

# Rainbow Reflections

Volume 4, Issue 3

June 2011

## The Excitement of being Grand Worthy Advisor

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Hello NEVADA!!!

I am completely and utterly ready to see all of your beautiful faces! This year has been nothing short of incredible. I have had the opportunity and privilege to bond with many of you girls this year, all throughout the state. That means so much to me. This Grand year could not have been a success without each and every one of you. Many of us have taken on new responsibilities in our lives this year. I cannot express how important that is. Life is filled with responsibilities. The earlier we begin to learn how to deal with them and fulfill them, the better set we will be for the future.

Putting together Nevada

Grand Assembly is a HUGE responsibility and I cannot thank ALL of the adults throughout Nevada that have made it possible. Thank you so much for all of the hard work and dedication you have put into Grand Assembly. All of it will make for a memorable experience for me and all of the Rainbow Girls in Nevada and our visiting sisters.

I hope this next year everyone will be able to travel more. It is so fun meeting new friends and sisters. Sometimes it is hard to find friends who have the same values as yourself. ALL of us have the same core of values, so you shouldn't have to look hard, because we are all around!

I have thoroughly enjoyed Rainbow and I am sad this will be my last Reflections article as a Grand Officer. All of you have played a special part in my Rainbow experience and I am so thankful this last year.

Thank you for coming to Grand Assembly. I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces!

Lively bug love,

Lander Kennedy

Grand Worthy Advisor  
2011



## Arizona Traveling!

Hello all Rainbow Buddies☺ I hope everyone is having a FANTASTIC YEAR!!!! I wanted to tell everyone how my year went as Grand American Flag Bearer and Grand Representative of Arizona, Maine and Maryland☺ When I was appointed this office, I was so EXCITED I could barley breath!!! I had everything planned out for the year!!! It all started out with Leadership at Mrs. Jacka's House! I had no idea what to expect. But I have never had so much FUN at a house in 2 days!! I cannot wait to go back ☺ Arizona was calling our names.

My Mom, my Trailer, my Sister and I all drove up to Arizona for their first Official Visit. I met the Grand Worthy Advisor, but my Representative was un-able to come. They did an initiation at their Official Visit which was interesting to see. Official Visits rolled around and boy were those fun!!!! I loved singing the Grandie Songs. But what I loved the most, were the themes for the Official Visits. I thought all of the themes were AMAZING this year☺ Plus I loved seeing all of the girls having a great

time and seeing everyone enjoy the skits!!

Once those amazing Official Visits were over, we put our time and dedication into the Alzheimer's Association. We made goody bags, a lot of posters, and created clipboards for a Scavenger Hunt. One month later, it was time for the Alzheimer's Walk. We had groups around the walk cheering the walkers on, helping out with the Informational Booth and handing out prizes for the Scavenger Hunt. Two months later, Daylite Assembly # 22 hosted an Alzheimer's Pancake Breakfast. We had 15 vendors who participated in our event. We raise \$1,000 for the Alzheimer's Association☺ WHOO HOO!!!!

Rainbow Camp came, and boy was I excited ☺ We saran wrapped the doors as usual, but then the

adults got revenge on us and they even used our materials ☺ I really enjoyed Camp this year. Arts and Crafts were really cool this year. But what I liked the most, was ENTERTAINMENT!!!!

The next thing I knew, I was on a plane to Maryland for their Grand Assembly☺ It was so different. I was the only one in a hoop and hair piece. There were 12 Supreme Officers including the Supreme Line ☺ It was so AWE-SOME!!!!!!!!!!

My Trailer Karli Corrales and I did so many things together this year!!!! I am so glad that she was my Trailer this year an I am so happy that I get to call her my Sister☺ I cannot wait for Grand Assembly to come alone!! It's going to be the Ride of my Life☺

With all my Star Spangled Pixie LOVE,  
Brooke Tuerke

"We had 15 vendors who participated in our event"

## Love From Mama Bug

Hello My Nevada Sisters!!!!

Can you believe Grand Assembly is already here? This year just flew right on by. I know I am excited to see all of my sisters not only from our jurisdiction but visiting ones as well. I love roller coasters, the more twists and turns the better. This year has been like a roller coaster. Where every twist was unexpected, every turn was something new. We have all enjoyed this ride with Lander and I know that even though this ride is almost over a new one is right around the corner.

The theme of Grand Assembly is "The Ride of Our Lives" so let

us make it just that. It is your life; your experiences so make them one to remember. Enjoy Grand Assembly; enjoy your friendships, family, school, sisters, and this wonderful Organization. To the ladies that will be taking majority with me this Grand; you have blossomed into beautiful women and I am proud and honored to share this ceremony with you. To the girls and adults of Nevada Rainbow Thank you for the many laughs we have shared. This year I came into the name of "Momma Bug" very early. Having the role of the Momma Bug and being a part of the Grand Family is an honor that I will never forget.

The girls and adults of Nevada Rainbow really out did themselves this year; from the Official Visits, to the beautiful Receptions; to the Initiations and to the great Service projects we have all experienced. You girls and adults are what this wonderful order is all about. Make each moment of each day count. I love each and every one of you!

Picture Perfect Momma Bug Love,

Jennifer Snook

Grand Worthy Associate Advisor & Co-Historian



### Words of Advice from Mrs. Hatfield Sparks #3

#### The Rain

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound.

On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry.

The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife.

I inquired as to her health.

He told me that she had been there for a while and that she has Alzheimer's Disease. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late.

He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now.

I was surprised, and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?'

He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is.'

I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, 'That is the kind of love I want in my life.'

True love is neither physical, nor romantic.

True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

I hope you share this with someone you care about. I just did.

'Life isn't about how to survive the storm, But how to dance in the rain.'

We are all getting Older Tomorrow it may be our turn.

Enjoy life now--it has an expiration date!



### The World of Gr. Fidelity

Well wasssup Nevada Rainbow?!

I can't believe that Grand Assembly is already here! I am so excited and have no doubt in my mind that this will be one of the best yet!

I hope you girls are stoked and I am ready for anything coming our way! I had a great year and I grew so much as a person thanks to the people around me.

I am so happy I got the opportunity to get to know all the Northern girls as much as I did! you girls made me feel right at home and like I was a part of your assemblies. I must say how much I missed my girls this year!

I am ready for a great Grand Assembly with this state. It blows my mind when I think about how much our Order has grown in just one year!

You girls did such a great job with membership in your local assemblies.

Membership is so important and I am so happy to see that it is expanding as much as it is. I know that you girls will continue to shine in your local assemblies and I can't wait for another year of memories and laughs! I hope you all have a great grand assembly!

All my pinky promise love, Samantha Bomgaars

Gr. Fidelity and Rep. of MO,MS

“It blows my mind when I think about how much our Order has grown...”

"We had an SUV filled with shoes from top to bottom with only enough room for a driver!"

