

The
EASTERN
JOURNAL



STAR
www.easternstar.org



January-May 2021



Let's Travel Around The World of Eastern Star

- Alabama*
- Alberta*
- British Columbia*
- California*
- Colorado*
- District of Columbia*
- Florida*
- Georgia*
- Louisiana*
- Maryland*
- Massachusetts*
- Minnesota*
- Mississippi*
- Nebraska*
- Nevada*
- New Hampshire*
- Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island*
- Quebec*
- Tennessee*
- Washington*
- Wisconsin*
- Wyoming*

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Editions

Articles are received continuously with NO specific deadlines.

Submit articles as noted on page 46. Articles submitted via email will receive a receipt acknowledgment.

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

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

Cover artwork: Courtesy of Sister Diana Spurrell, WM, Palestine Chapter #114, Newtonville, Massachusetts



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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,

Happy Springtime to you! I hope you enjoyed a beautiful and blessed Easter with your loved ones. All my good thoughts and prayers for everyone's health and safety as the Pandemic continues to be present in our lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to be sure you are aware of the cancellation of the in-person 50th Triennial Assembly that was to have been held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 29-November 5, 2021. There were serious concerns regarding holding the Assembly because the majority of our members, nearly 80% of those who were anticipated to attend, are in the high-risk categories related to the dangers of Covid due to age and underlying medical conditions. Additionally, approximately 95% of those expected to attend would be coming from outside of the Salt Lake City area, i.e., from across the U.S., Canada and the world. One member or worker involved with the Assembly testing positive for Covid could end our meeting and cause a possible quarantine situation.

With the Triennial Assembly being canceled, conducting the necessary business of the GGC has been modified. Plans are being made to hold a limited 2-day virtual Assembly so members can "attend" the Assembly and continue to be safe. The plans for a virtual meeting will make it possible for members from all over the world to "attend" and I find this an exciting prospect! Please watch for more information about the virtual 50th Triennial Assembly. It will be held online November 3-4, 2021, and details will be made widely available in the coming months.

Elections are a very important portion of business that must be accomplished. An Elections Committee is diligently working to bring us a successful process for our elections. Installation of the new 2021-2024 Officers will take place and it is scheduled for November 4, 2021. Please watch for information about Installation from MWGM-elect Sister Glenda Winchester and MWGP-elect Brother Lon Lowry. Another piece of important business that is conducted at an in-person Assembly is the presentation and voting on proposed Resolutions. There will be no Resolutions presented or voted on at the virtual Assembly meeting. It is felt the membership and our Order will be better served when Resolutions can be addressed in person at a GGC Assembly.

I continue to admire you, my Sisters and Brothers, for your gracious, thoughtful manner of handling the challenges the Pandemic has brought to your Chapters and Grand Chapters. Eastern Stars are AWESOME! I sincerely thank you for your dedication, determination and love of our Order. This is definitely what will pull us through these unprecedented times and into a brighter future.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." Henry Ford

Keep up the good work!

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:

Please accept my sincere Greetings as we enter into the third quarter of 2021. It is hard to believe that this Triennium is only 6 months from its conclusion. It seems like only a short time ago when we were in Orlando at the 49th Triennial Assembly and were preparing for our Installation. The following 12 months were some of the most enjoyable times I have ever experienced, as we traveled to Guam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brazil, and many States and Canadian Provinces, meeting and having fellowship with so many of our Sisters and Brothers. Those memories will never be forgotten.



And then the Coronavirus Pandemic occurred and our traveling and visits suddenly came to an abrupt halt. And for the remainder of 2020 and the first half of 2021, as the Pandemic ravaged most of the Countries around the world, no traveling has occurred, and no additional traveling is anticipated for the remainder of this year. I cannot tell you how much I have missed seeing and visiting with our members in those areas to which we were unable to travel. Although our MWGM and I have stayed busy with the myriad of GGC necessary business, and we will be forever grateful for the ZOOM technology that has allowed us to conduct much of that business, it doesn't compare with personal visits. But that is life, and we must accept that these tragic events are only a part of a higher plan.

