

The  
**EASTERN**  
JOURNAL



**STAR**  
[www.easternstar.org](http://www.easternstar.org)



**APRIL 2020**

***Our MWGM and MWGP have cancelled the following Trips and Official Visits:***

***Trips:***

- Alaska
- Aruba
- Romania
- Germany
- Italy

***Official Visits:***

- MWGM’s Honor Night and Official Visit ( WY’s Grand Chapter Session has not been cancelled)
- RWGSentinel Honor Night and Rob Morris Home Pilgrimage—Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Florida
- Connecticut
- Tennessee
- Alaska
- Massachusetts
- Maine Grand Chapter
- New Jersey
- Puerto Rico
- Alberta
- Indiana
- South Carolina
- Washington State
- Ontario
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island 125th Celebration

For more information on Grand Chapter Sessions, please visit:  
<https://www.easternstar.org/grand-chapters/grand->

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**Editions**

***Articles are received continuously with NO specific deadlines.***

***Submit articles as noted on page 64. Articles submitted via email will receive an acknowledgment receipt.***

***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 Grand Chapter of Missouri OES Website (OES Clipart)***



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From the Desk of the  
**Most Worthy Grand Matron**

**Marianne R. Shenefelt**

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR®

My Sisters and Brothers,

My greetings for this issue of the Journal are being written under some very different circumstances as all of us experience the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting health and safety guidelines that are in effect around the world. I am so proud of you, my Sisters and Brothers. You are doing your part of not spreading the virus by responsibly observing stay-at-home and social distancing. This is a TOUGH assignment for an Eastern Star! BUT you are staying wonderfully connected by having social gatherings using video conferencing, making phone calls, sending emails texts and snail mail to show your love and caring for each other. These connections are important not only for your well-being, but for the well-being of all Members and our Order. Keep up the good work! The payoff will be priceless when it is safe for us to come together once again.

On March 7, 2020, 97 happy, excited and rarin' to go Members and friends boarded the Norwegian Cruise Line's beautiful "Breakaway" cruise ship. The ports of call were Bahamas (cancelled due to weather), Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. It was a great cruise! It was the "OES Service Dogs Cruise" with a portion of the money benefitting the GGC Service Dogs fund. Thank you, cruisers, for your wonderful support! This GGC fund is the source of money for community development of our permanent, primary identifying charity for our Order of Service Dogs in all Jurisdictions. These funds allow for purchasing new items, such as lapel pins,

etc., that are then sold by the GGC Service Dogs Committee Members in their Jurisdictions and the money raised in each Jurisdiction remains in that Jurisdiction. Be on the lookout for a new, terrific, sparkly little lapel pin coming soon!



In these unusual and challenging times, I would like to share this quote with you: "When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us." -- Helen Keller.

My Sisters and Brothers, let us not look too long at the closed door and miss the opportunity of the open door that can show us how to look with fresh eyes and appreciation for what we have taking for granted. We miss seeing each other, we miss hugs, we miss smiles, we miss comforting Ritual, we miss having carry-in dinners, we miss the fellowship—we miss Eastern Star! When we can *safely* begin again, let's fill our Chapter Rooms, let's be kind and loving, let's return to the Eastern Star of old and begin anew. When it is safe, my friends, we will have a splendid opportunity to make it happen!

In friendship,  
Marianne Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron



**Spirit, our poster Service Dog**

**Our MWGM and MWGP have prepared a video as a tool to promote the Service Dogs Program.**

**Please take a moment to view this video**

**<https://vimeo.com/368077604>.**

**Let's share our Howling Success Stories**

**The Paws-Abilities are endless!**

**<http://www.oesservicedogs.com/media>**

From the Desk of the  
**Most Worthy Grand Patron**

**Henry S. Martin**

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR®



My Sisters and Brothers:

Let me express my appreciation for the opportunity to visit with you during this time of distancing that has virtually affected the entire world. I think of our Organization that thrives on fellowship and I regret being unable to join together with you at your Grand Chapters and Subordinate Chapters, as I have in the past. I had so looked forward to this year of travel to your various Jurisdictions and the opportunity to meet each of you and share in a part of your activities. But, I also anticipate the opportunity that the future holds to once again be together because I firmly believe that this too shall pass.

But, even as we may not visit in a physical location together, it does not mean that we cannot continue to share in each other's lives through some form of contact, such as telephone calls, emails, cards and letters. We can take every opportunity to contact a Sister or a Brother and let them know that we are thinking of them. Those contacts have been the bright spots for me during this "stay at home" period. So, when you can, pick up the phone or send a card, and make a Member's day brighter.

I appreciate our MWGM who quickly recognized the severity of this pandemic and moved to issue instructions for the express purpose of keeping all of us safe. And I applaud all of the WGMs who have had to make some very difficult decisions that were in the best interests of their Members. The leadership that we have in our Order has risen to the occasion and merits the appreciation of everyone.

In closing, let me say how proud I am of our beautiful Order, and of each Member around the world. I wish that each of you and your family remains safe through this time, and I look forward to the future when we can be together again.

Henry S. Martin, MWGP



## PILGRIMAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN



The OES Peace Garden Pilgrimage  
August 6-8, 2021

SAVE THE DATE

Our MWGM would like everyone to know she is planning her Triennial Pilgrimage to the International Peace Garden on August 6-8, 2021. The Order owns and maintains the beautiful Peace Chapel that sits on the Manitoba/North Dakota border and will be a focal point of the Pilgrimage. The Garden celebrates a peaceful co-existence of the US and Canada as so beautifully stated in the peaceful formal garden. Information will be available shortly. Save the date!

Gayle Holland, GGCCC  
Chairman  
International Peace Garden Chapel Committee  
[dons holland@aol.com](mailto:dons holland@aol.com)



General Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star

## TO BE SHARED WITH OES MEMBERSHIP

April 18, 2020

Sisters and Brothers,

It seems the world has become an unfamiliar place as we experience the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting health and safety guidelines that are in effect around the world.

This "new world" has brought with it some very difficult decisions needing to be made by everyone, myself included. I am disappointed and sad that circumstances are such that it is necessary for me, with the support of MWGP Brother Henry, to make the cancellations listed below. These decisions have been made for the protection of the health and safety of the membership near and far.

**CANCELLED:** MWGM's Honor Night and Official Visit – Honor Night scheduled Wednesday, August 5, 2020, and Official Visit, Cheyenne, Wyoming. **PLEASE NOTE: Wyoming Grand Chapter has not been cancelled.**

**CANCELLED:** Aruba – MWGM's Official Visit scheduled July 16-19, 2020.

**CANCELLED:** Germany – MWGM's Official Visits to Subordinate Chapters of Germany scheduled September 8-16, 2020.

**CANCELLED:** Romania – MWGM's Official Visits to Subordinate Chapters of Romania scheduled September 17-21, 2020.

**CANCELLED:** Italy – MWGM's Official Visit to the Grand Chapter of Italy scheduled September 24-27, 2020.

We are proud of all of you who are doing your part by responsibly observing the stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines. This is a TOUGH assignment for any Eastern Star! Thank you for putting the health and safety of the membership first, especially that of our beloved older members who are the most vulnerable among us.

Sisters and Brothers, when we can *safely* begin again, let us return to the Eastern Star of old and begin anew. "A bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn." --unknown

In friendship and love,

Attested:

*Marianne R. Shenefelt*

Marianne Shenefelt  
Most Worthy Grand Matron

*Henry S. Martin*

Henry S. Martin  
Most Worthy Grand Patron

*Alma Lynn Bane*

Mrs. Alma Lynn Bane  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary

To the Membership of the Order of the Eastern Star:

I would like to thank each individual and organization who has been so thoughtful to send greetings, well-wishes and visits while I was hospitalized with a fractured leg, the days afterwards during rehab and eventually relocation into assisted living. You cannot know how much this meant to me and served to lift my spirits. All these messages of love and encouragement have aided my resolve to be well and accept the changes that God has directed.

My husband, Brother Paul, died 19 years ago which left our only daughter, Laura Lynn and husband, Lawrence Frambs, to help with my affairs and well-being. They both deserve angel's wings for the care and love they have given me.

In October, we found a lovely Assisted Living Center in Floresville, Texas. I enjoy personalized care, along with 15 other residents in a very homelike atmosphere. The staff is very caring and there for me 24 hours a day.

I have been so pleased to be able to attend close-by OES functions, as I am free to come and go with family and friends.

My new address: New Haven Assisted Living, 107 Veterans Drive, Floresville, Texas 78114

My phone number: 830-251-2190. (Please let it ring a bit!)

In Star Love,

Rennie Ofton  
PMWGM and PGM of Texas



*Sister Rennie is a Member of Harlandale Chapter #750, San Antonio*



## **SUGGESTIONS**

**Please send your suggestions for future issues to**

**[OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org](mailto:OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org)**

## **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 functions? Consider sharing 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:

[OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org](mailto:OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org)

*Happy "snapping!"*

From the Desk of the  
**Right Worthy Grand Secretary**

The book, "A Tale of Two Cities," begins with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." For some reason, this quote seems to fit this time period also. Because of Covid-19, we recognize that this might be the "worst" of times. Many of our Sisters and Brothers and our family and friends have suffered from this virus. However, due to Covid-19, we have learned that many things we took for granted prior to Covid-19 are the things that we miss the most. I miss the social interaction with my Sisters and Brothers, the ability to go to a movie or shopping or the special travels to visit my Sisters and Brothers at their Grand Chapter Sessions. For each of us to survive and our Order to survive, we have had to make many decisions that are not part of "normal." Our Order's leaders, on the GGC as well as the GC level, have had to make exceedingly difficult decisions regarding our Chapter Meetings and our Grand Chapter Sessions. In addition, decisions have a "ripple effect." We are a very structured Organization with Rules and Regulations that have been fine-tuned over the past decades. But, we are a very resilient group of individuals and we adapted and adjust to our "new normal."

As I have said on several occasions, the Office of the Right Worthy Grand Secretary is like the central hub of a wagon wheel. The Grand Secretaries are like the spokes of the wheel. The Secretaries of the Subordinate Chapter provide us with the rim of the wheel. They provide information from the GC and GGC leadership to the individual Members of our Order. After March 15, 2020, the "Ides of March," I began receiving inquiries about the status of the various GC Sessions, as well as correspondence about cancellations and postponements of the various upcoming Sessions. On April 14, 2020, I did a quick poll to see which Grand Jurisdictions were planning on having their Sessions and if their Subordinate Chapters were allowed to have Meetings and events. To communicate this to all Members, the information was posted to the GGC Web page for GC Sessions. Upon the recommendation of the MWGM and assistance of the Webmaster, the GC Sessions link was moved to the website Home page. The link is <https://www.easternstar.org/grand-chapters/grand-chapters-under-ggc/grand-chapter-sessions/>

On March 16, 2020, all GGC staff was sent home to stay at home to avoid the Covid-19. Also, all tours of the Perry Belmont House, International Headquarters of GGC-OES, were cancelled until further notice. Due to Bill and my living in the International Headquarters, we have been able to continue working full-time and covering for the other staff members. This has caused a few delays in responding to requests or our working on "usual" projects. Bill has learned how to file paperwork and post updates to spreadsheets, as well as performing his shipping and receiving duties. On May 1, 2020, he began performing the Quarterly Inventory without assistance. I am staying very busy

## Alma Lynn Bane

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR®

with the usual RWGSecretary duties, as well as the other Administrative duties that Sisters Clara and Marilyn normally perform.

In late April 2020, we received our order of Large Print Spiral Rituals in Navy, as well as White covers. If you have not purchased a 2018 Printing (2009 copyright) of the GGC OES Ritual, please contact your Grand Secretary to place an order. We now have an ample supply of Rituals in Small Print Book Bound, Large Print Spiral Bound and Extra Large Print Spiral Bound. By law, I cannot sell a Ritual directly to a Member. I can only sell to the Grand Secretaries and the Secretaries of the Subordinate Chapters directly under the GGC (location where there is no GC).

During the inventory, we located tucked away in a closet over eight cases of a publication titled "Let There Be Light" by Sister Beulah Malone, PGM and Past Grand Secretary of Oklahoma. It has some very interesting and insightful information regarding the "beginnings" of Eastern Star and many sections on the symbolism of Eastern Star. The purchase price is \$6.00 plus shipping and handling. A Grand Secretary purchased one recently and she plans on giving new Members a copy so they can discover the history of Eastern Star in this booklet of 199 pages. Individual Members may order any quantity of this booklet by sending an email to me with your name, mailing address (not a P. O. Box), your Chapter and your Jurisdiction. We will send you an invoice after we ship it to you. Or, you may order it thru your Grand Secretary. I have added it to the May 2020 GGC Order Form for Grand Secretaries.

For the 2018-2021 Triennial, this is the middle year and usually I am working on the Proceedings. It is my hope that our RWGSecretary Office staff can return to work soon and I can shift their duties from my desk to theirs and begin working on the 2018 Proceedings.

We hope that each of you have survived Covid-19 and the Stay-at-Home orders in your area. We may be on Lock Down until July in the Washington, DC area. There is a set of four letter words that I share with you...

TAKE CARE, STAY WELL AND KEEP HOPE!

Fraternally,  
Alma Lynn Bane  
Right Worthy Grand Secretary





*"Reading gives us someplace to go when we  
have to stay where we are." Mason Cooley*

By now you know I love quotes and when I came across this one, I felt it was so appropriate as many of us are "staying in place and practicing social distancing." Reading the great and exciting things that are taking place in our Eastern Star world is a great way of keeping us connected which is always important, especially now.

Like me, I'm sure our Members are experiencing cabin fever and looking forward to when we will be able to go out and about again, not just to the grocery store, and spend time with our family and friends. I can't wait to get dressed up and attend Church and Eastern Star Meetings. Seems like our summer break was bumped up 3 months ahead of schedule and we'll be on a long break. My husband Ed and I had just been installed as WM and WP again when our State went under the stay-at-home order. Since that time, we've started some home projects (completed some but not all!), worked on crafts, take long drives in the country around our weekly grocery store run, watch way toooooo much TV and movies and catching up on reading magazines and books that have been sitting on the shelf (sound familiar?). Hopefully, the weather will stay warm so we can plant all the plants that are waiting to be growing in the good earth instead of plastic containers!

I've also had the pleasurable challenge to work on the Journal. Every time I work on an article, I feel as if I'm visiting with my Sister or Brother and I'm enjoying getting to know many of you through our email and verbal conversations. Email and the Internet are still presenting challenges and I continue to work with Comcast and GGC to resolve them. It's always disturbing when Members advise they received the "undeliverable" message. It is very important to keep me advised if you are experiencing email problems. If you have emailed (or mailed) an article and it has not been included in this or past editions, please contact me (contact information is provided on the last page) to make sure it was received. This edition includes articles that were received prior to December 31, 2019. Please note that upon submitting an article, an automatic reply is being sent advising of the receipt (please advise if you are not receiving the acknowledgment receipt). 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.

As Editor, I am always searching for new ideas and was excited when I received a very lovely poem written by Sister Billie Hill, PM. Another Member suggested we include some "good old tried and true recipes" and I thought immediately of comfort food. And photos—we all enjoy traveling through the eyes of a lens. Let's showcase the talents of our members (i.e., photography, writing programs, messages and poetry, recipes and art work).

Speaking of traveling. In this down time, consider

writing an article on our MWGM and MWGP's Official Visit to your Jurisdiction. In the next issue we'll travel with them to the Philippines and Brazil but they have travelled far and wide so let's read about those travels as well.

My goal is to showcase each Jurisdiction and GGC Committee so I'm calling 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.

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

So grab a cup of tea or coffee, sit back and let your fingers do the traveling through the wide word of Eastern Star. It will warm your heart knowing that our Star is shining brightly.

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

Godspeed, Nancy L. Ford, PGM of Maryland



*When I joined Chapter, I had never heard of the hymn, "His Eyes Is On The Sparrow." However, through the years I learned the words but never really paid attention to their meaning. Then a life experience occurred and as I watched the tiny sparrows flitting about without a care and listened to their cheery song, I knew the meaning of what the author was writing about. It is now one of my favorite hymns that I sing in my mind just about everyday and take comfort in knowing that my heart can sing for He is always watching over me.*

*I recently learned the history of this beautiful hymn. Mrs. Civilla Martin and her husband were evangelists who in 1905 visited Dr. and Mrs. Doolittle of Elmira, NY. Mrs. Doolittle was bedridden and her husband was crippled and wheelchair bound but despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. Their secret Mrs. Doolittle said was simply, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Mrs. Martin and the hymn "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" was the outcome of that experience.*

*There are so many hymns that helps us through trying times such as now and perhaps you, too, will find be inspired by the words of this beautiful hymn.*

*As we are taught, let us take comfort in knowing that our Father's care is always over us and His eye is always upon us.*

*"May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent, one from another."*





## ANOTHER DAY

*Billie Hill, PM  
Jasper Chapter #124  
Jasper, Tennessee*

*Before us lies another year  
Which seems a long array.  
Of all the seasons and the months  
And weeks that pass away.*

*But years are made of days you know  
And days are made of hours.  
The longest walk is made of steps  
As raindrops make the showers*

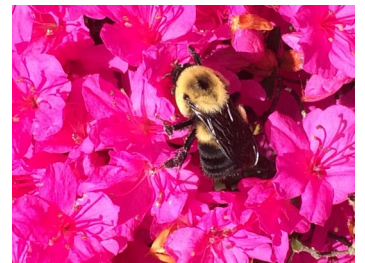
*And great things come from little things  
From seeds the forest grow.  
From drops of water come the brooks  
And the great rivers flow.*

*And God can take our little tasks  
And multiply the seeds  
Of living kindness and of toil  
To great and mighty deeds.*

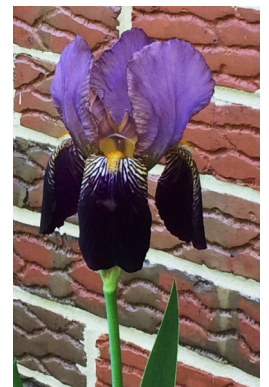
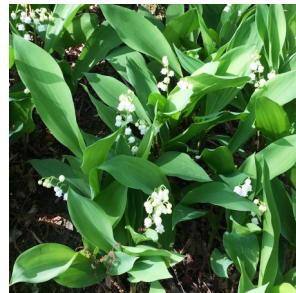
*So as we face another year  
And long for things great to do.  
May we be friends doing little things  
Each day that are sincere and true.*



Many thanks to Sister Diane Brackett, Secretary of Jasper Chapter, who sent this very touching poem to me. She told me that Sister Billie will be celebrating her 88th birthday of May 14, 2020 and is a delight to know. Sister Billie was initiated 61 years ago on December 2, 1958 and is still a willing worker in her Chapter. To quote Sister Diane, "Sister Billie's poetry has touch so many lives in so many ways." She has truly sowed many seeds of kindness along life's way.