### Notes from Grand Recorder

Hey Nevada Rainbow. It has been such a great year, and I can't believe it's already almost over. I have had a blast as Grand Recorder and also as the Representative of California and Hawaii. I had an amazing time at California Grand Assembly, So different, but exactly the same as ours. It's always fun to travel to new place. If you ever get a chance to travel to another jurisdiction I encourage you to do so. It's really neat to meet new friends from around the country. I want to thank

every girl who went on the California Grand trip. It made it that much more special. I hope all the California Girls have fun at our Grand Assembly and see how we do things here in the silver state! Let's make this grand Assembly this best one yet!!

"Life is about using the WHOLE Crayon box " Ru-Paul

All my surfin states love,  
Sami Perez

Grand Recorder and Grand Representative of California and Hawaii 2011

### Grand Immortality walks for others

Hello Nevada Rainbow, As Grand Immortality, I am here today to tell you all about the wonderful Bow Project I set up. It all started when I met a man named Brian Williams. He bases his whole life off of the idea of Service and wanted me to help out his cause. His organization is called Think Kindness. Every month, or sometimes even more, he puts together a community service project. One month, he fell in love with a program called Soles4Souls. They collect shoes all around

the nation and ship them all around the world. Benjamin Franklin Assembly #21 helped out by going around neighborhoods and collecting shoes. We went door to door collecting shoes, and if the nice people weren't there, they left a paper bag with an information sheet. A week later, we went and collected the paper bags that people had left on their porch with shoes in them. We collected 523 pairs of shoes! WOW! I am so proud of my assembly and didn't

think it could be possible. We had an SUV filled with shoes from top to bottom with only enough room for a driver. Success! These shoes were sent to Africa where they were given to people and children who need them. In Africa, they do not let children go to school without shoes. What a great way to let children get an education.  
Lots of Love,  
Leah Ryan

### Christmas already? Nope its Grand!

Hey Nevada!

It's that time of year again, no not Christmas, its spring time. With the new season new tasks and responsibilities come out of nowhere. All of a sudden there are thousands of things to be done, and it never feels like there are enough hours in any given day. But do not worry, ask a friend if they have a minute to talk and help out. You do not have to do every-

thing by yourselves, it does not hurt at all to ask for help.

Every time I have a huge project for school, I always ask my friends for help and every time they say, "Sure thing Brittany. You would help if we needed it." Rainbow is all about Friendship. So the next time you feel stressed out call up a friend and tell them, make a stronger friendship and bond.

Until next time Nevada! See you all soon.

~Brittany Crosby

Grand Rep. VT VA



## Waiting in Line with Grand Love

Oops, sorry I didn't mean to bump into you. Are you in line for this ride too? I heard that it was the biggest thrill in this entire theme park. There aren't many times a person can experience such a thrill. However, this past year, I received the opportunity to feel the rush of excitement, without even being on a roller coaster ride. Love is the strongest bond between families and this bond becomes even stronger when a child of that family is very sick. A lot of stress is put on a family when they must travel back and forth to the hospital, especially with the cost of gas now days. The Ronald McDonald House is a place where these families and their sick children can stay. They are located right next to the hospital so the commute time is only about 30 seconds. As Grand Love, I decided to work with the Ronald McDonald House to make the families who are living there for the time being, a little more comfortable. My idea to accomplish this was

to create some goodie bags for the Holiday Season so the children so that they could have a sort of "play kit". Donations of fleece, fabric, crayons, coloring books, scrapbooking supplies, and cookie ingredients made this project possible. Several work parties were created to get these gifts done by the Holiday Season. At our very first work party, we used the fleece that was donated and cut them into scarves. These scarves were each tightly rolled and tied with ribbon. Next we used the coloring books that were created and separated them so that there would be a coloring book for each bag. Finally we bundled crayons, about 15 colors in each, with the crayons that were donated. Our next work party we focused on creating the bags. A fabric donation with Bugs Bunny in a Santa suit was cut into 12 by 12 inch squares and sewn together to make the bags. The third work party consisted of finishing the bags with a ribbon draw string, and making get

well cards complete with random facts that would make the children smile. At our last work party, we made chocolate chip cookies, 2 for each bag, and stuffed all of the bags with the previously made tokens. Altogether there were 32 bags and about 56 hours of service were produced. A week before Christmas, I stopped by the Ronald McDonald House and I was so excited to drop off the goodie bags that were created. The staff was so amazed at how wonderful the bags had turned out and that no one has done anything like this before. They could tell that they were made with a lot of love and that families were sure to love them.

Well look at that, we made it to the front of the line. I can't wait to get on! Although it is not the same kind of thrill of helping others, almost dropping to my sudden death will have to do. I hope you enjoy the ride! All o my Lippy Love, Melissa Teston Grand Love, Representative of Oregon,



"Attention, attention...ah its just me."

## Words from the Director of Membership, North

Attention, Attention...ah it's just me. How is the best group of girls in the country doing? I know AWWWESOME! I am very excited for Grand Assembly and I want to thank each and every one of you awesome girls for working on membership this year. We are doing great and we are GROWING! ;~D Too, Cool.

I am working on a membership project for the North to start in July 2011, details to follow soon, but I'm pretty excited. Remember to talk about Rainbow and invite girls to everything you can and also remember to ask a second time, sometimes girls can't come to the first thing their invited too, let them know the invite is always there,

you would be surprised..... Rainbow Girls are very memorable, people don't forget us once they have met us. I send my love to all the Grand Officers of 2010 and look forward to seeing you glide through all your floor work and ritualistic work with style and panache! Be Proud, you are IORG Camaran Doughty

## My Life is a Roller Coaster

A roller coaster is a ride that brings a whole rainbow of emotions. You experience nervousness, excitement, thrill, nausea, bravery and apprehension. Interestingly enough these are the same feelings that are brought about by life. Lately, these characteristics seem to be more apparent now in my life than ever before.

After graduating, life after high school seems impossible. My nervousness of deciding where I am going in my life has settled in. Not knowing what to do next is a little intimidating. However, I see others who have successfully passed this stage in their lives and have turned out alright. To get passed my nervousness, I know that I have several friends to look to for strength and advice.

Excitement encourages us to look forward to our future years. Sometimes, we may even act a little older than we need to. We feel excitement when we reach our 11<sup>th</sup> birthday because we are able to join Rainbow. As we near the age of 13 we are excited because we are finally considered a teenager. 16 is a popular age where most are

excited because we may get our driver's license. I have lived through all of these exciting years, and I have come to one more, the age of graduation. I find that the most exciting part of graduating is no more summer assignments!

Just like a roller coaster, life can offer many thrills. The roller coaster must work hard to pull itself up, up, up into the sky before we can enjoy the thrill of dropping at great speeds. We must do the same. Only hard work will give us great satisfaction. There is no greater thrill than the reward you get for putting forth your best effort.

Nausea is not one of the most pleasant experiences. It goes hand in hand with nervousness. However, once you eat some Saltine Crackers, the nausea will subside and you will be able to enjoy and move on with your life.

With each step we take, we need to rebuild our confidence level. It is difficult to take that next step. When we perform our ritualistic work in our Assemblies, we use the skills that Rainbow has taught us to perform with

true confidence and bravery. It takes a lot of courage to stand up and speak in front of a crowd. Every time we get new parts, it becomes easier and easier to memorize and to perform in front of an audience.