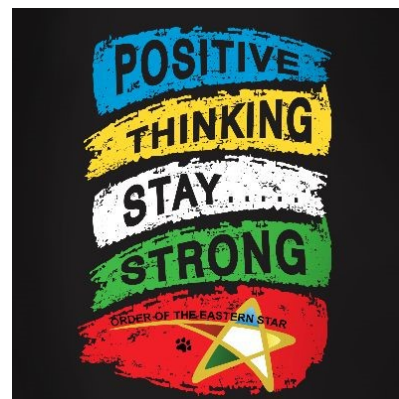
I have had people tell me that they believe that Eastern Star will never be the same after this year and one-half period of forced isolation that continues in some parts of our world even to this current day. But, Sisters and Brothers, I don't necessarily agree with that theory. Here in Texas, we are open and Eastern Star meetings and other events are being held. And those I have visited have been very well attended and the members have enjoyed the opportunity to get back to work and to fellowship with each other. In addition, those members elsewhere, with whom I visit on Zoom, express a strong desire to have our Order become active once again. So, I believe that if we resolve to work together when this Pandemic is history, our beautiful Order will be a strong and active organization as in the past.

So today, instead of preparing for a visit to Salt Lake City for our anticipated 50th Triennial Assembly and an opportunity to see and fellowship with our Sisters and Brothers from far and near, our MWGM, Sister Marianne, and I are planning for what will be a "virtual" 50th Triennial Assembly, the details of which will be forthcoming to everyone in the near future. Please watch the GGC website for upcoming information.

Sisters and Brothers, let me thank you for the opportunity to serve as your MWGP. It has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will remain always in my memory and for which I will always be grateful.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Henry S. Martin
Most Worthy Grand Patron



From the Desk of the
Right Worthy Grand Secretary

Alma Lynn Bane

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR®

The Year 2021 began with indications that it would very similar to 2020; however, with the approval of various vaccines and the concentrated efforts of scientists and national leaders, there is HOPE on the HORIZON. The Covid-19 Pandemic has made all of us re-evaluate our priorities and learn how to “think outside of the box.” I have been receiving reports of the resumption of some of our Eastern Star meetings and events. Many of these were ZOOM meetings and, in some cases, the attendance was better than the in-person meetings. Some of our members could not attend in-person meetings for various reasons, but they could “tune in” and participate. Maybe our Eastern Star fellowship could become a “hybrid” of in-person stated meetings with supplemental times of fellowship via a Zoom-type of event.

The staff at the International Headquarters have been processing the GGC 2020 Annual Reports for the Subordinate Chapters under the direction of GGC. We had to think outside of the box and developed new methods of communicating the reports necessary, as well as the delivery of items, such as Dues Receipt Cards and Charters. We now offer a PayPal option for payment of the Annual Per Capita and IH Fees, as well as invoices to our non-US Eastern Star Chapters.

Along with the Pandemic, several of our Eastern Star Chapters in British Columbia and Yukon were affected by fires started by an arsonist. I submitted a request to the MWGM and the RWG Trustees for a donation from the GGC Permanent Disaster Relief Fund to replace their destroyed record-keeping items, Rituals, Charter and other required items of one of these Chapters. Due to the items donated previously to the Legacy Project, as well as the donations to the Permanent Disaster Relief Fund, we were able to send to them the required paraphernalia for a Chapter at no charge to the Chapter.

We have an ample supply 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. Also, we have an ample supply of Rituals in Small Print Book Bound Rituals. We do **not** have a supply of the Extra Large Print Spiral Bound Rituals at this time. 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 GGC (location where there is no GC). Please place your order through your Chapter Secretary or Grand Secretary.

For the 2018-2021 Triennial, this is beginning of the third and last year and I have sent the 2018 Proceedings to the printer. If anyone would like to pre-order a copy of the 2018 Proceedings, an order form can be found on the GGC Website at <https://www.easternstar.org/triennial-assembly/>.

