



"Worldwide The Family of God Marches Together"
2021-2024 General Grand Chapter Officers



Let's Travel
Around The
World of <u> F</u>astern Star

Alabama

Georgia

Utaly

Kansas

Maine

Maryland

Mississippi

Nevada

Cintario

Quebec

Rhode Usland

South Caroline

Tennessee

Texas

West Vizginia

Wisconsin

### What's Coming Up?

Maine Grand Chapter May 15-18

\*Massachusetts Grand Chapter May 19-21

\*British Columbia & Yukon Grand Chapter

May 29-31

\*Vermont Grand Chapter June 1-4

\*Georgia Grand Chapter June 8-12

\*South Carolina Grand Chapter June 18-22

\*Pennsylvania Grand Chapter June 26-29

\*Montana Grand Chapter July 14-16

100th Supreme Rainbow Assembly July 24-30

\*Official Visits

Multi-State Gatherings Special fvents

Jo be Announced

### **Editions**

Articles are received continuously with NO specific deadlines.

Submit articles as noted on page 32. Articles submitted via email will receive a receipt acknowledgment.

Please check your mailbox for receipt email and review to ensure all information was submitted.

"If you can post it, we can print it!!!!"

Cover artwork: Courtesy of the General Grand Chapter website



The Eastern Star Journal is published by General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star®.

The General Grand Chapter Star Logo, the Intertwined OES Letters, and the words General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star® are all Registered Trademarks of the

General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star®.







Five months have slipped away since the grand and glorious 50<sup>th</sup> Triennial Assembly was held in the International Headquarters located in Washington, DC, in November 2021. This was the first Virtual Triennial Assembly and the first Installation of 21 General Grand Chapter (GGC) Officers in "our house." Worldwide, the members watched as this event unfolded in the history of the Order of the Eastern Star.

"Worldwide the Family of God Marches Together" Triennium began its service on November 4, 2021. Members, serving together, are going to lift our Order of the Eastern Star to an organization with a million members. The Most Worthy Grand Patron (MWGP), Brother Lon Lowry, and I feel your hands and shoulders touching ours. God has a plan to bless the members of the Order of the Eastern Star. We have faced some hard times, but the world needs the Scriptural lessons and moral teachings of our Rob Morris Star.

In the last five months, joy and love have embraced me as I visited Missouri, Florida and Mississippi Grand Chapters. The precious members of these Grand Chapters are marching in step and trusting in the Lord to direct their steps.

Sister Peg Reiterman, Chairman of the GGC Regenerative Medicine Committee, guided members and friends on a Steamboat Trip down the Mississippi River, February 27 to March 7, from Memphis to New Orleans. Everyone enjoyed this beautiful event which yielded over \$10,000 in donations to the Regenerative Medicine Project for the GGC (more information on page 13).

The GGC Committee Members are working hard for the Cancer, ESTARL, Heart, International Headquarters, Scottish Rite Charities, Service Dogs, Shrine Charities projects and the Youth Committee. Members are reaching out and supporting the projects of the Order of the Eastern Star for 2021-2024. "One Dollar" per year per member shall lead us to an outstanding amount of \$1,000,000 per project by end of 2024. WE CAN DO IT for we are people who Believe, Care and Love.

The Community Service, *Eastern Star Journal* Editor and Committee, the Educational, Membership and Public Relations Committees are promoting ways to spread the light of our Star. Please be ready to embrace all the wonderful things that are coming to us from these Committee members.

The MWGP, Brother Lon; Director of Deputies, Sister Alma Bane; and Deputy to the MWGP for Paraguay, Brother Evandro Bandeira Lecey, are marching together for new Chapters in the country of Paraguay. Brother Evandro is an "outstanding worker" for the Order of the Eastern Star. His smile is so uplifting. I know that he shall hold first place in forming new Chapters during the 2021-2024 term.

We are marching on without Sister Barbara Benton, PMWGM, and without many others dear ones the heart shall love forever. God "hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." Isaiah 53:4.

Let us pray for our Order of the Eastern Star for God's eyes are upon us, and He shall bless us.

Marching Together, Glenda Winchester, MWGM Director of the Marching Family of Stars





From our Most Worthy Grand Zatron

I bring greetings to all of our members Worldwide.

We are now in the early stages of the Spring Season and the flowers and trees here in Ohio are blooming and as we emerge from the cloud of Covid 19 that has altered our Eastern Star activities, we renew our joyous spirit and always pray for better days ahead.

I was recently asked how our Virtual Triennial Installation of the new General Grand Chapter (GGC) Officers was received. Reflecting on how disappointing we all were that the Installation had to be moved from Salt Lake City due to the virus, with new technology and the IT work of Brother Justin Jordan, the Installation was transmitted virtually throughout the Eastern Star World, and well received. What was a negative became a POSITIVE! More of our members than ever were able to view and hear the proceedings. My own Masonic Brother, who is not (yet) a member, witnessed the Installation. We all know, "things happen for a reason."

Our Spring journeys began in March with a trip down the Mississippi River onboard the American Queen Steamboat. This was a GGC Regenerative Medicine Committee fundraising event to benefit research at "WFIRM" (Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine). Our event planner was Sister Peg Reiterman, GGC Chairman of this most important Charity and PGM of Ohio. Over \$10,000 was raised. The Most Worthy Grand Matron and I were accompanied by 52 OES members and we visited many historic places along our trip. Vicksburg Cemetery was especially a very moving experience. The trip was enjoyable, and many new friends were made along the way. (See page 14 for pictures of this wonderful trip.)

In early April, we travelled to Florida for their Grand Chapter. We greatly enjoyed our stay and visiting with newly met members and many longtime friends. The weather was a great relief from our cold Ohio winter. Fellowship and hospitality are wonderful, as was my Special Page, Sister Debi. Thank you for all your help. Attendance was very encouraging as many of our members are feeling more comfortable coming out.

Our next trip was to the Grand Chapter of Mississippi. Their hospitality was over the top. Many thanks to my Special Page, Sister Sandi. The attendance there by many from other Grand Jurisdictions was very welcomed by the Worthy Grand Matron and Patron. I had the honor of taking part in forming a Court that welcomed the Grand Master of Masons in Mississippi and OES members into the Grand Chapter Room. May will be busy as I look forward to attending four Grand Chapters up the East Coast. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Grand Chapter Session of the Yukon/BC due to doctor appointments but hope to circle back around sometime in the future.

Sisters and Brothers, let's keep Marching Together and Always Forward! Lon Lowry,

**MWGP** 

Director of the Marching Family of Stars



May the Road rise to meet you,
May the Wind be always at your back,
May the Sun shine warm upon your face,
May the Rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the Palm of His Hand.
Author Unknown



### I Need a Hug

Judy and I made plans in 2016 to take our grandchildren to Legoland of Orlando, Florida, in July. We thought it was nice way to ease them into the theme park culture without tackling the larger venues. Besides, it has more age-appropriate rides for the smaller children.

Then, it happened. A beautiful and talented Christian singer was killed while signing autographs in a mall. The next day, 50 people, including the attacker, were killed in a night club, and 53 others were injured. And before I could understand that tragedy, a small two-year-old child was snatched from the beach and drug by an alligator to his death. All of this in our beloved getaway town, forget all your troubles city, let's celebrate summer destination...Orlando. It was just more than I could comprehend.

I read a story recently by an unknown author about a small five-year-old soccer player. He was an outstanding athlete but was the goalie in a game against a team filled with like-talented boys. Before he knew what was happening, he was scored on three times. In frustration, he dropped to his knees and cried loud and passionately. Nothing he did made a difference; his competition was just too much.

Without hesitation, his father charged onto the field mid-game. He picked up his son into his arms and held him tightly as they cried together. The man then told the child how proud he was of his efforts, and mostly, how proud he was to have him as a son. He encouraged him to continue his game, even though he would probably be scored upon again.

Daily, I fail. Daily, I come up short. Daily, the world throws me more than I can handle, and that week was one such encounter. Three scores that challenge my love of life and my understanding of this world. Then, I look up, and there He comes on to the field. Without hesitation, he picks me up and hugs me tightly in His arms...reminding me that I am His child, and he is proud of that. He also reminds me that God is in charge, and God determines who the winner is. I really needed that hug.

Fraternally, Charles Chandler RWGSecretary Marching Band Director



### The GGC Website

### easternstar.org

is under construction

Please continue to visit during this transition as current updated content will be published as soon as it is available.