Finally, apprehension. As we near the front of the line we start to rethink our decision to board that ride. However, facing the previously talked about characteristics, we are able to push past our apprehension and to get on that ride.

Just like roller coasters, life goes up, down, from side to side, right-side up, and upside-down. We all have our Rainbow family and friends who are there to help us get on. Knowing this we are now ready to have the Ride of Our Lives. But first, do you meet the height requirement? I hope you enjoy our Grand Assembly!

All of my Lippy Love,  
Melissa Teston  
Grand Love, Representative of Oregon, and Grand Lecturer

## Folklore that we should still follow

There is an ancient folktale about an old man who knows he is nearing the end of his life.

He calls his children to him and gives them each a sturdy stick. "Break the stick", He instructs them.

And they each snap their sticks in half.

"This is what happens when you stand alone," he explains

Then he gives each of them another stick and says, "This is how you should live.

Put your sticks together in a bundle, and try to break the bundle in half."

None of them could break the sticks when they were gathered together. "We are strong when we stand together,"

the old man tells his children.

"When we are with one another we cannot be broken"

With all my COEXIST love,  
Katherine Kirk  
Grand Chaplin and Grand Representative of Arkansas West Virginia and Wisconsin

"He calls his children to him and gives each of them a sturdy stick..."



### Religion's Corner

Hey there all!

Can you believe it is already Grand Assembly?! This year has been fantastic! My assembly (Daylite) has done quite well with service projects, Alzheimer's pancake breakfasts, as well as initiations and the year has just flown by. It has been jam packed with fun, projects, traveling and Ovs/Receptions. I even got to visit Washington/Idaho and attend their "Tales of the East" Grand Assembly, and boy did I have a great time. Those girls really know how to have

a good time and their sessions were beautiful! My project was an absolute success as well. Being Grand Religion, I decided to help a local church with the promotion of their new location. Daylite, along with the Church members decided to walk the surrounding neighborhoods handing out flyers for the church and for Rainbow. The church greatly appreciated it and they even asked us to continue to work with them! We just recently helped with a Easter egg hunt at a nearby park, it was a blast! This year has been so much fun and so successful and I'm so happy

to see or order growing again! Well I must be off, hope you all have a great time at Grand 2011, I know it is going to be one of the best!

All my Religious love,

Alyssa Ball

Grand Religion and Grand Representative of RI, WA/ID, Foreign Jurisdictions

"Mrs. Jacka is always watching..."

### Top 10 Rainbow style with Grand Nature

10 things I have learned about being a Grandie

1. Mrs. Jacka is always watching.
2. Deadline means deadline.
3. Start any Grand project right after you recover from Grand.
4. Never put emphasis on

a text when reading the text to Mrs. Jacka

5. Do not procansnat
6. That 22 Grandie's and Megan S. can fit into Mr. Jacka's shower.
7. When visiting Mrs. Jacka's house do not step foot into the "White room" not even a big toe.

8. Not sure what is worse a Jacka meeting or a Jacka walk

9. You must check email daily.

10. Mrs. Jacka pops out of nowhere on 95. Literally out of nowhere!!!! :0

Ashley Milisits Grand Nature and Grand Representative of New Hampshire, New Jersey and New Mexico

### Fun times with Boulder Assembly

Scavenger Hunt!

One of our favorite fun activities at Boulder #8 is to have a picture scavenger hunt. The last one we had this term had three teams in three cars - with our WA Lillie, WAA Brooke, and Charity Melyssa as team captains. The teams got a list of items to take pictures with where all girls on a team need to be in each photo; the adults take the photos. They get five min-

utes to look at the list and plan - then an hour to try to get as many points as they can! Each item has different point values so there is some strategy involved with the speed. We all met at the Lodge afterward to tally up all the points - and the winner was WA Lillie's team! Congratulations girls, and we hope you enjoyed your prize - slurpees from 7-11!

-Yohannah McNee, MA

The Winning Team!!!



"I believe in everything until it's disproved. So I believe in fairies, the myths, dragons"

## Quotes of Life and Rainbow

Here are a few quotes that I live by. Some of them remind me of myself & my fellow rainbow girls. (:

"I believe in everything until it's disproved. So I believe in fairies, the myths, dragons. It all exists, even if it's in your mind. Who's to say that dreams and nightmares aren't as real as the here and now?"- John Lennon

"Your heart just breaks that's all. But you can't judge or point fingers, you just have to be lucky enough to find someone who appreci-

ates you".

"I love people who make me laugh. I honestly think it's the thing I like most, to laugh. It cures a multitude of ills. It's probably the most important thing in a person."

"Your heart just breaks that's all. But you can't judge or point fingers. You just have to be lucky enough to find someone who appreciates you"

"I decided, very early on, just to accept life unconditionally; I never expected it to do anything special for me, yet I seemed to accomplish far more than I had

ever hoped. Most of the time it just happened to me without my ever seeking it."

"For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone."- Audrey Hepburn

"Everything I buy is vintage and smells funny. Maybe that's why I don't have a boyfriend"~Lucy Liu  
Lexi Milisits

## Symbolism with Mrs. McNee

Symbolism and Numbers in our Order

Do you every think about all the symbolism involved with our great Order? As Director of Paraphernalia, my job is to make sure everything we use during our

ceremonies at Grand Assembly is in good shape - and gets where it needs to be when it needs to be there. It's a job I love because everything we do in Rainbow means something. We hear it most often during our installation ceremonies - every symbol for each office is explained for us by our Founder,

Reverend Mark Sexton. But what about all the things not explained in our ritual? If you ever wonder about these things, especially what is in our initiation ceremony, ask your Grand Deputy. When I was a Rainbow Girl, I used

to love the way our Grand Deputy explained these ceremonies to us in practice.

It made it that much easier to remember our work - especially all those tricky words - when we understood the meaning behind it all.

Another thing that is interesting to think about is the use of numbers across

our Masonic Family. In Rainbow, there many of these: three - when you think of the lessons of Faith, Hope, and Charity; five when you think of the Line offices; and seven when you think of the bow stations. These are all prime numbers and mean a lot in all of the different Masonic Orders. There are three main offices in the Masonic line and the DeMolay line. There are five star points in Eastern Star, five messengers in Job's Daugh-

ters, and also five officers in their line. In DeMolay there are seven preceptors, which correspond similarly to our bow lessons. These numbers also mean a lot in different religions and cultures. They are important for so many reasons! If you are ever interested in learning more - talk to me!

So, the next time you are sitting in a meeting, take a look down at that jewel around your neck or that signet in the east and think about what it means. With every initiation we can learn more about our order and more about what it means to each of us, rededicating ourselves each time to lives of service.

From the Director of the Grand Assembly Paraphernalia Team, Yohannah McNee



### Rainbow Growth in the South

Boulder Assembly #8 continues to grow!