*"April prepares her green  
traffic light and the world  
thinks Go." Christopher Morley*



## SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS SISTER GLENDA WINCHESTER, RWAGM

An Honor Weekend was held at the Embassy Suites in Greenville, SC, for Sister Glenda Winchester, RWAGM, on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019.

On Friday, November 1, 2019, a BBQ on the Terrace was held. Due to a cold front coming in, the event had to be moved to the banquet room inside the hotel. We opened with Prayer by Brother Don Cool, Associate Grand Patron of South Carolina. A wonderful meal of pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, slaw and cookies was enjoyed.

South Carolina's Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Lester Chavis, provided Karaoke system for many members to sing. So much talent out there. A Group of South Carolina members organized to perform a line dance. They entered slowly into the room dressed as old women with walkers to the song "Happy." They then put their walkers to the side and performed a line dance to "Carolina Girls." They retrieved their walkers and slowly retired from the room to "Carolina In My Mind." Singing and dancing followed, including Sister Glenda dancing with our Associate Grand Patron, Brother Don Cool. After much fun had by all the attendees were dismissed.



Saturday, November 2, 2019, was the formal night honoring Sister Glenda. Everyone was welcomed and then Sister Minyon Shepherd, Co-Chairman of Service Dogs, presented the surprise of the night - Lady Winchester, the Service Dog in training at PAALS, Palmetto Assisted Animal Life Services, in Columbia, South Carolina. Sister Glenda was surprised and met her namesake for the first time. We in South Carolina are so excited to sponsor Lady Winchester as she trains to enrich and empower someone's life who has physical disabilities and social needs.



Introduction of Distinguished Guests followed.

Brother Steve Jackson offered the Prayer for our food and blessings followed by a delicious meal of salad, herb roasted chicken, cream potatoes, vegetable medley and New York cheesecake.

**SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS  
SISTER GLENDA WINCHESTER, RWAGM**

The piano prelude was provided by David Sawyer, a member in North Carolina and Virginia. He introduced Sister Janet Dorsett, Past Grand Matron of North Carolina, as our entertainment. They both provided beautiful piano music and much comedy. It was wonderful with laughter throughout the room. Then the much-improved Drumline, consisting of some South Carolina members, offered a routine in honor of Sister Glenda. A fun time.



Remarks were made by Brother Lester Chavis, Worthy Grand Patron of South Carolina; Sister Nancy Jones, Worthy Grand Matron; Sister Marianne Shenefelt, Most Worthy Grand Matron; Brother Henry Martin, Most Worthy Grand Patron; and Sister Helen Cox, Past Most Worthy Grand Matron. Then our honoree Sister Glenda Winchester, Right Worthy Associate Grand Matron, was invited to speak to the group along with Brother Lon Lowry, Right Worthy Associate Grand Patron.



We closed with the Mizpah Benediction. Everyone retired with joy in their hearts.

Kaye Rackley, PGM  
Ambassador to New York  
President of Band of Stars



## A DRUM CORP WELCOME FOR BROTHER LON LOWRY, RWAGP



The Grand Chapter of Ohio was honored with the presence of Sister Marianne R. Shenefelt, MWGM, and Brother Henry S. Martin, MWGP, attendance at the "Life and Beauty" Grand Session, September 27-29, 2019, held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky.

On Friday, September 27, Brother F. Lon Lowry, Right Worthy Associate Grand Patron, was honored at a wonderful luncheon organized and planned by the "Ohio Drum Corp" members. The luncheon was held in the beautifully decorated Kalahari Ballroom which was filled to capacity with over 450 were in attendance.

The MWGM, MWGP, GGC Officers and Distinguished Guests were announced and escorted to their tables by members of the "Drum Corp" (Steering Committee).

Brother Lon was literally drummed into the Ballroom by Brother Barry Metzger, PGP, and his historical family drum.

After lunch, all were entertained by the very talented Sister Melaine and Brother

Gary Nordmoe, PM and PP, Cardinal Chapter #140, Cincinnati. Sister Melanie made the best ever Edith Bunker and Brother Gary played the part of Archie to a T.

The MWGM and MWGP were invited to bring greetings, which were enjoyed by all in attendance.

A Special thank you to Sister Bonnie Youngblood, PGM, President of the Drum Corp, for the planning and arrangements of the afternoon, and to all who had a part in making the luncheon such a most memorable success. It was an afternoon that I will never forget and that I was able to share with our OH IO Members and guests.



## THE DESERT STARS CLUB HONORS SISTER BILLIE BRADFIELD, RWGC

*Linda Hattrick, PGM, Idaho*  
*Vice President, Desert Stars Club*

On the evening of Wednesday July 31, 2019, at the Phoenix Sheraton, Downtown, the Arizona Desert Stars Club hosted a Banquet in honor of Sister Billie Bradfield, Right Worthy Grand Conductress (RWGC). The Banquet was titled, "Cactus and Bluegrass--Welcome to Never Never Land" and was a costume event with 245 Sisters and Brothers in attendance. The tables were decorated with handcrafted wooden cactus in pots created by Sister Ruth Wilmot, Yuma Chapter #14, Yuma, and her father. Favors were turquoise embroidered napkins with a cactus motif. There were also green cactus-shaped nut cups at each place.

The Banquet was preceded by a no-host cocktail hour in which everyone enjoyed the visiting and fellowship. The President of Sister Billie's Club, Sister Dottie Hardenbrook, Afton Chapter #103, Marysville, WA; Horizon Chapter #69 and Sagauo Chapter #48, Tuscon; had Call to Order at 6:30 pm. The Invocation was given by Sister Maggie McClure, PGM, AZ, and Secretary of the Desert Stars Club. The Welcome was given by Sister Dottie. She then introduced the Desert Star Club Officers: Sisters Linda Hattrick, PGM, Idaho, Vice-President; Maggie McClure, PGM, AZ, Secretary; Donna DiCola, AZ Grand Treasurer and Club Treasurer; and Donna Parrish, PGM, AZ, Media Manager.

Seated at the head table and introduced were: Sister Dotty Lou Cox and Brother David Gillis, WGM and WGP, AZ; Sister Linda Gillis, PM, Escort to the WGP; Sister Marianne Shenefeld, MWGM; Brother Henry Martin, MWGP; Sister Opal Martin, Escort to the MWGP; Honoree Sister Billie Bradfield, RWGC; and Brother Mike Berry, RWGSentinel, PGP, KY.

Also introduced were: Brother John Grobler, PMWGP; Sister Barbie Grobler, Escort to the PMWGP; and Brother Bob Bradfield, PGP, AZ, and Escort to Sister Billie. President Dottie introduced each guest and group with some special Disney memorable movie quotes and her daughter, Sister Dori Delancy, PM, Afton Chapter, entered the back of the room, walked about the guest tables and between each Introduction of Special Guests and recognized groups sang some popular Disney songs. She also sang, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in honor of Brother Mike. Sister Dori was given a thunderous round of applause after each song.

Then began the parade of the costumed guests. Many wonderful Disney-themed costumes made for a joyful evening. Sister Dottie appointed a panel of three judges and three winners were given gift cards. KY had a trifecta of participants and winners were Sister Debbie Drier, PGM, as Cruella DiVile; Brother Mike as Jafar; and Brother John Stull, PGP, as Captain Hook. Sister Billie came as Mary Poppins, while Brother Bob was her Chimney Sweep complete with ash on his face! Brother Mike came as an ominous Jafar, complete with a staff and he hissed a lot while casting magical spells!! What a great time we enjoyed with the parade of costumes. Everyone played their parts from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to Maleficent to Buzz Lightyear! Much laughter, many smiles and memories were made that will last a lifetime.

Sister Billie was presented with gifts from the AZ GC, the Desert Stars Club, Sunrise Chapter #60, Bullhead City; Havasu Chapter #61, Lake Havasu City; and Kingman Chapter #17, Kingman. She also received a gift from Brother Mike and the GC of Kentucky, assisted by Sister Debbie.

Remarks were given by the WGM, WGP, MWGM, MWGP, Brother Mike and Sister Billie.

We closed the evening with a special song, "BILLIE = MIKE" (closing song to the Mickey Mouse Club) and the farewell by Sister Dottie.

The Desert Star Club Officers invite you to attend the Cactus and Bluegrass Banquet in honor of Sister Billie and Brother Mike at the upcoming Triennial Assembly and hope you can join us.



*"Remember, if you believe in your dreams all you need is faith, trust and a little Pixie Dust to succeed."*

# THE MOUNTAIN STATES HONORS SISTER DEBBIE DHAYER

*Nancy Hitchman, PGM  
Tiskelwah Chapter #45  
Charleston, West Virginia*

The Mountain Memories Banquet honoring West Virginia's (WV) own Sister Debbie Dhayer, Right Worthy Associate Grand Conductress, was held on October 2, 2019, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston. Sister Debbie is a Member of Berkeley Spring Chapter #77, Berkeley Springs.

This was the Official Visit of Sister Marianne Shenefeld, MWGM, and Brother Henry Martin, MWGP. We had 183 in attendance.

After a wonderful dinner and introductions, we had a wide variety of entertainment. Sister Nancy Hitchman, PGM, was the MC as she took us down Sister Debbie's Memory Lane, plus a list of some facts about Sister Debbie. As Sister Nancy told stories, Sister Cheryl McKinney, PM, Grantsville #73, Grantsville, played a variety of songs on the piano and sang. Sister Debbie enjoys show tunes, 60's music and music from a few trips Sisters Debbie, Nancy and Dawn Fox, PGM, Grantsville Chapter, have taken together.



On the Russian music that Sister Cheryl was playing, Sister Dawn played the Russian clappers as she did a Russian dance. Funny, oh yes! It was hard to get her to stop dancing. Sister Dawn really brought down the house when she had a wooden horse dancing on a wooden board. The board is placed between the legs and holding the horse on a string in the



right hand and tapping the board with the left hand will make the horse dance. There really is talent involved. It's a WV thing!

A WV native, Buddy Griffin, played bluegrass music on his banjo and fiddle. He appears at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

The entertainment turned serious as Sister Nancy and Brother Dell Wood, PM and PP of Alderson Chapter #119, Alderson, took over the program.

Brother Dell sang, "The Twelfth of Never," which was Debbie's mother favorite song accompanied on the piano by Sister Nancy. As the membership of WV wished Sister Debbie well on her journey, Brother Dell concluded the evening by singing, "My Home Among the Hills."

A wonderful evening was had by all.



*There's a land of rolling mountains  
Where the sky is blue above  
And though I may roam, I hurry home  
To those friendly hills I love*

*Where moonlit meadows ring  
With the call of whippoorwills  
Always you will find me in my home among the hills  
And where the sun draws rainbows in the mist  
Of waterfalls and mountain rills  
My heart will be always in the West Virginia Hills*

*There, autumn hillsides are bright with scarlet trees  
And in the spring, the robins sing  
While apple blossoms whisper in the breeze  
And there is music in the flashing streams  
And joy in fields of daffodils  
Laughter through the happy valleys of my home among the hills .  
E. W. James, Jr.*

## COLORADO HONORS WORTHY GRAND MARSHAL

*Karla Dimond, Worthy Grand Marshal, PGM  
Garden City Chapter #3  
Greeley, Colorado*



Colorado (CO) GC held its "Spirits in Harmony" Session September 19-21, 2019, and was pleased to host several Elected and Appointed GGC Members who came for their Official Visit. In attendance were Sister Marianne Shenefeld, MWGM; Brother Henry Martin, MWGP, and his wife Opal; Sisters Billie Bradfield RWGC; Debbie Dhayer, RWAGC; Linn McNary, RWGTreasurer; Margo Hellickson, Worthy Grand Chaplain; Sue Peterson, Worthy Grand Adah; Betty Benham, Worthy Grand Esther; Julie Birrer, Worthy Grand Martha, and her husband, Brother Kraig Kobert, AGP of Wyoming; Carol Girling, Worthy Grand Electa; and Brother Ron Pete, Worthy Grand Organist. Also attending was our very own Sister Karla Dimond, who is currently serving as Worthy Grand Marshal. CO's GGC Appointees were also in attendance, along with Sister Barbara Ann K. Holmes, GGC Ambassador to Aruba; and Brother Robert Hudlow, GGC Chairman, International Headquarters.

The Distinguished Guests Banquet held on Thursday evening honored all of CO's awesome GGC Appointments: Sisters Marian Edwards, Ambassador to Guam; Cyndie House, Credentials; Genie Wilcox, Chairman Youth; Janet Malara, Chairman Necrology; Cindy Wardlaw, Registration; Elaine Johnson, Campfire Friend; and Brothers Willis Grundvig, ESTARL, Russell Mason, Service Dogs. Each were acknowledged and given a Tribute by Sister Jane Wullbrandt, PGM. Tributes dedicated to Sister Lynda Wingate, WGM, and Brother Michael Brewer, WGP, and their Grand Officers were given by Sister Genie Wilcox, PGM, and Brother Jim Jarvis, PGP, followed by a Tribute to our Visiting Distinguished Guests by Sister Cherylann Craven-Linblad, PGM.

Sister Karla Dimond, Worthy Grand Marshal, was then honored with a special award presented by the WGM and WGP who thanked Sister Karla for her 54 years of dedication and service to CO GC. Tributes and gifts were presented to Sister Karla by the MWGM, MWGP, and Sister Margaret Rominger, PGM, and Brother Paul Sammons, PGP, Sister Karla's fraternal Mom and Pop. One of her favorite songs, "Colorado," was sung by long time Rainbow and Eastern Star friends, Sister Debby (GTE) and Brother Joe Kier, PM and PP of Manzanita Chapter #85, Littleton.

In her remarks, Sister Karla acknowledged all those who have contributed to her Eastern Star life and supported her in this wonderful opportunity of a lifetime, serving GGC as Worthy Grand Marshal. She thanked the MWGM and MWGP for her appointment and said how grateful and proud she is to be one of the "Nifty Nine" appointees. This General Grand Family is so special, and she is grateful to each of them who were able to come to CO for this Honoring. Sister Karla introduced her husband and escort, Brother Peter, and thanked him for loving her enough to become a Mason and accompany her on her travels over the years, even though it really isn't "his thing." She introduced and thanked her son, Lance, for accepting that his Eastern Star Mom was actually as busy as he was in sports but made every effort to be there when needed. She also acknowledged her WGP, Brother Willis Grundvig and his wife Valerie, and their "Bridge to the Stars" Grand Family for their love and support, saying she is proud that many of them went on to have their own Grand Families who have made great contributions to CO GC. She thanked Sister Margaret and Brother Paul for their loving Tribute and said what an honor it has been to be their fraternal daughter. "I really couldn't have done this without your love and support," she said.

Thinking about her own Chapter, Garden City Chapter #3, Greeley, she acknowledged their unwavering support and especially thanked Sister Cheryl Ann for initiating and orchestrating a state-wide fundraiser to support her travels. The results were very humbling and most appreciated. These funds have enabled her to visit 13 jurisdictions so far this Triennium! "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!! It is truly an honor to represent my beloved CO Sisters and Brothers in this capacity." Karla said.

In closing, Sister Karla remarked, "While Eastern Star has been my way of life for over 50 years, my new friends, acquaintances and experiences have increased my enthusiasm for our wonderful Order and its "Circle of Friendship and Service Around the World" on a daily basis. Sisters and Brothers, there is a resurgence on the way, and I encourage you to Be-Enthusiastic! It makes people wonder what you're up to!! But, besides that...It's an Attitude, and it's Contagious!!

The evening closed with the Mizpah Benediction and was enjoyed by all!



*Joe Paseka, CO  
Grand Marshal, and  
Karla Dimond, Worthy  
Grand Marshal*

## WORTHY GRAND ORGANIST'S HONOR DAY

*Ronald "Ron" Pete, Worthy Grand Organist, PGP  
Superior Chapter #252  
Superior, Wisconsin*



On May 21, 2019, Sister Marianne Shenefelt, MWGM; Brother Henry Martin, MWGP; Sister Pat Rasmusson, PMWGM; Sister Linn McNary, RWGTreasurer; and six Appointed GGC Officers joined 240 Members of Wisconsin (WI) GC and our out-of-State guests to honor me at the first of the Honor events of this 50<sup>th</sup> Triennium of the GGC.