### In Memorium

Barbara I. Benton

In Tribute to the Life of Barbara J. Benton 1930-2021 Past Most Worthy Grand Matron 2006-2009 Past Grand Matron of Oklahoma 1983-1984 Member of Norma Chapter #41 Born April 4, 1930 Hugo, OK Passed Away November 27, 2021 Norman, OK

Once again the Golden Chain of General Grand Chapter has been broken with the passing of another precious link, Sister Barbara J. Benton, Past Most Worthy Grand Matron, General Grand Chapter, Oklahoma's Past Grand Matron. Sister Barbara was born April 4, 1930 in Hugo, OK to the late Jack and Pearl Spring. She passed from this life November 27, 2021 at the age of 91.

Barbara, a Choctaw native, grew up in Pauls Valley, OK. After high school, Barbara graduated with a business degree from the (then named) Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, OK where she was honored during 2019's Women's History Month as a notable alumni who has gone on to do great things.

Barbara married her childhood sweetheart, Travis Goggans in 1950 and they were blessed with their only child, Paula Sue, after moving back to Norman, OK from Roswell, New Mexico, in 1954. She managed and instructed at Barbara's Dance Studio for over 27 years. She was an active charter member of St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Norman. In 1975, Barbara married Thomas Hart. Benton and they traveled the OES world together. Tom and Barbara were married for 43 years when he passed away in 2018.

Barbara is survived by her children, Paula Fernandez of Kingston, OK, Thomas Benton of Norman and Barbara Jones (Ty) of Oklahoma City. Grandchildren: Will Fernandez (Jeri Kay) of Norman, Travis Fernandez of Indianapolis, IN, Alana Barney (Bobby) of Sacramento, CA. and Ginger Benton of Norman.

Sister Barbara was a 66 year member of Eastern Star, initiated in Norman Chapter, June 7, 1955, and was

a Perpetual Member since 1999. She served as Grand Ruthin 1976 with the "Lamplighter and Flames" Grand Family, Lola Lane, WGM and Harley Kirkland, WGP. She was elected to the position of Associate Grand Conductress in 1981 and served with the "Anchors", Lea Courtney, WGM and Leo Nelson, WGP. In 1982 she was Grand Conductress with the "Apple Blossoms" Grand Family, Mary McCain, WGM and Roy Shonk, WGP and in 1983, she served as Associate Grand Matron with the "Starlites", Betty Fisher, WGM and Jesse H. Burns, WGP. Barbara served as Worthy Grand Matron with Eugene Schutkesting, Worthy Grand Patron, and the "Tribe of '84" Grand Family at the 76th "Council Fires" Annual Session of Oklahoma Grand Chapter, October 1984.

Barbara's service to General Grand Chapter began as she served as a General Grand Chapter Committee Member, "Our Wonderful World of Youth" in 1985. She was elected and served as a Right Worthy Grand Trustee 1991-1997. She served as Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress 1997-2000. In the 2000-2003 Triennium she served as Right Worthy Grand Conductress and as Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron in 2003-2006. Then in 2006, Barbara's dream came true, she was elected and installed as Most Worthy Grand Matron and served with William E. Owen, Most Worthy Grand Patron, with the "Star Tribe" in the "Choctaw" Triennium 2006-2009. The 46th Triennial Assembly "Council Fires" was held in Tulsa, Oct. 30 -Nov. 5, 2009, with the Eastern Star World in attendance.

As a member of the Choctaw Nation, her Native American Heritage was a source of pride as witnessed by the presentation in every Grand Jurisdiction of General Grand Chapter of the Oklahoma and Choctaw Nation Flags when she was MWGM. Her colors, emblems, music, flowers and her aim "To Seek Guidance from the Great Spirit Above" reflected her Native spirit. Her love for the

members was evident in her willingness to bless us withthe "Lord's Prayer" in Choctaw Sign Language. We will always remember fondly her Choctaw greeting, "Chick- chick-ama" (Good Evening) at our meetings.

To have served with Barbara Benton as one of her appointedofficers was an awesome honor. This experience with such a thoughtful and gracious lady is a memory I will cherish for the rest of my life. Her ability to blend her Indian heritage with the Order she loved has left a permanent blessing on my mind and heart. She lived her obligation in so many special ways. By word and deed she brought everyone into a familial experience where you knew you were loved and accepted. I am forever enriched because Sister Barbara Benton, Most Worthy Grand Matron 2006-2009, taught me how to live a fuller, richer, more blessed life!!

Sincerely, Dennis Jordan, PGP Worthy Grand Organist, The Council Fires General Grand Session





### In Memorium

### Continued

## BARBARA JEAN BENTON PAST MOST WORTHY GRAND MATRON Affectionately known as "BB"

As life begins So must it end

She showed us the Lord's Prayer
As none other ever could
Through her belief in the Great Spirit
Through her daily walk, in peace

She moved through life as if it were her studio of dance And her dreams became her life more than just by chance Her world of Eastern Star friends she would always treasure

And they provided her many, many years of pleasure through good times

And sad times
to each of us

Who would gladly follow

Wherever she would lead
She always filled our need
And now that it is time to say goodbye
Yet, rejoice in loving memories from earth to sky

Wait for us, Dear One One day we shall all join you And make our "Circle of Life" complete

By Clara Wampler, PGMWorthy Grand Ruth The Council Fires General Grand Session



From a reading at her Memorial Service, December 4, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. at the St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Norman:

Whose voice I hear in the winds, whose breath gives life to all, hear me, I pray.

I am small and weak;

I need Your strength and wisdom.Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purplesunset. Make me wise, so that I understand the things Youhave taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons.

Make me always ready to come to You with cleanhands and straight eyes.

So when life fades as the fading sunset, My spirit may come to You.

Please remember the Choctaw phrase Barbara would say to finish her wonderful speeches:

EIHONEYSJ (E I HON É S J) "Until We Meet Again"









Submitted with fraternal love, Leatrice Massey, PGM Clara Wampler, PGM Dennis Jordan, PGP Charles Chandler, PGP





Hotes of Interest From our Aitor

"Let your fingers do the walking," This catchy slogan, created by Stephen Baker in 1962, was developed to send a message about how easy it was to use their print directory compared to walking or driving around town, looking for a certain product, etc. How things have changed in the last 60 years. Today we use an electronic device with a "mouse" to do our walking for us as we travel around the world of Eastern Star. No getting lost following directions....just a simple "click" and we can travel from Maine to Texas in a split second. Yes, technology keeps changing and in many ways, we are all living a new normal lifestyle coming out of the Covid pandemic. It is said," Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations." As your mouse drives you through the pages of this edition, you will read on page after page how the beautiful rays of our Star continued to shine through the darkest of days and continues to shine brightly leading us to new and exciting destinations.

Our MWGM, Sister Glenda Winchester, and our MWGP, Brother Lon Lowry, are our Directors of the Marching Family of Stars. They are asking us to march with them and support the many GGC charities, as well as our individual Chapter and Jurisdiction charities, to show the world that the Eastern Star is alive and thriving and helping our fellow man by our many deeds of kindness. This edition is chock full of "proof in the pudding" articles showcasing how we are working together in fraternal love to make a positive difference in our communities and research to help those in need. And we know that if we put a positive attitude forward when talking about our Order, that will encourage others to join.

This edition of the *Journal* faced several setbacks. One of the biggest setbacks was no articles were being submitted during our Covid shutdown. Once the restrictions were lifted, I was glad to read emails filling my mailbox again. This 2-part edition includes articles received through the end of 2021.

A few reminders:

—When submitting an article you should receive a receipt acknowledgment from either <a href="mailto:oESJournalEditor@easternstar.org">OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org</a> or esjeditor@comcast.net so please check your email for said email (see sample on the following page). It is very important to keep me advised if you are not receiving this acknowledgment. Please contact me if you do not receive the acknowledgment.

—I encourage all submitting articles to include information (not just the word "Article") in the Subject line, proofread carefully, especially spellings of names, Chapter names and numbers, locations, etc. Also, please include the date of the event as often times we are crossing over years and Officers have changed. We all enjoy reading the correct spelling of our names, titles, etc.

—Guidelines for submitting articles can be found on the last page.

"Inquiring Minds Want To Know" what is happening in the Eastern Star world. My goal is to showcase each Jurisdiction and GGC Committee so I continue to call on our GGC Committee Chairman, WGMs/WGPs, Ambassadors and Deputies, Grand Representatives, WMs/WPs, our Youth and all our Sisters and Brothers to consider submitting an article. It is with heartfelt thanks to those who answered my calling and submitted articles.

Our Members never tire of reading about our Eastern Star world. Keep spreading the word that the *Journal* is online and encouraging all to submit articles to the *Journal* when submitting them to your Jurisdiction's newsletter, local newspaper, Facebook/Twitter, etc. Consider adding the link to the *Journal* to your Jurisdiction's website or newsletter.