On April 20th, 2011 - Boulder Assembly had an initiation, this time for four new sisters: Faith, Samantha, Cheyenne, and Amanda. This is a picture of them with our Faith Nitasha and our WA Lillie (who during her terms as WA has initiated 11 girls so far). The initiation was held during spring break and all our officers worked very hard to have all their work done and did a beautiful job. We were very lucky to have both Las Vegas #9 and Daylite #22 come to help us - thank you

so much to Ashley and Lexi from #9 and Jen and Brittani from #22! The next week we were able to take a couple girls to help Las Vegas #9 with their initiation - so good to return the favor! We have been so fortunate to be able to initiate so many girls in the last year - so keep up the good work girls, and always have a smile on your face and a petition in your pocket!  
-Yohannah McNee, MA



### School's Out for the Summer!!!

Hello ladies! I hope everybody is excited for school to be out, I know I am! I just would like to take this time to tell you all about my Grand bow service project. I knew from the beginning that I wanted to help children. When I found out that Sunrise Children's Hospital was accepting donations I was eager to help. The girls and adults of Day-

lite helped me make a total of 30 blankets to donate to the cancer ward. The project was a great success and I know I couldn't have done without everyone's help. Thank you to all of the girls and adults who helped make this project great! I would also like to thank anyone who donated fabric, it was a huge help! Well I hope everybody enjoys their summer

vacation and time off from school!

With all of my rainbow love,  
Rebekah

"Polka-dot Lady in the Tall Grass"

### Beautiful Polk-adot Ladybug!

Hello all Grand Charity here again. Hope everyone is doing well and all of you had a wonderful spring break. I hope all of the girls and adults that went to Rainbow Camp this year had an awesome time because I know I did and Jennifer did an amazing job. I look forward to seeing all of you at Grand Assembly this year as well as my reception that is being held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Hope everyone had a great year and I hope to see

all of your bright and shining faces at Grand Assembly. Here is a poem that I found and thought you would enjoy.

#### Ladybug

**Polka-dot lady in the tall grass,  
I love to watch you as I pass.  
Your black and red coat  
Shines in the bright sun,  
Like a beautiful sunset  
When the day's done.**

**And then your wings spread  
Like the wings of a bird  
And you fly away, fly away  
Without being heard. Ladybug  
Polka-dot lady in the tall grass,  
I love to watch you as I pass.  
- Ellen Baumwoll (1938- )**

Rainbow Love,  
Sarah White  
Grand Charity

## Lander Kennedy's GWA Reception Speech

Thank you so much to the girls and adults in my Assembly. You are a new core of girls since I began and you are AWESOME. It has been so cool watching my Assembly change and become a whole new Assembly over the past several years. When I joined Rainbow, there were the older girls and Grand Officers that I looked up to. I am privileged to know that I am now the older girl you girls look up to. I have tried my best to leave a positive impression on each of you. You all mean something different to me. I am looking forward to see how you girls grow and transform into a solid, confident Assembly.

Our Advisory Board will lead you in the right direction..... just as they have done for me. They have been so supportive through my two terms as Worthy Advisor and this year as Grand Worthy Advisor. This room is everything I could ask for. You all have been so thoughtful and caring. I am excited for all of the new additions to the Advisory Board and all of the great endeavors you will lead our girls to accomplish.

I want to give an incredible thank you to my Grand Deputy. Mrs. Cox, you have been there for me my whole ride on the Rainbow roller coaster. I am so grateful that, with your encouragement, I came back to Reno #1. You have taken special care of me. You have treated me like one of your own. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me.

And, I have a special thank you to all of the adults in Nevada Rainbow. The support and encouragement every one of you have given me throughout the year has made me feel loved and honored that so many people care about my well being. I appreciate that every one of you

have had an impact on my life. Influence is a very strong feeling. I have been positively influenced by many people in my life, many of them are in this room today. I appreciate all of you for being here. You have enabled me to be a good influence to others and I am very grateful for that opportunity.

Reflecting on the past seven years, I can conclude that I am a better person because of Rainbow. I know that two days before my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, I was initiated, into an Order that has taught me important information to lead and to live a happy and successful life. Through the next five years, I formed relationships and grew as a person. I truly learned how to be a leader.

This all started when I wanted to be the active candidate so bad, but was sadly at the end of the line of the four other girls I was initiated with. It was okay though, because Whitney Doughty, who was the reason I joined, gave me the Fidelity lecture.

I was off to a good start after that. I learned Patriotism's lecture before I was even installed into my first office. I then learned the American's Creed because that was the first office I was to be installed in. That soon changed, and the first office I was installed into was Love - my first office and I was the leader of the bow. It was a pretty cool start to my Rainbow career. In the years to follow, I served throughout the bow and then to Drill Leader and Chaplain.

I then had some disagreements with some of the girls and adults in my Assembly. I went through what you could call a mid-career crisis. I took what I

felt was a necessary break and focused on school and volleyball. Because of a few special adults, I made the decision to come back.

Within the next six months I was elected Faith. I worked my way up the line, doing my best to fulfill the duties of my office within my Assembly. It was great practice for my summer term as Worthy Advisor. I had many school commitments, so a summer term was necessary. This meant that I got to sit on the floor at Grand Assembly. Since I was a fresh Worthy Advisor, I didn't get a Grand Office that year, but I was announced as the lucky girl who got to do the skit at Supreme Assembly in Chicago. That was a trip of a lifetime. It was also the first time I had ever spoke in front of a large audience. I was shaking so badly I surprised was you couldn't hear it in my voice. In the Supreme skit, I got to brag about Nevada to thousands of people from all over the world and tell them "what makes my Rainbow Smile." I stood there with a smile on my face and felt so accomplished. The sigh of relief came soon after.

At the last Official Visit of the season that year, I received a pick-up office and was excited to be Grand Representative of Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin. Lisa Cox, a majority Rainbow girl from my Assembly, and good friend, had just recently moved to Texas. I was so glad I got to really experience my office, with travel, and joined Texas in their Mid-year OV. When I gave my greetings, it would be the second time I had spoken in front of a large crowd of people I didn't know. I was nervous, but reminding them that it's pronounced Nevada not Nev-ah-duh put me at ease. It was then that was when I realized I could speak in front of a large audience

with confidence. This has also been extremely helpful with school presentations. They are a piece of cake and I was often one of the few who doesn't say "uhm."

Three weeks before Grand we were having our work party meeting and Mrs. Cox pulled me aside and told me I needed to call Mrs. Jacka. I thought to myself, "Oh great, what did I do?" I called Mrs. J and she asked me if I was willing to do some of the speaking parts as Grand Faith at Grand Assembly. This included Parents Ceremony, Initiation, and Memorial. I was honored that she asked me and I spent the next three weeks learning and perfecting my parts. This was right after I graduated and as Grand Assembly was quickly approaching, I started to get very sick. My throat was swollen and it hurt to swallow. It was painful to talk and I had no energy. I decided this was not about to stop me from my first game on the Varsity team. Grand Assembly was here and it was game time. Warm ups, i.e. Grandie Practice, were rough, but my Sisters and adults helped me out, reassuring me that we are all in this together. We had a stellar game and won. We won by initiating SIX new girls into our Order.

