a Royal Arcanum scholarship recipient in 2022.

Amanda was an active volunteer in high school and her service continues now in college, in the community, and

in the Royal Arcanum. She has been involved in fundraising initiatives for charitable causes, including those for underprivileged children, pediatric oncology units, animal shelters and humane societies, and camps for special needs children. She thoroughly enjoys working with people to make the world a better place for those in need.

Amanda has followed in her mother's footsteps as a Junior Arcanian, taking part in the Society's family activities and fraternal-charitable endeavors. Her compassion for others will drive her to excel in the healthcare profession.

The Royal Arcanum is proud of Amanda and wishes her happiness and success into the future.



CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN

Royal Arcanum members of Bayonne have been friends of the Felician School for Exceptional Children since the school was founded in 1971 by Sr. Mary Ramona Borkowski, CSSF to be a welcoming and nurturing place for children with special needs, many of whom have developmental challenges. Since its beginning, the school's diverse curriculums and activities have focused on the youngsters' abilities to provide them with a quality education and prepare them for their own life's journey within a climate of acceptance and respect. 'Anchored in

Love – Learning for Life' is the motto which resonates each day at the Lodi campus.

To honor the legacy of Sr. Ramona and the school's golden jubilee (which had been postponed due to the pandemic), a celebration of friendship was held on October 9, 2022. Versatility and Bayonne Council members were delighted to attend the event and offer the councils' continued support to the school through the Royal Arcanum's International Fraternal Service program.



Arcanians congratulate Sr. Rose Marie Smiglewski, FSEC's Executive Director (seated, right) and Sr. Benedette Laspata (seated, left), Administrative Assistant while enjoying the school's 50th anniversary celebration.

