

# red hatter *matters*

SPRING 2020

**WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!**



A DIGITAL MAGAZINE FROM THE RED HAT SOCIETY





Sue Ellen Cooper,  
Founder & Exalted Queen Mother  
sheltered in place at home, April 2020

Dear Red and Pink Hatters,

At this writing we are all "sheltered in place." We must wear face masks when we go out, wash our hands constantly and keep our distance from others. Instead of gathering together, we must stay home. Instead of sharing hugs and other fond gestures we are told to keep a minimum of six feet of distance from others when we absolutely must (however briefly and cautiously) venture out. Well, these just are not "red hat" behaviors, are they? They feel odd. This sort of isolation, particularly among women, is the very thing that the Red Hat Society came about to counteract!

It is heartening to see the ways that many Hatters still find to keep connected with each other - if not in person, then on social media, all of which are buzzing with interchanges by Hatters. They are all demonstrative of the abiding friendships and the longing for connection that we share. It's heartening to realize that a great many of these friendships arose entirely through the RHS. Now we see many Hatters busily in the process of making lemonade out of lemons.

Although Hatquarters itself is closed, please know that our staff members are all working diligently from their homes in an effort to maintain good communication with you too. None of us are finding it easy, but we are striving to keep the lines of communication open while waiting for things to change. While we had hoped to see and share celebrations of our Society's 22nd birthday on April 25, it is clearly not to be. But, in true RHS spirit, why not treat yourself to a great big piece of cake or whatever your favorite treat is and make a toast in honor of all of us? We may not be together in actuality, but we can be in spirit. We are sad, but we acknowledge that there are many others who are also missing out on events they had been happily preparing for. Even the 2020 Summer Olympics will not take place.

Change is one thing we can count on. Every one of us needs to keep in mind that this situation is temporary. Our red and pink hats may have to sit on the shelves or the hat stands for a little longer, but they will perch atop our heads again before long, and they will get out of the house on those heads! And when they do, they will be worn by women thirsty for fun and hungering for laughs with dear friends. Remember this: There is still magic in that hat! Just wait (a little while longer) and see!

In friendship,

*Sue Ellen*

Sue Ellen Cooper,  
Founder & Exalted Queen Mother

# What's New & What's Next

Dear Hatters,

About six weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I severely broke my big right toe. I had to have it operated on, leaving me unable to walk. I used a knee scooter at my house upstairs and a wheelchair downstairs. I was stuck in my house for over a month. Since it was my right big toe, I could not drive. I had to rely 100% on the support from my husband.

As many of you know I am a very free-spirited person, and this restriction took a toll on my patience. I poured myself into virtual communications, online webinars, daily online chair exercises, and more. What helped me get through this was the immense support from Hatters across the globe. Prayers, words of encouragement, offers to help, including offering to lend me temporary tools to get through it - the outpour from so many was a beautiful surprise. I was reminded that we are not just a fun club for women; we are a support group like no other, comprised of like-minded women who support each other, even if they have never met in person.

Now here we are together. As we are going through this temporary global pandemic, I see Hatters in action on a global level once again. So many of you are stepping up to share words of encouragement, giving tips on how you are getting through this situation, creating fun activities to engage in, offering entertainment, exercise tips, and so much more. This is priceless. In our own red and pink hat way, we are contributing to helping others cope during challenging times. Yes, RHS SUPPORTS VIRTUAL HATTING.

Thank you for your friendship and support. If you ever ask if your paid membership makes a difference - yes, it does. It helps keep this society alive and thriving for you and so many Hatters across the globe. This is a temporary situation, and we will all get through together.

Royally Yours,

*Debra*

Debra Granich,  
CEO & Queen Lady Bug



Debra Granich,  
CEO & Queen Lady Bug  
sheltered in place at home, April 2020

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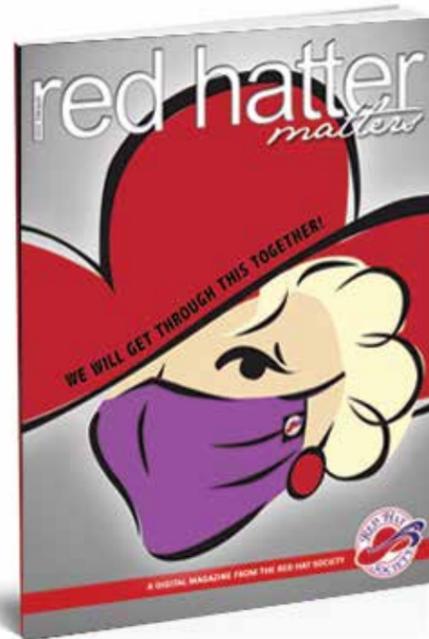
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On the cover:  
This issue's super cover model  
is our very own Safer-At-Home  
Ruby RedHat

Want this or older issues  
in print?

Visit  
[RedHatSociety.com/page/rhm](http://RedHatSociety.com/page/rhm)



Stay connected and engaged while on the go. Even if you aren't physically with your RHS Sisters, you can tap into the Community anytime in the palm of your hand.

## The RHS App Is Here!

### MY FEED

Our own private social platform that allows you to view updates, share photos and posts with Sisters in real time.

### MY ACCOUNT

Access all the key features of the RHS's website from your smartphone or tablet. If you need to show your Member card, just flash your app!

### SEARCH & CONNECT

Search and connect with Members anywhere around the world.

### MESSAGING

Send and receive private messages to all RHS Members.

### MY PROFILE

Manage your Membership. Access and update your profile with ease.

### REGISTER FOR EVENTS

Not near a computer? At a gathering of Chapterettes who want to discuss and coordinate the event tours and packages? It's easy when you have the RHS app.

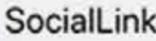
### SHOPPING & OFFERS

Access the companies that support RHS and shop away with just a few clicks.

AND SO MUCH MORE!

## HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



1.  **SocialLink**  *SocialLink as it appears on the phone icon.*  
Search for SocialLink in the App Store or Google Play. Download the app.

2. Enter your RHS username.

3. Enter your RHS password you set up or feel free to reset your password. An email from Red Hat Society will be sent to you. Be sure to check all your email folders as sometimes RHS emails can land in your junk/spam folder.

Once you log in with your username and password, you will not have to enter it again, unless you log out purposely or get a new phone and re-download the app.