The rest of Grand went smoothly and it was time for announcements. I have always been patriotic. I thought of myself as an All-American Girl and I was so stoked when Heather Casteel called my name as Grand Patriotism, Grand Editor, and Grand Representative of Montana. I could not have asked for a better office. I thought this was pretty cool. I love America. I was the editor of the yearbook at school, so I knew that being

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editor would be stepping up from the responsibilities I used to have. And I have always wanted to go to Montana and see the road that leads to the sun. Before Grandie Leadership, I had to have another talk with Mrs. Jacka. These talks I have had with her - not so bad, - especially because this time, she asked me if I would be willing to fulfill the office of Grand Faith for the whole year and remain Grand Editor. Of course I said yes and took on my new title. Since I was in charge of membership, it would be the first time I have ever planned a party from start to finish, decorations included. I don't want to say it was stressful, but I did get anxious putting everything together. I also had to systematize float building for the two parades we were in. I had a lot of fun organizing float parties, finding the supplies and putting everything together. I do regret not being able to help our southern Assemblies as much, but I am very glad that did not happen this year.

As Editor I learned how to interact more with the girls of the whole state through email. I am grateful that I found it is not difficult to get articles from everyone if I simply just ask nicely. This was more of an individual task than being Editor of the school Yearbook, but I enjoyed sitting down and putting together Reflections because it helped me learn how to sit down and do a project. As fun as it was, it was still hard work, but that is okay. These past two years I have continued to grow and mature on a different level. There was a time when I was Grand Faith and I had been feeling lonely, upset, confused - just a bundle of emotions. I had good involvement with Sparks Assembly that year, and was excited to be at their Initiation as Worth Associate Advisor. I

have always listened to the ritual work, but that night I heard the words our Ritual REALLY had to offer. I cried a little bit while I was in the West and just realized that it was just a rough patch, and life would move on. Now, I think it is really nice to go to an Initiation and listen to what we stand for and hear the beautiful things we should accomplish.

Heeding words of admonition and continuing to hear what I stand for has been helpful in figuring out who I want to be. I know I want to be an honest, successful woman with a  **Loving** and  **Patriotic** family, who go to Church and Sunday school. I want my kids to be able to play outside in the simplest of  **Nature** and learn more about the earth, remembering to smile at the  **Service** we will do as a family to make the world a better place in which to live. Last June, life was happy; we were  **all** healthy and excited to be at Grand Assembly once again. I remember gripping Samantha's hand so hard when Jennifer Lewis announced me as the new Grand Worthy Advisor. It was the biggest honor I have ever received. This past year, especially, I started becoming more responsible. I have never really been irresponsible but I began to take on bigger tasks with more responsibility that are involved with them. It is very interesting being on the Alzheimer's Walk Committee, experiencing how all these walks are planned and supported. As a member of the Junior Grand Executive Committee, I got a sneak peek into the adult business aspect of Rainbow. I have learned so much from all of these things and I know it will make my "job life" easier because I have already seen how a meeting should be run and how to effectively get through business. Owning a dog has been a responsibility I have had so much fun with. It makes me responsi-

ble for another creature who loves me unconditionally. I would like to publicly apologize to my parents for telling them Samantha and I have a dog at the Grand Banquet last year. There were many other ways I could have and should have approached that, but I am so grateful that Sir Charles TheDog, as Mrs. Jacka calls him, was accepted into my family. I have never had a dog, so the learning experience of owning Charlie has made him the light of my life and I can not imagine life without him.

Writing speeches was a big responsibility and hard work this year, but I found out a lot about myself. I would hope that many of you were inspired by the words I had to offer.  **I have been inspired** by many people and our Ritual. I am very thankful that, through speeches, I was able to reach out to a lot of people and tell others what I look forward to in life and the things that make me happy and the type of people I want to be around.

The easy task of opening up my Ritual made for an easier transition into my college classes. With the help of Rainbow, I have learned how to sit down and work on a paper or a project. I have learned how to open my books and to study. Let me tell you, that opening my Ritual to memorize a part is much easier than opening up my accounting book or doing my Calculus assignment. But again, the easy basic task laid a foundation for the hard stuff.

Another lesson that has made studying more peaceful is  **Nature**. I really embraced the lesson of Nature. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time spent outside with a different appreciation for the nature around me: the rolling clouds, the beautiful colors, the rays of light that shine through. I am able to look to the sky and the clouds and remember how beautiful the world is, and can

be. The sun will come out tomorrow and that is a consistency I realized was in my life and it is very helpful on hard days. I love to sit in the grass on sunny days and enjoy what the world has to offer.

Being outside has also improved my relationship with God. We began to talk more and our interactions were *incredible*. It was almost overwhelming. I have always known that the love and guidance was there and, it might sound crazy, but I have had direct revelation from God. To experience His love first hand is fulfilling and *amazing*.

I am happy to say, the relationship with my parents has grown this year. I always had a parent-child relationship. Don't get me wrong - that was what I needed growing up. My parents were always there to push me. If they needed to tell me I had to do something, they would. Now, I get gentle reminders and a different kind of support. They are a huge part of my support system. The system is changing and the support remains. I know my mom has always been there to talk to, but I never really took advantage of her insight and experience. Especially in this past year, that was not the case, and for that, I am so grateful. I think it's cool I can sit in my car before work and talk with my mom. The talks I continue to have with my dad are on a different thought level than they used to be. The words we find are different and more meaningful. If you didn't know, men and women don't think alike, so seeing the perspective of both sides - both parents - has broadened my views on life. This is a gift I am grateful to receive. This last year truly has been the "Ride of MY Life." It has taken me places that only Rainbow could take me. I do not know of any other organization, especially for young women, that bring girls up and down their

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state and to other states. I am so grateful for every travel opportunity I have been blessed with. It is such a unique experience to wake up, get on a flight, get to Grand Chapter, give a speech, and fly home, all in one day. Some may think that sounds exhausting, but it was exhilarating. I felt so cool when I did that. I was excited when I got to do it one month later for Grand Lodge, except this time, it was

overnight and equally as thrilling. I was also lucky enough to get to experience Washington/Idaho and California's Grand Assemblies, as well as Supreme Assembly last summer. Because of Rainbow, I now have connections with honest, upright citizens in almost every state. That is an incredible network that simply makes me feel safe.

I was not the shy, timid girl that many of us start out as. I had

social skills alright - ask any of my teachers - they will tell you I have no problem talking. I was the athletic girl who needed to be polished. I needed to work on my manners - execute shutting my mouth at the right moments, and learn how to appreciate a dress and proper shoes. While I still don't agree with the shoes, I have excelled at all of what Rainbow has to offer me.

As for life after Rainbow, I will be around. I am not going to

move away or chop off my hair. I am still going attend events and show my support. Rainbow has given me so many things and excited to be able to pay it forward. I have put a lot of time and effort into Rainbow and, in return, have received skills, support, love and leadership that have made me Ready For Life.