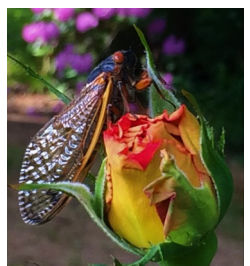
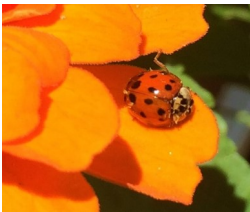
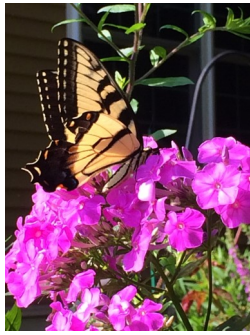
Due to the cancellation of the 50th Triennial Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah, all Resolutions submitted for consideration will be returned to the person submitting the Resolution. The Resolution may be resubmitted to the 2021-2024 GGC Jurisprudence Committee after November 4, 2021.

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that I will not be seeking re-election as RWG Secretary for the 2021-2024 Triennium. Brother Bill and I look forward to returning to our home in Granbury Texas, and the ability to spend time with our daughters and their families. Covid made us very aware of what is really important – family. This will be the third time Brother Bill and I have retired. First, from Texas A&M University System in 2007; second, from GGC-OES in 2015; and now for a third time – they say the “third time is a charm.”

TAKE CARE, STAY WELL AND KEEP HOPE IN YOUR HEART!

Fraternally,
Alma Lynn Bane
Right Worthy Grand Secretary





From the Desk of the
Editor, Eastern Star Journal
 Nancy L. Ford, PGM of MD



As I add the finishing touches to this edition for the 3rd time (yes I encountered more Laptop/phone issues and several tickets were opened with Dell and Microsoft which I hope have resolved all the crazy issues and no more uninstall/reinstall, etc., we are anticipating a stormy late afternoon/evening. It's humid and we need rain but not severe storms. As I look out the window, I am surrounded by the glory of God's beautiful world with flowers blooming, birds singing and feeding on the feeders and a baby bunny eating clover and for the moment not my flowers. I found a ladybug paying a visit bringing good luck and a colorful butterfly flitting endlessly in search of nectar. I've included a picture of a visiting cicada (trust me there were many more) with its gossamer wings and big eyes. Sometimes at night I'll search the heavens looking for Constellations and will see a visiting deer or raccoon. I revel in those quiet moments and give thanks to the Almighty for all the many blessings in my life. There is always hope and it appears we are turning the page on the Covid pandemic and will once again be able to see beautiful smiles and give hugs and handshakes, attend Church, Star meetings and activities and visit with our family and friends.

The pandemic has certainly curtailed many of the planned activities with some of our Jurisdictions being dark for almost an entire year or more and only a few articles were submitted (not enough for an edition). I thank those who continued submitting articles during our time-out period. I encourage our members to once again submit articles. There's no time limitation on articles and looking at many of the Jurisdictions' newsletters, there are plenty of articles that our members would enjoy reading. **Remember - if you can POST it, we can PRINT it!** This edition cover articles I received up through the end of May. Please take a look at page 9 for suggestions on articles, many centering on membership in our beautiful Order, and also consider submitting poetry, photos, recipes—the possibilities are endless. As I was reviewing the final version, I once again felt a myriad of emotions as I could feel the joy, sorrow, sympathy, happiness and kindness our members were expressing in their writings. Even during this trying time, our members reached out and lifted the spirits of so many through their many good deeds. Just turn the pages of this edition and enjoy reading of some of them.

A few reminders:

- 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.
- Send articles to **BOTH** emails: OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org **AND** esjeditor@comcast.net
- You should receive a receipt acknowledgment from either OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org or esjeditor@comcast.net so please check your email for said email (see sample on the following page). It is very important to keep me advised if you are not receiving this acknowledgment.
- Please 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.

My goal is to showcase each Jurisdiction and GGC Committee so I continue to call on our GGC Committee Chairman, WGMs/WGPs, Ambassadors and Deputies, Grand Representatives, WMs/WPs, our Youth and all our Sisters and Brothers to consider submitting an article. Just imagine how many editions we could post if more articles were submitted..

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. **Consider adding the link to the *Journal* (<https://www.easternstar.org/eastern-star-journal-articles/>) to your Jurisdiction's website or newsletter. Hopefully our Jurisdictions will inform our members when a new edition has been posted.**

Serving as Editor has its perks affording me the chance to cross paths with so many Sisters and Brothers from around the world. Thank you for the many chats, emails, letters, words of encouragement, criticism and kudos I have received. Now it's your turn to sit back in your comfortable chair with a piece of peach cake and sweet tea and travel around the world of Eastern Star proving our Star continues to shine brightly during this pandemic.