# YOU SAID IT



**R**eading the latest issue of Red Hatter Matters after a day of practicing our favorite sport – shopping!  
– Queen Carla K., New Mexico, USA



**W**hat other group offers you so much fun as RHS? We do almost everything: playing games, like LCR, Bunco, and Bingo; dance; dress up fancy; dress in costumes for different events; go to special theaters; shopping at events; come together from all over the world for conventions; go on cruises together; take bus tours to casinos; go to fashion shows; go to balls (Victorian, princess, pirate, and Mardi Gras to name a few); go to luncheons; celebrate the new year together; having teas. That is just the fun I would never do alone, but with the RHS ladies, it is a blast. I love my RHS!  
– Silvia P., California, USA

**T**he Graceful Nubians had much laughter and fun at Menopause the Musical!  
– Queen Virginia W., South Carolina, USA



**D**esert Rouge Hattitudes of Hurricane, Utah, was honored today for their continued support of the community and its Shop with a Cop program during the Christmas season. Queen Joy A., Vice Queen Sandi B., and Hysterian Vel M. were present when their chapter plaque was installed in Hurricane's Fine Arts Building.  
– Utah, USA



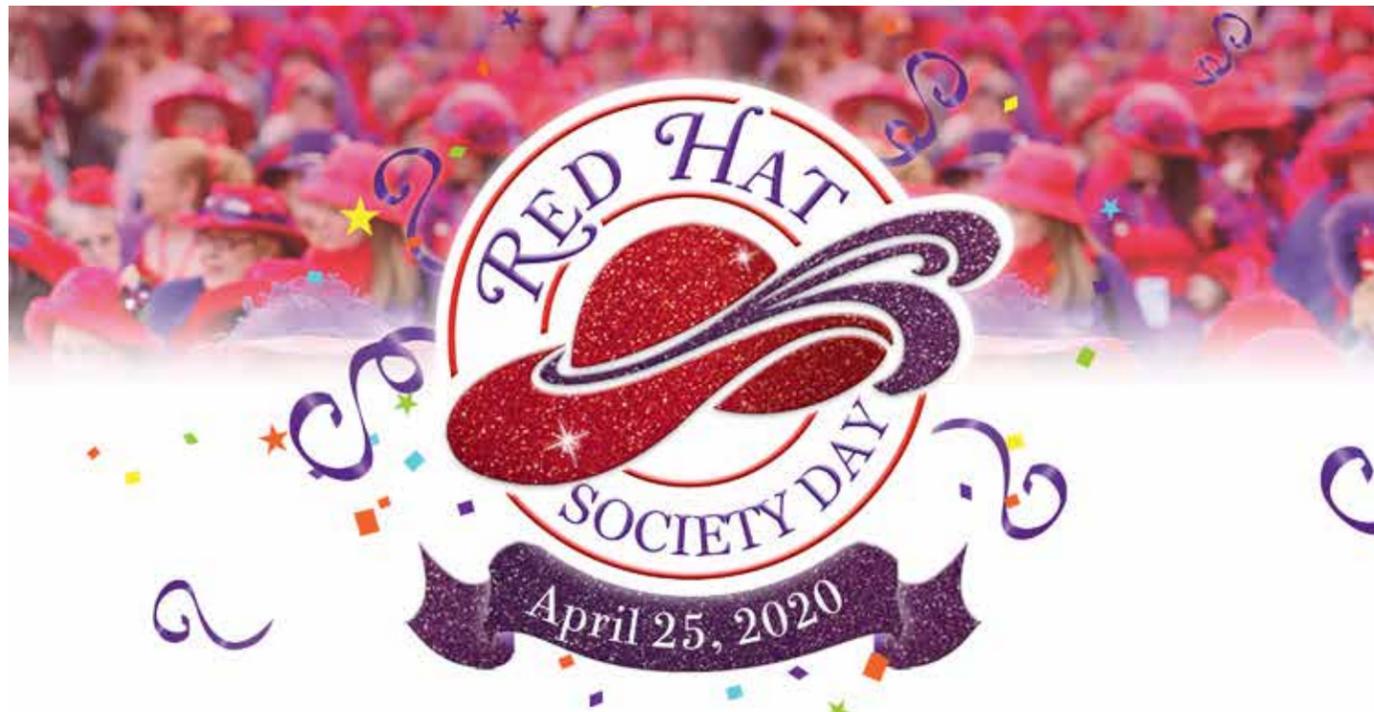
**T**hank you, Red Hat Society! I just got the welcome package – everything is so nice and useful. Now I am officially the queen of 26 beautiful ladies of the Dazzling Diamond Divas. Thank you for accepting me just the way I am and making me feel so special!  
– Queen Bacarat C., Arizona, USA



**A**bout 7 years ago my husband and I were in a local restaurant and in walked about 20 ladies in red hats and purple clothing. I said to him, 'I'm never going to join a group like that!' Today, my chapter, Divine Divas with Hattitude, had a surprise coronation for me! Never say never!  
– Queen Theresa C., Florida, USA



**D**uring the stay-at-home orders, our Princess Rides-a-lot turned 50! As a couple of our ladies are not on Facebook, we simply emailed each other for her birthday, sending some photos of us dressed up and our best wishes for our REDuant, and I sent a photo of what I had prepared for lunch, which my hubby and I ate of course! It wasn't really much of a virtual thing, as not a lot of our ladies participated, but our new red hatter was thrilled anyway. We will be holding a proper REDuation later in the year for her.  
– Queen Rosalee G., Victoria, Australia

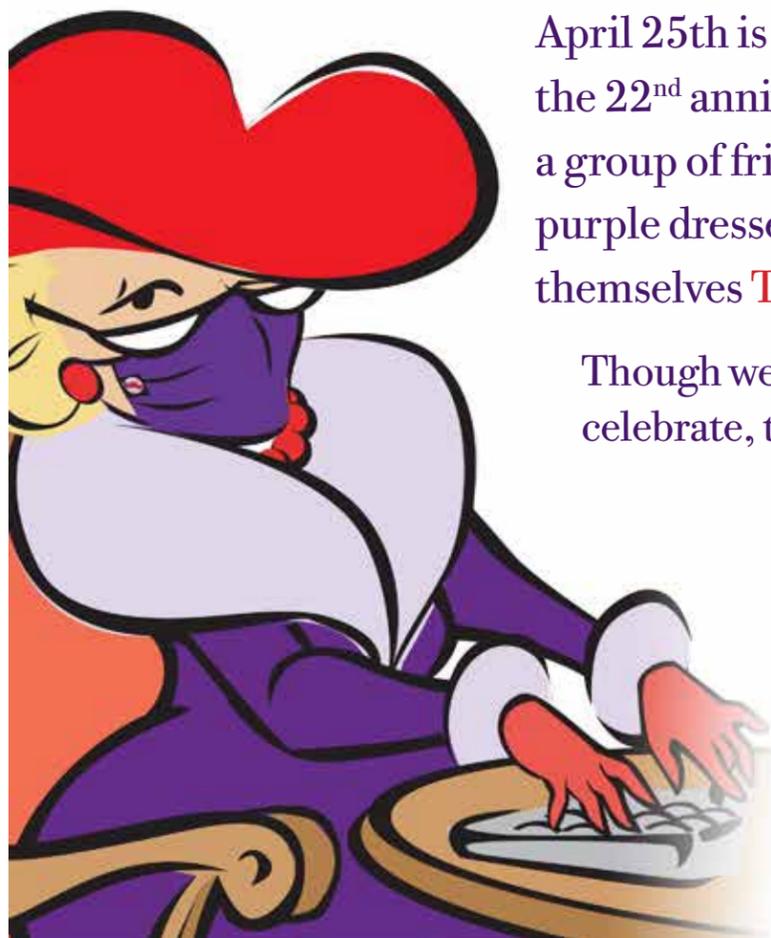


# Happy Birthday to Us!

April 25th is **Red Hat Society Day**, the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the first time a group of friends gathered for tea in purple dresses and red hats, and dubbed themselves **The Red Hat Society**.