The luncheon and program were planned by a committee: Sister Marianne Totsch, Chairman; Sisters Kris Gruber-Twardy and Mary J. Rasmussen, PGMs; and Sisters Judy Bessinger, Maureen Wise, Mary Mock and Joan Lillie. Sister Marianne Totsch served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the luncheon. Due to the day also being the opening of the GC Session, the program was an ongoing loop of pictures, shown while we ate, of me from childhood to the present—some of which brought a great deal of laughter.

Our MWGM, MWGP and PMWGM all spoke following the luncheon and then I was asked to make my comments or rebuttal. It was fun to explain that even though I am a single man, my life has been shaped by women. The first was my mother who assured me from childhood that contrary to my sister's claims, my parents really DID want me. Woman Number Two was the Emergency Room nurse who informed me that peanuts are for eating and not for pushing up one's nostrils. Number Three was my first-grade teacher who told me not to worry about diagramming sentences until the other kids had learned to read. Then there was the kind lady at the paint ball field who wouldn't let me play while wearing only shorts and a tee shirt. Number Five was Sister Barbara Bollinger, PGM, my lovely Fraternal Mom, who called one winter morning to ask if I would be her Grand Sentinel. The Eastern Star ball was rolling! A few years later, Woman Number Six would be Sister Pat Rasmusson, a friend of rare price, who asked me to serve as a Visioneer during the Fabulous Fraternal Family Triennium. More years passed and Woman Number Seven was Sister Winona Olson, PGM, who asked me to be her Grand Organist in 2012-2013. Four years later, Sister Marianne, then the RWAGM, called one August day to ask if I would be the Worthy Grand Organist for 2018–2021. That was in 2016 and I was sworn to secrecy until she returned to Wisconsin (WI) to make the announcement in 2018. The only one who knew besides me was my own sister, Sister Joanne Freiman, PGM. We just tried to forget about it for nearly two years. It wasn't easy, but we did it! The announcement was a big surprise to everyone, and a great round of applause and loud cheers went up when Sister Marianne surprised WI GC.

During the Honor Luncheon, I reminded our MWGM and MWGP that they had chosen me as the only male member of their Appointed Officers. THEY appointed the eight Sisters, as well, but now those Sisters were MINE! At that point, I dubbed our group as "The Nifty Nine." I'm not certain exactly how the process works, but I know that we nine couldn't be more attached than we are and as I said at the luncheon, "Look out Eastern Star! The Nifty Nine have bonded!" Following remarks, I presented those GGC Officers in attendance (and later the other GGC Officers) with an engraved silver picture frame with each person's name and title on it. The pictures taken at Installation in Orlando fit perfectly in these frames.

The GC Session officially opened after the luncheon and it was such a distinct pleasure to see these special guests introduced. It was a very special day in my Eastern Star life and a time that I will never forget and will always treasure.





## WORTHY GRAND ADAH'S HONOR NIGHT

*Sue Peterson, Worthy Grand Adah, PGM  
Peoria Chapter #59, Peoria  
Ruby Chapter #3, Winslow  
Arizona*

My Honor Night was held on July 31, 2019, at the Wednesday night All-Member Banquet with the theme of a picnic and everyone wearing their wonderful hats. "Be an Angel and bring a bear" was an added request. The bears were then all donated to a local charity. We had a wonderful time and the program was a rather hilarious fashion show with models showing off the most amazing styles. Laughter was the theme of the evening and there was sure plenty of it going around. I was so honored to have so many of my Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers from all around the world in attendance. It was truly a night that I will never forget and I thank everyone who had anything at all to do with it. Below are a few pictures from that evening and one from the PG Banquet



# THE PERRY BELMONT HOUSE HOSTS THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER FOR THE WOUNDED WARRIORS PROJECT

*Larry von Weigel, Federal Chapter #38  
Washington, DC  
Event Coordinator  
International Headquarters Administrator  
The Perry Belmont House*

On November 28, 2018, The Perry Belmont House (GGC International Headquarters) had the honor and privilege to host Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the Wounded Warriors Project and Veterans.

Our guests were given a tour of the historic mansion followed by a wonderful buffet provided by Occasions Caterers which included all the traditional holiday favorites. We were so very pleased to have two Service Dogs attend the event as Service Dogs are the Order's primary identifying charity.

This event would not have been possible if it were not for the generous donations from Members from the State of California. Thank you for your support of our annual Thanksgiving Day event and for making this year so wonderful. We would like to also give a special thanks to Brandt Ricca of Nora Lee Events and Design Cuisine.



## THE PERRY BELMONT HOUSE

Conserving now for the future

*By Paul Dolinsky*

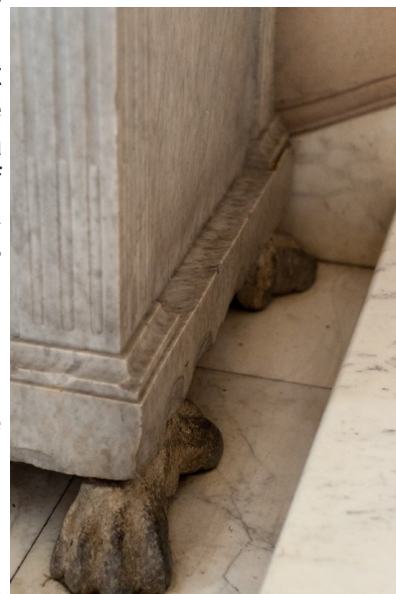


The International Headquarters of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Perry Belmont House, is considered one of the finest examples of French Neoclassical architecture in Washington, D.C. For over four generations the Eastern Star has been extraordinary stewards of the Headquarters and it is one of the masterpieces of the Dupont Circle National Register of Historic Places District in the Capital of the United States.

The extraordinary level of stewardship and maintenance of the Headquarters is also evident in the elaborate interiors and fine furnishings. The Perry Belmont House is now over 110 years old and a strong preservation and conservation ethic has been established by the Right Worthy Grand Trustees of the General Grand Chapter. They are methodically approaching the restoration and updating of the necessary and unseen mechanical systems of the Headquarters, such as a new roof, heating and air conditioning. Many opportunities exist for numerous other projects that may be more exciting or visually rewarding, such as restoration of Eastern Star artifacts, significant furniture preservation and reupholstering, historic interior decorative finishes conservation, replacement of faded and deteriorated drapery, etc.

In 1969, the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma (Fern Luddington, Worthy Grand Matron, and Richard McClelland, Worthy Grand Patron) in memory of Juanita D. Killion, their beloved Past Grand Matron and Past Most Worthy Grand Matron (1958-1961), donated a magnificent marble sarcophagus. A sarcophagus is a stone coffin, typically adorned with a sculpture or inscription and associated with the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Rome and Greece. The Grand Chapter of Oklahoma sarcophagus is the focal point for the Grand Entrance Foyer. It is located at the center of the Grand Staircase landing and is used as a planter for seasonal floral displays. It is elaborately and deeply carved with angels and marine motifs and over the years has become stained and discolored.

Once again, Oklahoma stepped up to the plate and underwrote the professional cleaning and restoration of the sarcophagus. This required contracting with a conservation expert, Gray Stephens who is a nationally recognized expert in historic materials and paint conservation. He methodically applied sympathetic conservation treatments to clean, restore and polish the sarcophagus to its original grandeur. We sincerely thank the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma for supporting the ongoing preservation and conservation needs of the International Headquarters and conserving their showpiece to once again beautifully highlight the Grand Staircase in particular and our International Headquarters in general.



*Detail of the sarcophagus before cleaning and polishing.*

## THE PERRY BELMONT HOUSE *(Continued)*



*Professional Conservator Gray Stephens and his son cleaning and polishing the sarcophagus.*



*The beautifully cleaned and polished finished product!*

It is our sincerest hope that you will have an opportunity to visit our Headquarters to enjoy its grandeur and beauty and that you will be a part of the ongoing preservation, restoration and conservation efforts to preserve it for future generations of the Eastern Star.

For more information on the Perry Belmont House or sign up for the Newsletter, please visit [easternstar.org](http://easternstar.org) or email [lvonweigel@easternstar.org](mailto:lvonweigel@easternstar.org)

*Courtesy of the Perry Belmont House Newsletter February 21, 2019  
Photo credits: Lawrence von Weigel*

## **SPECTACULAR CONCERT EVENT AT PERRY BELMONT HOUSE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019**

**Famed Tenor Anthony Kearns Launched Irish Season in Washington, DC**

*Who's Who of DC attended, transported to a bygone era of glamour*



On Sunday, March 3, a spectacular concert event took place at the resplendent Perry Belmont House, featuring famed tenor Anthony Kearns of the PBS sensation, The Irish Tenors, to kick off the Irish season in the nation's Capital.

The all-star line-up included renowned interior designer Barry Dixon and Emmy-award-winning storyteller and former Fox5 anchor Will Thomas as co-emcees. The Soiree was co-hosted by the Ambassadors of Czech Republic, Malta and Slovenia and their spouses, with a special appearance by Brain Cahalane, senior counselor to the Embassy of Ireland who introduced Kearns. Mrs. Indira Gumarova, of Diplomacy & Fashion and spouse of the Czech Ambassador, also spoke briefly about the upcoming International Fashion Show taking place at the Perry Belmont House later this month.

Prior to the event, Mr. Kearns said he was excited to perform at the Perry Belmont House. "This is an incredible setting for a concert. The house will come to life again," he said. Mr. Kearns performed for over an hour for the guest list which included high-ranking representatives from Diplomatic, Government, business and charity circles, some coming from as far away as California, New York and Washington State.

Mr. Kearns' wide-ranging program went from dramatic works, such as Chopin's "How Deep is the Night," to comedic with several Irish ditties, to tenor classics, "Vienna City of Dreams," and "Mattinada," to the pathos of American folk song, "Shenandoah" and the haunting, "She Moved Through the Fair."

A special feature was the participation of an interpreter using signing for the hearing-impaired. Her graceful gestures provided not only understanding for the deaf guests but added a singular beauty to the language of the singer, a first for a Kearns concert and for a Perry Belmont House event.

Despite the size of the house, which occupies an entire city block, the acoustics allowed Kearns to sing without any special sound equipment. "This house has a legacy of entertainment. It was constructed in the early 1900s for world-class performances to be enjoyed in the home," said Larry von Weigel, Headquarters Administrator of the Perry Belmont House.

"This concert transported our guests back in time to the Gilded Age, when Perry Belmont and his wife hosted the city's most lavish parties featuring one of history's most famous tenors, Enrico Caruso. Now, another renowned tenor – the great Anthony Kearns -- has performed at the Perry Belmont House for what was a sensational affair," he said.

"The architecture and furnishings of this house are incredible, illustrating why historic preservation is so important in our communities. The unbelievable performance by Anthony Kearns helped us bring that history to life," said Will Thomas, a former WTTG anchor, now with TRR Sotheby's International Realty.

Said Barry Dixon, who interpreted the house's history and design for guests during the program, "There were several songs such as 'Shenandoah', 'Over the Rainbow', 'You Raise Me Up' – and of course 'Danny Boy'—that struck my heart due to their special significance to me at different times in my life. I felt he was singing just for me."

Mr. Kearns is an original member of The Irish Tenors with whom he has 10 CDs and 5 PBS specials. He has a robust international singing career, taking him around the world to perform with the most prestigious symphony orchestras, opera companies, in television specials, at major sporting events, and high-profile charity benefits for Military Veterans and others.

## SPECTACULAR CONCERT EVENT AT PERRY BELMONT HOUSE

*(Continued)*

He previously sang at the 2018 DC's Dancing Stars Gala with Will Thomas as emcee, and at several of Barry Dixon's charity events in Warrenton, VA. He has performed at many major DC area theaters, including Wolf Trap, Strathmore and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as at several Embassies, on Capital Hill and at the National Memorial Day Concert on PBS. He has performed for four U.S. Presidents, Pope Francis I and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Medal of Honor Recipients.

Proceeds from the event will help to maintain, and even restore, parts of the Perry Belmont House.



*Indira Gumarova, of  
Diplomacy & Fashion,  
and spouse of the Czech  
Ambassador*



*Brain Cahalane, Senior Counselor to the Embassy of  
Ireland introducing Mr. Kearns.*



*The dapper and debonair concert Emcee's; Barry Dixon and  
Will Thomas.*



*Mr. Kearns signing autographs in the Grand Salon.*

*Courtesy of the Perry Belmont House Newsletter  
March 11, 2019*

## OREGON SUPPORTS SERVICE DOGS PROJECT

*Marc L. Strong, PGP  
Esther Chapter #11  
Baker City, Oregon*

Hi Eastern Star friends and family. This is a report I gave this year at the Grand Chapter of Oregon's "Down the Rabbit Hole" Session.

ARRRGGGG, here in Oregon I took on the opportunity to try and change from a semi-trailer that stored our stuff but was a challenge to move for us each Session to transferring it to a tow behind car hauler-type trailer. In conjunction with that need, the handicap ramps we use on the sides of the stage have been stored outside in the weather on the ground as we had no means or place for them to be stored. So I wanted to secure and be able to store them with the ability to also take them back and forth to the same storage area as our paraphernalia trailer. Dennis Price, Rebecca's husband, came from Ontario, Oregon (OR), to Pendleton and moved the semi-trailer, helped us unload it with his employee Havier, and agreed to have his grandson Hunter remove the graphics from the old one so I can use it on the other newer one when I get it for the ramps. He then even donated \$350 to the fund for the purchase of the old semi for himself to use as storage. I was not able to do more than to say thank you many times to him for his help with this effort.

As the process started over 2 years ago to consider changing the kind of trailer we had to store things in with that, while furloughed as a Federal employee in December, I found a car trailer that would work to replace the semi if I could get it for a good price that met the \$\$\$\$ in the trailer replacement fund. I purchased it and was reimbursed for the \$6,200 it cost me. I brought it home, hid it in my shop and repaired the things on it that needed repaired. I hid it as it was a plain old white trailer, easy to steal because no one would know what it was with no logos, unique graphics and what not. So I then suggested that perhaps we could put the PAVE and Eastern Star logos on it. So a couple of things happened. At Sister Nancy Myers reception, Anna Barclay, PGM, and Chris Nacheff-Maneker, Grand Secretary Emeritus, approached me about using the PAVE logo, Anna's thought, and getting an estimate on the cost of adding graphics from Chris's grandson in Grants Pass, OR.

After that I asked for a little help and Sister Connie said I should send a note out to all of Grand Chapter that spawned the \$\$\$\$ coming in for folks to offer assistance to get the graphics and the cost of a second trailer to store and haul the handicap ramps for the stage. This has been an awesome outpouring of support for doing this. With emails from the MWGM, Marianne Shenefelt, and the head of PAVE for the United States, Edward Seiter, approving what I was about to have done and Sister Anna Barclay and Don Broxson, PGP and GGCCM for Public Relations, and Melissa Metz, WGM, and John Thomas, WGP, allowance to do all of this, there is now a tow behind trailer outside that has our new and old logo on it, with the PAVE and Service Dog Logo, too. With the cost of the graphics, \$2,896, for this delivered today trailer for our paraphernalia, we can load our stuff back in it tomorrow. I believe we are the first in Eastern Star to use one of the new logos and the PAVE logos to advertise our Organization. Sister Marianne approved what we were doing and is very excited to see the end project completed. The trailer will continue to be stored across from a school where parents must pick up their children and will be able to see our trailer and perhaps we will gain some Members from that opportunity. I have offered to utilize Don's and Anna's help in publicizing our end results in the Eastern Start Journal, the OES news, our Chapters and even newspapers throughout OR and beyond.

## OREGON SUPPORTS SERVICE DOGS PROJECT

*(Continued)*

The second trailer I'm a little short for funding to actually get another enclosed trailer to carry and store the handicap ramps and the stage curved stairs. I believe there is approximately \$3,000 in the fund for this replacement. Folks have been so very kind to donate to this effort. I believe I need approximately the 20, 22 or 24-foot trailer to capably store the ramps and the stairs within. I have several folks helping me try to locate another car hauler-type trailer for this purpose. I hope to have enough funding to purchase one when I find one that will suit our needs. I have been humbled by the kindness and outpouring of willingness to help with funding this project. It is difficult to thank all those involved as there continues to be more every day and every time I am asked to speak about it. Pathfinders gave a very large sum, Chapters have donated precious funds that are difficult to come by, individuals who I don't even know their names to thank them and will forever remain anonymous have donated large sums, the PAGO group, Ron Terry, PGP, the Crystal Snowflakes, the Past Grand Group, individual Past Grand folks, perhaps even the Sunshine Board, and even individual Members not wanting to tap their Chapter funds have donated amounts far exceeding my imagination.

Another detail of these actions is there are some recurring expenses that will happen with tires and annual licenses fees but in the long run, we will be able to use these for a ways into the future for the transport, through means we have and not have of normal pickups and storage of our stuff that folks have acquired and provided to our Session to be put on. Culmination of all this generosity and outpouring of support will make us self-sufficient and able to use and store our things and advertise our story for years to come. If anyone would like more information about this or would like to donate towards completion, please give what you want to our Grand Chapter in the name of the Trailer Replacement Fund. WGM, I wish to humbly move the acceptance of this report and that it be published in the Proceedings.

Marc Strong PGP, and Pirateer.

As an addendum to this speech, after I gave it to our membership during our Session on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, just before noon, they used my Mad Hatter Tuxedo Hat and passed it and collected another \$2,706 from the floor of the Grand Chapter. As I was speaking, my cell phone was buzzing inside my back pocket with the person delivering the trailer calling me telling me he was there. The trailer graphics design, install and delivery was done by Eloise and Rich Boren of ER Printing & Graphics, LLC, from Dayville, OR (<https://erprintingandgraphics.com>).