Remember—"If you can post it, we can print it." So sit back in your comfortable chair with a mug of coffee, tea or a tall glass of sweet ice tea (mmmmm), and travel around the world of Eastern Star.

May our Star continue to shine as we work together seeking a future for our Order.

Godspeed,

Nancy L. Ford, Editor GGCCM, PGM of Maryland Let's give a great BIG

"ROAR"
for the Eastern Starl



### SAMPLE EMAIL "RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGMENT"

esjeditor@comcast.net

7/13/2020 2:26 PM

### Re: Fw: Article for Eastern Star Journal

To oesjournaleditor@easternstar.org

Dear Sisters and Brothers: This acknowledges receipt of your email. However, please make sure the following information has been submitted and if not, please resend. This will help in preparing your article for publication:

- --Author's Name, Title, Chapter Name, Number and Location
- -- Contact phone number (will not be printed with the article)
- -- Title of Article
- -- Date of Event
- --Any notes for the Editor about the article of photo to assist the Editor in determining how to publish the article
- -- If article has been published, please provide name of publication

PLEASE VERIFY SPELLING OF NAMES AND TITLES, especially if quoting in association with a picture

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation. Please encourage our Sisters and Brothers to submit articles and remind them when positing on social media (i.e., Facebook), to also submit the article to the Journal. \"If you can post it, the Journal can print it!\"

May our Star continue to shine as we work together seeking a future for our Order. Godspeed,
Nancy L. Ford, ESJ Editor
410-668-5278
443-835-7038 (cell)

### Calling on ALL Members



Please send articles to let our members and the world know we are alive and thriving. Looking through years of past editions, it was interesting to see how the Journal has changed. Many of the past editions contained stories, poetry, recipes, photos, in addition to showcasing the good deeds of our Order; the possibilities are endless and this is YOUR Journal. Keep in mind there's no time limitation on articles. Would it not be great to read an article on every Jurisdiction? If you can post it on Facebook/Twitter or Jurisdiction newsletters, it can be posted in the Journal. Consider adding the link to the Journal to your Jurisdiction's website or newsletter (link will be provided when the website construction has been completed).

Let's show how brightly the rays of our beautiful Star continues to shine lighting the way to a better future.





They say that "Pansies stand for thoughts of you."

I think this little Pansy is really the calling card for the bunny that lives in our backyard. Purple ears atop of yellow face and purple eyes and nose -Too cute! Nancv



Blooming backyard cactus Laurel Wadley Saguaro #47, Tucson, AZ & Mt. Olympus #23, Midvale, Utah

Coffee anyone? Ice sculpture at Fire and Ice Festival Lititz, Pennsylvania



### CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Do you enjoy taking pictures?

Are you the Member that always has a camera in hand taking those awesome shots at OES Consider sharing functions? them with our Members.

If you enjoy taking pictures, we'd love to showcase the photographic talents of our Members so please consider sharing them also.

If you would like to share your pictures, please email them as a jpg to:

esjeditor@comcast.net

Happy "snapping!"





#### **SUGGESTIONS**

Please send your suggestions for future issues to

esjeditor@comcast.net

Let your Smile



### **COVID-19 ARTWORK**















What a pleasure it was on our daily walk to see what was going to be the latest "chalk painting? Perhaps this was a school-at-home art assignment or just some of the children being creative. Whatever, it certainly brought a smile to our faces for several days and how appropriate the rainbow and tree of life artwork was for their last painting. A sign that life was going on and God was blessing our lives with his everlasting love.

Nancy, Ed and our Miniature Schnauzer Fritzi

### THE PRAYER OF MODERN TIMES

Submitted by Cinzia DeBartolo, PM Avalon Chapter #24 Cosenza, Italy



R. Magritte- "La grande famiglia" - 1963

#### Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind. To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet. To make all your friends feel that there is something worthwhile in them. To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true. To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best. To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own. To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future. To wear a cheerful expression at all times and give a smile to every living creature you meet. To give so much time to improving yourself that you have no time to criticize others. To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world, not in loud word, but in great deeds. To live in the faith that the whole world is on your side, so long as you are true to the best that is in you.

This poem, written by Christian D. Larson\*, could be "the prayer of modern times" and the everyday effort to make it happen could be a way to rebirth our soul when the whole world is travelling fast towards egoism and loneliness. Is it a miracle?

This is a kind of miracle that we can do everyday

\*Christian D. Larson was an outstanding and highly influential early New Thought leader and teacher, as well as a prolific writer of New Thought books who believed that people have strong latent spiritual powers, which could be harnessed for success with the proper attitude.

### GGC REGENERATIVE MEDICINE COMMITTEE "NEXT IS TRULY NOW"



Submitted by Peg Reiterman, GGCC Chairman, PGM Sterling Chapter #74 Mount Sterling, Ohio

WFIRM + OES = IMAGINE

As the excitement of a new Triennium began in the fall of 2021, Sister Glenda Winchester, MWGM, and Brother F. Lon Lowry, MWGP, shared their endorsement of the partnership between the GGC and WFIRM (Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine) as one of their selected charities and a special project for the MWGP.

Remember when we were all wearing masks, staying at home, getting the vaccines and trying to act normal? Well, the doctors, scientists, researcher, and lab technicians at WFIRM were working. The doors were locked to the Institute, but the research never stopped. You see, their mantra is "Next is Now," always dedicated to finding a cure, not just a treatment.

Perhaps that's the big difference, "Finding a cure, not just a treatment." With over 300 employees on-site representing up to 64 different countries all within 1 building in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, their passion for helping human beings throughout the world is never ending.

Currently, there are 16 members appointed to represent this partnership on the GGC Regenerative Medicine Committee. We have had Zoom meetings, in-person meetings and chats as we proudly set our goal at \$1,000,000 to raise during this Triennium. We have projects in the works, such as selling quilts; have a VIRTUAL 5K WALK; continuing the cruises for Regenerative Medicine (where members of the faculty join us on-board and hold lecture series) to selling pins. The list goes on and on, but the goal is always in sight; to help humanity in all the ways we can.

We have a new donation sheet that incorporates not only the Chapter Name and Number but also the Jurisdiction, so we are able to tract the monies collected and posted to the account at WFIRM. Remember, all donations are tax deductible (501c3) and go directly to them with no middleman. We can offer these forms to use in honor, in memory or just because.

Our Committee is excited to share the information regarding the use of your own stem cells in replacing or repairing injured or damaged body parts. WFIRM is working closely with our servicemen and women in helping with their own individual situations, along with research in successfully growing new organs using your own cells. Remember, your body won't reject your own stem cells!

We are honored to be included in the breaking news in medical research and the amazing work of this partnership. As they say, "

Stay tuned for the next exciting adventure." And you'll be the first to know!!



The American Queen Steamboat trip for Regenerative Medicine raised \$10,000.00 for this worthy Project.

Hurrah...we're on our way to a MILLION.

Thank you for your support

Peg

Peg Reiterman, Billy Williams, Carol Bradford and Charles Jones

# GGC REGENERATIVE MEDICINE COMMITTEE RIVERBOAT CRUISE STOPS IN VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

Beth Anderson, GGCCM Regenerative Medicine, PGM Ovett Chapter #177 Ovett, Mississippi



Carol Bradford and Glenda Winchester

On March 2, 2022, Sister Carol Bradford, GGCCM for Regenerative Medicine and PGM, extended true Southern Hospitality when she met the American Queen Riverboat Cruise for Regenerative Medicine when they docked in Vicksburg. Sister Carol took the Chairman of the GGC Regenerative Medicine Committee, Sister Peg Reiterman, PGM of Ohio; Co Chairman, Brother Billy G. Williams PGP of Florida; and Committee Member, Brother Charles H. Jones, PGP of Massachusetts; to the Walnut Hills Restaurant where a fine Southern meal was enjoyed by all. Later, the group was escorted to the Vicksburg National Military Park and then they returned back to the riverboat in time to sail away. Sister Carol Bradford also visited with our MWGM, Sister Glenda Winchester. Bon Voyage to all.

More Pictures of our Riverboard Cruise Courtesy of Brother Lon Lowry, MWGP













### HOT DIGGITY DOG SERVICE DOG FUNDRAISER

Sisters and Brothers of Mississippi Grand Chapter and guests,

Saturday was a Real Hot Diggity good day! We were sorry that some could not be with us to join in the Fun. So, for the ones that could not make the date, I would like to shine a light for what you missed and to reminisce a little for the ones that were able to be there.

I would have to say visiting one another was at the top of everyone's agenda and it was a joy to watch people laugh and enjoy the company of one another.