WINTER WORD CROSSWORD

WORD LIST

WINTERTIME
COLD
SNOW
FIREPLACE
HOODIE
BLANKET
CHRISTMAS
ICE SKATES
ICICLE
SNOWMAN
ICE
HOT COCOA
DECEMBER



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

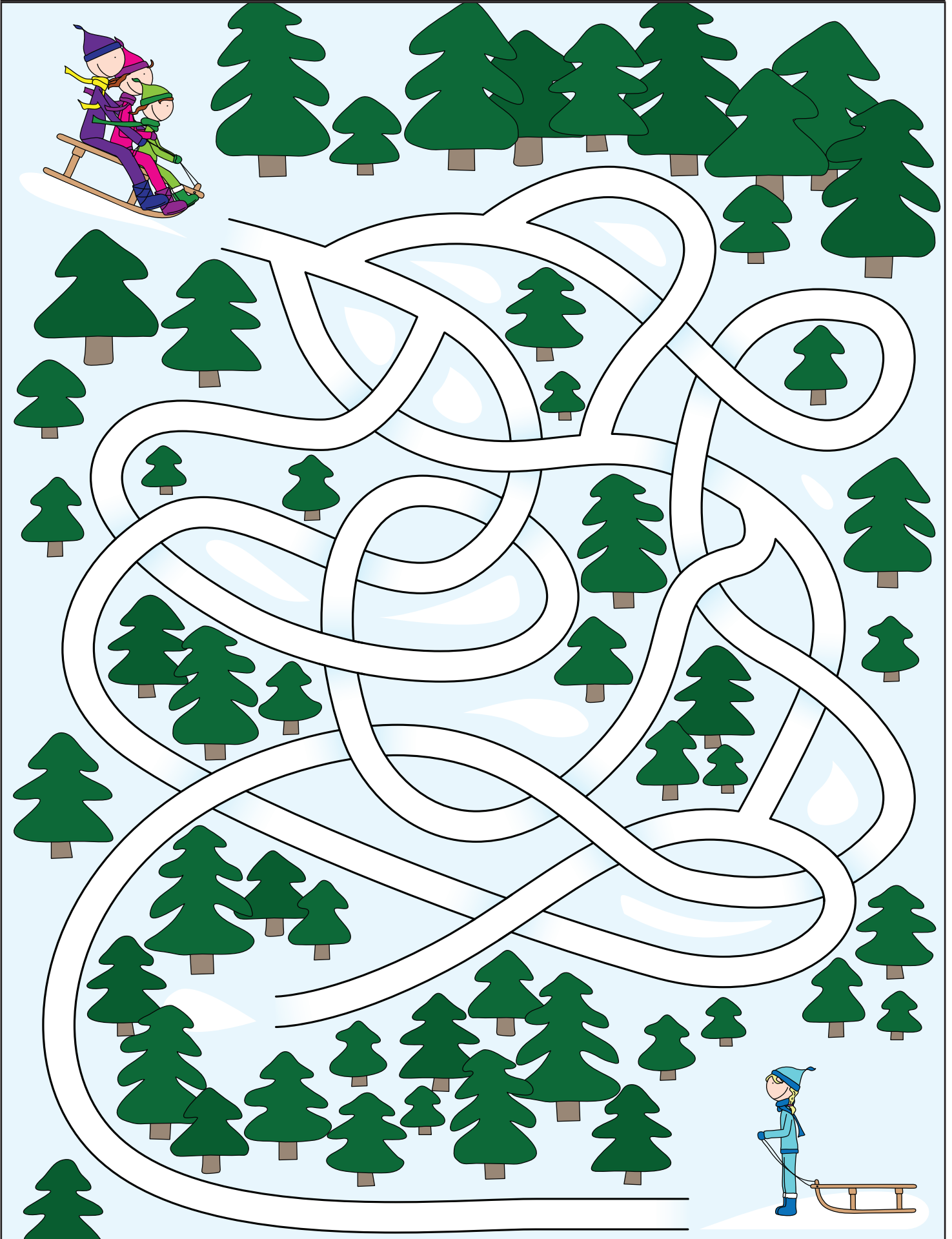
Age

Council

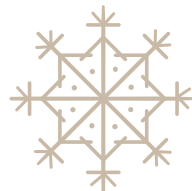
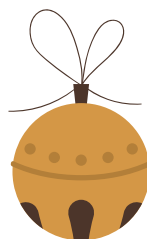
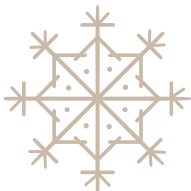
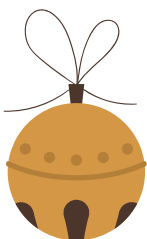
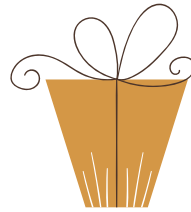
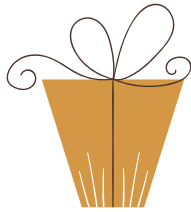
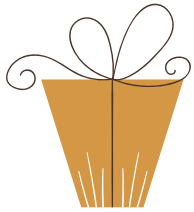
Email Address

**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**

WINTER MAZE



What comes next?





YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Royal Arcanum is pleased to announce that Alexandra “Alex” Orr, a Junior member of Claremont Council #1655 in New York was selected to receive the Society’s 2022 Youth of the Year Award in recognition of her volunteer service and active participation in her council and in her community.

Alexandra, age 15, is currently a sophomore in North Rockland High School; she excels in academics and is involved in various extra-curricular clubs and activities. She is a member of the Italian Club and Health Occupations Students of America. A sports enthusiast, she plays lacrosse and field hockey.

As a player for the school’s varsity field hockey team,



Lacrosse

while enjoying working with others and celebrating the accomplishments of the team.

Alex has been a volunteer for the team’s fundraising initiatives for the benefit of The Tunnel to Towers Foundation; a ‘Sweatshirt Sale’ is a main project for which she always sets a goal, challenges herself and volunteers fervently to meet it.