Needless to say, with the funds donated during the year and at the Grand Session, I am well on the way to finding another trailer for our use to store and haul our handicap ramps. There will be graphics on it, too, but it will be hard to surpass the new trailer. I have included a few pictures here.

Additionally, the Service Dogs Committee has had a wonderful year and as a part of that they had many different money makers from bingo to quilts being made and raffled off. They had a goal of \$25,000 and raised just over \$45,000 in one year. What an awesome accomplishment and how super important for our membership to be supporting Veterans needs through this Committee. Please see some of the wonderful pictures in this article and enjoy the opportunities we are presenting with each year as Committee Members of our Jurisdictions. It is so important now days to be a part of something larger than yourself. Get others to join your journey. Eastern Star, as said on our trailer graphics, is "Not just another Organization but a way of Life." Thank you for reading this article and please, if you have any needs for determining how to make some money for the Service Dogs Committee, please get in touch with Lynn Rose here in OR.

I want to thank Marianne Shenefelt, Ed Seiter, Lynn Rose, Anna Barclay, Don Broxson, Melissa Metz and John Thomas all for helping do some great things in Eastern Star for those of us lucky enough to have an opportunity to be a part of an Organization that helps so many other people.

Hope you enjoy the pictures of the PAVE and the use of the graphics for advertising on our paraphernalia trailer on the following page.

*Courtesy of Grand Chapter of Oregon Proceedings*



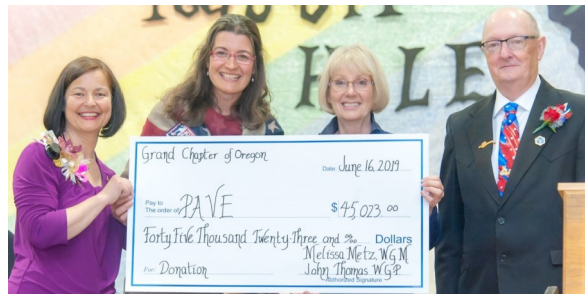
# OREGON SUPPORTS SERVICE DOGS PROJECT *(Continued)*



Meet Gunner on the left and Jet on the right.



This is the priceless look one has when we have earned and presented a check to them for \$45,023. for their Organization with WGM Melissa Metz, WGP John Thomas, and Lynn Rose at the podium.



(L-R) Don Broxson, GGCCM Public Relations Committee, PGP; Lynn Rose, PAVE Committee Chairman; Melissa Metz, WGM; John Thomas, WGP; Anna Barclay, GGCCM Service Dogs Committee, PGM; Rich Boren of ER Printing and Graphics LLC; and Marc Strong PGP, and trailer project manager.



## MYSTIC CHAPTER #69 SUPPORTS SALUTE OF SERVICE

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



Mystic Chapter #69 in Litchfield, held an ESTARL potluck supper with some extra guests on Monday, August 5, 2019. An Irish Wolfhound named Darerca was the guest of honor and was accompanied by her owner and trainer, Kathy Hecht.

Kathy operates Salute of Service, a program to link and train Veterans and dogs. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maine at Machias and teaches two courses annually that focus on animal assistance.

Salute of Service, a free program for Veterans, is unique. By matching the individual Veteran's needs with a new dog or a dog the Veteran already owns, she can hone in on just what service the dog can provide and individually personalize each training. Everything depends on the Veteran's disability. It could be physical, psychological or a combination of both.

The Salute of Service began 4 years ago when 8 dogs and their partners graduated; the second year, 20 pairs graduated. Recently a Veterans' class graduated 17 pairs of dogs and handlers.

Training is completed in three phases: basic obedience; task; and public access training. Depending on the abilities of the dog and handler, it can take 4 to 6 months to fully complete. It is very intense and requires a strong commitment

The goal is to help Veterans who have dogs train them to be Service Dogs. Also, to help Veterans who do not have dogs find the right dog for the tasks they need their dog to help make their lives easier.

The ESTARL supper earned \$207 which will be donated to the OES Scholarship Fund. Mystic Chapter donated \$100 to Salute of Service to assist them.

There were 40 Members in attendance with 11 Chapters represented. Brother Bernald W. Tufts, GGCCM Service Dogs, was in attendance and thanked the Chapter for an evening well spent.

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## DONATION TO MARYLAND STATE TROOPERS

*Patricia Burt, PM  
Annapolis Chapter #46  
Annapolis, Maryland*

At the Maryland Veterans Commission meeting held in July, Members of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Order of the Eastern Star, presented donations to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and the Maryland Veterans **Service Animal** Program. Shown from left to right are: Linda Sanner (PGM); Phillip Munley, Director of the MDVA Service & Benefits Program, who accepted the donations; Karen Calvert, who serves on the Maryland Veterans Commission and is Junior PGM; and Major William Sanner, USA (Ret), Junior PGP.



*Courtesy of the Maryland Veterans Affairs (MDVA) News*

## “FALL’ING FOR THE DOGS” FUNDRAISER

*Nanette Thompson, GGCCM Service Dogs, PGM  
Perkinston Chapter #376  
Perkinston, Mississippi*



*(L-R) Jared Stanley, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi F&AM; Nanette Thompson, GGCCM Service Dogs; Julie Watson, Tillman Furniture Representative; Alison Patroliá, Director of Training Hub City Service Dog; Johnnie Sue Ford, WGM; and Larry McVey, WGP*

“Fall’ing for the Dogs” Fundraiser was literally a fall event. Falling trees, falling leaves, falling power lines and hours of falling rain fell throughout our beautiful State on the night of October 25 and the morning of October 26, 2019. First of all, I would like to ask our membership to continue to pray for the people in our communities who are still being affected by last week’s weather. I know Members in our beautiful Order had damages and I sincerely hope all is well now. Our Heavenly Father is our source of strength through all things.

Our fundraising day for Service Dogs was a day for counting blessings and a time of bonding together as Sisters and Brothers to make the Service Dog Fundraiser a huge success.

When I had arrived at the Group Camp at Roosevelt State Park, there was no power there or in the park. Sisters and Brothers that could make the trip were well on their way to the park. With the untiring efforts of our Sisters and Brothers and guests, the building was set up for the live auction, silent auction and general store. Lights and a generator were made available to help with the situation. It is impossible for me to remember what everyone did for the event, but I would like to thank those that worked very hard in the preparation for the event: Sisters Robin Nivens, Dana Miller and Diane Williams; Brothers Larry Woodward and John McCarver and their auction team; and Brother Jared Stanley, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F&AM, for providing the technology so we could view a video from our MWGM, Sister Marianne Shenefelt, about the Service Dog Organization. I would also like to recognize Roosevelt State Park Ranger and Brother, Louis Correro, for his patience and help along with Brother Jim Luttrell and the “special lighting team;” Brothers John McCarver and Bing McCarver, for gathering up lunch and lamps for us; Sister Doris Moreton and Brother Jessie Ford for their lamp search; Service Dog Committee Members; and Sisters and Brothers who are not committee members, but just wanted to support the Service Dogs project. You would be wondering and thinking, “Just write what the event raised for the Service Dogs project!”

Well, I am very humbled and proud to state that by God’s help, with a \$12,000 donation by Tillman Furniture presented by Sister Julie Watson, and our dedicated Sisters and Brothers, we raised \$17,130.14 for the “Fall’ing for the Dogs” Service Dog Fundraiser. We had an awesome time and a lasting bond that should remind us that, “We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.”

May God bless you and God bless our Beautiful Order.

*Courtesy of Mississippi Grand Chapter website*

## GGCCM YOUTH COMMITTEE WE NEED YOU TO HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

*Genie Wilcox, GGC Youth Committee Chairman, PGM  
Snowflake Chapter #153  
Woodland Park, Colorado*

The goal of the 2018-2021 GGC Youth Committee is to support our Masonic Youth groups and/or other youth organizations in our communities at the local Chapter level. This includes every Member in every Subordinate Chapter, GC and Jurisdiction. We all need to show our support and encouragement so that the youth will not only succeed, but hopefully WANT to join our Order and youth in the community will want to know more about what the Masonic Orders are all about.

We can show support of our Masonic Youth by attending their meetings, Installations, meals, fundraisers and other activities and simply enjoy our time with them. They love to have an audience to perform for, and we all know the Officers do a better job with Sideliners present. We would love to see Eastern Star Members planning community functions in the name of Eastern Star for the purpose of raising money (such as a community spaghetti dinner, garage sale, pancake breakfast, etc.) and the money presented to a local Rainbow Assembly, Job's Daughters Bethel or DeMolay Chapter in the Chapter's name with media coverage. If your area does not have a Masonic Youth (**ABC** as above) group, we hope you will consider supporting other youth groups in the community, such as 4-H, Scouts, Church youth groups, etc.

While we would like to keep the support (attendance and monetary) at the local level, you will be happy to know our GGC Youth Committee decided to not sell anything or ask you to sell anything either. At each Committee Members own expense, we have designed and purchased buttons to give away supporting awareness that "Supporting Youth begins with YOU".



If you request or are given a button, we ask that you wear it proudly showing OES support of our Youth. Please don't take one and never wear it, or leave them at home on your dresser. Some of our Committee Members have challenged their members to wear these buttons, and if they forget, then a small "fine" or donation is contributed to their youth fund. Let's make it fun!

We would also encourage the local youth's participation in any activities your Chapters or Jurisdictions have that involve Service Dogs. Eastern Star Members, Youth and Service Dogs together make a great combination for a community event showing all ages working together to help those in need.

You have heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Become part of that village and be there to attend and support all youth activities. They will remember you as "that lady or man from Eastern Star and Masons." But, you will have planted the seed for growth in our Order. Our success as a Committee and OES Organization depends on each of us. Please plant that seed and help cultivate our Youth into outstanding members of their community.

# DeMOLAY INTERNATIONAL PROUDLY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

*Genie Wilcox, GGCCM Youth Committee Chairman, PGM  
Snowflake Chapter #153  
Woodland Park, Colorado*



In June 2018, DeMolay International entered its Centennial Year, celebrating 100 years of positive and moral influence for young men in their formative years. Based on the seven cardinal virtues of filial love, reverence for sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism, membership in DeMolay provides a safe, worthwhile program where young men may excel into the successful leaders of the next generation. DeMolay International is a community-based organization for young men, ages 9 to 21. DeMolay members learn life skills, responsibility and cooperation by working together to plan and carry out their customized program of social, sports and community service activities.

Founded in Kansas City, Missouri, in March of 1919, DeMolay International held their Centennial Celebration June 25 – 29, 2019. Brother Henry S. Martin, MWGP, Senior DeMolay and Legion of Honor member, presented a check on behalf of the General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star to M. Boyd Patterson, Jr., Centennial Grand Master, who is also a Past Grand Master of Texas. Brother Henry was able to attend 3 days of the celebration and enjoyed the Hall of Fame Banquet, as well as the Exemplification of the 1924 DeMolay Degree, the Majority Service and other degrees.

The Centennial Celebration in Kansas City was attended by over 1,500 participants. Attendees represented the 59 Jurisdictions of DeMolay International, plus the DeMolay Supreme Councils in Australia, Brazil, Canada and the Philippines. The celebration was the first time in quite a while that all of the DeMolay Grand Masters from around the world were present at the same event. The young men participated in Congress sessions, as well as International Ritual Tournament Competitions. There was an opportunity for participants to take bus tours of historic DeMolay sites in Kansas City, the unveiling of DeMolay's Charity enShrined Centennial Courtyard and a Golf Tournament, as well.

As Eastern Star Members, we proudly congratulate and celebrate 100 years of DeMolay...the premier Youth organization striving to shape young men into leaders of character.



*(Left) Laying a wreath at the grave site of the Founder of DeMolay, Dad Frank S Land, at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Kansas City*



*Left and Above: Picnic at Corporate Office in Kansas City*

## 2019 MISSOURI FUN DAY

*Mary Sisemore, PGM, Co-Chairman  
Lexington Chapter #248  
Lexington, Missouri*

The Grand Chapter of Missouri held their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual WGM and WGP Fun Day Charity Event at the Masonic Complex in Columbia, on July 20, 2019. The event was to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children and our ABC's (Rainbow ASSEMBLIES, Jobs Daughters BETHELs and DeMolay CONCLAVES).

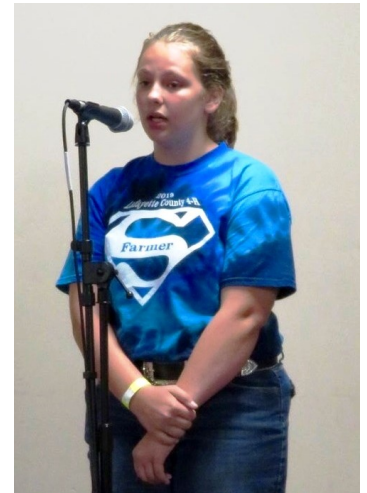
The Members, their families and friends had a day of fun and fellowship and raised over \$9,000 for the above charities.

Included in the activities of the day were carnival-type games, Madam Fortune Teller, cake walk, Bingo, hat decorating, face painting, barbecue lunch, Silent Auction, Live Auction, craft competition, culinary competition and semi-finals of our Talent Contest. Shrine clowns from Ararat Shrine, Kansas City, added to the fun of the day. Members of Ararat Shrine were judges of the talent, culinary and craft competition. Avalon Stotts, a Hospital patient, gave a wonderful report regarding her experiences at the St. Louis Shriners Hospitals.

Sister Mary Sisemore, PGM, was Chairman of the event. Sister Brenda Goings, WGM, and Brother Ted Kolb, WGP, were pleased with the happenings of the day and excited to be able to present scholarships to more deserving youth and a BIG check to the Shriners Hospitals.



*Avalon Stotts*



*Opening Ceremony (L-R) Brenda Goings, WGM; Mary Sisemore, PGM, Chairman; Ted Kolb, WGP; Avalon Stotts, Shriners Hospitals patient; Wayne Spencer, Past Potentate, Ararat Shrine Hospital Chairman and Ararat Shrine members who served as judges for talent, culinary and crafts events.*



*Grand Officers*

*Grand Officers and workers getting ready for the big day.*



# 2019 MISSOURI FUN DAY

*(Continued)*



*Lemon shake ups by Elaine Forrester, Grand Martha.*



*Hat Decorating Contest*



*Leonard Stephenson, PGP*



*Flirting clowns: Candy Man; Karen Dixon, Grand Chaplain; and Keys.*



*Winners of the Talent Contest: Patti Lane, Grand Escort; and Jeanette Wilson, Grand Ruth.*



*Cake walk: Robin Norfleet, Grand Esther; and Sue Davis, DDGM.*

*Solid walnut quilt rack made by Francis Wells, winner of the Craft Contest, being auctioned off by Shawn McAfee, PGP.*



*I really wasn't tossed in here!!!! but I did have my face painted!*



## KENTUCKY GRAND CHAPTER

*Alice Wiggins, PGM  
Rising Star Chapter #153  
Georgetown, KY*



Well Kentucky's history is on the move as we have a new **Right Worthy Grand Sentinel!** Kentucky's own Michael E. Berry was elected, installed and will be serving with Billie Bradfield from Arizona in 2024-2027. Excitement was abounding at the Cactus-Bluegrass banquet as we mixed and mingled and found out new fun facts about the group attending. You missed the reenactment of Mike being asked by Billie to serve at the interpretation of Debbie Drier as Billie and Perry Casazza as Mike. There might be a new story to be told in the future but be sure that no one left that room without a true belly laugh and of course the attendee's contributions were exhilarating!

Kentucky was well represented with greater than 50 in attendance at various events surrounding the Triennial Session through the Installation. It was a busy and long session addressing much legislation and business. You will soon hear more of the details and changes.

Mike once again made Kentucky stand proud with his delivery of the General Grand Chapter Budget and its projection. The reception for Mike, the display, Derby glasses with bourbon balls was a hit as the members poured into the room for all of the candidates. Many positive comments about the reception, but one long term non-Kentucky member made the comment that Kentucky knows how to put forth a classy act and that was said and received with a smile! It was an added memory as our Worthy Grand Matron-Susan Miller and Worthy Grand Patron placed in nomination Mike for election.

Mike marched proudly in his tux and tails aside our own Cassie Parrish with Kay Parrish carrying the Kentucky Flag for the Installation. His smile might have appeared nervous but inside he was sure that he had made the right decision and was looking forward to the future. What a pleasure to see Ky's "Door Knockers" at General Grand Chapter for our new RWGS to use! Congratulations Mike and to the other General Grand Chapter Committee Members Installed: Debbie Dreier-Ambassador to Romania, John Stull-Public Relations, Debbie Ballinger-Registration, Linda Stepp-Service Dog, Melva Dukes-Youth, and Reanna McCarthy as Campfire Friend.

The Future is exciting, please plan to be a part of it! Just know Mike that we are behind you all the way in every endeavor whether big or small!



*Courtesy of the Kentucky Stars Shining Over Kentucky Newsletter 12/18*



## GRAND ESTHER TIMES FOUR

*Cherie Johnson, PM  
Adah Chapter #52  
Claremont, South Dakota*

When Sister Camy Jo Weber, Adah Chapter #52, Claremont, was appointed Grand Esther in October 2019, she became the fourth generation to serve as Grand Esther in that Grand Jurisdiction. Sister Camy Jo was appointed by Sister Renae Phinney, WGM, and Brother John Laughlin, WGP, to serve as Grand Esther for the 2019-2020 "The Home and Harbor" Session.

Sister Camy Jo celebrates a proud past. Her great-grandmother, Sister Grace Albrecht, served as Grand Esther in 1957-58. Her grandmother, Sister Judy Albrecht, served as Grand Esther in 1994-1995. Her mother, Sister Cherie Johnson, served as Grand Esther in 2003-2004. Sister Camy Jo's grandfather, Brother Wilbur Albrecht, who served as WGP in 2000-01, is her Escort for the year.