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

Godspeed,
 Nancy L. Ford, PGM of Maryland



"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." Mother Theresa

Let you smile be the face of our beautiful Star beaming brightly!

SAMPLE EMAIL "RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGMENT"

esjeditor@comcast.net

7/13/2020 2:26 PM

Re: Fw: Article for Eastern Star Journal

To oesjournaleditor@easternstar.org

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES TO BOTH EMAIL ADDRESSES: OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org AND esjeditor@comcast.net



Calling on ALL Members

Please continue submitting articles during this COVID Pandemic. Looking through years of past editions, it was interesting to see how the Journal has changed. Many of the past editions contained stories, poetry, recipes, photos, in addition to showcasing the good deeds of our Order; the possibilities are endless and this is YOUR Journal. Keep in mind there's no time limitation on articles. Would it not be great to read an article on every Jurisdiction? If you can post it on Facebook/Twitter or Jurisdiction newsletters, it can be posted in the Journal. Consider adding the link to the Journal to your Jurisdiction's website or newsletter <https://www.easternstar.org/eastern-star-journal-articles/>

MY BLUE HERON ***(Cover Photo)***

*Diana T. Spurrell, PM, Secretary Emeritus
Palestine Chapter #114, Newtonville, Massachusetts
Official Photographer of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts*

Now and again, we have a blue heron that will land on the beach of our cottage in Bridgton, Maine. It would usually fly off at any motion or opening of a door, etc. On this particular day, it flew in and out and then came back and decided to just walk along the shoreline, posing for my photographing as I walked along beside it. What an amazing day for someone who enjoys the camera!



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

Happy "snapping!"

“2021 50th Triennial Assembly”

“Circle of Friendship & Service Around the World”

Business Meeting: November 3, 2021

Installation of the 2021-2024 GGC Officers: November 4, 2021

While we will not be holding an in-person Assembly, all are invited to take part in our VQRJVA 50th Triennial Assembly. For more information, visit:

<https://www.easternstar.org/triennial-assembly/>



SUGGESTIONS

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

OESJournalEditor@easternstar.org

Each of us has a story to tell about our Star life. Our members would love to read them. Some suggestions but there's so many more:

- What Star means to me
- Why did I join our beautiful Order
- My favorite Office and why
- Share a special memory
- What I missed about Star when we not able to be active
- What I (or your Chapter) did during the Covid time-out period
- Let's showcase our Years of Service Recipients*
- Rob Morris Recipients*
- Mother Hen Recipients*

Remember - if you can POST it, we can PRINT it!!!!

**If you are not comfortable writing an article, please send a picture with their name, Chapter name, number and location and date award was received.*

Pat Haywood, PM
WM of Friendship Chapter #75, Vancouver
Langley Chapter #50, Langley
British Columbia



GETTING BACK TO STAR

*I am wondering when we'll get back to Star
Or will we have to stay just as we are,
We may not have a choice as to when it will be
It will affect all of us, even you and me!
The plans are ready for when we go ahead
Or will I just be at home and go early to bed
It will all depend on Covid Nineteen
This terrible virus the whole world has seen
It does not matter from where we came
All the countries are going through the same
Whether, North, South, East or West
We just have to keep doing our best
There are lots out there who don't seem to care
And to the rest of us that sure isn't fair*

SERVICE DOG COMMITTEE ACTIVE IN WISCONSIN

*Jerry Bristol, PGP
Ellsworth Chapter #116
Ellsworth, Wisconsin*

The following ads have appeared in the Wisconsin Masonic Journal (WMJ). It has been a membership outreach as the Masons and their female relatives are our primary source of new members. Also, the WMJ has made an effort to promote all of the Masonic bodies.

The primary ad dog is Peyton and is in training with Sister Jane Ward, a member of Ellsworth Chapter #116, Ellsworth. Peyton has been at our meetings when we were open.

I would like to thank Sister Jane Ward for sharing Peyton with us, Becki Lamar for the graphics and Brother Milt Helmer for the photography and the logistics with WMJ. I offer the basic designs and Becki then works her magic to create a very impressive ad.