We were greeted by Gwen Hunter, PM and Jean Reeves at the ticket table with Linda Urban roaming the room taking candid pictures! The room was decorated in red, white and blue. Bro. Jim Luttrell and Dana Miller had the room filled with Patriotic music and the pledge to our Country's Flag and prayer was led by Bro. Billy Bradford, WGP. The skit was hilarious! We had a rabbit race for the dogs! Bro. Kennith Cameron, AGP, will vouch for that race, he was the rabbit. Other cast members were Robin Nivens, PM, Johnnie Sue Ford, PGM, Kayla Smith, Melinda Ryan, PM, Gayle Adams, PM and Onaye Farrish, AGC.

Our Pet Show was well represented with 14 adorable contestants. First Place Winner was Becky Lou Calhoun, Sandra Calhoun, PGM, owner. Second Place winners were Domino and Dutch, Pat Anderson, PM, owner. Third place winner was Daisy, Doris Moreton, AGM, owner. Best of Show was Domino and Dutch, Pat Anderson, PM, owner. These beauties brought in over \$700 for Service Dog. AWESOME!!!

The Price as Marked Table, Silent Auction and Live Auction were outstanding. Bro John McCarver, PGP and company did an award winning Auction along with Silent Auction and Price as Marked Table headed up by Rose Patterson, PM, Betty Shirley, PM and Sandra Calhoun, PGM. Sisters and Brothers, thank you for all of the donated items for the Price as Marked, Silent Auction and Live Auction! Your donations were the reason for the huge success. Thank you!

Johnnie Sue Ford, PGM, Jessie Ford, PGP, Darlene Roberts, Grand Secretary and Robin Nivens, PM and their committee members did an awesome job with Bookkeeping for the day. Thank you!

For lunch, in keeping with the theme of the Hot Diggity Dog event, we had hot dogs with all of the trimmings furnished by donations. A special "thank you" to all who served on the serving line.

Finally, it is with great pleasure and honor to record at the time of this report (October 4, 2021) for October 2, 2021, the total Service Dog fundraising is \$6,754.78.

To all Sisters and Brothers of the Mississippi Grand Chapter and nonmembers, who chose to support me and Service Dog as General Grand Chapter Committee Member Service Dog 2018-2021, I want to offer a heart felt and sincere "thank you". I have enjoyed working, laughing and praying with you. Without "your support" and God's blessing, our fundraising for Service Dog would not have been so successful. It has been an honor to represent the awesome Mississippi Grand Chapter and its membership. God Bless each of you. Star love,

Nanette Thompson, PGM

General Grand Chapter Committee Member Service Dog







Courtesy of Robin Nivens Armory Chapter #41 Armory, Mississippi as posted on the Grand Chapter of Mississippi's Website





### SERVICE DOGS CHRISTMAS TREE DOG HOUSE AND TREE DISPLAY

Tom Murphy, GGCC Chairman, PGP Scottish Rite Charities Committee Palestine Chapter #395 Elkhart, Texas



The Sisters of Palestine Chapter #395, Elkhart, Texas (TX), won Second Place with their "Service Dogs" Christmas Tree Dog House and Tree display. The Dogwood Garden Club sponsored the contest in "Old Town" Palestine. There were 20 plus entries. The various displays were setup in windows of different businesses for the month of December but had to be removed by January 1. The Chapter only had one day to complete the display. The Christmas tree and dog house were surrounded with Scottish Rite puppies and chaperoned by TX's large GGC Service Dogs representative. Service Dogs worked well for the theme and told the world that our Order was supporting this great undertaking.



(L-R) Kimberly Dees, WM; Joy James, Secretary; Sherry Fowler, Treasurer; Carol Armstrong, Adah; Carolyn Martin, PGM and AC; Annette Bussey, Member
Not pictured Patrick Dees, WP
Both Kimberly and Patrick are Veterans and we are proud of them both.





### WISCONSIN PROMOTES SERVICE DOGS PROJECT



Jerry Bristol, PGP Ellsworth Chapter #116 Ellsworth, Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Masonic Journal (WMJ) continues to support our Service Dog project by placing ads in their monthly Journal (March-December 2021). The July ad is from the Wisconsin OES Newsletter (2nd row-2nd from right). It has been a membership outreach as the Masons and their female relatives are our primary source of new members. Also, the WMJ has made an effort to promote all of the Masonic bodies.

I would like to thank Sisters Jane Ward for sharing Peyton and Kris Schoville for sharing her dog Lava and the puppies with us; Mikayla Tucker for the graphics at Helmer Printing; and Brother Milt Helmer for the photography and logistics and sharing Mikayla and her creative talent.

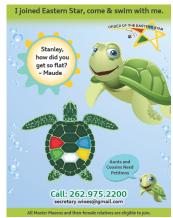




















### GGC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS "GET INVOLVED, WORK TOGTHER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Sandi Herman, GGCC Chairman, PGM Guernsey Chapter #211 Cambridge, Ohio

How many times have you been asked, "What is the Order of the Eastern Star and what do they do?" We need to let the people in our communities know that we are a charitable organization, financially assisting local organizations, serving and supporting all age groups within our communities, as well as giving support to our state and international projects.

Community Service translates to Community involvement. Our Committee is encouraging our members to go beyond the doors of our Chapter rooms to make a difference in our communities. We realize a GGC Committee cannot choose one project for all Chapters to complete. The Chapter size, number of members, rural or small-town communities or urban settings dictate the project chosen.

There are many phrases throughout our Ritual to give us guidance as we plan our projects. "Charity" and "charitable" can be found many times, as well as "faithful to our obligations," "faithful to the demands of honor and justice," "voice of duty," "aid to victims of poverty" and "to love one another." Perhaps you could translate "widow and orphan" to our "senior population and children." You do not need to look far from home to find a need.

Many of our Chapters are already doing fantastic projects within their communities and we encourage you to continue them. Our Committee would like for each Chapter to choose one project, which we are calling the "Stars on the March" projects, to emphasize our charitable efforts during this Triennium. We want to share your successful projects so take pictures for us to share on the big screen "by the Shore in '24"."

We are not asking for your money. If your project raises money, 100% is to stay within your community. We are asking for your time and energy to help your communities and to plant a positive image of our beautiful Order.

Most of us have witnessed the Initiation ceremony many times over the years. There is one phrase in the WM's opening remarks to the candidate(s) where I smile and look around the room. It reminds me of the greatest benefit I receive as a member of our Order and that is "cheerful companionship and social enjoyment," which we can use to plan, implement and complete our projects while our communities observe our efforts.

As we planned our agenda for this Triennium, we were uncertain if we would be able to do projects within our communities. So we are encouraging you to participate in two additional projects you can do at home.

Many of our members are unable to attend our meetings. We should prioritize our commitment to extend to these members, and others in our community, our time and thoughtful deeds. We encourage the Chapter and all members to send cards, not only to members, but also to family members, friends and neighbors. Whether it is a card of sympathy, celebration, congratulations or thinking of you, we are letting the recipient know we care.

We are in the process of putting in place a system to accumulate the total number of cards sent by Chapters and members during this Triennium. Our MWGM, Sister Glenda Winchester, would like to see a "Grand Total" of the number of cards sent by our members on the big screen "by the Shore in '24"."

The other project is already getting a lot of attention. We are being encouraged to march during this Triennium. We encourage all Chapters and members, along with their families, friends and neighbors to become involved in our "March of the Monarchs" project. Many of our communities no longer enjoy the beauty of the Monarch butterflies appearing each year.

### GGC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

(Continued)



Photo courtesy of Nancy L Ford, GGCCM, PGM, ESJ Editor

The story of the Monarch butterfly is fascinating. They migrate to the southern coast of California, the high elevation of the fir forest in central Mexico and the southern part of Florida in the winter. Each spring, they begin their over 3,000-mile migration north through the States and into Canada. Along the way, the females lay their eggs only on the underneath side of the milkweed leaf. It takes four to five weeks for the egg to transform through the various stages of the life cycle to finally become an adult butterfly.

Experts have estimated the number of Monarchs reaching the eastern part of the US and Canada has diminished by 90% over the past 20 years. A decline in the milkweed plant in much of the US is likely a major factor. It is estimated over a million acres of the habitat of the Monarch in the US alone is lost each year.