Though we aren't gathering in person to celebrate, that won't stop our fun!

We'll grab some cake and play online -  **Happy Birthday to everyone!**



Don't have your copy of the Red Hat Mamma CD yet? Visit **RedHatMammas.com** to purchase a physical copy or digital download.



**FREE "New & Improved" Red Hat Mamma Dance Lessons for ALL RHS Current Members**

Like most of you, I wear many hats. I am a daughter, sister, friend, wife, mother, grandmother, and a proud member of the Red Hat Society. Regardless of which "hat" that I might be wearing on any given day, I am grateful knowing that I have thousands of RHS sisters residing all over the world. You see, when you're in the Red Hat Society, you're never alone... you have sisters everywhere, who are willing to share kindness, friendship and fun!

As for the staff here at Hatquarters, I am so grateful for all of the tireless work in keeping the "Power of Fun" alive, so that our members can continue to spread joy and happiness.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to share my music with my red hat sisters. It brings me such pleasure knowing that RHS members are singing and dancing along to the Red Hat Mamma CD - globally!

Realizing that these are difficult times, I have a mission to help motivate through my music. I believe when we dance, sing, and play together, life's many challenges become much easier. During this down-time, I want to do my part and offer free "new and improved" Red Hat Mamma dance lessons to ALL of my RHS sisters who are current members. Just go to [www.RedHatFunTime.com](http://www.RedHatFunTime.com) and get started today!

Thank you, RHS sisters, for being there, and showing others that you care!

Peace, Joy & Blessings,

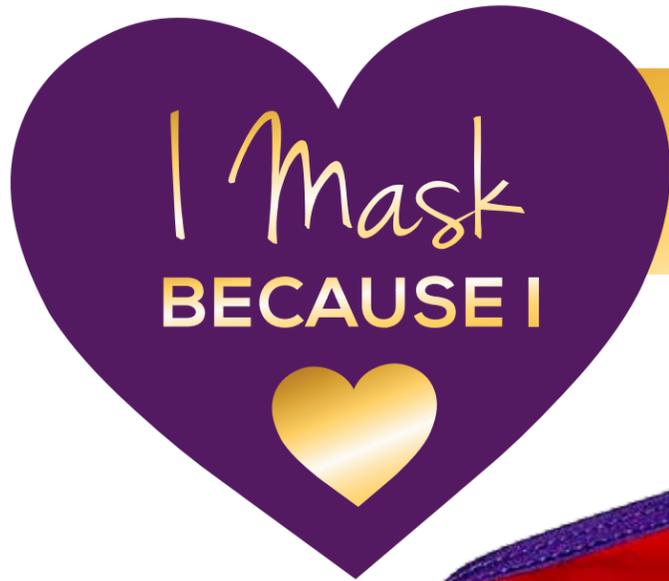
Queen Kathy Bee



**FLAMINGO Fling**  
 RHS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
 MAY 6 - 9, 2021 \* PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA  
 JW MARRIOTT DESERT SPRINGS RESORT & SPA

**POSTPONED TO MAY 6 - 9, 2021**  
 MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW





**EXCLUSIVE TO ROYAL SPLENDOR**  
 In response to so many of our wonderful customers asking for Red Hat face masks, we decided to offer these exclusive masks and donate a portion of each sale to make masks for first responders. Thank you for your support in this effort!



♥ Made in the USA

♥ 3 Layers of 100% Cotton

♥ Stretch that will cover your nose to your chin comfortably

♥ Sold as a set of 2

♥ Elastic bias for maximum stretch and comfort around your ears

♥ One size fits most adults

♥ Machine washable

♥ Size: Adult 6"H x 7"W

♥ Inside slit for disposable filter

Our exclusive non-medical face masks are handmade in the USA from 100% cotton and features three layers of breathable fabric, a pocket to insert a disposable filter, easy and comfortable to wear all day long. As per the recommendation of the CDC our masks fit snug against your face, secured ear loops and is machine washable.

Non-refundable or returnable due to the nature of the product.



Please note that masks help reduce exposure to dust, allergens, germs, and bodily fluids; however, masks are not a respirator and will not eliminate the risk of contracting disease or infection.

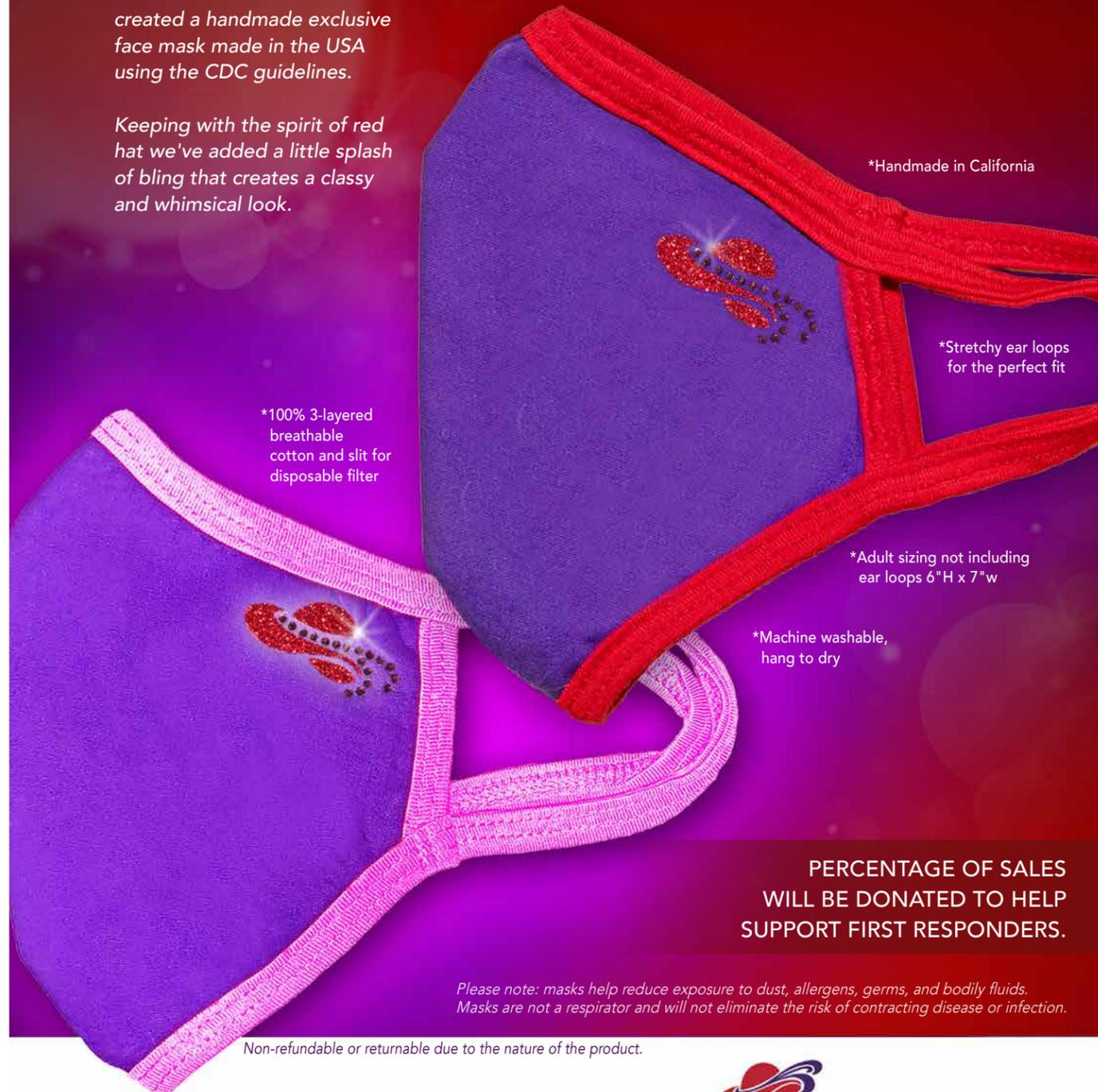
**Royal Splendor**  
 ROYALSPLENDOR.COM  
 (866) 212-9983