### Jennifer Snook's GWAA Reception Speech

**Thank you to my Installing officers. All of you ladies have a special place in my heart. I have written a small token of my love in each of your cards. TO my assembly --- you girls are absolutely amazing. Words cannot express how much each of you mean to me, I would not be the person I am today without each of you beautiful ladies in my life. My most cherished memories have been spent with you. Some of the most memorable moments are: cleaning up unmentionables" at the zoo, making treats for the animals, making tie blankets for my Grand Service project, dying of heat exhaustion while we sit in the wooden box for the Fireworks booth, road trips that include jokes, singing and car dancing. Grand Assembly and Rainbow camp are two of my favorite events every year, because they are all about spending time with the girls I love. Thank you for this reception everything looks absolutely amazing and the food was delicious. I am only a phone call away from anything you need, just because I will not be attending every meeting and event I am still here for each one of you girls. I love you all so very**

**much. To My board thank you for supporting and doing all that you do for the girls of this assembly, you all have had a part in molding our character. Thank you for what you have done to help me out not only for this year but for my whole rainbow life. Come June I will cross over to the adult side of Rainbow. Knowing that each of you is there will make this transition easier. There has never been a doubt in my mind that I could turn to any of you in a time of need, whether it is to laugh, ask advice or just a shoulder to cry on. You all have been there for me no matter what. Thank you for everything, I am forever grateful.**

**When I was 10 I would accompany my mom to Princess House parties. This is where I had the pleasure of meeting Sandy and Alicia. Alicia was in "this thing" called The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. After viewing photos of the Rainbow events and watching Alicia and Tiffany get dolled up for the upcoming functions, I decided this was something I wanted to belong to. I was so excited when I finally turned 11 and**

**could become a Rainbow girl.**

**In the beginning I was shy because I didn't really know anyone, but as you can tell I no longer have that problem. Rainbow has taught me many lessons as well as molding me into the woman I am today. Some of these lessons include: confidence, poise and public speaking. Rainbow allows you to be who you really are and can show your strengths. Since joining this Organization, I am now able to stand in front of a room full of people and deliver a speech or give a presentation. This was put to the test in my Communications class where I had to deliver speeches every couple of weeks. I knew I would do well in the course because of the opportunities I have had to give speeches in my assembly, Grand Assembly and visiting other jurisdictions.**

**Commitment is another lesson that comes to my mind when I reflect on what I have learned from Rainbow. To be committed means to be dedicated. Along with having dedication, I also have passion for this organization. When you have a passion for something it becomes an "I get to attitude" instead of an "I have to attitude". Having**

**an "I get to attitude" at meetings and events makes each one more special. Even when you have had a bad day coming to Rainbow can turn this around. In Rainbow staying in for nine years shows a commitment from a young age to adulthood. Remember you can do more than just Rainbow as a girl, but be sure to stay true to your obligations. Let's say your girlfriends are going to the movies that afternoon but you committed yourself to the park clean up. Where are you going to be? If you tell your board you will be somewhere you should put forth the very best to be there. We are here for Service and to give to the community. Being a Rainbow girl is the most rewarding experience you can have. I truly am honored to be part of such a wonderful assembly and organization.**

**Everyone always says what you put into Rainbow is what you will get out of it. I really did not understand this for many years. As I grew up in Rainbow I started taking things that I have learned and applying them to everyday life. Rain-**

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**bow has taught me to be more confident in myself and everything I do in my life. The lessons from Initiation teach you many of life's lessons. The seven colors are words to live by. Love everyone just the same as you would want to be loved, to believe in a higher power no matter your Religion, to spend a portion of each day out of doors in nature, Immortality that your soul will live forever, Fidelity is to be**

**true and faithful to your family and friends, Patriotism explains to love your country, and Service is what our wonderful Order is all about, be of some service each day. Each of these values and lessons that I have learned through Rainbow I will take and apply them to the real world as they will help me to succeed in life.**

**Every ending has a new beginning. This quote rings true to me and in my life.**

**Looking at different situations in life, you can look at them as a negative or a positive. I choose to look at them as positive. Just because something is coming to an end does not mean it is a time to be sad, it is a time to look at your new opportunities. My Rainbow career as a girl is coming to an end, but it is not a time to be sad it is a time to celebrate. The friendships and bonds that have been created, strengthen, and will continue to grow**

**stronger is a reason to celebrate. I hope that each of you will leave here and take a minute to reflect on your rainbow career. Think about the Reverend W. Mark Sexton, who founded our Order and united us through a common bond of friendship. These friendships will last forever as well as the lessons and traditions that come from not only our Order but from each of our sisters. Thank you.**

### Sarah White's Grand Charity Reception Speech

First I want to thank my assembly and board for the fantastic decorations and the amazing reception that you all put together for me. I have learned a lot of lessons while I have been in Rainbow. One lesson that has helped me in my college career is the public speaking part because now I can stand in front of a group of people and give a speech and not be nervous at all. An example I would like to share is this semester when I was in my Deaf Culture class we had to get together with people in our groups and then present on the chapter we had selected. The day that we went the other two people in my group were nervous but I was not because this was not the first time I had to present in front of a big group of people. Another thing that I have learned is that community service is a good thing because you can help out the people in your community who are hurting or just need some extra help. The one service project that I like the most was our statewide Service Project, the Alzheimer's Association.

Another thing that I have learned is that all of the lectures in the Initiation ceremony will stick with me for the rest

of my life. The two lessons that I remember from my Initiation are Charity and Service. The reason those have stuck with me is because I am a person who likes to help out people when they are in need. I am going to remember the lessons of Charity whenever I see a rainbow in the sky.

Now I would like to share a funny story about my career in Rainbow when we were traveling. The first story is when I thought the ground was Holy. We were coming back from a Rainbow event, and had stopped at the rose garden to look at the flowers and all of the stuff around there and I kept tripping in holes in the grass. I told my friends man, this Ground must be Holy because I keep tripping and almost falling. To this day they will not let me live that down because every time I am walking through grass they tell me to be careful because the grass might be Holy again.

At this time I would like to express appreciation to several people who have made my rainbow career a success and have helped me throughout the years that I have been in Rainbow. The

first person I would like to express appreciation to is Mrs. Jackson. Mrs. Jackson you are an amazing Grand deputy and a wonderful person. You have helped me through times of troubles and you have helped me through things I was struggling with. I want to thank you for buying the luggage set and the other stuff that you have purchased for my raffle and my reception. I also want to thank you for the times you have driven me to so many Rainbow events. I could not have done this without you, you are amazing and I thank you for being my Grand Deputy for the years I have been in Rainbow.

I would also like to thank is Mr. and Mrs. Gordon. You both are great people and I want to express my thanks for what you have done for me when I was in Rainbow. I want to thank the both of you for driving me to so many Official Visits and receptions. You both are great people and I could not have made it to so many events without the both of you driving me through the years I have been in Rainbow.

Mrs. Ohl, I really appreciate how much work you put into making my dresses and you really do deserve a big

thank you for that. I would not have had all of the beautiful, gorgeous dresses that I have in my closet and I would not have the amazing dress that I am wearing today if you didn't take the time to make it. I also want to thank you for teaching how to make my own pantaloons and how to cut out the patterns and sew the dresses. I want to tell you that you are amazing and I really do appreciate all of the work you have done for me.