*(L-R) Judy Albrecht, Grand Esther, 1995; Cherie Johnson, Grand Esther, 2004; Grace Albrecht, Grand Esther, 1958; and Camy Jo Weber, Grand Esther, 2020*



*(L-R) Grace Albrecht, Grand Esther, 1958; Lavonne Albrecht Gesling, Grand Esther, 2001, Associate Grand Conductress, 2020; and Wilbur Albrecht, PGP, 2001*

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## SECOND TIME AROUND

*Laurel Wadley, PM, Secretary  
Saguaro Chapter #48, Tucson, Arizona  
Mt. Olympus Chapter #23, Midvale, Utah*



Well, it's happened.... .. my hubby Jim, who was WGP of Utah in 2001, has decided to go through the Grand Line in Arizona (AZ). Is he crazy? Only time will tell. He was asked by the current Grand Conductress if he would go through with her and because his year in Utah was not all we had hoped for, he decided to try it again in our adopted State of AZ.

We are excited and wondering what the heck we're doing, all at the same time. AZ is much larger than Utah, so more traveling for the Official Visits, etc. Because AZ has so much more for their Grand Officers to do than Utah did, we are looking forward to all of the "new" things we will be involved in.

We had a really nice GC and the GGC people came in droves to attend RWGC, Sister Billie Bradfield's Honor Night on July 30, 2019. We have a new corps of Grand Officers and Grand Electa (which I had the honor to serve as last year) is also from my Chapter.

Jim is one of the youngest Grand Masters to be installed in Utah since the early 1900's. He was only 39 years old at the time of his Installation in 1991.

Question: Does anyone know if there is a member who has been WGP in two (or more) Jurisdictions? Just wondering if Jim might be the first?

## BARTHELL OES HOME CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

*Peg Liekweg  
Chairperson, Barthell OES Home Board  
Iowa Grand Chapter*

The Barthell OES Home in Decorah, celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an Open House on September 22, 2019. About 100 guests, including Decorah's Mayor and City Councilman, Distinguished Eastern Star guests, community friends, past Board Members and residents and their families were hosted by the Home's staff, CEO Laurie Kreul, and Board Members Peggy Liekweg, Sheila Kiehne, Caryl Lawyer and Luke Reicks. The creation of the Barthell OES Home came about through a bequest by Sister Mathilda A. Barthell in 1967. The 46-bed Nursing Home was built and opened in 1969. Its intent was for OES and Masonic Members to be able to live in fraternal fellowship and still be near family and friends in Northeast Iowa. Today, the Home's facilities are open to anyone seeking our services.

In the years since the Nursing Home was opened, the Barthell OES Home has seen the addition of a 32-apartment Assisted Living building and 6 independent living residences. In 2019, eight townhomes, known as Barthell Bluffs, were completed and are ready for occupancy.

The Barthell OES Home celebrated their 50th with refreshments available all afternoon while a local band provided music. Tours of the campus residences were conducted all afternoon. The Barthell OES Home's motto of "Caring for What's Been Given, and Adding to the Love; Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" is seen every day, but never more visible than it was during the celebration.

Members and friends are invited and always welcome to come visit and see how Sister Mathilda's dream has come true. She would be proud.



*Board Members Luke Reicks, Sheila Kiehne, Peg Liekweg, Caryl Lawyer and Laurie Kreul, CEO*

*4 generations enjoying the music at the celebration*



*Resident and Activity Director Mae Schmitt*



## GRAND CHAPTER OF MAINE VISITS DC

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



The Maine bus trip to Arlington, Virginia, December 12-15, 2019, to participate in the Wreaths Across America event started with a loud bang when bus number two was hit not once but twice by the same car. On top of that, the car was driverless as the driver had not put the car in park and it rolled down from a gas station hitting the rear tires of the bus and then bouncing off those to slam into the left side of the bus. The police were there shortly and checked everyone out and the bus was able to continue on its way.

But due to the delay and heavy traffic, the buses didn't arrive at the Springfield Courtyard by Marriott until after 9 pm for

the late dinner. Seventy-two Members and visitors had boarded the two buses in Bangor, Augusta and South Portland and for some it was a very long day as they had commenced boarding at 4 am in Bangor.

Sister Jolene and Brother Rick Farnsworth had coordinated the tour with the Cyr bus lines.

Friday morning found the two buses heading for the Perry Belmont House, our International Headquarters, where they were warmly welcomed by our Sister Marianne Shenefeld, MWGM, and Brother Henry Martin MWGP, along with several staff members. This was the weekend of the GGC Grand Officers Christmas Party. As this was December, the Headquarters had been beautifully decorated for the Season.



After some history and information on the Perry Belmont House, we were divided into three groups to enjoy the tour and then have a bag lunch with some eating in the State Dining Room and others in the Grand Ballroom.

Sister Wilda Naugler shared, "One of the best parts of our trip to DC was when Brother Richard Farnsworth, PGP, and Grand Organist played the "Maine Christmas Song" on the gold piano and later played some carols. Wonderful!" Brothers Richard and Dennis Jordan, Chairman of the Right Worthy Grand Trustees and PGP of California, also did an impromptu piano duet of "It's a Small World."



The afternoon was spent in the area of the outdoor Downtown Holiday Market and many found places to explore and get indoors as it was rainy. The buses went to Carmines and Bertucci's for dinner with both busloads ending the evening at the Smithsonian National Zoo to view the Zoo Lights.

## GRAND CHAPTER OF MAINE VISITS DC

*(Continued)*



Saturday morning, we boarded buses early to head to the Arlington National Cemetery for the laying of the wreaths as part of Wreaths Across America. For Sister Lucille Nanos the highlight of the trip, "...was, of course, taking part in laying wreaths at Arlington. The number of people taking part and the sight of all those wreaths honoring all of the fallen."

And the entire time we were there, it rained and rained, but being Mainers, most had come prepared to layer up and be outside.

Sister Rebecca and Brother Jon Thompson brought their sons on the trip and wrote the following about the trip:

"The highlight of our DC trip was hearing our boys read the names on the stones aloud, then thank these Soldiers for their service before laying the wreath. It brought tears to my and Jon's eyes. We were in an older section of Arlington, so the men we said "thank you" to were born almost 100 years before Thomas and Evan.

It's a ripple effect over decades and decades. These Soldiers protected our Country and now a 12 and a 14-year old in 2019 can thank them for their service. I hope somehow those men know how thankful we are."

Our Sisters and Brothers enjoying the bus trip were:

Cup of Kindness Grand Officers Brenda L. Hall, WGM; David M. Cole, WGP; Catherine J. Wood, AGM; Rebecca S. Bibber, PGM, Grand Treasurer; Evelyn B. Cookson, GC; Lorena Fenlason, AGC; Calvin F. Hall, Grand Chaplain; Jon Thompson, Grand Marshal; Richard A. Farnsworth, III, PGP and Grand Organist; Judy Leasseur, Grand Ruth; Joyce Duross-Ouellette, Grand Esther; Janice Flowers, Grand Martha; and Darcy Merrill, Grand Electa.

DDGM Martha Ellis (6); Rebecca G. Thompson (11); Hazel Rumney (12), Lynette Ramsey (15); Patricia Bishop (16);, and Charlene Buzza (19).

Star Assistants Jolene Farnsworth and Barbara Perkins.

PGMs Rebecca Bibber, Norma Crabtree, Margaret Dyer, Susan Gaines, Julie Irving, Lucille Nanos and GGCCM's Susan Hawes and Corley Anne Byras; PGP's Leighton Perkins and Richard Farnsworth, III.

And, of course, the final reminder was that, "What happens on the bus, stays on the bus!" All arrived home pleased that they had traveled and had wonderful memories to share with others.

After we returned home, Sister Hazel shared her thoughts on the trip, "The entire trip was enjoyable, except maybe the delay when that driverless car hit our bus! The highlight for me was standing in front of the gravestones, saying the name aloud and "You are not forgotten." Seeing the hundreds and hundreds of wreaths on row after row of headstones was very moving. Seeing the International Headquarters for the first time was wonderful. Everyone should go at Christmas time; the festive decorations added more beauty to a beautiful building."



## GRAND CHAPTER OF MARYLAND PARTICIPATES IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

*Nancy L. Ford, GGCCM ESJ Editor, PGM  
Highland Chapter #33  
Dundalk, Maryland*



*Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery  
Courtesy of the Maryland Veterans Affairs (MDVA) News*

Participation in the Wreaths Across America (WAA) event held each December grows each year, adding more large and small cemeteries on its participation list and in the number of participants who brave all types of weather to honor our Veterans. Maryland's 2019-2020 Military and Veterans Committee sent a letter to Chapters and Members asking for help in sponsoring wreaths and laying the wreaths at the December 14 event. Being a registered sponsor, it is a win-win for both organizations. Through the generosity of our Members and Chapters, for each wreath sponsored at a cost of \$15, GC received \$5 back from WAA with the remaining \$10 staying with WAA to help support the costs of this huge endeavor. This year the Committee is supporting "Homes for Our Troops," a 501c3 charity whose mission is to build and donate specially adapted custom homes nationwide for severely injured Post-911 Veterans, to enable them to rebuild their lives. Some of the wreaths sponsored were laid at Arlington National Cemetery, with the majority being laid at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery and five other local cemeteries.

Talk about times one will always remember. Watching the trucks pull up with the wreaths, watching them being unloaded at key areas and then after the Opening Ceremony, being one of hundreds walking to the graves of those who have served our Country and while standing there, state their name and offer thanks for their service before placing the wreath (or a stone for our Jewish Veterans), certainly gives one goosebumps. Those who have served in the Armed Forces offer a Salute. Many steps later with tired feet heading back to the car, a glance back at the graves now decorated in their greenery and red bow brings tears of joy to the eye.



There are many ways to sponsor a wreath and participate in this heart-tugging event, both as individuals and as a group fundraiser event. For more information, visit the Wreaths Across America website ([www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org)).





## CALLING ALL GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

The International Grand Representatives Association Club Officers encourage past, present and newly appointed Grand Representatives to join the Association. Dues are \$5 per Triennium.

Members receive once per year a newsletter from the Association. In that publishing, you will see complete Bylaws (sent in first mailing only), proposed amendments and other noteworthy events and happenings. In addition, a portion of your dues and purchases goes to the International Headquarters for the Preservation and Restoration of the Perry Belmont House Foundation. Please consider purchasing the President's pin, IGRA pin and brocade top which identifies you as a member. Also for purchase is a handbook which is a great resource for those newly appointed.

I am asking that you send news from your travels or Jurisdiction to me to publish in the next newsletter. Also consider sending your news to the Eastern Star Journal Editor ([OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org](mailto:OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org)) to be included in that publication as well.

Let's let the world know how much we care!

Fraternally,

Patricia Harwood,  
IGRA President  
PGM of Nevada,  
(307) 689-7455 (email [patriciahaywood@rocketmail.com](mailto:patriciahaywood@rocketmail.com))

Let's give a great BIG

“ROAR”

for the Eastern Star!



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## GRAND REPRESENTATIVE TO AUSTRALIA

*Brenda Shaw-Radford, PGM  
ESJ Correspondent for Quebec  
Westmount Chapter #9 and Victory Chapter #35  
Montreal, Quebec*



*Brenda Shaw-Radford, PGM, and  
Janet Patch, WGM*

Sister Janet Patch, WGM, visited Westmount Chapter #9, Montreal, on June 27, 2019, the last meeting before our summer break and also my birthday! What a wonderful birthday present I received from the WGM. She presented me with my second commission to the United Grand Chapter of Australia until December 2021.

My counterpart this time is Sister Pamela Patterson. We have already been in contact and have exchanged emails.

Sister Pamela is a PWGM and presently serving as WM, Wallsend Chapter # 98, Wallsend, New South Wales (NSW). She was also installed as Associate Conductress in Mayfield Chapter #53, Mayfield, NSW. She has been WM many times. Her husband, Brother Alan, is on his way to being MWGP and all going well, will be installed in Tasmania in 2025.

Hopefully we will be able to meet sometime but if not, I am sure that through our correspondence we will learn a lot about each other's Jurisdictions and become good friends.

## GRAND REPRESENTATIVE VISITS MASSACHUSETTS GRAND CHAPTER SESSION

*Margaret Roe, PM*  
*Grand Representative of Massachusetts in Maryland*  
*Door-to-Virtue Chapter #94*  
*Westminster, Maryland*



Sunday May 8, 2019, my husband Howard and I headed to Leyden/Bernardston, Massachusetts (MA) to visit with family before heading to Boxboro for MA's GC Session. Luckily I had checked on the weather and packed warmer clothes, both nights it got down into the upper 30's. In the higher elevations they had snow.

The Boxborough Regency was easy to find and we discovered we were on the third floor and there was no elevator. We tried not to have to return to the room too often. The GC room was on one side of the hallway and the banquet rooms on the other.

We attended the Grand Representatives Banquet where we received items for our goody bags (flags, pens, candy, mints, etc.). The Grand Representative of New York in MA gave little two ounce jars of maple syrup in the shape of a maple leaf. My counterpart did not attend but we sat with a couple of PGs and a couple of Grand Representatives. All Grand Representatives were invited to the podium to introduce themselves. We were given a goody bag, compliments of their Grand Representatives Club. Four of the five banquets had Chicken Boxborough as their entrée.

I was honored to participate in the Cavalcade of Flags. We were given a MA flag to carry. After circling the room twice, the MA Grand Representatives gave their flags to a couple Brothers in the East who posted them for the remainder of the Session. We were allowed to keep our flags. The Informal Opening was the usual introductions. As the Grand Officers were introduced, we learned of all their Past Appointments. It was interesting to learn how long some had been Members. One of the highlights of the evening was the awarding of Scholarships. They awarded 48 Scholarships in the amount of \$57,000. One of the recipients I sat next to at the banquet. There were 31 present to receive their award. We were entertained by butterflies dancing around with lights along the edge of their wings.

The Memorial Service was a little different. The Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress walked straight into the Altar from their Stations. The Grand Conductress removed the Bible from the Altar and handed it to the Grand Chaplain. The Conductresses raised the white Altar cloth, folded it up in half and then flipped it and laid it back on the Altar as a purple memorial cloth. The Grand Conductress then took the Bible from the Grand Chaplain and laid it back on the Altar.

The Friday evening "Rainbow of Hope" Banquet began with the Introduction of Grand Families. The WGM introduced her Grand Officer and the Associate Grand Matron introduced her Grand Officer. They both walked in together. After dinner, the candidates went to the podium, introduced themselves and gave the Title of the Office they were seeking. This Session had another meaning for us as Sister Paula Berge, WGM, and Brother Stephen Donahue, WGP, had presented my husband and I with our 50-Year membership pins last June as we are also Members in MA. Thank you Sister Madge Jones, PGM, for presenting me with this commission during your term making this interesting and memorable trip possible.





(L-R) Judy Hall and Lynn Hadlock

## GRAND REPRESENTATIVE TO OREGON

*Judy Hall, PM, Secretary  
Grand Representative to Oregon  
McKinley Chapter #12  
Cumberland, Maryland*

What a delightful experience I had as Grand Representative of Oregon (OR) in Maryland to attend their “Down the Rabbit Hole” 130<sup>th</sup> Grand Session from June 16-19, 2019 in Pendleton.

My air flight travels took me to Portland where I was then flown to Pendleton on a “puddle jumper” plane that only carried 10 passengers. The flight took an hour and the scenery over the mountains and valleys was breathtaking!

The city of Pendleton began as a trading post in 1851 and today is known for the world-famous Pendleton Round-Up held the second week in September each year. The rodeo attracts top professional cowboys and cowgirls from across the globe. The abundance of sheep ranching in the area led to the founding of Pendleton Woolen Mills in 1909. The mill products wool blankets, clothing and other products are an internationally recognized brand today.

My counterpart, Sister Lynn Hadlock from Rainier, and I met on Sunday afternoon at the Informal Opening. I discovered by attending the “Cavalcade of Flags” on Saturday morning that their Grand Representatives and counterparts do not bring in the various flags. The “Cavalcade of Flags” was the presentation of the American, Canadian, OR, Wyoming, Texas and Military flags.

During the Informal Opening presided by Sister Melissa D. Metz, WGM, and Brother John W. Thomas, WGP, they presented their Scholarship Awards for ESTARL and 2 State scholarships, donations to each of the Youth groups (\$2,000 each) and their PAVE – “Paws Assisting Veterans” – the WGM & WGP’s Special Project. This nonprofit organization doesn’t charge for their Service Dogs. They believe these Service Dogs improve the lives of Veterans suffering from mental and/or physical disabilities, empowering them and their families to achieve lifelong success and “pave” their way home. They raised \$45,000, which is the cost of a Service Dog, its training and the Veteran’s training.

The Membership Banquet was held after the Informal Opening, which consisted of a “Murder Mystery” involving one of the Grand Officers, all of whom were dressed as characters from “Alice in Wonderland.” Each table had the opportunity to question the various characters to try to discover who was the murderer. The evening was very enjoyable and fun!

The Monday Session began with the Bible and Emblem Ceremony conducted by the Grand Marshal, the Formal Opening, the Cavalcade of Flags conducted by the Associate Grand Patron and then introduction of Distinguished Guests. As a Grand Representative of OR, I was introduced along with OR Grand Representatives from Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Oklahoma and Tennessee. The Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress gave the Fraternal Correspondence Report followed by various other reports. In our registration packet we received copies of 18 reports not given at the Session.

I attended the Distinguished Guest Luncheon following the Morning Session and the Afternoon Session which consisted of the election of the Grand Officers using electronic devices and more reports. The Grand Secretary reported a Membership of 3,980 with 52 Subordinate Chapters.