Designed by Her Majesty of Bling

# PROTECT YOURSELF IN STYLE... RHS bling style!

With health and fashion in mind the RHS Store has created a handmade exclusive face mask made in the USA using the CDC guidelines.

Keeping with the spirit of red hat we've added a little splash of bling that creates a classy and whimsical look.



\*Handmade in California

\*Stretchy ear loops for the perfect fit

\*100% 3-layered breathable cotton and slit for disposable filter

\*Adult sizing not including ear loops 6"H x 7"W

\*Machine washable, hang to dry

PERCENTAGE OF SALES  
 WILL BE DONATED TO HELP  
 SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS.

Please note: masks help reduce exposure to dust, allergens, germs, and bodily fluids. Masks are not a respirator and will not eliminate the risk of contracting disease or infection.

Non-refundable or returnable due to the nature of the product.

**REDHATSOCIETYSTORE.COM**  
 (866) 544-2114





# Radiant René!

What fun it is to hit a milestone in your life and have so many friends to celebrate by your side! When René W. (also known as Lady ReyD'iant) of the The Toto-ly Oz-some Red Hatters in Kansas, USA, was approaching the wonderful age of 50, she just knew she had to celebrate with style – and her RHS sisters agreed!

The first of her two REDuations was held in her home state of Kansas. Preparations began months in advance with the help from her chapter queen Connie! Queen Carol from the group, who has been known for her set design work, planned out all the décor for the party.



“Carol chose a heart theme and they were everywhere, from the balloons floating high above each floral arrangement, right down to the napkin rings. It was festive, fun, and whimsical, making this so special for me,” René shares. There was even a velvet throne for René to sit in after entering through a tunnel of red hats held up by her fellow RHS sisters.



René recalls, “There was a candle ceremony, reading the Warning poem, going through the red hat survival kit, receiving a certificate from Hatquarters, and doing other silly stuff.” After the ceremony, the attendees shared a meal together and played games to celebrate René’s transition from red to pink.



Not much time to rest, however! The next celebration for the newest red Hatter was just one week later in Texas at Queen Penny’s house. In attendance for this celebration were members from several chapters around the area, René’s mother, Susan, and sister, Dawn, who also just REDuated last year!

“I was the last one in the mother-daughter trio to turn red. Now it will be better than ever, making hatting more special with all three of us adorned in the rich tones of red and purple,” René says.

The second birthday event in Texas looked like a “red-hat wedding” according to the attendees – the whole house was

covered in red hat regalia! “My mom really knows how to throw a party,” René shares. “It was elegant and magical.”

After the ceremony, the group ate a delicious meal, complete with a beautiful red and purple cake. It was a special day as René donned her pink hat for the very last time.

“My days as a Pinky will be forever a grand memory - one for the history books. This new chapter has begun, and I’m so excited to bring happiness to women around the world in my red and purple,” René reflects.

*What an inspiring journey as she transitions from pink to red! Congratulations on this milestone, René!*



# HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!



These Hatters just had too much fun! It's great to see Hatters jump in when presented with unique opportunities – and that's exactly what these three did!

Sharon M. from the Divas with Hattitude, along with Queen Judy V. and Vice Queen Edith R. from the San Antonio Bluebonnet Belles, got the chance to tour the NASA Neutral Buoyancy Lab at the Sonny Carter Training Facility in Houston, Texas, USA, thanks to Sharon's husband, Maronald, who works as a camera diver at the astronaut training pool!

"Astronauts were suiting up for training during our tour and we were able to take photos with one of them before he went into the water," Sharon shares. The ladies were allowed in the Test Control Room, where they watched on several television screens as astronauts conducted underwater weightless environment training. "We sat at the controls pretending we were in charge of the mission at hand - 'Houston, we have a problem!'" Sharon recalls.

The trio also had the opportunity to feel like they were underwater training with the astronaut through the use of virtual reality goggles. How cool would it be to have a Hatter in space?

After that, they were off to visit the suit lab where technicians were actively working on the space suits worn by the astronauts during their training. They took pictures with a display suit and the ladies even got to try on one of the gloves.

"Just when we thought the tour couldn't get any better, we got to take pictures with a model of the Orion spacecraft!" Sharon says. "We had an absolute blast (pun intended)! This is a once-in-a-lifetime tour for a lot of people - so glad I got to share this experience with two of my red hat sisters!"



# Craft Corner

There are so many talented Hatters in our Society – it's so inspiring to see the beautiful and unique creations they come up with!

We want to showcase a couple of our crafters, who have graciously given instructions so you can put your spin on these fun RHS-inspired creations!

## GLASS RED HAT LADIES

From Louise B.,  
Ontario, Canada



"This is art that I created using old glass vases, bowls, Christmas ornaments and lamps.

For each Red Hat Lady, you will need a vase or lamp base for the body, a large, flattish bowl for the shawl (I like to use iridescent glass for this), an ivy bowl or similar round bowl or ornament for the head, a nicely shaped bowl for the hat and, perhaps, an embellishment to put atop the hat.