Mrs. Wallace thank you a bunch for making the dress bag for me to raffle off, you are fantastic.

Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Jacka and Mrs. Sakelarios, I want to thank you for all of the support you have given me this year and helping me get through the year when I had tough times or I just needed help on what to include in a speech that I had to write. You all three are amazing people and I thank you for being there for me my whole Rainbow career.

Girls, I want to thank each of you for being there for me whenever I needed you. Even though I will be

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moving away in about a year to go to college at Cal State Northridge I am still going to be there for you girls for another year whether you need to

talk or if you need help with a service project I am just a phone call away if you need me so do not hesitate to call me when you need something. You all are amazing and I

want each of you to know you have a special place in my heart. I will never forget any of you. I will be back on the holidays or when I have breaks in my Schedule once I move to

California so I will come and visit on the times that I am back. Thanks again for the amazing and beautiful reception. Thank-you.

### Shannon La Rue's Grand Faith Reception Speech

I cannot believe that this day has arrived so soon. Thank you to everyone who came this afternoon, my family & friends and my Masonic family.

My first formal thank you is to my assembly, Sparks Assembly #3, for honoring me with this reception. Every time I see you ladies, you seem to brighten up my day a little more. I will value our friendship and know that we will remain sisters throughout our adult lives. It means so much to me to know you have been meeting and working on this reception, especially the decorations, for several weeks. This room really reflects all your hard work. I know you ladies got together with our Advisory Board and made the sandwiches and decorated the dining room, too. I want to thank the Advisory Board members for all the support they have given to me over the last eight years of my rainbow career. Each one of you has done more for me than I could ever ask for. Sparks #3 girls and adult, you have shown me your love through your efforts, and I appreciate all your work. Thank you to all the adults and girls who brought food and prepared it. It was delicious. The decorations and the time you put into this is reception is more than I could have ever asked. You have made this a very special day

for me.

Would Mrs. Hatfield and Mrs. Meacham please stand? These ladies took on the task of being my Mother Advisors when I served as Worthy Advisor. I know it took a lot of patience and love to see me through all my terms. Not only did you help me with my Assembly work, but you were there to listen to me through all my teenage dramas. Mrs. Hatfield, you stood by me when I felt confused and discouraged. You never told me what to do; you just helped me see my life from a different point of view and encouraged me to do what was right. You will forever be in my heart.

If you would please remain standing, and will all adults who have served on Sparks Advisory Board during the last eight years please stand?

I want to thank each of you for the support you have given to me over the last eight years of my rainbow career. Each one of you has done more for me than I ever imagined. You have been encouraging and, most important, a lot of fun. Lots of road trips, slumber parties and mystery trips made for a ton of great memories. Thank you. You may be seated.

Will my Beauceant sisters please stand? I want to thank you for welcoming me into your Order. These ladies gave my mom a baby shower for

me, so, you can see, I have been part of this group before I was even born. Most of these women have watched me grow up from a young child to the young woman who is standing before you today. Thank you all for being here; it means the world to me. Thank you. You may be seated.

Thank you to the DeWitt Clinton Commandry for their wonderful Arch of Steel, and for coordinating the arch with all those future Masons.

Mrs. Webb, would you please stand? Mrs. Webb has been a friend of our family since I was in kindergarten. When Selena started needing hoop dresses, mom gave up her seamstress duties and roped Mrs. Webb into the job. It was a great decision. Mrs. Webb has made each of my personal dresses, shifts and pantaloons since I became Worthy Advisor for the first time. I often just go to you with an idea or vision and you know exactly what works. Sometimes you mix two or three patterns and sometimes, you just sew it! You even turned this beautiful dress into a "Rainbow appropriate" dress for my special day. Thank you for all those late nights and last minute emergencies you handled with grace and love. Thank you. You may be seated.

Would the Squires of the Round Table and the Reno Chapter, Order of DeMolay members and Advisors please stand. DeMolay has been a

very big part of my Rainbow life, partly because my dad is a Senior DeMolay and my brother is a member, but also because of all the young men who have become my friends. I have enjoyed our time together whether it was working at UNR, rafting down the Truckee River, shooting paintballs at each other, marching through the mud, in the rain, at the corn maze or performing formal ceremonies together. Without Advisors, none of these activities would have been possible. We can never say "thank you" often enough to our adults. I know that several of your members had to attend Congress in Tonopah this weekend and could not attend this reception. I appreciate those of you who came today and performed the Honor Arch for me. And thank you to the Squires for my gift and your presentation. I have been honored to have served as your Chapter Sweetheart, Princess and Lady of the Manor. You have treated me like a sister and you will always be my friends. Thank you. You may be seated.

Would all of the Masons in the room please rise? Thank you for being Masons. Without our Masonic heritage and your sponsorship, Rainbow would not exist. Some of you have known me before I was even in Rainbow. Each of you taught me a little bit about masonry. You all have a spe-

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cial place in my heart. You all have been there for me at one point or another in both my personal and rainbow life. Thank you for all of your support. Thank you. You may be seated.

I would like to share just a little bit of my Rainbow life with you. I was introduced to Rainbow back when I was just a baby. My dad was a Mason and my mom was a member of Beauceant and Eastern Star. And when she was a teenager, she had been Honored Queen of Job's Daughters. I remember each time that my dad was installed as Worshipful Master, I would take his jewel and run around the room acting like I was the biggest thing around. I would say daddy, look at me look, or daddy, please, jewel please, and he would put it around my neck. I grew up a little bit and was able to understand more about what was really going on. I asked my mom who those girls were wearing those big dresses. She replied with "those are rainbow girls."

At that moment, I knew that I wanted to be one. I wanted to float and look pretty like them. Selena joined two years before me and I was doing almost everything and going almost everywhere that she and mom went. But, I would have to watch my sister and mom leave for Rainbow while I was stuck at home wondering what was so fun about it. I also wondered why it was so secret. What did they do in those meetings and behind those closed doors? Soon it was my turn to join.

I remember, I put on my purple dress that my mom bought me and we headed to town with Selena in the car. I was so excited and scared at

the same time. Jennifer Lewis was also there with me, getting initiated. I remember sitting outside those doors wondering what was taking so long. I just wanted to walk in and sit down. Soon there was a knock at the door and I jumped up but I was told it's not time yet. "I'll let you know" is what the girl told us. The next knock came, and, again, "sit down, it's not time yet - do not worry you'll be fine." Yeah me, be fine? I could barely sit still, let alone stop jumping.

I soon heard that dreaded knock before walking into the assembly room. Selena was in the office of Faith and she is the one who escorted me during my initiation. This time, I felt sick to my stomach walking in. But soon instead of my sister leading me around the room, I was dragging her. When she referred to me as "my sister", it had a different meaning. I have never been very shy and while most initiates are very timid, I just grinned at everyone as I walked around and around and around the Assembly room. I'm not sure they knew what they were getting into when they initiated me.