The Departments of Natural Resources in many States are encouraging individuals to plant a plot of milkweeds on their properties along with the native plants that are prime nectar sources for adult Monarchs. Our Committee's goal is to see the pictures of hundreds of Monarch Butterfly Gardens throughout our Grand Jurisdictions during the coming Triennium. Our "March of the Monarch" project is great as it fills many objectives of our Community Service Committee's goals. We need all members to participate

in our projects and this is an excellent project for our male members to become involved. Let's get our families involved, children and grandchildren along with your next-door neighbor who comes over to see what you are doing. Share your seeds with them, and also plant the seed that they, too, can become a part of our organization whose goal is to serve humanity.

Many cities and small communities have public areas. With permission, plant a Butterfly Garden and make sure you put up a sign acknowledging the Order of the Eastern Star. And don't forget the property around your Masonic buildings. If you do not have a yard, put a pot on your porch with one of the plants that are a prime nectar source for the Monarchs.

There are many websites that will tell the Monarch story and have reliable resources for what you need to complete your own Monarch Garden. One seed can make a difference. We just need for you to plant it.

Check out the Journal's website and the GGC's website for updated information about our projects.

When "Stars are on the March," we will "MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND MAKE IT HAPPEN."

### GGC ESTARL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2021-2024

Frank B. Clifton, GGC General Chairman, PGP Olive Branch Chapter #215 Duncan Falls, Ohio

Hello

Do you know somebody that is interested in serving our Heavenly Father by becoming a religious leader? The Eastern Star has ESTARL ESTARL stands for Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership.

Most Grand Chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star have an ESTARL Committee. These ESTARL Committees award scholarships to deserving candidates. We all know that scholarships are awards that do not have to be paid back.

The members of the Order feel that any person who has been moved by our Lord to dedicate their lives to Him and His work in our world is very, very important. We would also like to assist them financially.

We feel this is so important. So please, if you know someone who is interested in doing God's work and they are attending a religious college, tell them about the ESTARL scholarships.

If I can be of any help to you, please contact me by email and I will do all I can to help.

Fraternally,

Frank B. Clifton

General Chairman, GGC ESTARL Program, PGP of Ohio

Email: frank.clifton12@columbus.rr.com

### GGC SCOTTISH RITE CHARITIES COMMITTEE SCOTTISH RITE CHARITIES...DOING THE RITE THING SINCE 1913

Steve Moore, GGCC Chairman, PGP Caroline Chapter #539 Mechanicsburg, Ohio

Scottish Rite Masonry: helps distressed Master Masons, widows and orphans; scholarships; preserves the history of the fraternity; shares Masonic knowledge and experiences; helps Children with dyslexia learn how to read; assists children speech and language disorders; and provides disaster relief.

There are 2 regions of the Scottish Rite Charities [SRC]: The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction [NMJ] which includes 15 States; and the Southern Masonic Jurisdictions [SMJ] with 35 States. Each of these Jurisdictions have their own specific charities.

This Committee's goal is to educate the OES Membership on Scottish Rite [SR] Masonry and all of their different charities.

Check-out the SRC different charities on their websites listed below. Due to the number of different charities in each Jurisdiction, the SR Committee chose one charity in each. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has chosen as their project the "Children's Dyslexia Centers," and the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction has chosen the "Rite Care Program."

#### **Northern Masonic Jurisdiction:**

The "Children's Dyslexia Center" has more than 43 tutoring locations in 13 States. They have opened their doors since 1994 to more than 15,000 students facing the effects of dyslexia. To serve more children, our accredited training courses are equipping thousands of local educators with the tools they need to help children learn and reach their full potential. Students leave the program with their confidence and self-esteem restored and are ready to successfully meet the literacy demands in school and their future careers. The positive impact of early intervention on the lives of these children and their families is enormous and inspires our commitment to this program. For additional information and resources go to their website at ChildrensDyslexiaCenters.org

#### **Southern Masonic Jurisdiction:**

The "Rite Care Program" of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction was chosen as their charity. It was established in the early 1950's in Colorado to help children with speech and language disorders. Through the program, trained professionals provide diagnostic evaluation and treatment of speech and language disorders, as well as learning disabilities. Tens of thousands of youngsters across the US have been helped significantly. Children who might have remained educationally behind for a lifetime can now talk, read and lead a productive live.

#### Website to be announced later..

We encourage you to make donations to the charity/Centers of your choice. The information on the Centers and the different charities will be shared through the websites, newsletters and presentations. When giving a donation, write in the check memo line donation given by an OES member.

Our Scottish Rite Charities team is devoted to sustaining and advancing our mission: the mission to care for our members and those in need.

#### **SCOTTISH RITE CHARITIES COMMITTEE**

NMJ

Steve Moore, Chairman PGP of Ohio

Email: <a href="mailto:oes.stevemoore@gmail.com">oes.stevemoore@gmail.com</a> Cell Phone: 937-207-8640

Caroline Chapter #539, Mechanicsburg, Ohio

SMJ

Shirley Henderson, Co-Chairman PGM of South Carolina

Email: shelder156@aol.com Cell Phone: 864-494-0445

Crystal C. Bradshaw PGM of Rhode Island

Steven Burgess PGP of North Carolina Bob Collins PGP of Tennessee

### SHRINE CHARITIES COMMITTEE DONATIONS

Kathy Miles, GGCC Chairman, PGM Pine Chapter #134 Norton, Virginia

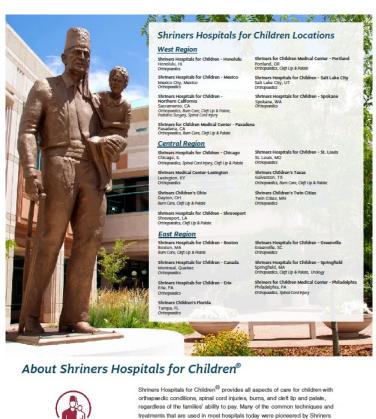
The Shrine Charities Committee requests every member during the 2021-2024 Triennium to donate \$1 per member, per year, for a total of \$3 per member to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. The donation goal is a "million dollars" in 3 years – WE CAN DO IT!

Grand Chapters, Subordinate Chapters or individuals can send their donations directly to a Shriners Hospitals for Children. Please notify the hospital of your choice that the donation is from the Order of the Eastern Star. Also, send an email to Sister Kathy S. Miles, Chairman of the GGC Shrine Charities Committee, as a backup for GGC reporting – email: <a href="mailto:kmilesoes@yahoo.com">kmilesoes@yahoo.com</a>.

Donations may also be made on the Order of the Eastern Star – Shriners Hospitals for Children website. Go to the link: <a href="https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/OES">https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/OES</a>

The Shrine Charities Committee will be checking with the twenty-one hospitals regarding Eastern Star members' donations. We encourage every member to join us in marching in step on the beat for the Shiners Hospitals for Children. Thank you!





Hospitals for Children

Because of you and your support, we've been able to send

Love to the rescue<sup>®</sup> to more than 1.4 million children since 1922.

**Shriners Hospitals** 

### SUPPORTING SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

Deborah L. Raynovich, PGM
Oakland Chapter #67
Oakland, Maryland



On August 13, 2021, Sister Deborah L. Raynovich, PGM, and Brother G. Timothy Schupfer, PGP, of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, presented a check to the Philadelphia Shriners Hospitals for Children for \$42,542.61, along with approximately 100 tote bags filled with games, toys, dolls and much more for a child to take home. This amazing total was from the 2019-2021 Raynovich/Schupfer term.

We were both on board with our Special Project, The Shriners Hospitals for Children, because both of our families and spouse are Shriners at the Ali Ghan Shrine in Cumberland.

Some of the events that helped raise this overwhelming amount of money were a theme party, football block party, a cruise, an antique car show, a comedy club night and many other events. We could not have achieved our dream without the help and support from our members, the Masonic Bodies, our friends and family from Maryland, West Virginia and other neighboring Jurisdictions.

Our Motto for our term was "Believe There Is Good in the World." This certainly came true when we arrived at the Shriners Hospitals for Children to make our donation. The representatives were blown away with the amount.

We had the pleasure of presenting our first tote bag to a little girl that was in the lobby that day. Brother Tim and I could only imagine the smiles on the faces of the children when they received their very own tote bag. The tote bag idea was from the Re Temple Daughters of the Nile in Cumberland, which is their philanthropic special project. The Daughters from Re Temple's total of handmade tote bags is in the thousands! We were so blessed to have been donated so many of the toys, games and art supplies from our members that we could not use them all. We donated the remaining 13 totes of supplies to Re Temple for their continuing project.

This was truly a special day for us! Joining Brother Tim and I were our spouses, Brother Theodore Raynovich, PP, and Sister Susan Schupfer, PM.



### 2021 GRAND CHAPTER OF MAINE SESSION

Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM Electa Chapter #2 Bowdoinham, Maine

The 128th Maine Grand Chapter Session entitled "Cup of Kindness" was opened by Sister Brenda L. Hall, WGM, and Brother David M. Cole, WGP, on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta.