Using silicone or marine glue (I like a glue called Goop), attach the vase or lamp base to a ceramic tile, if putting the Lady in a flower bed, and allow it to set completely. If using a vase, glue it to the tile with the open end down. The tile will allow her to sit straight and safely on the soil, as well as helping to keep the glass clean.

While it is setting off, you can attach the head to the hat and allow that to set off completely.

Attach the hat bowl at an angle to get that lovely tilted look.

The bowl that you use for the head should be glued to the hat bowl with the open end down.

Once the vase has set to the tile, glue the shawl bowl to the top, upside down to get the lovely shawl effect. Allow to set.

Glue the head to the shawl and allow to set. Each stage will take up to 2 hours, depending on the size of the glass, the amount of glue you use and how warm it is. If you do this outside on a hot day, it can take as little as 20 minutes per section. If you're going to embellish the hat, do it at the very end.

I have found that it is best to use glass that is already the colour that you want, as glass paint will fade in the sun. If, however, you can't get the colour that you want, use a spray paint and paint INSIDE the glass. This will allow the glass to show itself and still get the colour that you want.

The silicone glue may need to be replenished every couple of years, depending on how much sun the Lady gets."

## RIBBON HALO HATS

From Queen Kathy W.,  
Texas, USA



"Please note as with anything else these are loose guidelines and can be adapted to whatever look you like. Please feel free to experiment! Some people use all one color of ribbon, some use all one thickness of ribbon and some mix it up. I prefer an assortment of colors—for example red and purple but I also prefer an assortment of types of ribbon. I like different thicknesses, different types such as the more translucent ribbon and glitter ribbon, but have found the ones with a design on just one side do not look very good for this. I buy ribbon whenever I find a color on sale and save it for when I start making these hats. However, you do want all your ribbon BEFORE you start so you can determine a pattern so the whole Halo looks good and not like it was pieced together.

Take 3 pipe cleaners—do not suggest glitter as it will be covered up but best to use a coordinating color just in case it shows. Fit it to slightly larger than your head—you need room for the ribbon and knots. Better to be a little too large than too small. You can always tighten it slightly as you are finishing if you need to at that point.

Then you need to cut your ribbon. I use 6 inches for mine with 1/4, 3/8, 1/2 and

5/16 inch ribbon assorted. The easiest way to cut your ribbon is to make a cardboard guide that is 6 inches long and then wrap your ribbon around this piece of cardboard several times. Do not wrap it too many times that you cannot cut it. You will then need to cut both ends and you end up with 6-inch lengths of ribbons. Do all your ribbon or at least as much as you think you will need before you start. Do at least some of all colors so you can develop the pattern you like.

Then you simply tie the ribbon around the pipe cleaners with knots in a specific pattern and get it as tight as you can until all the pipe cleaners are covered and you have a ribbon halo hat that you like. These travel great and make great table gifts and can be theme oriented. See Mardi Gras theme above also with trailing ribbons for decoration in the back. Then trim the edges of the ribbon to look nice with scissors."



# GETTING TO KNOW OUR HATTERS OF THE YEAR



**QUEEN LINDA T.,  
AKA QUEEN TOOTOO,  
LOUISIANA, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2011**

It's a long story on why! At the time I had a loved one confined to the bed and I needed an outlet. As a special treat to myself one day for fun, I joined RHS. I am happy to report 16 years later I still have chapter members!

My favorite thing about red hatting is making new friendships. Second would be wearing dressy or gaudy regalia!

What you don't know about me is I'm strong on mission work. It's been 58 years that I have been cutting hair for the poor and home bound in my community. I'm also known as the soup lady, delivering soup to shut in from my church in the fall. I can speak Cajun French as well!

And if you didn't know it, I'm still crazy in love with red hatting!



**QUEEN BARB L.,  
ILLINOIS, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2012**

I'll be perfectly honest and let you know that I did not join the RHS because I needed something to do. I was 54 years old and still working a very full-time job. I was married (still am), I have three daughters and at the time six grandchildren - I now have eight.

I joined because a friend called me to tell me about a two-page spread in the Chicago Tribune about the RHS - they told me they thought this was "right up my alley". Obviously, it was someone who knew me VERY well because it was, and I immediately set out to find out more. I called Hatquarters and was advised to start my own group. My first question was - "and do what?" The response from HQ was, "whatever you want". So, I got together with a few friends and out we went to lunch at a creperie on a Sunday in June after I had already posted a notice in my local paper about a gathering the following week. The paper called me and came out to the creperie and took photos of us that were in the paper the following

Thursday. On that Saturday about forty ladies showed up. And the rest is history.

My most favorite thing I would have to admit are the friendships I have made along the way in my 18 years as a member. I am warmed through and through when someone tells me that I was "life saver", gave them something to look forward to - I have never been this passionate about any organization in my life. I don't think I would have traveled as much and done so many exciting things along the way if it wasn't for the friendships I've made.

I'm pretty sure everyone knows a lot more about me than I think they do, but I was born in a small town of Chalfont St. Giles, England. I came to the States in 1956 when I was eight years old but I remember the town and my schooling there very well. I still have two friends that I communicate with on a regular basis.



**QUEEN MARY M.,  
CALIFORNIA, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2013**

I heard about the Red Hat Society from friends in my line dance class. I started my chapter with eight members and today we have over 100 active members mostly made up of dancers.

My favorite events revolve around dancing. Our chapter has many large events during the year that allows us to meet, munch, shop and dance, dance, dance!

Each member of our chapter strives to uphold the chapter name, Ladies of Elegance, which is to be elegant, graceful, tasteful, respectful, refined and beautiful. Quite a feat! I am retired, so this is the perfect time for me to lead and grow a dynamic chapter such as this one.

Here's my advice to new and established queens: "You can be a great Queen if you really want to be. Listen, practice patience and above all have fun!"

Once upon a time, the RHS had a program that picked a particular Hatter for her outstanding achievements in sharing the fun of RHS and inviting women in their area and beyond to join RHS. We dubbed her "Hatter of the Year."

This program has been retired, not because we don't see these qualities in our Hatters, but because so many of you display them. We simply could not choose just one stand-out woman! Our hats off to all of you who share the power of fun daily!

We did want to take the opportunity to get to know our Hatters of the Year a little better - we asked them three questions:

**WHY DID YOU JOIN RHS?**

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT RHS?**

**WHAT IS ONE THING WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?**

Here's what they had to share.



QUEEN MARILYN C.,  
ARIZONA, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2014

I joined the Red Hat Society in 2005. I saw a group of ladies having lunch dressed in purple with a red hat. They were wearing my favorite colors. I went online to learn more, joined two chapters, and then became a queen of my own chapter in 2007.