That evening I attended the Grand Representatives Banquet. I had a lovely time sitting with my counterpart Lynn, her daughter and granddaughter. I gave those attending the banquet my business card with a Goetz’s cow tail. The Evening Session continued after the Banquet with Proficiency and Membership Awards.

The Tuesday Morning, Afternoon and Evening Sessions consisted of their legislation and reports. The Wednesday Morning Session wrapped up the rest of the reports and the Installation of the 2019-2020 Grand Officers was held in the afternoon.

The OR Sisters and Brothers were friendly, kind and thrilled I came “all that way” to their Grand Session. Sister Lynn and I had a wonderful time getting to know each other “face to face” instead of through e-mails. I also made new OES friends and was honored to receive an Honorary Membership to their GC.

My thanks to Sister Madge E. Jones, PGM, and Brother Russell Bonchu, Jr., PGP, for the Grand Representative appointment they awarded to me at their 2018 Grand Session. It is another wonderful experience in my OES life!

## RUTH MARTIN TURNS 100!

*Gina Fox, PM  
Areme Chapter #461  
Saint Joseph, Missouri*



What a great celebration it was to be able to celebrate Sister Ruth Martin's "100<sup>th</sup>" birthday at Areme Chapter #461's July 19, 2019, meeting in Saint Joseph, Missouri. Sister Ruth was initiated in Areme Chapter in March of 1950. At the time of her Initiation, Areme Chapter had 398 active Members and 16 Chapters in the District. Sister Fern Barton was WGM and Brother Hugh Meinhardt was WGP. In 1951, Sister Ruth was ready to get involved and held her first Office as Martha. She served as WM numerous times, as well as Martha, Ruth, Secretary, Marshal, Sunshine Chairman and served on all committees she was appointed to over the last 69 years.

Sister Ruth and her husband, Brother Edgar, brought in 12 new Members to add to our membership in 1955.

In 1997, she received and served her appointment as DDGM from Sister Bessie Mae Kirkpatrick, WGM, and Brother Joseph "Joe" Jelinek, WGP. In 2013, she was appointed as Grand Representative to Bolivia by Sister Joyce Beabout, WGM, and Brother Jack Padley, WGP. Sister Ruth received her 50-Year pin in 2000 and her 65-Year pin in 2015.

On the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sister Ruth was escorted to her throne in the West and draped with a robe. Sister Katherine Chellew presented her with a dozen roses as Sister Barbara Drager sang to her accompanied by Sister Vivian Price. Each Officer took her back through memory lane as they shared memories of Sister Ruth's 69 years in Areme Chapter. She was presented with a wooden Eastern Star emblem plaque hand-painted by Sister Gina Fox, PM.



At the close of the meeting, Sister Ruth was escorted to the dining room for a delightful banquet reception with the beautiful Eastern Star birthday cake

Sister Ruth is not only a true asset to our Chapter but a loyal and dedicated Member.



*Grace Sexton presented a plaque received from Brenda Goings, WGM, and Ted Kolb, WGP, thanking her for her continual service in our Order at Ruth's Happy Birthday of 100 years celebration with her family, friends and District Members at the Corby Place Residential Care in Saint*

*Ruth was also crowned Queen of the Apple Blossom Festival this year in Saint Joseph.*



## ADA SPILLMAN'S 100!

*DuAnne Farus, PM, Secretary  
Olive Branch Chapter #251  
Duncan Falls, Ohio*



The Members of Olive Branch Chapter #251, Duncan Falls, celebrated Sister Ada Spillman's 100th birthday with a surprise party at her home at the Oaks at Bethesda complete with gifts, cake and ice cream.

Sister Ada was initiated into Victoria Chapter #31 on May 28, 1937. Victoria Chapter merged with Olive Branch Chapter #251, Duncan Falls, on April 10, 2000.

We enjoyed hearing of Sister Ada's travels, her work at Bethesda Hospital and of all the festivities that took place for her 100th birthday. She read all of her birthday cards without the use of glasses.

Sister Valerie Norman entertained us with singing "Old Time Religion" and "Grandma's Feather Bed."

Sister Ada enjoyed her special day shared with (L-R) Sisters Sharma Brown, WM; Valerie Norman, PM; Stacey Smith, Adah; DuAnne Farus, Secretary; Connie Clifton, Treasurer; Marsha Kelly, PM; and Jean Neal, Esther.

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## SISTER JEAN BECKWITH HONORED FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Doreen Edgar, GCCM, ESJ  
Evening Star Chapter #28  
Halifax, Nova Scotia*

Sister Jean Beckwith, PM, a devoted active Member for 70 years, is seen here receiving her 70-Year pin from St. Mary's Chapter #35, Digby, Nova Scotia, on her Chapter's 70th Anniversary. Flowers were presented by Sister Stella Trask, PGM. She was recognized as serving as a Grand Representative to Wyoming in 2002 and a GC Committee Member. She was chosen "Grand Chapter Mother" for the 2017-2018 GC term as she has a special tie to the town of Truro and Myrtle Chapter #21, Bible Hill.

Sister Jean attended all the time and filled in on many occasions. She also belongs to Laurel Chapter #67, Berwick. All agree Sister Jean is a very nice, sweet lady who loves to do her part for the Eastern Star.

It has been said she is "a Giver, not a Receiver."



## IDAHO FALLS CHAPTER #85 HOLDS OFFICIAL VISIT AND PRESENTATION OF A 75-YEAR PIN



*Nancy Smith, PM  
Idaho Falls Chapter #85  
Idaho Falls, Idaho*

Idaho Falls Chapter #85, Idaho Falls, was pleased to have their Official Visit on October 25 2019, with Sister Jeanne Jennings, WGM, and Brother Todd Paille, WGP. The School of Instruction was held before the Meeting starting at 3 pm in which we exemplified Balloting and the Initiation. Upon the close of the School, we had time to change into our Halloween costumes and have a light dinner of sandwiches and chips. Afterwards, pictures were taken of the Officers and Distinguished Guests.

*(Front Row L-R) Jeanne Jennings, WGM; Sharen Trickey, WM; John Trickey, WP; and Todd Paille, WGP*

Trickey, WM, welcoming everyone to have a lot of fun “as our name is Trickey” and Halloween is a favorite time of year for us. Looking around the room was quite hysterical seeing everyone dressed up. Our WGM was Cleopatra, WGP was the sheriff, WM was Morticia (of the Adams Family) and our WP (Brother John Trickey) was a hippie. Quite a combination when you look at the picture. Everyone was having a great time with introductions and the WM using information about hugs to introduce everyone. It was informative and entertaining.

As the Chapter proceeded through the Order of Business, the WGM put the Meeting on pause when it reached Introductions of the Golden Stars. The WGM requested the Associate Conductress present Sister Marion Weiffle behind Esther’s chair for Introductions. Sister Marion was then presented in the East, and the WGM proceeded to express her thoughts. The WGM stated that rarely, if ever, does a WGM get to present a Golden Star with a 75-Year pin and this was a rare privilege for her, and one of her most favorite.

A little bit about Sister Marion.

Marion was initiated on June 15, 1944. Her father, Brother Norman Staebler, was in the West as Associate Patron and her Aunt, Sister Ida Rahl, was the WM. It was in the town of Omar, Michigan (MI). She has said that she was initiated shortly after her high school graduation. She met her husband at college in MI and they were married on October 31, 1945, and moved to her husband’s hometown of Idaho Falls.

Sister Marion has maintained she made friends in Idaho Falls by going to Star. She didn’t know anyone in Idaho Falls when she moved here except her in-laws. According to the records, she joined Henrietta Chapter #21, Idaho Falls, in 1950. She was WM in 1968-1969. That was the year that Idaho Falls Chapter #85 was started. Several of Henrietta’s Members came to her and asked her to help them get a new Chapter started, otherwise they would not have a chance to hold Office or go up the line. Sister Marion became Idaho Falls Chapter’s first Lifetime Member because of her help to get the Chapter its Charter.

Sister Marion held the Offices of Martha, Adah, Electa and Ruth, besides Associate Conductress, Conductress, and Associate Matron. She was WM of Idaho Falls Chapter in 2011-2012 at the age of 85!

## IDAHO FALLS CHAPTER #85 (Continued)

When her children became teenagers, Sister Marion decided to go back to college and began taking classes at night school. She finished her Degree and earned her Master's Degree sometime in the 1970's, while raising six daughters and one son. All of the girls were in Job's Daughters and all but one daughter served as Honored Queen.

Sister Marion was so pleased to receive her 75-Year pin from our WGM at the Chapter's Official Visit. She thought we had forgotten all about it. What a pleasant surprise for Sister Marion as her daughters had all kept this secret and she had no idea the presentation would take place.

She also received her 50-Year pin from Beauceant Assembly #120 on September 16, 2019. This was Beauceant Assembly's last meeting before they consolidated with Midvale Assembly #247 in Midvale, Utah. She has led a very resourceful life and has served for all those years for others.



Marion Weiffle being presented her 75-Year pin by Jeanne Jennings, WGM

Marion's beautiful smile shows how happy she is to receive her 75-Year pin



## CELEBRATING 70 AND 75-YEARS OF SERVICE

*Darleen Newberry, Secretary  
East Gate Chapter #367  
Independence, Missouri*

There was a lot of excitement at a Stated Meeting of East Gate Chapter #367, Independence. We had 6 70-Year pins and 2 75-Year pins to be presented. Four of those Members were able to be in attendance to receive their pins. Under Good of the Order, Sister Beverly Fogliani, WM, had the following Sisters presented: Anna Lee Brizendine, Jane Bryan, Margie Eads and Dorothy Vader.

These Sisters were greeted and brought to the East where they received Grand Honors. There were presented with their Certificates and 70-Year pins from GC and Brother Henry K. McDaniel, WP, presented each with a bouquet of roses.

The Members of East Gate Chapter are so proud of these Sisters and praise their 70 years of faithful service and dedication to this beautiful Order.

Seventy-five Year pins were mailed to Sisters Lenora Yowell and Edileen Ireland who were unable to attend. Seventy Year pins were mailed to Sisters Myrtle Stanbrough and Patricia Rice who were also unable to be with us. We congratulate these faithful Sisters also on their many years of service. We are sorry they were not able to receive their pins in Chapter.

There are many lessons to be learned from these Eastern Star Sisters and we know they have many stories to tell.

The Sisters and Brothers of East Gate Chapter extend love and congratulations to all of these faithful and loyal Sisters.

## CELEBRATING 70 HAPPY YEARS

*Shelya White, PM, Secretary  
Unity Chapter #201  
Falls Church, Virginia*

Unity Chapter #201, Falls Church, celebrated a momentous occasion at their November 2018 Meeting. Brother Mike Wills, WP, presented Sister Mary Elizabeth Seip, WM, with her 70-Year pin. Sister Mary Elizabeth first joined Acacia Chapter #51, Falls Church, November 2, 1948. She affiliated with Sharon Chapter #63, McLean, on March 19, 1951. Both Acacia and Sharon Chapters are now part of Unity Chapter. She joins Sisters Virginia Dodge, Unity's PGM, who received her 70-Year pin in March 2016, and Doris Bauserman who reached that pinnacle in December 2017.



Sister Mary Elizabeth's first Office was in Sharon Chapter as Star Point Martha. Her first term as WM in 1958-1959 was in the "old" Sharon Lodge in the center of McLean.

In October 1978, the Chapter moved to cramped quarters in the American Legion Hall and then in 1980 moved to Charles Wesley Methodist Church's spacious hall. She and her husband, Brother Leonard Seip, were installed there as WM and WP in 1984-85; her second term.

In December 1986, the Chapter held its first meeting in the new Sharon Temple on Balls Hill Road in McLean and she served a third term as WM in 2005-06. At her Installation, she said she had served in the East in her young years, again in middle age, and then as a senior; therefore, that would be her last time. But that wasn't the end of the story! After Sharon Chapter merged with Unity Chapter in 2014, she agreed to serve in the West for three terms; however, she reiterated she should not/would not be WM again. In 2017, with Brother Mike Wills beside her, she realized he would be an excellent WP. From time-to-time he would ask if she would go to the East. She always said "No, I'm too old. It wouldn't be fair to the Chapter." but he persevered. How could she deny him the privilege of serving in the East? This is her fourth - and last - time in the East, she swears!

She was a Job's Daughter, then when her daughters and granddaughter came of Jobie age, she was active with their Bethels and at various times served on the council as Guardian Secretary, Bethel Guardian, Deputy Grand Guardian and Grand Librarian, Virginia Grand Council.

She became a DAR member in 1991 of the Fairfax County Chapter. She has served as Registrar, Chapter Regent, Treasurer and is District Chairman of the DAR Good Citizen Committee, providing District Chapters information for a Good Citizen High School student essay contest.

Sister Mary Elizabeth has made many lasting friends through the Eastern Star and its appendant bodies and treasures each one. She says that everyone has been just plain indescribably wonderful, volunteering and chipping in to do things and she's enjoyed every minute. She received a standing ovation and said she was embarrassed, humbled and appreciative all at the same time. She calls this year's term a "labor of love." What an inspiration to all of us!

# QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER #61 PRESENTS A 70-YEAR PIN AT THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

*Doreen Edgar, GCCM, ESJ  
Evening Star Chapter #28  
Halifax, Nova Scotia*



Queen Esther Chapter #61, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, has in their 60 years witnessed several Members holding the titles of WGM and WGP with Brother Ken Conrad, WGP, also being a Member.

At the April 26, 2019, event, three Charter Members were in attendance. Pictured (L-R) are Sisters Margaret Teasdale, Florence Dares and Virginia Cameron.

Brother Ken was also able to attend the 100th birthday of Sister Florence who came from "a Masonic family" and joined 70 years ago with her mother in 1949. She is seen being presented and pinned with her 70-Year jewel by Sister Darlene Amirault, WGM, and Brother Ken Conrad, WGP, at the Anniversary party. Sister Florence not only served her own Chapter, holding many Offices, but held the position of Grand Organist twice and was able to attend the GC of Maine to visit her reciprocal. She was able to attend a special "Row Boat ride" where she actually paddled a boat at the club she had belonged to for many years.



All enjoyed the entertainment provided by the Atlantic Cirque Junior Troupe.

The Chapter has another honor as Sister Beverley Wentzell, PM, was crowned "Queen of the Nile" at a separate event in April 2019.



## CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Barbara M. McDuffie, PM  
Stella Chapter #3  
Auburn, Massachusetts*



*(L-R) James Gonyea, WP; Kita Gonyea, WM;  
Ethel A. Johnson, PM; and Robert E. McDuffie, PGP*

Sister Ethel A. Johnson, PM, celebrate her 95th birthday in April 2019 and in June 2019, she celebrated 65 years of membership. Sister Ethel was initiated into Persis Putnam Chapter #142, Rutland, on June 1, 1954 and is presently a member of Stella Chapter #3, Auburn. She served as WM twice in Persis Putnam Chapter and once in Adah Chapter #15 in Millbury. She has served as DGM, Grand Chaplain, Grand Representative to Texas and was appointed the first Grand Representative to Sao Paola, Brazil, in 2004.

In her 65 year of being a Member, Sister Ethel is very proud to have attended every MA GC Session, except for one. Quite an accomplishment. She has served her Chapter throughout the years holding many Offices and at the age of 95, is still willing to fill in whenever she is asked. She is also an accomplished organist.

Sister Ethel was presented her 65-Year pin and Certificate from Stella Chapter by Brother Robert E. McDuffie, PGP, (who received his 50-Year pin in May 2019) and Sister Kita and Brother James Gonyea, WM and WP, in June 2019.

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## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

*Brenda Shaw-Radford, PGM  
ESJ Correspondent for Quebec  
Westmount Chapter #9 and Victory Chapter #35  
Montreal, Quebec*

On June 7, 2019, the Members of Victory Chapter # 34, Hemmingford, Quebec, were pleased to honor Sister Evelyn Shaw who celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her initiation into the Order of the Eastern Star. Sister Evelyn was initiated into Victory Chapter on May 2, 1959. She was WM in 1969. She has held many Offices, but her favourite is Ruth. Sister Evelyn was Grand Adah for Sister Alana Farrell, WGM, and Brother William Winter, WGP, in 2006. She has also held Grand Representative Commissions to Oklahoma (1987) and New Mexico (no date available). Sister Evelyn comes from a large family and has lived in Hemmingford all her life.



*(L-R) Janet Patch, WGM, Carmen Ellerton,  
WM, Evelyn Shaw, PM, Robert Weidner, WGP*



## 60 YEARS ON THE OES TRAIL

*Charles Teal, PP  
Arbutus Chapter #30  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia*



*(L-R) Charles Teal , PP, and Ken Conrod, WGP*

In 1957, my wife Sister Peggy Teal, joined a new Chapter being formed in Halifax, Nova Scotia (NS). It was named Emerald Chapter #58. At that time I was not a Mason so I was unable to attend. The following year I became a Mason and soon became a Member. During the first few years due to my work, I was unable to attend often but managed to be WP of this Chapter three times.

After 40 years, my whole social and OES life changed. In 2001, Sister Carol Clark, PGM, presented me with my first Grand Representative appointment to Iowa (IA). From that time until today, my life has been a busy one--all good.

My counterpart was Brother Doug Seelye. We soon became "telephone friends" and in 2003 before my appointment expired, I visited Brother Doug and his charming wife, Sister JoAnn and attended their GC Session. It was there I met and made new friends whom I still correspond with today. They are Brother Ron and Sister Alice Hofer; Brother Bob and Sister Carolee Wright, PGM; and Sister Connie and Brother Glenn Esbeck. Sister Connie was WGM during my appointment. In 2005, my wife and I made another visit to Illinois (IL) and at a surprise party Sister Connie presented me with a Life Membership to the GC of IA.