The theme for the year was. "To fill the bus or Chapter rooms with members, be humble and kind and love one another." The honored stations were Electa and Chaplain; the emblems the Cup and the Bible. The flowers were the pinecone and tassel and the daisy. The fun emblems were the chickadee and the bus with a smiley face, and the colors were coral, sage green and periwinkle blue.

Attendance was limited to 50, with special invitations going out to those who would participate. Members were able to view it through the streaming services of Vimeo on the internet.



Sister Jolene Farnsworth, Star Assistant, invited Sister Susan M. Hawes, GGCCM, and Brother James



Emblem Stepping Stone

A. Owens, PGP, into the Chapter Room. They, in turn, instructed the Grand Marshal, Brother Jon Thompson, to invite the WGM and WGP and the Grand Officers to enter the Grand Chapter room.

The Grand Secretary, Sister Rheanne Frost, affirmed that there was a quorum present. The Session opened without any Ritual.

Following the welcome by the WGM and the WGP, the following Memorial Tributes were given:

Brother Gordon A. Benner, PGP, by Brother John H. Coombs, PGP;

Brother Robert P Brown, PGP, by his daughter, Sister Debbie E. B. Cole, PM;

Sister Gretchen M. Brissette, PGM, by her husband, Brother Claude B. Brissette, PGP;

Sister Amelia M. Coffin, PGM, by Sister Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM;

Sister Rennie J. Often, MWGM 2009-20212, by Sister Susan H. Hawes, GGCCM;

Brother Harles I. Creech, MWGP 2000-2003, by Sister Susan A. Gaines, PGM; and

Sister Paula M. Argus, RWG Trustee, 2006-2015, by Sister Rebecca S. Bibber, PGM and Grand Treasurer.

The Hour of Remembrance had been written by Sister Barbara Lane, PM, and was read by Sister Paula Nicholas, PM, with assistance from the Grand Chaplain, Brother Calvin F. Hall; the Grand Marshal, Brother Jon Thompson; and the Grand Star Points.

The reports of the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer were given. The Grand Secretary reported that the membership on December 31, 2020, was 4,352 and that even with the Covid-19 Pandemic \$108,804 was collected for charity. The Finance Committee shared its report, as well as the Auditor's report and the proposed Budget. The Jurisprudence report was given.

The C. Kelly Landry Award that was voted upon by the current Grand Family was awarded to Sister Collette Lowe.

Brother Mark Gray, Grand Warder, reported on the Travelers Club that Sister Darlene Hayden, WM, was the first one to complete the traveler's form earning her traveling ribbon. Brother Brett Jervis, PGP, earned the most points with 1,730 points.

Following a break for lunch, the reports of the WGM and the WGP were given.

The WGP presented a bouquet of flowers and a gift to the Chairmen of the Arrangements, Sister Susan A. Gaines, PGM, and Sister Rebecca S. Bibber, PGM and Grand Treasurer, for the work they did to enable the Session to happen this year on one day.

### 2021 GRAND CHAPTER OF MAINE SESSION

(Continued)

Ballots had been mailed to the entire membership with over 800 ballots being returned. The proposed Budget passed. The motions of the Associate Grand Patron passed.

As there was only one candidate for each of the Elected Offices, the following were elected by acclamation:

Worthy Grand Matron — Sister Catherine J. Wood Worthy Grand Patron — Brother Arthur C. Dunlap

Associate Grand Matron — Sister Evelyn B. Cookson

Associate Grand Patron — Brother Russell E. Babb

Grand Secretary — Sister Rheanne E. Frost Grand Treasurer — Sister Rebecca S. Bibber, PGM

Grand Conductress — Sister Lorana M. Fenlason

Associate Grand Conductress — Sister Jolene D. Farnsworth

Grand Sentinel —Brother Peter A. Stinson

Sister Linda Gray, PM, and Brother James Owens, PGP, were elected to the Grand Chapter Charity Board. Sister Rebecca St. Pierre, PGM, was elected to the Finance Committee.

Brother Leighton Perkins, PGP, presented the outgoing WGM with the jewel that Sister Mildred MacIntosh, PGM, wore who was also from "the county."

Three generations, Sister Elisabeth Brown, PM; Sister Debbie E. B. Cole, PM; and Sister Michelle Cole, presented the WGP with the jewel that was worn by the late Robert P. Brown, PGP, the WGP's father-in-law.





The retirement of the jewels was conducted by Sister Lucille Nanos, PGM.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions to only have 50 members present, several members of the "Cup of Kindness" Grand Family left following the adjournment so that members of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family could enter the Grand Chapter Room for the ceremony of Installation.

Sister Susan A. Gaines, PGM, and Brother James A. Owens, PGP, served as the Installing Grand Officers. Sister Catherine J. Wood was installed as WGM and Brother Arthur C. Dunlap was installed as WGP. The proclamation by the Installing Grand Marshal proclaimed the Officers installed, with the exception of the Grand Sentinel.

Following the Installation, the new WGM and WGP introduced their 18 District Deputy Grand Matrons and their 7 Star Assistants who would be part of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family.

The session may be viewed at https://vimeo.com/event/7478

Editor's Note: Please turn to the following page for a beautiful and impressive ceremony following the Installation of Officers



Star Assistants

### <u>CEREMONY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF THE</u> "ANGELS GATHER HERE" APPOINTIVE GRAND OFFICERS

Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM Electa Chapter #2 Bowdoinham, Maine

Angels have long been considered very special. They are mentioned over 300 times in the Scriptures. They are called God's source of light, the givers of special care, protectors in times of trouble, and bearers of great joy. The Bible teaches that angels intervene in the affairs of nations, and that they provide for the people of God in the midst of suffering and persecution.

Angels are the guardians of hope and wonder, the keepers of magic and dreams. Angels watch over you wherever you go, keeping each day perfect and promising a bright new tomorrow. Wherever there is love, an angel is flying by. Your guardian angel knows you inside and out and loves you just the way you are. Angels keep it simple and always travel light. Remember to leave space in your relationships so the angels have room to play. Angels are with you every step of the way and help you soar with amazing grace. After all, we are angels in training; all we have to do is spread our wings and fly.

There are biological families and then there are those who have the opportunity to choose a family. Sister Cathy and Brother Art are very fortunate to have each of you Appointive Grand Officers as a member of their Grand Family. These family ties will last forever and each one of you is special in your own individual way.

The Bible on our Altar is filled with memories. Both the Old and the New Testament share stories of faith, courage and love. So your year as an Appointive Grand Officer will be filled with memories of angels, friendships and love. Today is magical, and there will never be another time for you like this afternoon.

**Grand Chaplain**, as the Grand Chaplain, you will lead our devotions at our sacred Altar. Your manner and reverent attitude set a tone for our meetings. May you be ever guided by the Holy Bible and remind us to live by the word of God and to be of service to our fellowmen. If you'll listen, I'm certain you will hear the angels singing as you perform your duties. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the Grand Family. A song for your station might be, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," because as Grand Chaplain, you'll be listening for the angels. (Organ music of song played after each Station.)

**Grand Marshal**, as the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Marshal, you will exemplify courtesy and promptness as you lead processions and assist in ceremonies. If you'll listen, I'm certain you will hear the Angels singing as you perform your duties. May this Angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. Because you are always listening to the WGM and WGP in the Grand East for instruction, your song is, "Angels We Have Heard on High."

**Grand Organist,** as the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Organist, you know that harmony is the basis for all happiness. Not everyone is gifted with musical ability, and we certainly appreciate your sharing your talent throughout the State of Maine. Your magic touch will bring music from the angels. If you'll listen, I'm certain you will hear the angels singing as you perform your duties. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. A song for your station might be, "Whispering Hope," as you've played it for soloists to sing as it commences with "soft as the voice of an angel."

**Grand Warder,** as the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Warder, you will assist our Grand Sentinel. You wear the dove of peace and will be mindful of the need for peace and harmony. If you'll listen, I'm certain you will hear the angels singing as you perform your duties. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. As you watch the door throughout our meetings, I'm certain that the song for your station is, "All Night, All Day," and that the angels are watching over you.

### CEREMONY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF THE "ANGELS GATHER HERE" APPOINTIVE GRAND OFFICERS

(Continued)

**Grand Adah,** as Jephthah's daughter went to the mountains to await the fatal day, she must have discussed many memories with her friends as they spent time together. Adah's respect and devotion to her father are evident as you tell her story at meeting after meeting. There is no doubt in my mind that the angels gathered there and sang as Adah stood before her father. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. As you represent Adah, which is Sister Cathy's honored Station, your song might be, "You Are My Special Angel."