One of the big highlights was going to London with my red hat sisters and getting to march in the New Year's parade. It poured rain we were all soaked to the bone. We giggled all the way back to the hotel.

Another tremendous highlight was when I was named Hatter of the Year in 2014 at the San Francisco convention.

The camaraderie with all my new sisters is one of my very favorite things about red hatting.

One thing you may not know about me is I am listed in many Who's Who Books. Who's Who in The World, in California, Intellectuals, Finance and Industry. I also have received the Commemorative Medal of Honor for Outstanding Achievements in Personal and Professional Goals. These are a few of my personal achievements.



QUEEN FLO G.,  
GEORGIA, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2015

I joined RHS for the fun, friendship, laughter, gatherings, conventions, and so much more! I love seeing the excitement and joy when a new member joins our chapter, and the fun we all have during our monthly get-togethers and special events.

One of my favorite things about RHS is that I can socialize and go to other chapter gatherings to meet new women and share ideas. I love the conventions where I get to visit with my friends from all around and chat with my friends from Hatquarters.

Something you might not know about me is that I am an author and writer of six books!



QUEEN PATTY S.,  
TEXAS, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2016

I joined the Red Hat Society because I was in New Orleans with family one day and happened upon six ladies, all wearing matching two-piece suits and donning red hats. It was such a striking sight to see so I inquired as to their purpose. I was told it was RHS and they were a chapter out having fun together. I thought that looked like just the thing for me. I went home and talked to my mom, my daughter, and a friend about the fact that we needed to get out and have some fun like those fabulous ladies I'd met. We all agreed and, as they say, the rest is history!

My favorite thing, beyond anything else, are the friendships I've made. I have been in sister bliss ever since I joined. I love our friendships and, being the only girl child in my family, I'd always wanted a sister. Now I have SO many sisters and I feel very blessed to call them dear friends.

One thing you might not know about me (I'm kind of an open book) is I'm a bit of a hoarder! I can't seem to pass up a purple dress or anything that sparkles! And I can't seem to get rid of any of them, even if they don't fit anymore! I have a huge red hat room that is so full that it's trickling down the hall and into other closets and rooms! But it makes me happy so I'm going to keep doing what makes me happy until I can't anymore!



QUEEN SUE N.,  
OHIO, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2017

I joined the Red Hat Society in 2007. My mom had been a red hatter and she enjoyed it before her health declined. My parents were divorced and after her death I went to Florida to visit my dad; his wife was a red hatter also. I knew her queen so I went to her house and started asking questions and she told me what I needed to do to get started. Came back to Ohio and asked some of my co-workers what they thought about starting a chapter and they said to go for it. I found with these ladies that they became my running-around buddies since my mom had passed away.

My favorite thing is all the beautiful ladies I have met from all over the world. Knowing that we always have someone to talk to and we are never alone, we can find some red hatter that is up at any time, especially online. We are there for each other in all aspects of life sharing the good and the bad. I also love going to a red hat event and staring at the beautiful hats!

Something you may not know: I still work full-time. I am an office manager for a CNC machine distributor. The machines that we sell make medical machinery parts so we have to stay open so that they can still make the parts to save people's lives. I am a one-gal office so I basically am in the building by myself, but I am keeping safe.



QUEEN MARCY L.,  
MICHIGAN, USA  
HATTER OF THE YEAR 2018

I don't remember a time in my life when I wasn't involved in an activity to help others. Teaching and mentoring must be a part of my DNA as I became a teacher. After 30+ years of working in the educational field and doing volunteer work in the community, I needed something that would allow me to just have "me time" and do things that would give me the freedom to meet new people and do new and different things.

Dianne Davis and I had met online through eBay and Clan Donald, a Scottish clan organization. Dianne strongly suggested that I purchase the June-July 2000 issue of Romantic Homes and read about the Red Hat Society. After reading the article, I knew I had found what I was looking for. RHS sounded like a unique opportunity to make new friends, to network with other like-minded individuals, to explore a variety of activities with female friends, to have the flexibility to do things on my time schedule and to do things that interested me. I immediately joined and have never been disappointed in my choice.

Thanks to the RHS, I now have several favorite things that have enriched my

life in ways I could not have imagined. Not only do I have new friends in my own city, county and state, but I have numerous friends who live in other states and countries. I have met women who are artists, authors, musicians, dancers, business owners, athletes, scientists, professional women such as nurses, doctors and lawyers, electricians, plumbers, construction supervisors, salespeople, bakers, and the list goes on. Well known actresses, authors, musicians and motivational speakers have entertained me at various red hat functions. How many people can say they had their picture taken with Howie Mandell, Carol Channing or Cloris Leachman? I can!

Some of you know that I was adopted at the age of 4 1/2. And some of you do not know that fact. I was loved by two mothers. My birth mother loved me enough to give me up for adoption so that I could have a better life. My adopted mother loved me enough to adopt me to give me a better life. Thank you, Fern, my birth mother, and Florence, my adopted mother, for all the things you did to help me to become the person I am today.

*Be sure to reach out and connect with all our HOTYs on the RHS website – they would love to get to know you!*



# Ms. Purse-onality!



By Ambassador  
Queen Purse-onality,  
aka Diana S., California, USA

*I found myself drawn to the one item that a woman uses every day and that can help dress up any outfit*

My love of purses started in my early 20s. Like most girls, I enjoyed reading fashion magazines such as Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar, and Vogue. My Saturday and Sunday afternoons were spent by the pool of my apartment, or at the beach, flipping through the colorful glossy pages...and wishing. Though I was definitely not a fashion model size in clothing or shoes, I found myself drawn to the one item that a woman uses every day and that can help dress up any outfit whether casual or dressy...the purse.

My first expensive (or what I would call expensive) purse purchase was a special treat for myself. I had just received a promotion at work and wanted to reward myself with a nice purse. Coach handbags were all over the fashion magazines during the '80s and I really wanted one...bad! So, I visited my local, upscale mall and headed for the Coach

store. Oh, how I loved looking at all of the purses. I usually took a slow look at everything in the store, and after that initial look I would narrow my sights on a particular style and size (usually a medium size handbag). What I really loved, too, was that there were matching purse accessories, such as a wallet, make-up bag, coin purse, etc. I bought the entire set! I was so over the moon with excitement! Over the years, I visited Coach so much that I was assigned a Coach "assistant" when I shopped at their store or on-line (when I started traveling for business a lot).

As I mentioned earlier, a nice purse can help dress up your clothing, as well as help make you look and feel pretty. Whether I am wearing jeans and a t-shirt or sweater, a business suit, a nice dress, pool or beach wear, I have the perfect purse or handbag to go with my outfit. And, yes, I change my purse every



morning, and sometimes two or three times a day, depending on my plans and clothing for any given day. It makes me feel really good when someone says to me in passing, "Hey, I like your purse!" I light up from the inside out! And at least once a week, I get a compliment on my purse – even now!