Alex volunteers at school by assisting with PTA programs and school-sponsored events and activities. As a member of the school orchestra, she plays the viola at various school functions and award ceremonies.

Having joined Scouting at age 5, Alex has “grown” in Girl Scouts. She volunteers for numerous neighborhood charitable works such as clean-ups, collections for food pantries and animal shelters, and book drives for children who are less fortunate.

Alex volunteers with fundraising events for the Stony Point Seals, a non-profit organization that sponsors a Super Bowl Sunday plunge into the Hudson River. The purpose of the “plunge” is to raise funds for children and families with crushing medical expenses.

Throughout the year, Alex assisted the New York members with their fraternal programs. She collected donations for POTS – Part of the Solution, the Ukrainian Project for Infants and Toddlers, and Children of Promise NYC. Clothing, toys, games, puzzles, baby essentials, groceries, and cereal boxes are some of the items that Alex secured and organized for donation deliveries.

Alexandra is the daughter of Gabriella and Steven Orr and sister of Logan.

The Royal Arcanum is proud to honor Alexandra with the Youth of the Year Award and applauds her positive approach, willing spirit and generous heart. The Supreme Council congratulates this inspiring young fraternal leader and wishes her a bright future!

TREASURE FROM OUR PAST

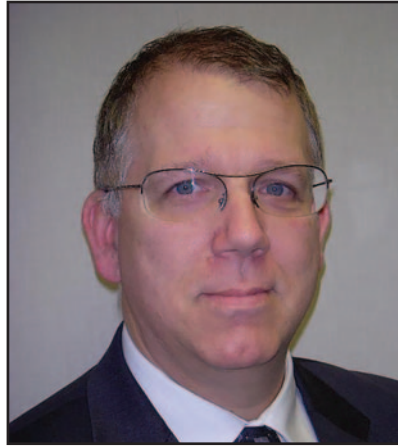
Pictured is a Royal Arcanum Hospital Association medallion from 1899. As the Society grew in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many jurisdictions established hospital associations to aid sick and disabled members as well as to provide donations of equipment and supplies to medical facilities throughout the country.



A WORD FROM THE SUPREME SECRETARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ROYAL ARCANUM!

As the new year has begun and we may still be recovering from holiday festivities, the countdown starts all over again as my brother likes to remind me (364 days till Christmas). Like everyone else, there are a lot of things going through my mind; upcoming projects, school events, work, and making sure not to forget anything (which is impossible). The one thing that must remain number one is FAMILY.



Meetings and projects can always be rescheduled, but your family cannot. I often hear stories about one member of the family team (husband and wife) not stepping up to help the other. The last time I checked there was no "I" in team, so it is important to watch out and care for each other.

In my home we always put family first. For example: my wife dropped everything to help one of our nieces who lives four hours away. While she was there, our other niece who lives sixteen hours away needed help. So, my wife jumped on a plane and off she went. Yes, this does put some pressure on our family, but in the long run we are helping our family.

We, as members of the Royal Arcanum, are a BIGGER family and should take care of each other as well. There are many ways we can! Phone calls, texts, video calls or visiting, if they are local. Another way is to look "**Into the Future**". Royal Arcanum has many ways to help, including life insurance and annuity products. The possibilities with life insurance and annuities are endless - building a nest egg for the future, college funding or leaving a legacy for the future of a loved one. Think of your neighbors and close friends, too. We are all one big family.

Please feel free to reach out to me or a member in the Home Office for assistance. Remember that we are here to help our family "**Into the Future**" and beyond.

Stay Safe!

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

Yours in V.M.C.,
Tony Basa
Abasa@royalarcanum.com
617-429-8763 (cell)
508-297-2633 (home)





**When protecting
your family is
the most
important thing
you can do, let
our insurance
products guide
you there.**

**Visit our website at
www.royalarcanum.com or contact
our Home Office for more details.**