During this visit, Brother Doug and Sister JoAnn gave us the royal tour of IA, IL and Wisconsin. We had a journey on a Mississippi River boat. This was a highlight of our visit. We also toured Ronald Regan's house and saw where Abe Lincoln lived, along with other attractions including the huge Mississippi River barges laden with corn and wheat, thousands of tons headed to New Orleans for distribution. We also had a tour of the John Deere Museum in Moline, IL, which I found quite interesting.

All but Brother Ron of the aforementioned friends made a trip to NS. They enjoyed it so much they made four trips altogether. All were treated at my table with NS Hospitality (lobster). In one instance, one of them coming from the mid-West, never had lobster before. When I served it (in the shell) she said, "What am I supposed to do with this?" (a little bit of humor).

I may seem to be rambling here but it has been so long I find it difficult to put things in chronological order. During 2012, I received a call from Sister JoAnn, my counterpart's wife. She was crying and laughing all at once. During a Meeting that evening, she was presented with a Grand Representative appointment to NS. Her counterpart was Sister Joyce Roode. We had not met Sister Joyce, but Sister JoAnn and Brother Doug were coming to our GC that summer. I invited them to my house for a pre-Session party as a "meet and greet." I met Sister Joyce and her husband, Brother Phillip, who later became a Grand Representative. My family of Grand Representative friends was growing.

During 2008, my Lodge had a program whereby a Mason would assist any Masonic Widow. At that time, I was assisting a senior Sister (age 90) to and from Chapter, so it was natural that I volunteer to be her caregiver which entailed walking her dog, getting meals, doing errands, etc. At one of these visits, I met another person who was introduced to me as a Member. Her name was Sister Mab Cole-Smith and I was told she was a business owner. I later learned of her involvement in the jewellery business as an Independent Jeweller and eventually became her assistant. Here again, was my opportunity to travel with her as a vendor to OES conventions, which included trips to Maine; Fredericton, New Brunswick; Prince Edward Island; Quebec; and also GGC in Oklahoma, along with another Member, Sister Joan Mills. Sister Mab received a Grand Representative appointment to Idaho in 2019. All of these happenings were made possible because of my being a Member.

Because of my advanced age, 90 this August, I can't remember all of my experiences during 60 years of service, but I do remember being WP on seven different occasions in both Mae Chapter #38 and Emerald Chapter #58 which are now closed.

I also served the GC as a Committee Member on various occasions which is interesting work to keep one busy. I am pleased to be a Grand Representative to Tennessee until this December.

All in all, I feel grateful to belong to the Order and if anyone who is not a Member is reading this, then I suggest the best friends you will ever meet belong to the Order. I was presented my 60-Year pin by Brother Ken Conrod, WGP (2018-2019). Making it more special, it belonged to the late Sister June MacDonald, PGM.

I now belong to Arbutus Chapter #30 in Liverpool. As I close, I feel my OES family (Grand Representative) is complete.

## CELEBRATING OUR 50-YEAR MEMBERS

### *SISTER JEAN THOMPSON*

*Helen Burgess, PM, Secretary  
Cookeville Chapter #152  
Cookeville, Tennessee*



*(L-R) Phyllis Matterly and Jean Thompson*

Sister Jean Thompson received her 50-Year pin on August 13, 2019, from Sister Phyllis Matterly, Associate Grand Matron, for her service in the Order. Sister Jean joined Mason Chapter #494, Mason, Ohio (OH), in May 1969 and then joined Cookeville Chapter #152, Cookeville, in 2007 as a Dual Member. She also was a Dual Member with Byrdstown Chapter #404, Byrdstown. Sister Jean serves as Martha for Cookeville Chapter, is a PM and Past Grand Representative to OH. Congratulations to Sister Jean for her 50 years of serving our beautiful Order.

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### *SISTER KATIE LOU McCALLISTER*

*Rachel Lackey, PM  
Marcum Chapter #61  
Ceredo, West Virginia*



*(L-R) William Roberts, WP; Katie McCallister, 50-Year Member; and Jean Calhoun, PGM*

On Tuesday, July 9, 2019, a special event took place at Marcum Chapter #61, Ceredo. Sister Jean Calhoun, PGM, and currently WM, along with Brother William Roberts, WP, presented Sister Katie Lou McCallister of Kenova with her 50-Year membership pin. Many of you may have already received this recognition and have fond memories of your association with your Sisters and Brothers and have made many life-long friends through your membership.

Sister Katie McCallister was initiated into Kenova Chapter #111 on May 24, 1969. Sister Betty and Brother Jack Ferguson were the WM and WP. During her childhood, Sister Katie wanted to be a Member. She was in the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls for several years. Her brother, Bernard Riggs, was a Mason; therefore, she was eligible to petition for membership. Sister Katie's husband, James W. McCallister, is a member of Kenova Lodge #110 AF&AM, Kenova. His grandmother, Sister Emma McCallister, was a Charter Member of Kenova Chapter. Due to declining membership and poor attendance, Kenova Chapter merged with Marcum Chapter on January 10, 1995. Sister Katie remained active in Chapter activities throughout the years. She fondly remembers occasions when she and several Members visited other Chapters on special occasions, such as Friendship Night and Installation of Officers. She recalls Sister Tillie Marcum, Vera Salmons, Opal Jarrell, Becky Crow and Edra Selby traveling, to name just a few.

Sister Blanche Hardwick was the installed Organist at Kenova Chapter for years, and Sister Katie played the piano when requested. Sister Katie says she could never play well but was willing to try and did her best. The last time she played was 5 years ago at Marcum Chapter. Shortly after that she suffered a stroke and has been unable to attend Chapter. Sister Katie says she is recovering but limited in her ability to be active. Recently she participated in the Installation of the new Officers at Marcum Chapter and performed well.

One thing she recalls is what Sister Tillie told her, "We are not a secret Organization but an Organization with secrets." Another thing Sister Katie expressed was how much she appreciated receiving encouraging cards from the Members; "It seemed like I received a card just when I needed one to remind and encourage me. If it were not for 50-Year Members like Sister Katie remaining active and supportive, how could we carry on this beautiful Order? As a Member, we have the opportunity to support charities with financial gifts, as well as donating our time and service.

## **BURRARD CHAPTER #3, 110 YEARS OF QUIET SERVICE**

*Daphne Keith, PM, PAGO  
Mizpah Chapter #36, Hanley, Conductress  
Langley Chapter #50, Langley  
British Columbia and Yukon*

Did you know there is a fraternal group on the North Shore that has quietly benefited the community for 110 years?

Burrard Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star is that organization contributing to the well-being of the North Shore. The Order is part of the Masonic family and it is one of the largest fraternal organizations in the world to which men and women can belong. Members are Master Masons and their female relatives.

Burrard Chapter #3 has supported many local charities and groups over the years the most recent of whom are Sage Transition House, Harvest House, Lion's Gate Hospital, food banks, women's shelters and the Legion Poppy Fund, as well as the Salvation Army.

Burrard Chapter, along with other Eastern Star Chapters throughout British Columbia & Yukon, raises funds for the BC Cancer Agency and Foundation for the purchase of equipment and research and the BC Alberta Guide Dogs for Autistic Children who provides professionally trained dogs for profoundly autistic children aged 3-10, and it supports the Order's several educational bursaries and the library at the Vancouver Cancer Clinic. The Chapter has contributed to the free 20,000,000 dressings which the Order has made since 1945 for cancer patients.

For more information regarding Burrard Chapter contact Donna, 604-922-9505.

*Courtesy of the North Shore News*

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## **ADAH CHAPTER #15 IS 100 YEARS OLD!**

*(Continued from page 52)*

We met in Garfield until October 1956 when conditions were deteriorating and Kennecott Copper Company decided to let go of their town of Garfield to build another plant.

We moved to the Union Hall in Magna for a time until a new Masonic Temple was built in Magna. The last meeting in the Union Hall was December 10, 1958. The first meeting was held in the new Masonic Temple on January 14, 1959.

Adah Chapter participated in the laying of the cornerstone on September 7, 1957, giving information pertinent to the Chapter. We were in the Magna Masonic Temple until 2013.

The history of Adah Chapter is similar, I assume, to that of all Chapters. We have had our ups and downs, but have never permitted ourselves to grow discouraged for we long ago discovered that there were more ups than downs, that while our progress sometimes seemed slow, and prospects for new Members seemed hopeless, if we could not confer Degrees and increase our membership, we could compensate for that by greater activity socially, thereby cementing the existing Membership into a closer relationship.

Since constituted, Adah Chapter has experienced many difficulties and has had its full share of problems to be solved, but each trial has been boldly met and overcome and the Chapter's progress has been ever forward, never backward.

*Compiled by Deanna Phillips, Adah Chapter #15, Midvale, Utah*

## ADAH CHAPTER #15 IS 100 YEARS OLD!

*Deanna Phillips  
2020 Grand Historian  
Adah Chapter #15  
Midvale, Utah*



Everyone gathered together at the Desert Star Banquet Room to celebrate Adah Chapter #15's 100 years old birthday on June 1, 2019.

Everyone who attended received bookmarks made by an Adah Chapter Member, a box of delicious caramels also made by a Chapter Member and an etched crystal glass. The night was filled with good food and good friends. Brother Carly Burton, PGP, did a spoof of Sister Blanche Marshall who wrote a history of Adah Chapter in 1932.

A history of Adah Chapter compiled by Sister Deanna Phillips was there to view and buy if they desired. There was also a compilation of pictures through the years of Adah Chapter Members on display.

I would like to give you a brief history of Adah Chapter #15:

Adah Chapter's history began when 23 Members of the Order residing in the Magna and Garfield areas decided they would like an Eastern Star Chapter in their vicinity. The Masonic Lodge was in Garfield, a town that has totally disappeared. It was a community owned by Kennecott Copper Company for their employees.

February 27, 1918, was set for the Institution of Adah Chapter U.D. An occasional meeting of the GC Officers was held at the Masonic Hall in Garfield on June 2, 1919, at 8:30 pm for the purpose of Constituting Adah Chapter #15.

To really understand the dedication of these people you have to understand the circumstances at that time. The world was in the midst of World War I and times were difficult. Garfield boasted an Episcopal Church, LDS Churches, a drug store, post office, mercantile, show house, library, men's club and saloon. There were only six cars in the whole town (two of them belonged to Chapter Members) and three telephones.

The only place to meet was in a hall above the saloon, "Carls." I have been told that many a Meeting night the strains of "Beer Barrel Polka" could be heard coming from downstairs. It had 52 steps to climb. The hall had a coal stove for heating, wood floors that had to be scrubbed and the fire in the stove had to be stoked. If you were too close to the stove, you were too hot; far away and you were chilly. All the food for the Meetings had to be cooked at home, dishes taken home to be washed and all paraphernalia put away. There were not any tables available so metal trays were purchased to hold refreshments and everyone sat in a circle named the "Friendship Circle." It has been told by many people that the joy of the warmth in the Chapter and the closeness of the Friendship Circle more than made up for any disadvantages, including driving the sharp turn around Dead Man's Cave as you approached Garfield.

The first few years in the life of a Chapter means an awful lot of hard work and around 1919 even more than it does today. Not only the Officers and Members had to work hard, but every member of their families, as well. The association of that hard work drew them closer together so that the memory of the joy of their association, which they shared with all comers to Adah Chapter, was a fond memory to many people. *(Continued on page 51)*

## OES IN THE BEGINNING A PAGEANT PRESENTING THE FIRST OES ORGANIZATION

*Gail C. Evarts, GGCCM Service Dogs, PGM, WM  
Good Intent Chapter #17  
South Glastonbury, Connecticut*



The Chapter Room of Good Intent Chapter #17, South Glastonbury, was nearly overflowing on Saturday, September 21, 2019, for the special presentation of “OES in the Beginning, A Pageant Presenting the First OES Organization.” Sister Gail C. Evarts, GGCCM Service Dogs, PGM and WM, organized a cast of PGMs and PGP’s, with the exception of Sister Betty T. Thompson, PM, the Chapter’s Organist, who provided the musical accompaniment.

Last performed in Connecticut about 15 years ago, the presentation depicts the organization of a Chapter in the 1800’s. Those in attendance learned a lot about the history of the Order. In the presentation, each of the Officers spoke about their Office giving extended history and background, more than what is in the current Ritual.

Noticeable differences were that the Officers gave the description of their duties rather than the Installing Officer; after the Star Points spoke of their story, their “Escort” (seated on the sidelines) told us about the color, flower and emblem of the Star Point; and there was no Sentinel in this first OES Organization. As each Star Point was conducted to her Station by the Marshal, the Soloist, Sister Jean Pudlo Spoor, PGM, graced us with a lovely appropriate song.

Making the afternoon as authentic as possible, as seen in the photo, many of the participants wore apparel of the era. Adding to the event, a sideliner was also attired for the occasion.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed “OES in the Beginning” and many remarked about the number of people in attendance. There have not been that many people in attendance at a Special Meeting in a long time.

Following the presentation, a delicious dinner hosted by Good Intent Chapter was enjoyed by all.

*Photo by William “Bill” L. Greene, WGP*

## LePLEIADI CHAPTER #17 (THE SEVEN SISTERS)

*Elda Levi, PGM*  
*LePleiadi Chapter #17*  
*Venice, Italy*



OES Chapters in Italy are called after a local heroine (as in the case of Kinzica whose story appeared in the Spring 2018 Edition), a mythological character, a Greek or Latin god or goddess or a star (in the sky, not in a movie!).

The founders of my own Chapter, now meeting in Venice, thought that only one star was not enough and looked at a list of constellations, but none satisfied them until they came across “Le Pleiadi,” The Pleiades. They liked the soft sound of the word, the idea of a plural for a group and when they looked more carefully into the characteristics of this cluster of stars, they were absolutely thrilled: The Pleiades are also called “The Seven Sisters!” And why? Not only because the brighter

visible stars in the cluster are seven, but because of an ancient myth.

Legends tells there were seven beautiful girls, daughters of Titan Atlas and the Oceanid Pleione: Maia, Electra, Taygete, Celaeno, Alcyone, Sterope, and Merope, daughters of the sea and the earth. They loved dancing (very graciously) and hunting (very bravely). They had many suitors but alas, also a persecutor, the famous hunter Orion. He chased them once and was about to catch them. Desperate, the seven girls prayed to their gods to save them. The gods listened and transformed them into seven white doves (“Pleiades” in Greek) so that they could fly away and then into seven stars. Also, in the sky they are much admired and Aldebaran (Arabic for follower), one of the brightest stars, attempts in vain to reach them as does Orion, no longer an earthly hunter but a constellation.

The Pleiades are visible from every part of the globe. In our Northern Hemispheres skies, the Pleiades cluster is associated with the winter season. Frosty November is often called the month of the Pleiades, because it’s at this time that the Pleiades shine from dusk until dawn. But you can see the Pleiades cluster in the evening sky well into April. Halloween originates from an old Druid rite that coincided with the midnight culmination of the Pleiades cluster. It was believed that the veil dividing the living from the dead is at its thinnest when the Pleiades culminates (reaches its highest point in the sky at midnight; hence ghosts and spooky figures could be seen among humans.

In Mexico, the “Pleiades” were called “The Seed Stars” because when they were at the lowest point, in April, it was the seed planting season. While it is easy to see six of the Seven Sisters located in the Taurus Constellation, Electra is the hardest to find. Legend has it that she is known as the lost Pleiad after she vanished following the fall of Troy.

In the Bible, the Pleiades are mentioned three times: Job 9:9, “He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south;” Job 38:31, ““Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?;” and Amos 5:8, “He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning and makes the day dark as night; He calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth; the Lord is His name.” (New King James Version)

But apart from all these mythological-astronomical-agricultural details, Le Pleiadi Chapter #17 in Venice, Italy, is now a group of wonderful Sisters and Brothers working for the Good of the Order, without anybody chasing us!



*Elda Levi, PGM*

## BLESSING BAGS

*Elizabeth Lashley, PGM, Grand Trustee  
Indiana*



Washington Chapter #210, District 2 of Indiana gives community oriented “Blessing Bags” periodically throughout the year. Bags include hotel sized shampoo-conditioner-soap, travel toothbrush & toothpaste (some include travel mouthwash), Chapstick, comb, tissues, gum, and razor.

To some these items may seem small and insignificant, but to those that are homeless, having personal issues, domestic problems, or not able to go to the store right after chemo or a devastating life change, these items are appreciated.

Our Chapter has given to various resources that help these individuals. On October 14, 2019, Elizabeth Lashley, PGM, took a box filled with these bags to Good Samaritan Hospital



*Courtesy of the Indiana Star-Lite Magazine* in Vincennes IN and presented to the  
Submitted by: Elizabeth Lashley, PGM, Grand Trustee

## PLAYMATES AT SIX AND NOW EASTERN STAR SISTERS

*Dottie Hardenbrook, PM  
President of Arizona Desert Stars Club  
for Billie Bradfield, RWGC  
Afton Chapter #103, Marysville, Washington  
Horizon Chapter #69 and  
Sagauro Chapter #48, Tucson, Arizona*



Playmates at age 6, Sisters Dori Delancy and Tiffney Spencer began a friendship while our families were stationed at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Now Facebook and Eastern Star have brought these two friends back together. Brother Milo and I are the proud parents of Sister Dori. We are Members of Afton Chapter #103, Marysville, Washington; Horizon Chapter #69 and Sagauro Chapter #48 Tucson, Arizona. Sister Dori is a Member of Afton Chapter. Sister Tiffney is the daughter of Sister Janet Johnson, PM, and both are Members of Elizabeth City Chapter #44, Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

In March 2018, Brother Milo, Dori and I flew back to Elizabeth City. Sister Tiffney’s Mom’s, Sister Janet, was being installed as a first time WM in Elizabeth City Chapter. We had not seen each other since 1980 and what a great time we had. Now this year, Sister Tiffney and her husband Brother Keith, flew out to Seattle to surprise Sister Dori for her birthday. Yes, Dori’s husband David pulled off the surprise well (I’m proud of you, David — you kept it a surprise for all most a whole year!). In 2020, Sister Dori and I plan to fly back to NC and visit Elizabeth City Chapter to see Sister Tiffney as she will be installed as WM for the first time, making more wonderful memories with these two young ladies.