I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

With all the turmoil in today's world, isn't it time you establish more structure in your life?

Call: 262.975.2200
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.

June 2020

I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.

Hi, I'm Peyton. I am in training to become a service dog for someone in need. I am very lovable and hope to share my loving kindness with veterans or people with physical disabilities.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Call: 262.975.2200
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.

September 2020

I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.

This is my friend Jane. She is my foster home trainer but I call her my friend. Jane is a member of Ellsworth Chapter and I go with her to their meetings.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Call: 262.975.2200
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.

October 2020

I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.

I want to thank all veterans for their service to our country. I would be proud to be of service to a veteran if she or he needs me and I can be helpful.

~ PEYTON

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Call: 262.975.2200
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.

November 2020

I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.

2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I want to wish all of the Sister and Brothers a very happy and healthy New Year. May you succeed in all of your resolutions and lose a few pounds too!

~ PEYTON

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Call: 262.975.2200
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.

January 2021

I joined Eastern Star, come & serve with me.

Sisters and Brothers love your heart!! It is the only one most folks get!! Support your Chapter heart fund, UW Cardiovascular Research Group, and other heart research organizations.

~ PEYTON

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Call: 262.975.2200
secretary.wioes@gmail.com

All Master Masons and their female relatives are eligible to join.

February 2021

GRAND CHAPTER OF GEORGIA AND "HELEN"

*Tommy Rollins, GGCCM Service Dogs, PGM
Norcross Chapter #426
Norcross, Georgia*

Dear Editor,

At Georgia's "Tree of Life Session" in 2019, we designated our next Service Dog to be named after our PMWGM, Sister Helen R. Cox. Below is a picture of that event. Since that time, Helen has grown up into a magnificent dog. Her story is attached. We would like to submit this for consideration.

Thank you, Tommy

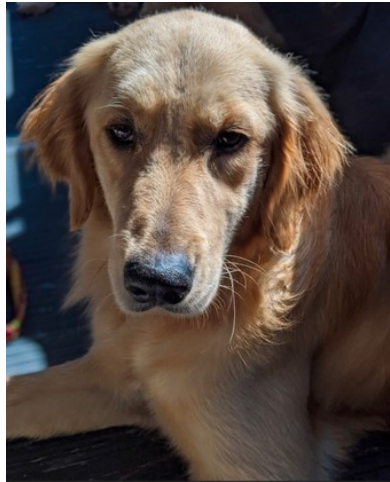


Editor's Note: Helen's story can be found on the following page.





Georgia Service Dogs Committee



HELEN

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This is a recent picture of Helen, the puppy that was named in honor of our PMWGM, Sister Helen R. Cox. Helen will be two years old on 04/22/21. She is an incredibly intelligent dog and her strengths and capabilities lie far beyond being assigned to an individual.

This is the evaluation we received from Canine Assistants:

Helen scored 98% on her Scent Perception Evaluation, the highest score recorded at Canine Assistants. Helen was the first dog at Canine Assistants to recognize the VOCs (volatile organic compounds) in the sweat of a patient infected with COVID-19. She is also the first dog to learn to differentiate odors based on concentration. Given her remarkable intellect and nose, Helen has been selected to serve as the anchor for the Medical Detection Dog Team.

Helen will be placed with a family close to the Canine Assistants' facility, or Denver Health Hospital in Denver, Colorado. She will be used to scent for bacterial and viral contaminants, such as MRSA, Influenza, and E.coli in healthcare settings. She will also be used to determine whether or not a person's VOCs differ when they have certain health concerns such as cancer, migraines, concussions, heart disease and more.

Helen has the potential to make extraordinary contributions to human healthcare. Her continuing care and education is of the utmost importance.

We are assured, that regardless of where Helen is assigned, she will represent Georgia OES and proudly wear our patch on her vest. We are so proud of her and hope you will be also.

Besides our precious Helen, who will benefit so many people, there will be another dog that will be placed with a person in Georgia very soon. Although there are no formal graduations at this time, we will let you know the name of the person and the dog as soon as we have that information. What a blessing for all of us and for the Service Dog Project!

We are so grateful to those who support our fundraisers or make donations in honor of, or in memory of loved ones and friends.

We ask God's Blessing on each one of you, that you weather the storm and stay healthy and safe.