My first office was the station of Religion. I was so nervous at my first meeting because it was initiation. The day, before I came to the meeting, I sat with my grandma memorizing that part until it was word perfect. I sat at my station and wondered "why didn't I look at this part three days earlier. That would have been so much better!" Now it was my turn to give my speech. I stood up and all I could think was "please don't pass out" or "forget my lines! Please!" After the meeting, everyone came up to me saying what a great job I had done. I didn't believe

them because I thought it was horrible. I knew I had messed up three lines. But, I learned a very valuable lesson about studying earlier.

I was then moved to Love, then to Confidential Observer, over to Chaplain, then to Drill Leader, back to Confidential Observer, and then to Chaplain one last time before I started up the line. I had such a blast learning all the different office parts till I got to Faith. Then it was "What are you kidding me? I have to learn all of this!" On that night of initiation when I was now Faith, not only did I forget a ton of lines, but it didn't help with Mrs. Jacka sitting there. I had no Idea what I had gotten myself into. I made it through, but not with the proficiency I had planned. It was not the best night, but I did survive. I moved up to Hope, then to Charity. While I held that office, I planned a big fundraising yard sale. I moved next to Worthy Associate Advisor, and finally to Worthy Advisor.

Four years ago I was announced as a pick up officer for the Grandie family. I was so excited when I received a Grand Representative Appointment. That year at Grand Assembly, Mrs. Jacka walked up to me the day we did opening and asked if I could do Confidential Observer. I, of course, said yes! I was so excited to be asked to do "such a big part of grand" or so I thought at the time. That year I also was asked to memorize Hope's majority part as well. I was so scared but I did it. I grew up so much that year. I was so scared and afraid to mess up because Mrs. Jacka and the rest of the state were all watching me.

Along this road of my Rainbow career, I came across some interesting people called Grandies. These young women were the state officers of Ne-

vada Rainbow but at first, I just saw them as young women with these things on their heads that looked really pretty and wearing hoop dresses. I didn't understand why I couldn't wear a wig and big dress but I soon decided that I wanted to be one of them as well.

I have made a ton of friends along my rainbow career. I have traveled across the states while making memories. I remember there was this one road trip that Mrs. La Rue, aka my mom, Selena, Jennifer & Michelle Lewis, and I went down to Fresno to attend California's Grand Assembly. It was a memorable road trip. We stopped that night to eat at a Denney's that we found along the way. Well, something interesting had to happen on this trip or it wouldn't have been a true "road trip". When we headed back to the car after eating, we looked down and saw these huge snails. There were so many disgusting snails that we rolled down the windows to stare at them. Here's the "fun" part. Selena & Michelle were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row seats in the Suburban and Jennifer & I were in the 3<sup>rd</sup> row. Jennifer was leaning forward looking out Michelle's window with her and I was leaning forward leaning out Selena's window. We all stuck our heads out to look down at the ground.

As girls are known to do, we are all squealing and screaming. Apparently, Selena decides she has seen enough and, without any warning at all, I suddenly feel like my head is getting smashed. Seems Selena didn't realize that when she brought her head inside, mine was still in the window that she was rolling up!!! Since everyone is already screaming, no one

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realized that I'm was in pain! Then, when they finally figured it out, they apologized but couldn't stop laughing – for days!!!!

I remember another trip when Mrs. La Rue, Selena, Autumn Phelps, Melissa Teston and I went to Plymouth, Massachusetts, for their Grand Assembly. That's right, we went to see "The Rock" – made famous by Selena's Grand Representative report several years earlier. Let me tell you people, it is just a rock. Nothing amazing except for the shrine they

built around it and over it – probably to keep it from getting wet during a storm!

But something amazing did happen to us while we were there. Towards the end of sessions, Massachusetts had a dance. The DeMolay young men were so impressed with our hoops and hairpieces that they decided that they wanted to try them on!!!! Let me tell you, the girls went crazy. The boys soon decided that they were done being girls and all the hoops came off except one. Yeah, that would be my hoop that was stuck. It took a good 10

minutes to get this hoop off him. Let us just say that Nevada definitely left our mark in Massachusetts.

There are so many memories I have to share about Rainbow, we would be here through the next two receptions, so I'll leave the rest of them to the slideshow.

I would like to make one last heart-felt thank you. Would Mrs. Jacka, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Higgins, Mrs. Hatfield, Mrs. Jensen, Mrs. Bunch and Mrs. Downing please stand?

These ladies have been there for me through my

achievements and my struggles, my laughter and my tears. You were there when I did not know how to fly. I came to the end of the staircase, looked up and was not able to see the end. You all taught me how to take that first step and fly. Thank you for all of your support you have shown me. Quoting a line from one of my favorite plays, *Wicked*, "Because I knew you, I have been changed for good." Please help me thank them.

Thank you so much.

## Start of a Rainbow Journey



This year has been amazing, I have learned so much about others and myself as I embraced the challenge of being Grand Editor. Going to college, moving up North, still going to Rainbow, and so much more has taught me about myself more than it would have if I just would have stayed down south. So to embrace my last stance on being grand editor, I will tell one last story.

Once more she looked out the window. Scared, nervous, excited, she felt all these emotions plus more. Some of the people she was driving with were asleep preparing for the long trip, but she was too

excited. It was her first time going to this magical thing called Grand Assembly. That and she couldn't sleep in moving vehicles. The girl smiled to herself as she looked out the window once more.

The desert seemed beautiful with the sunrise just starting to peek over and starting to make the mountains purple with its majestic hues. One of the older girls looked up at her. "You need to get some sleep or you'll be tired when it comes to fun night." she said sagely.

The girl nodded but she couldn't cooperate with her rainbow sister's request. Her Mother Advisor, seeing this chuckled. Soon the girl would see how long the drive was and would realize she needed the sleep. For now, the mother advisor thought, let her get the whole first Grand package

The girl grew after that and saw many things that came with grand assembly. The Ups and Downs. Losing Family and Friends to not only death but to Majority as well. She saw sisters grow strong

through their lives in Rainbow, she saw them fall in heartbreak but rise again through the support of their friends.

She saw many people rise to the power of Worthy Advisor in their own assembly, she also saw the excitement as her friends gained Grand Offices and the excitement from that as well. Even her own time as a Grand Officer and the excitement of gaining those offices were something she would never replace.

She learned how to stuff things into a car, and how to travel. How to dress in formal and non-formal situations.

Then one day it was her turn to gain majority, yes it was sad, but it was also a new page in her life. She cried and smiled at her rainbow sister who said her part as it was her who had to say goodbye to her life in rainbow once and for all.

But it was only the beginning of another journey, just like

that first time in going to Grand. Another chapter in her life. So she as excited, nervous, and a little scared but thanks to her journey and finding her personal pot of gold she was ready for her next steps into the world.

Fin

This year was amazing and I can only be grateful for the opportunity that was given to me in being Grand Editor, and being a Rainbow Girl.

I think every one this year, no matter if you're a grand officer, or just a starting rainbow girl feels this way.

So thank you, to our adults, our assemblies, the adults who aren't necessarily ours and our sisters who will always be there for us, through thick and thin. Thank you for the chance to make us the girls we are today, so we will be ready for our steps into tomorrow.

~Amber K. Thacker