Our Military and Eastern Star life have brought to us so many wonderful people.  
Enjoy your time together, Sisters Dori and Tiffney. Love you both.

## A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

*Joseph W. Poole, GGCCM Public Relations, PGP  
O'Fallon Chapter #487, O'Fallon  
Nunda Chapter #293, Crystal Lake  
Illinois*



"Thanksgiving Day was very special for 30 Seamen from the Naval Station Great Lakes in Chicago, Illinois. The Nunda Masonic Bodies of Crystal Lake, including Nunda Chapter #293, hosted them to a day of relaxation. Snacks, cell phones, board games, pool, shuffleboard and other activities were enjoyed by all. The Recruits were then provided a delicious Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. What a wonderful way to show our appreciation for their present and future service.

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## CHILHOWEE CHAPTER #450 SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES

*Glenda Huff, PM  
Chilhowee #450  
Seymour, Tennessee*

Chilhowee Chapter #450, Seymour, had an outstanding year in 2018. The Chapter's goal was to support several local charities and at the close of the term, our goal had been met. Some of the projects we participated in were:

—"Honor the Volunteer Fire Department Day" Attending from the Volunteer Fire Department were the Chief; Board Member, Bill Oaks; and Public Relations Chairman, Dave Foulk. All enjoyed a delicious meal and the volunteers provided information on fire safety and how we could support our local Fire Department;

—Held a rummage sale raising \$2,300 which was donated to the Christian's Reaching Out Serving Seymour (CROSS) Food Bank;

—Collected cell phones for Soldiers;

—Donated school supplies to the local school system; and

—Personal hygiene products donated to the local Women's Care Center.

As a result of all the community involvement under the leadership of our first-time WM, Sister Sandra Williams, our Chapter became better known in the community and we gained eight new Members!

For her outstanding leadership, Sister Sandra was awarded Seymour's Outstanding Person of the Year for 2018 (pictured above holding award).





# AREME CHAPTER #466 HONORS MANY

*Vickie J. Riffey, WM  
Areme Chapter #466  
Knoxville, Tennessee*

Areme Chapter #466, Knoxville, held a well-attended Honor Luncheon for 50-Year Masons and Past Masters of Masters Lodge #244, Fountain City Lodge #757 and Bright Hope Lodge #557, Knoxville. The luncheon was held on May 19, 2019. The Youth from Fountain City Assembly #56 and Fountain City DeMolay helped the Chapter serve and clean up. The Chapter was well represented with 20 Officers and Members in attendance. A big thank you to Kent Mitchell, Worshipful Master of Masters Lodge, for coordinating the luncheon. It is important for the Masonic appendant bodies to support one another. Everyone who attended enjoyed the delicious meal and fellowship.



*(L-R) Members of Masters Lodge: Ivan Brody, PM, JS; Gary Peters, PM, SW; Jason Karnes, SD; John Goans, PM, JD; Joe Anderson, Chaplain; Kent Mitchell, WM; and Matthew Jones, JW*



*(L-R) Members of Bright Hope Lodge: Robert Bean, Secretary; Michael Tesaro, SD; Doug Cook, JD; Steve Johnson, PM, JW; Kevin Boles, WM; Alvin Hammer, PM, Chaplain, Tom Testament, Treasurer*



*(L-R) Members of Fountain City Lodge: Greg Snow; George Dayspring; Steven Johnson, PM; Gary Russell; and Clyde Thompson*



*Members of Fountain City DeMolay*

*Juliana Justice, Grand Worthy Advisor, OIRG*



*Yvonne and Arthur Woods presenting Food City grocery cards to Fountain City Fire Department*



*On May 9, Lawanna Johnson, WGM, and Jim West, WGP, were greeted by snowman everywhere at their Official Visit*

*Diana T. Spurrell, PM, AM, Secretary Emeritus  
Sunshine Representative  
Palestine Chapter #114  
Newtonville, Massachusetts*

## **SERVICE STAR AWARD**

Through the Worthy Grand Matron and Patron's Circle of Friends Association Service Star Award program, we were able to recommend Sisters and Brothers who give extraordinary service to their own or other Chapters, to their community, to the Youth Organizations or any other service that deserves recognition.

At our Official Visitation in October 2019, Sister Tricia Butland, our visiting DGM, presented the Service Star Award on behalf of the Members of Palestine Chapter #114, Newtonville, to the following Sisters: Donna Penney, PM of Billerica Chapter #212, Billerica; Carolyn Greene and Susan Repucci, PMs of Tontoquon Chapter #100, Wakefield.

The above three Sisters and Honorary Members have truly become a part of our Palestine Chapter Family. They travel a great distance each month to regularly attend our Meetings. They participate as permanent Pro-Tem Officers, as Instructress, helping with collation and filling in wherever needed.

We are grateful for the Star love they show and give to us and the opportunity to honor them. They are true and faithful Sisters.



*(L-R) Tricia Butland, DGM; Carolyn Greene, PM; Susan Repucci, PM; and Donna Penney, PM*

*Photo Diana T. Spurrell, PM, SE, Grand Chapter Official Photographer*

## **TREASURING OUR PAST JEWELS**



I would first like to thank you, the Chapter Members, for your permission to do what has been a dream of mine, to preserve some OES history for both Palestine Chapter #114, Newtonville, and those that have consolidated with us, as well as that of two surrendered Chapters.

Also, a VERY BIG thank you to Brother Joseph Wooters, Jr., PP. When several years ago during a discussion on memorabilia, I mentioned this desire to him, he offered to work with me in the mounting and framing of these jewels. I think you will agree, it is a beautifully framed presentation. Again, thank you Brother Joe.

In November, Brother Joe and I presented, as our gift to the Chapter, the finished mounting of the following jewels that will be displayed in the building for all to enjoy: Palestine Chapter presented to Sisters Dorothy A. Sprague in 1913 and Dorothy K Beason in 1971; Bay State Chapter #160 presented to Sister Rosalie A. Tammick in 1967; Electa Chapter #19 presented to Sister Hazel H. Wilson in 1942; and Belmont Chapter #108 presented to Sister Eva G. Logan in 1915.



*(L-R) Diana T Spurrell, PM, and  
Joseph L. Wooters, Jr, PP*

*Photo Credit: James W. Spurrell, PP*

## CARD PARTY FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

*Karlene Sjoden, GGCCM Eastern Star Journal, PGM  
Saratoga Chapter #12  
Saratoga, Wyoming*

On October 5, 2019, Saratoga Chapter #12, Saratoga, hosted their annual thank you luncheon and card party after successfully completing the 2018 Fall/2019 Winter bridge and pinochle tournament. Saratoga residents who enjoy playing bridge and pinochle sign up each year for the tournament play. The tournaments run from October through April, with December off for the Christmas season. This gives residents, including some of our local Chapter Members, much social enjoyment and a way to give back to their community. Prizes for high and second high are given to the bridge and pinochle winners each month. Team entry and game fees are put to good use, along with other Chapter funds, providing \$1,000 scholarships to 2 deserving Saratoga High and Encampment High Schools seniors. This year, 10 pinochle teams and 2 bridge teams have signed up for tournament play.

*Saratoga Chapter Members attending were Sandra Willford, PM; Roxie Baldwin, PM; Mickey Hall, Treasurer; Teense Willford, PGP; and Karlene Sjoden, PGM*



*Photos by Karlene Sjoden, PGM*

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## SUPPORTING YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

*Helen Burgess, PM, Secretary  
Cookeville Chapter #152  
Cookeville, Tennessee*



Cookeville Chapter #152, Cookeville, was presented a generous donation from Dr's. Chakrabarty and their children to the Youth Scholarship in memory of Sister Betty Henry who was a 72-year Member. Dr's. Chakrabarty and their children make a donation every year to honor Sister Betty. Sister Betty was their neighbor for many years and was their children's American "Granny." Cookeville Chapter is pleased to support the GC's Youth Scholarship Program. Pictured above is our Chapter's WP and WM, Brother John and Sister Janice Bowlin, with the Dr.'s son, Sanjay Chakrabarty, presenting the check to Sisters Helen Burgess, Chairman, and Pam Jernigan, Co-Chairman of the GC's Youth Scholarship.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

*Judy Hall, PM, Secretary  
Grand Representative to Oregon  
McKinley Chapter #12  
Cumberland, Maryland*

Brother David Hall, WP of McKinley Chapter #12, Cumberland, and a Vietnam Veteran, presented a large tote bag of items to Jane Cooper, the nurse manager and clinic coordinator of the Cumberland Veterans Administration Clinic in Cumberland. These items were donated by McKinley Chapter Members at their recent November 2019 Meeting in honor of local Veterans to use at their coffee station.



This donation is part of Sister Chris Roby's WM Special Project "Helping Others," which is geared toward assisting local community charities and/or organizations during her term in office. Each month, a different Cumberland organization has been chosen and Members bring in needed items for that organization.

Cumberland organizations that have already been assisted this year include: the Animal Shelter; Women's Resource Center; Union Rescue Mission; Presley Ridge of Western Maryland; Philadelphia Shriners Hospital; and the Interfaith Food Pantry. To finish out the Chapter term, they will be collecting winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves in December and needed baby and children's items for other organizations in Cumberland.

*(At the end of the 2019-20 term, a total of 585 items were donated with an estimated value of over \$715 supporting 8 local charities.)*

## SUPPORTING LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL TEAM

*Brenda Williamson PM  
DeVenny Chapter #584  
Freeburn, Kentucky*



Sisters Debbie Coleman, WM; Brenda Williamson, PM; and with other Members Alice Ward, Evelyn Bilitier, Beverly Ferrell, Heather Coleman, Patty Yates and Ada Mapes of Jeanette DeVenny Chapter #584, Freeburn, had a tailgating party for the Phelps Little League Football Team. We served hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. The team and parents were all grateful for our service. Shares were sold on a basket filled with snacks and games. The winner was Cherie Hurley, a mother of four little ones. We have plans for more community volunteering in the future.



## COUNTY WEEK IN MAINE

*Corley Anne Byras, GGCCM Credentials, PGM*

*Electa Chapter #2*

*Bowdoinham, Maine*

Aroostook County is the furthest Northern County in Maine and currently has three Chapters in it. These Chapters meet the second week of each month on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and they were all in the same week in August. Nineteen years ago, Brother John Coombs who was the WGP at that time, decided that as many Members of the 2005-2006 Grand Family would visit the Chapters that week...and thus a new tradition was created. The Members in the County open their homes to their Sisters and Brothers and special meals are planned. Carrying on the tradition, on August 12-14, 2019, the Members carried on the tradition visiting the three Chapters.

Molunkus Valley Chapter #95, Sherman, meets on the second Monday of the month. They commenced the evening with a special supper for all. Sister Brenda L. Hall, WGM, and Brother David M. Cole, WGP, were in attendance. Six PGMs and three PGPs, five Elected and three Appointed Grand Officers, five DDGMs, four Grand Representatives and one Star Assistant were presented and introduced by Sister Jarice Kelley, WM, and Brother Donald McKellar, WP. Twenty-two Chapters were represented, with a total attendance of 69.



Following the close of the Regular Stated Meeting, a skit was presented by the Molunkus Valley Players assisted by the WGM and WGP. A Maine County run beauty pageant was held with the following contestants: Miss Moose, Miss County Spud, Miss Black-Capped Chickadee, Miss Lobster and Miss Wild Blueberry. The Brothers strutted their stuff and in the end, Miss Moose was crowned the Aueen of Aroostook County.

Tuesday evening found the Members visiting Tillikum Chapter #99 in Ashland with a potluck supper for 65 Members. They were joined by another PGM, a PGP and four more Grand Representatives. Sister Lisa and Brother Richard Wark, WM and WP, welcomed all with computer terms for Aroostook County and what they mean:

Online means you will have clean clothes next week; Website means high corners of the ceiling; Search engine is what you do when your car dies; Logging on makes the woodstove hotter; Monitor means keeping an eye on the woodstove; Browser means a problem moose in the garden; A hard drive is getting home in the winter; Screen means what to shut during black fly season; Modem means what you did to the weeds growing in the driveway; Screen saver is a repair kit for torn window screens at camp.

The secretary, Sister Frieda Dickinson, was brought to the East and honored by the Chapter for serving as its Chapter Secretary for almost 40 years. Sister Frieda served as WM in 1976, 1977 and 1978 prior to serving in the Southeast. She and her husband are moving to Texas soon.

The program following the Meeting consisted of several fun readings by the Sister Sheila Buckingham and jokes by her husband, Brother Leon; Brother Roy Clark, PP, told a humorous story; and Sister Hallie Baker, PM, finished the evening with a takeoff on Elvis's "All Shook Up."



The final Meeting was Wednesday night in Presque Isle at Lunar Chapter #126 with Sister Gretchen and her husband, Brother Claude Brissette, PGM and PGP, serving in the East as the WM and WP. The evening started with a barbeque for ESTARL. The Associate Matron of Lunar Chapter had her family at the dinner and explained what the Shriners had done for her small son and they showed the brace he was wearing. It was a thankful experience for all in attendance. She was very explicit on how wonderful the Shriners had treated the entire family. The evening's collection was split between cancer and the Service Dog Project.

Brother John Coombs, PGP, was escorted to the East and presented with Honorary Membership in Lunar Chapter for all that he had done over the years for the Chapter.

The evening concluded with Sister Allison and Brother Peter Roy singing several songs. The Roy's are members of Molunkus Chapter.

So until next August, County Week is a fond memory when again the tradition will continue for many of the Members of the ME Eastern Star.



## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

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



Keystone Chapter #78 in Solon, held its December Meeting on the 5th and commenced with 32 Members partaking of a potluck supper. The Members had brought donations for the local food cupboard which were mounded up on a table for all to view.

The Meeting, presided over by Sister Eleanor Pooler and Brother James Owens, PGP, had 13 Chapters represented and along with the Ritual and usual business included motions for donations to various charities.

At the close of the Meeting, several Members excused themselves to prepare for the anticipated program. While they were doing so, Sister Debra Greim, DDGM #4, played the piano with Sister Ruth Holden, PM, leading the audience in "Joy to the World", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "Silent Night."

Then the highlight of the evening began with Joseph (Robert Ward) and Mary (Linda Gray) slowly making it to the East with their new son. As they arrived, Sister Ruth Holden sang "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."



Sister Darlene Hayden served as the narrator. An angel (Sister Jerri Holt) shared her yellow light of Constancy. Mary (Sister Linda Gray) shared her light of Fidelity blue. The three shepherds (Brothers Michael Nicholas, William Merrill and Neil Hunnewell) entered with their Faithful light of green. The Wise Men (Brothers Mark Gray, Douglas Drown and Warren Noyes) entered with their white light of Loyalty.

In the West, the red light of Love was shared by Sisters Jane Ritchie, Collette Lowe, Evelyn Cookson, Paula Nicholas, Kelly Fitts and Martha Ellis.

Sister Ruth Holden concluded the pageantry by singing "Star of the East."

The program was directed by Brother James Owens and made more impressive by

Sister Midge Pomelow securing costumes from the Lakewood Theater, which is the longest running summer theater in the Nation and is located in Madison.

The evening was quite memorable and insured those in attendance had experienced what Christmas is truly about.



## MAINE'S COSTUME PARTY

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

Parties are fun and when the party benefits a special charity, they become fantastic OES gatherings. On October 5, 2019, the two Children's Dyslexia Centers in Maine (ME) were the benefactors of a costume party held in Skowhegan where \$1,800 was raised. Witches, pirates, a couple as peanut butter and jelly, Raggedy Ann and Andy and many others were there to be part of the costume judging.

Sister Paula and Brother Mike Nicholas and Sister Beverly and Brother Vincent Noonan had organized the evening that

commenced with a social time and then judging of the costumes so those needing to remove a mask could enjoy the bountiful buffet that was available.

Baskets to raffle off had been provided by the DGMs. There was a 50-50 raffle and special items had been donated for the bidding auction. Sisters Judy Hanson and Betty Jean Bachman had made a full-size quilt. A ME scene oil painting had been donated by Sister Candace McKellar. Tickets to *Titanic* had been donated by the ME State Music Theater. Sister Linda Quinn obtained a Longaberger Basket filled with local products of the Skowhegan area. These all went home with the highest bidders.

Centerpieces of baskets with fall leaves and pine cones were given to lucky winners and each table had a toilet paper pumpkin which was awarded to a Member sitting at the table with the closest birthday to our Sister Brenda Hall, WGM, who will turn a year older on February 22.

The evening closed with dancing and reminiscing about the good times we have at these gatherings.



*Bev Noonan and Paula Nicholas*



*Jon and Becky Thompson*

# **JOURNAL GUIDELINES**

[www.easternstar.org](http://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  
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410-668-5278

[OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org](mailto:OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org)

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 [OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org](mailto:OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org)
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 an acknowledgment receipt. Please check your mailbox for receipt email and review to ensure all information was submitted.**

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