Over the years, I have amassed a nice collection. Several different sizes, colors, fabrics & materials, designers (Coach, Brighton, Dooney & Burke, Harveys, Kooba, Joy & Iman, Danny K...to name a few), vintage (Borsa Bella box bags, Lucite purses), and the unusual (metal, wood, fruit designs, and shoe designs). As of April 2020, I have 265 purses/handbags and 50 wristlets/coin purses/wallets. I carefully protect each purse by placing it back in its bag cover. I then store them in clear plastic bins (I have 15), sorted by color (black, blue, red, purple, pink, brown/tan, cream/white, multi, Red Hat), so I can easily find what I am looking to match for the day.

These days I enjoy going to antique, vintage, and thrift stores to search for purses. I love finding a handbag that is worth far more than what it is priced. And of course, a little haggling sometimes helps too! I am also regularly gifted new purses, and given purses from ladies that no longer want them. This is always a lovely surprise and I am very grateful!

My Red Hat Society nickname, Queen Purse-onality, was given to me by one of my chapters, Sassy Simi Sisters. The ladies knew of my love of purses and picked this name for me when I became their queen. I love the name and it fits me so well!

Please "connect" with me on the Red Hat Society website and on Facebook. Look for me at Red Hat events and conventions, and see what purses I am using to accessorize my outfit. I love talking purses and the Red Hat Society... two of my favorite things! Just remember, purses are like friends... you can never have too many!



# Staying Connected Online

There is nothing that can hold Hatters back from having fun – not even a worldwide pandemic! During this unprecedented time, while we are asked to stay home as much as possible, not gather with others outside of our own household, amid many cancelled events (when even the Hatquarters team had to leave the office to work from their homes), RHS members have not stopped supporting their sisters and having a good time!

Many have discovered the technology of video chatting to hold virtual tea parties, crafting sessions, and happy hours! Others are using their new-found free time and sewing skills to make masks for those in their neighborhoods and to donate to medical facilities. Still others are finding new ways to connect and play – virtual games, questionnaires, nearly constant photo sharing, and more across all social media platforms are bringing Hatters together more than ever! And they're sharing that fun with others they come across!

Outside of the fun, there is also the strong example of true sisterhood during this time – many are checking in on chapterettes and fellow members daily to make sure they are staying healthy and have everything they need.

Together we support each other, and we will get through this by virtually staying connected with one other, no matter where we are in the world. For now, we will give virtual hugs and encouragement until we can gather again – and we cannot wait for that day!



"Every night I work at sewing face masks for a hospital in Toronto. So far, I've donated about 70 (two styles) and am working on more. I also helped with the face shields."

- Queen Lynn F., Ontario, Canada



"This is me, playing bingo! Thank you for all the fun!" - Queen Sheila L., Illinois, USA. This bingo game was hosted by Queen Christine L., Florida, USA, in the Caftyville group – over 100 Hatters joined in from around the world!



Being across the pond (from the UK to Canada) didn't stop these Hatters from having a cocktail party!



Queen Wanda C., Arkansas, USA, has been giving a tour of her RHS room and complete hat collection!



Deandra A, Illinois, USA



Queen Leigh Ann J., Alabama, USA



Christine O., Florida, USA



Queen Sandi B., Hawaii, USA, is protecting herself



Yanda S., Florida, USA



"Day #6 of self-isolating and it's 'Flamazing!' #IndoorAppreciationMonth - Queen Shelly B., Ontario, Canada



"My neighbor and I line dancing on our street at 7:00 pm yesterday." - Queen Debbie K., Edmonton, Alberta



## Rock Star Treatment For Feisty Woman Who Loves Giraffes

These days we are staying close to home and looking for ways to occupy our minds and fill our hearts. Recently we came upon a film that is one of the most wonderful discoveries you could imagine and we just had to pass it on.

Some of you may have already heard of the movie, "The Woman Who Loves Giraffes" as it has been playing in theaters across the US, Canada and throughout the world. It is equal parts biography and nature documentary. It's hard to believe it's a true story because it has so much personality, humor and warmth that it feels like it belongs in its own category — in part because it's more about the woman than the giraffes.

The subject is 87-year-old Canadian biologist, Anne Innis Dagg, who is basically the Jane Goodall of giraffes, but if you want to be picky about it, Dagg reached Africa a few years before Goodall did. Passionate, funny and modest, Dagg is the sort of "character" documentarians dream of finding. Her story is filled with the twists and turns of a thriller because, although her trailblazing research on giraffes and their behavior dates to the 1950s, she did not get credit for it.

Despite her ground-breaking work the male-dominated world of academia turned their backs on her. "She was unfairly judged and I think it destroyed her career," says a colleague, interviewed in the present day, of Dagg being denied tenure in 1972 by the university where she taught.

"I'd done everything I needed to do and they just said, 'Well, you're a woman,'" explains Dagg, still fighting off tears at the 50-year-old memory. "It just meant the end of everything I had hoped for."

Dagg sidelined her research, raised a family and accomplished other things, but her optimism buoys this crowd-pleasing movie as it finds a happy ending, with an assist from Dagg's adult daughter, who was astonished to learn how accomplished her mom was. Dagg's books are rediscovered, she returns to Africa and is triumphantly welcomed back the giraffe community. They give her rock star treatment and tell her how much she has meant to them.

"I was the little girl that woman was a hero for," says San Diego Zoo giraffe keeper Amy Phelps.

"The Woman Who Loves Giraffes" has it all: misogyny, racism (Dagg first visited South Africa under apartheid), even romance. Most of all, it has the feisty Dagg, who has shifted gears several times in her life but who always fought for what she believed in.

Director Alison Reid begins and ends the film with Dagg's return to Africa after more than 5 decades away. Reid blends archival film from the 1950s with contemporary footage to show Dagg visiting the same places, almost as if she's time-traveling from the 21st century back to the 20th.

As Dagg rides through the wilds of South Africa in a jeep, a guide points out that the animals she is meeting are actually old friends: the descendants of the giraffes she studied 60 years earlier. Just as Anne Innis Dagg lasts the test of time, so will this wonderful film and we're sure it will stay with you too. We cried several times throughout, so have the tissues handy.

The Woman Who Loves Giraffes is the perfect movie to schedule a screening party at home and video chat with fellow Hatters after. The DVD and Blu-ray are available from Amazon or you can stream it on iTunes. For more info and trailer visit: [thewomanwholovesgiraffes.com](http://thewomanwholovesgiraffes.com)

Recent news Anne's latest adventures can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/92c948a34433/april-2020-newsletterspring-brings-home-video-more>



For more info and trailer visit: [TheWomanWhoLovesGiraffes.com](http://TheWomanWhoLovesGiraffes.com)



Recently on social media, we asked you to tell us what your superpower is! We know all Hatters have the power of fun, but what's your unique ability? Sweeping the floor in a flash or extending kindness to all within your reach? We got lots of wonderful answers showcasing just how super our sisterhood is!