**Grand Ruth,** we know that as Naomi and Ruth traveled back to Naomi's home, they had many hours to recall the lives of their husbands and those they cherished so dearly. The story of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz has captured hearts across the centuries. There is no doubt in my mind that the Angels gathered there and sang as Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. As Ruth went to the fields to gather grain that had sprouted from the earth, "Earth Angel," is definitely the music for your Station.

**Grand Esther,** Esther was given the opportunity to save a nation and the memories of that brave encounter lives on at every one of our meetings. There is a palace filled with intrigue, a deposed queen, a year-long beauty treatment, competition, bravery, love and honor. Esther was like an angel from heaven sent to give encouragement and hope to the enslaved and persecuted, in a place distant from their native land. There is no doubt in my mind that the angels gathered there and sang as Queen Esther went before the King. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. Because of your beauty, the music for your station is, "Pretty Little Angel Eyes," as the King found Esther so beautiful.

**Grand Martha,** family was important to Martha and when she lost her brother, this evoked many memories of all she cherished with her family. To have a brother live again enabled her to make more memories and realize the importance of having faith each and every day. There is no doubt in my mind, that the angels gathered there and sang as Jesus raised Martha's brother Lazarus from the dead. May this angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. Those angels, along with Lazarus' family, probably gathered together to praise that Lazarus was alive so your song is, "Angels From the Realms of Glory."

**Grand Electa,** you represent the elect lady who was filled with love. Her dedication and love for her family and for God enabled her to stand firm in the hour of trial. It's important that you share that love and courage with us as you give Electa's message. There is no doubt in my mind that the angels gathered there and sang as the elect lady and her children were escorted by Jesus Christ, through the gates of Heaven, and to the throne of God. May this Angel album store your memories as a member of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family. As Electa served the Lord, I'm certain she commenced the morning with a kiss for each member of her family, thus the song for your station is, "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'."

To everyone gathered here this afternoon, if you've looked to the stars at night to find an angel chorus, you've done well. If you've looked into your heart to find the angel's song, you've done better. Listen for your angels and they'll sing you a tune, but you must listen closely.

**WGM** and **WGP**, your dreams for the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Chapter year are now commencing. Your love and devotion to the Order are evident as you work with your Sisters and Brothers. May you use the Bible as your guide and may this Angel album store your memories as leaders of the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family.

### ZOOM MEETINGS HELD BY MAINE ASSOCIATIONS DURING COVID SHUTDOWN

Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM Electa Chapter #2 Bowdoinham, Maine



DDGGM's Association Zoom Meeting Participants

The Maine Grand Jurisdiction held an abbreviated one-day Session on May 22, 2021, due to the Covid-19 regulations. As no Session was held in 2020, the decision made by the six Associations was to hold a Zoom meeting to conduct business and all held In Memoriams for their departed members.

The first Association to hold a Zoom meeting was the Treasurer's on Saturday, April 24, with Brother James Bennett, PGP of Vermont, presiding. Those in attendance voted to commence having Officers serve two-year terms.

Forty-Two PAGO's (Past Appointive Grand Officers) attended the Annual Meeting held on Saturday, May 1, through Zoom. Sister Nylene Page, President, presided over the meeting. The PAGO's voted to donate \$150 to each of the following charities: Cancer, Heart, Shriners, ESTARL and

the Alzheimer's Association. Living PAGO's from the 1994-1995 and 1995-1996 Grand Families were awarded Life Membership. The Officers elected for the 2021-2022 were Sisters Kelly Fitts, President; Lynette Ramsey, Vice President; and Joyce Duross-Ouellette, Secretary/Treasurer. Sister Gayle Sprague will serve as the Sunshine Chair. Sister Brenda H. Hall, WGM, and Sister David M. Cole, WGP, gave pleasing remarks.

Thirty-Five DDGM's (District Deputy Grand Matrons) attended the Annual Meeting of the District Deputy Grand Matron's Association held on Saturday, May 1, through Zoom. Sister Elizabeth Wight, President, presided over the meeting. The DDGM's voted to donate \$50 to each of the following charities: Cancer, Heart, ESTARL and the Grand Chapter Charity Fund. Life Membership awards were presented. The letter of resignation as Vice President was accepted from Sister Georgia Pashley. The Officers elected for the 2021-2022 were Sisters Elizabeth Wight, President; Linda Gray, Vice President; and Patty Carter, Secretary/Treasurer. Sister Brenda H. Hall, WGM, brought greetings and words of appreciation to all DDGM's on behalf of herself and Brother David M. Cole, WGP, who attended a portion of the meeting (he left early as he was driving a bus for extracurricular school activities).

The Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons Association meeting was held on Saturday, May 8, with 15 PGMs and 10 PGPs in attendance. Sister Brenda L. Hall, WGM, and Brother David M. Cole, WGP, were special guests, along with Sister Elisabeth Brown, PM. An email with regrets and best wishes was read from Sister Marianne Shenefelt, MWGM. The Officers elected were Sisters Julie Irving, President; Luci Nanos, Vice President; and Flora Stack, Secretary Treasurer. The PGMs and PGPs have met informally on the third Friday of the month through Zoom for the past 15 months and will continue this special gathering.

The GROMMET Association (Grand Representatives of Maine Making Everlasting Ties) met via Zoom on Saturday, May 15. Bylaw changes had been emailed to those that registered to attend and all were adopted. It was voted that the Officers would remain in office for another year. The AGM had requested that the GROMMET's host the

Hospitality Room at the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Chapter Session in May 2022. The GROMMET's voted to accept her invitation and volunteers readily volunteered.

The Secretary's Association met the afternoon of Saturday, May 15, for its Annual Meeting with 29 past or present Secretaries and Brother David M. Cole, WGP. Sister Carol Potter, Vice President, conducted the meeting. Past Presidents, Chapter Secretaries and Life Members were recognized. Sister Rheanne E. Frost, Grand Secretary, shared information with the Secretaries and thanked them for their work this year conducted during uncertain times. Donations were made to special OES charities. The following Officers were installed: Sisters Carol Potter, President; Rebekah Higgins, Vice President; and Charlene Cox, Secretary/ Treasurer.



### UNIQUE HAPPENING IN MAINE WITH SPECIAL INSTALLATION FOR TWO SENTINEL STATIONS

Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM Electa Chapter #2 Bowdoinham, Maine

How can there be two Sentinel Stations installed in one night? This simply doesn't happen in an Eastern Star Chapter ... or could it?

In May 2021, the Maine (ME) Jurisdiction held an abbreviated Grand Chapter Session with the "Angels Gather Here" Grand Family being installed for the 2021-2022 year. However, Brother Peter Stinson, who had been elected Grand Sentinel, is a truck driver and was unable to return to ME for the Installation Ceremony.

For many years, our Jurisdiction's rules and regulations prohibited Elected Grand Officers from holding an Elected Office in their Subordinate Chapters. However, with the decline in membership, this regulation was changed because of their need to serve locally, as well as for the State. Brother Peter was appointed Sentinel in his Primary Chapter, Fireside #103, Clinton. At Fireside's Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers, Brother Peter "was on the road again."

Fireside Chapter meets on the second Monday of the month, and on June 14 at its regularly Stated Meeting, Brother Peter was first installed as Grand Sentinel and later installed as Fireside's Sentinel.

Sister Catherine J. Wood, WGM, and Brother Arthur A. Dunlap, WGP, were there to witness Brother James A. Owens, PGP, perform both of these Installations.



Peter Stinson and Sandra LeClair, WM

The sidelines were filled with many Distinguished Guests to view this special event. Among them were the following Sisters: Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM; Evelyn Cookson, AGM; Lorena M. Fenlason, GC; Jolene D. Farnsworth, AGC; Darlene Hayden, GE; and Brother Donald R. Wood, GW.





### SISTER DONATES TALENT TO MAINE'S GRAND CHAPTER

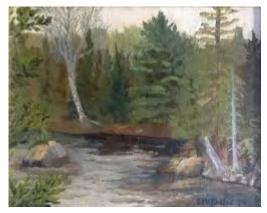
Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM Electa Chapter #2 Bowdoinham, Maine



Sister Candace McKellar, PM, Molunkus Valley Chapter #95, Sherman, Maine, (ME) has painted many backdrops, pictures, canvas, etc. for the Grand Chapter Session. If there is a raffle for one of the Eastern Star charities, she often donates an original work. She is a retired art teacher and enjoys having the time to pursue her passion for painting. Recently she was highlighted in an exhibit at the Blue Hill Library.