Here are some of your responses.

# WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?

“Getting some of my sisters to take a **step out** of their comfort zone. Airboat ride, here we come!!”  
- Queen Theresa C. Florida, USA

“Making **happy moments** in time with people.”  
- Christine O., Florida, USA

“I'm a great **giver**, helping everyone I can.”  
- Queen Marsha E., Wisconsin, USA

“**Sparkling!**”  
- Queen Joyce T., Michigan, USA

“My super power is **endless energy**. I am known as the energizer bunny!”  
- Queen Penny J., Texas, USA

“Taking a genuine **interest** in others' accomplishments.”  
- Joan S., British Columbia, Canada

“Making red wine and dark chocolate **disappear!**”  
- Queen Bonnie S., Michigan, USA

“**Inspiration!** I know how to get people excited about hatting.”  
- Queen Jo Ann B., Missouri, USA

“**Cooking!** Mixing a spoonful of sugar into evaporated milk making a sweet treat.”  
- Hatter of the Year 2011, Queen Linda T., Louisiana, USA

“I think apart from making wine disappear, my superpower is buying more **bling!**”  
- Queen Rosalee G., Victoria, Australia

“Encouragement and gift of gab to make you **laugh**.”  
- Queen Debbi C., New Jersey, USA

“Being in the **moment**.”  
- Queen Paulette B., British Columbia, Canada

# OUR FRIEND, BRIAN CRANE

Ever since Opal, one of the main characters in the popular cartoon strip "Pickles", became a member of the Ravishing Reds chapter back in 2005, her creator, Brian Crane, has sprinkled her red-hat antics into the comics from time to time, giving all of us a good chuckle!

Queen Sharine D. of the Ravishing Reds in Nevada, USA, is to thank for the addition of fun in Opal's life, as she originally invited Brian and his wife, Diana, to one of her chapter meetings.

Recently the Sierra Nevada Queens' Council had a quarterly luncheon in Reno, Nevada, where Brian was the guest of honor, giving a presentation and staying to take photos with the Hatters.

"Twenty-nine members attended the lunch in order to meet Brian and be a part of this special event," Queen Sharine shares.

Brian presented a slide show of previous "Pickles" cartoon strips, including many of



the ones featuring Opal and the Red Hat Society. "As we all know, Earl, Opal's husband, is always challenging her in their day-to-day life together," Queen Sharine recalls from the talk. "Brian's main message was to always remember to just have fun!"

After the lunch, Brian and his wife visited with the guests while they had the opportunity to buy some "Pickles" merchandise and take pictures with the artist. It was a fun and memorable day for all who attended, and we are so thankful to Brian for continuing to share the fun of RHS!



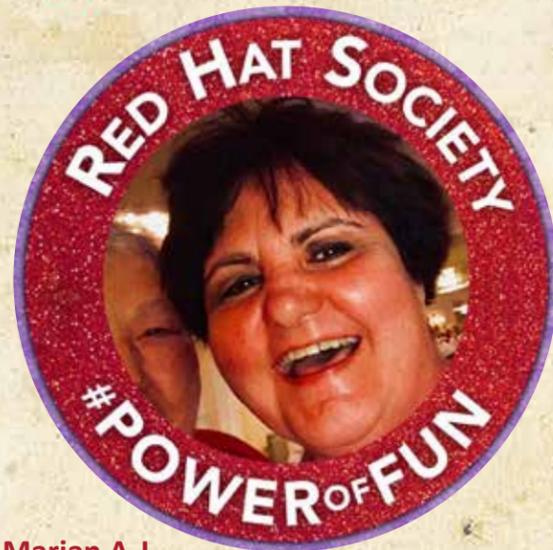
Ambassador  
OF THE RED HAT SOCIETY

# Banding Together

(at a safe distance)

The most recognizable role of a Red Hat Society Ambassador is to attract new members to the Society and to encourage our unique sisterly sense of belonging. Temporarily, that role is being played out online worldwide. We are forever grateful for the RHS website community and our access to other social media outlets. We are not together but we are not alone. The Red Hat Society may have started on a lark but we have not thrived for 22 years by accident. Through paid membership, hard work to stay current, and support of each other, we will prevail.

Be proud of your Red Hat Society Ambassadors. They show leadership qualities at every turn through how they communicate, inspire and by the open hearted nurturing of others. Here is how some Ambassadors are interacting with their chapterettes and red and pink hat sisters.



**Marian A.J.**  
*Louisiana*

Early on, I sat down and wrote a personal note to each of my Chapterettes including a packet of okra seeds. I suggested that if they planted those seeds upon receipt, they would have a crop ready by the end of all this. We are sure that we'll break bread and hug soon. In the meantime, we'll stay safe and stay in touch.



**Sherrie Jean W.**  
*Maine*

My chapter is on the low-tech side. We love picking up the phone and calling each other.



**Marsha E.**  
*Wisconsin*

I have two chapters; an assisted living and a primary chapter. I'm in constant contact with both. It warms my heart to learn that the assisted living chapter made a huge banner that said, "Do you have a red hat? Put it on!" I miss them terribly.

**Carla K.**  
*New Mexico*

When the world gets right, I have two new ladies to invite to attend our many in-person gatherings. In the meantime, we'll make friends online.



**Anne R.**  
*Oklahoma*  
Group emails and the RHS QMB works for us.



**Mary F. S.**  
*Texas*



**Wuanita E.**  
*California*



**Christine O.**  
*Florida*

We've all created a Facebook group for our chapter to use as a 24/7 chat room. A simple cup of morning coffee together and we're better to face the day.

Ambassador  
OF THE RED HAT SOCIETY



**Janice D.**  
*Ohio*

My very positive virtual group is huge and interacting online is second nature to us. They do keep me busy! They are my heart.

If you are interested in becoming a RHS Ambassador and are social media savvy, email to [ambassadors@redhatsociety.com](mailto:ambassadors@redhatsociety.com). Please attach your picture in regalia to the email. We'd love to talk to you!



# ATTENTION RED HATTERS!

## A gift from Growing Bolder

For a limited time only, we're offering Red Hat Society Members a FREE one-year Growing Bolder Membership including access to the Growing Bolder Portal. "The Portal", is an exclusive site for Growing Bolder Members designed to not only inspire you to live a life of passion and purpose but also to provide the tools and resources to turn that inspiration into action. It's a portal to personal transformation, to health and wellbeing, to information and inspiration.

Just visit [GrowingBolder.com/portal](http://GrowingBolder.com/portal), click on the Become a Member button and when prompted during the registration process, use the Portal access code **RHS**



Become a Growing Bolder Member and learn how to make the rest of your life the best of your life!

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*Red Hat Society*

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