The exhibit featured paintings in oil on panel and canvas and were inspired by ME's tallest mountain, Mt. Katahdin, and captured the wilderness of the mountain, Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and the surrounding area.

Sister Candace has served often on Grand Chapter Committees, has been a District Deputy Grand Matron and in 1992-93 served as Grand Marshal.



Katahdin Area



Welcome Sign



### RHODE ISLAND GRAND CHAPTER CELEBRATES 125 YEARS!

Kathryn A. Newman, PGM Grand Secretary



Wow! It finally came and went. Rhode Island (RI) Grand Chapter celebrated 125 years (plus 1 actually) in existence. After a very difficult year due to Covid-19, the members, visitors, family and friends were able to finally visit Newport to celebrate a milestone in our beautiful Order. We had visitors from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Minnesota, Michigan, Nevada, Delaware, Wisconsin and Arizona.



On July 19, 2021, the day started with a trolley tour. The 3 trolley cars picked up approximately 50 people at the hotel and gave them a guided tour

around the historic island of Newport, culminating with a visit to the Breakers Mansion on Bellevue Avenue, the summer "cottage" of the Vanderbilt family. All who attended learned many things, had many laughs and enjoyed each other's company. When we returned to the hotel, a spread of cheese and crackers, cookies, chips, wine and other drinks were enjoyed by all, and the socialization continued for several hours more. It was then time for a rest (for some of us at least) because at 6pm, the first night of our celebration began with hor d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner at the Newport Vineyard, the "land" side of our beautiful little State. The evening was casual, and the

view was beautiful as we sat alongside the vineyard. The evening included a display of historic documents and pictures, as well as a slideshow prepared by Brother Keith Moan, AGP, and his lovely wife, Sister Donna. It was great (and funny) to see pictures from the past. The history of the Order in our State was prepared and read by several of our members bringing much insight into how we formed and progressed throughout the decades. Sister Denise L. Shippee, WGM, brought greetings on behalf of herself and Brother Ronald D. Ayers, WGP, and welcomed all in attendance. Sister Billie Bradfield, RWGC, PGM of Arizona, brought greetings from Sister Marianne Shenefelt, MWGM, and Brother Henry Martin, MWGP. She then presented the Grand Chapter

with a beautiful gift to commemorate our 125 years. Brother Ronald D. Pete, WGOrganist, PGP of Wisconsin, brought his greetings and offered the Grand Chapter best wishes.



The next day, July 20, began with 19 members and visitors sailing around the Newport Harbor and sharing a Mimosa together. Others ventured off on their own to tour other places in the area. After some rest in the afternoon, the evening arrived. It was a little more upscale from the night before and was held at The Bohlin at the Newport Yacht Club, surrounded by some of the largest yachts, the "sea" side of our beautiful State. The evening was perfect with hor d'oeuvres of scallops wrapped in bacon, watermelon lime skewers and mini chicken sandwiches, to name a few, as we sat along the waterfront with the breeze blowing and the people loving the socialization. Dinner was formally served by a very attentive staff, and then the entertainment arrived directly from "Las Vegas" (aka RI). Elvis was on the scene and what a performance he and his full band gave. All in attendance loved the evening's entertainment and dancing and singing abounded. The evening closed with greetings from Sister Denise Shippee, WGM, saying "Wow," what a great time. Sister Shirley E.G. Ayers brought the greetings of her husband, Brother Ronald D. Ayers, WGP. They both commended the Committee led by Sister Kathryn A. Newman, PGM, for their hard work and dedication. Sister Billie Bradfield, RWGC, brought her own personal greetings, as did Brother Ron Pete, WGO. They agreed RI was now on the map for entertaining and celebrating.

The Grand Chapter was so happy to be able to finally celebrate its milestone and to greet all the members, visitors, family and friends. This anniversary will never be forgotten by those who were able to join in the festivities, and the members were thrilled to welcome all.

### FIVE STATE FUN WEEKEND IN KANSAS

Carol Salmon, WGM of Kansas St. Bernard Chapter #97 Dodge City, Kansas

On July 23-24, 2021, members assembled in Wichita, Kansas, at the Drury Plaza Broadview Hotel for the Five State Fun Weekend. Representatives from South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas were present. Also present were two guests from Oklahoma and West Virginia. Sisters Donna Fagg, GGCCM, PGM, and Wanda Ryan, PGM and Grand Trustee, served as Co-Chairs to plan this outstanding event.

It was one of the first large events open to everyone in the State since Covid. Everyone seemed so glad to be there, to catch up with friends they hadn't seen since Covid and just to spend time together. Friday afternoon many of the members attended the hotel's Kickback session to have a snack and visit. Later we attended a banquet in the Ballroom where the Distinguished Guests from each State were introduced following dinner. Each of those guests gave brief remarks about their activities and charity projects. Besides Service Dogs, the States are involved in an amazing variety of projects to help others in their communities.

On Saturday, members had the option of going to some of Wichita's Museums, other attractions, playing golf, shopping or staying at the hotel to attend classes on counted cross stitch or quilting presented by Twyla Bayless and Liz Granberg-Jerome, respectively. Members attended another delicious banquet on Saturday evening, followed by skits presented by the various States. They were very entertaining. Both nights, board games, dominoes and cards were available for friendly competition after the banquets.

It was a great weekend to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

### STAR SHAPERS

Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM
Electa Chapter #2
Bowdoinham. Maine



The Star Shapers are an unofficial group comprised of WGMs and WPGs who served their Jurisdictions in 2015-2016. They are from the New England States (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island) and Canada (New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island). They first came together for a lobster outing in Maine after being elected as Grand Conductress and Grand Sentinel and have met in New Hampshire for turkeys cooked in a garbage can (article in *Eastern Star Journal* Winter 2016) to New Brunswick usually on Labor Day Weekend.

They often met and worked on their years plus planned gatherings, such as CAN-AM and Jurisdiction exchanges. They attended each other's Session and became a close-knit group. During this Covid-19 year, they've met on Zoom one Sunday afternoon a month.

In April 2021, Sister Patricia Darby, PGM of Massachusetts (bottom right picture), was installed as WM of Jessamine Chapter #75 in Gardner on Zoom. Four of the PGMs that served with the Star Shapers were able to witness the Installation since it was zoomed.

### **JOURNAL GUIDELINES**

### www.easternstar.org

The **Eastern Star Journal** is always looking for articles from Sisters and Brothers around the world. Please share with the rest of the OES what you, your Chapter and Jurisdiction are doing. Below are guidelines for submitting your articles.

Articles are received continuously with no specific deadlines.

### EASTERN STAR JOURNAL

Nancy L. Ford, PGM 2816 Munster Road Baltimore, MD 21234 443-835-7039

OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org
Personal email: esjeditor@comcast.net

We, the ESJ Committee, and the entire readership of the ESJ look forward to hearing from you!

**ARTICLES** may be composed by any member of the Eastern Star and should be submitted to the Editor in the following manners:

- 1. Online is preferred: Submit article (.doc) and photo (.jpg) to esjeditor@comcast.net
- 2. Regular Ground Mail Service: mail to the above address to Nancy L. Ford, PGM, Editor. Paper copy, **typed** to enable scanning of information.

### **PICTURES** may be sent in the following manners

- 1. Digital photos are preferred. Pictures in electronic format (.jpg) submitted online in the highest quality available (minimum 400X400px); or
- 2. Hard copy photo with clarity sufficient for scanning. Please note that original pictures will not be returned.

### All submissions (photos and articles) must have the following information included:

- 1. Author's Name and Title; Chapter Name, Number and Location.
- 2. Contact phone number (will not be printed with the article)
- 3. Title of Article\*
- 4. Date of Event
- 5. Any notes for the Editor about the article or photo to assist the Editor in determining how to publish the article.
- 6. If the article has been published, provide name of publication/newspaper
- 7. Please verify spelling of names and titles

\*PLEASE PROVIDE ARTICLE TITLE IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF THE EMAIL. Articles submitted via email will receive a receipt acknowledgment. Please check your mailbox for receipt email and review to ensure all information was submitted. Contact the Editor at <a href="mailto:esipeditor@comcast.net">esipeditor@comcast.net</a> if a receipt acknowledgment is not received.

If you have any questions about submissions of articles or are unable to submit in one of the ways above, please contact the Editor and we will try our best to help you. Please note that the Editor retains the right to edit, adjust or otherwise make changes to any article or image submitted without consulting with the original author. All articles and images submitted become the property of the *Eastern Star Journal*.

All articles submitted must be the work of the submitter and all quotations must be appropriately credited to the original author; otherwise it will not be published by the *Journal*.