With fraternal love,

Tommy Rollins, GGCCM Service Dogs

Elaine Wallace, State Chairman


Margaret Phillips, State Co-Chairman

Approved:


Tina Spier, Worthy Grand Matron


Jeff Sperin, Worthy Grand Patron



Attest: 

Betsy Nibeck, PGM, Grand Secretary

HERITAGE QUILTERS CLUB LUNCHEON

*Nancy L. Ford, Editor, Eastern Star Journal
PGM of Maryland, WM
Highland Chapter #33
Dundalk, MD*



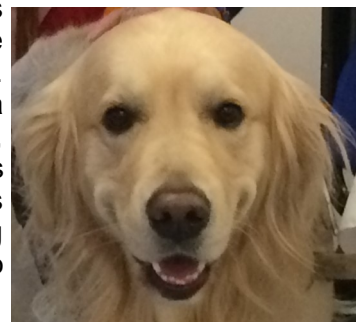
(L-R) Rick Yount, WCC Executive Director; Cooper; Nancy Ford, PGM; Randy Geck; PGP; Carol Geck, PM; with the 2015-2016 Grand Officers and Ed Ford, PP (far right)

Members, family and friends gathered for the final Heritage Quilters Club Luncheon held on December 1, 2019 at the Frederick Masonic Temple.

In Maryland, the incoming WGM and WGP form a Club during their AGM and AGP term. At the Grand Chapter Session, a luncheon is held where the AGM and AGP reveal their plans for the upcoming term. Following tradition, the outgoing Grand Officers are seated on one side of the room with the incoming on the other. During the luncheon, the outgoing Grand Officers present the travel jewels to the incoming Grand Officers along with a personal gift. The second Club luncheon is held during their term as WGM and WGP. An annual luncheon is then for the next 3 years, for a total of 6 luncheons over a 5-year period. The Officers of the Heritage Quilters Club changed things a bit and held 2 picnics in lieu of the traditional sit down luncheons. The theme of the Ford-Geck 2015-2016 term was "Celebrating the Holidays at the Starlight Inn"

and at each luncheon a different holiday was celebrated with the final luncheon's table decorations and favors celebrating all the holidays with the head table decorated for Christmas. At each of the luncheons, donations were presented to Camp Corral (the Special Project) and the Warrior Canine Connection (the Military and Veterans Committee Project), in addition to a donation to the current WGM/WGP's Special Project. We were honored several times to have as our guest speaker Rick Yount, Executive Director of the Warrior Canine Connection (WCC). Rick always brought along the "star" of the afternoon, a Service Dog who would entertain us not only with demonstrating his skills to help a struggling Veteran, but just by being a "normal, fun loving dog." At one of the picnics, Hoff was almost as tall as the table that was holding platters of fried chicken but as often as Hoff turned his head back and forth looking from Rick to the fried chicken, he never attempted to attack the food. At the final luncheon, Cooper - one of Hoff's offspring who was in training, showed off the skills he was learning. It is truly amazing how these dogs learn a minimum of 80 commands during their 2 years of training becoming the eyes and ears of their future owners, all Veterans, many suffering from PTSD. WCC is a pioneering organization that utilizes its Mission Based Trauma Recovery model to help recovering Warriors reconnect with life, their families, communities and each other. Need a pick-me-up moment? Open up WCC's website and click on their "Puppy Cam" and see these future furry warriors sleeping, playing and interacting with visitors who are exposing them to varying voice tones, differing touches and scents, all of which helps them in adapting to the world they will be experiencing with their own Warrior.

Sister Nancy Ford and Brother Randy Geck enjoyed welcoming their guests and extend a heartfelt thanks to the Club Officers, members, family and friends for the wonderful memories made at their Club luncheons. While the Club does not hold fundraisers, thanks to the Club's dues and donations from members, were we honored to have donated over \$1,000 to this worthy charity. For more information on WCC, please visit <https://warriorcanineconnection.org>



SUPPORTING YOUTH BEGINS WITH “YOU”

*Beverly Donham, GGCCM Youth Committee, PGM
Trinity Chapter #299
Omaha, Nebraska*

The GGC Youth Committee decided on a button with this logo at our first meeting in Salt Lake City. We chose not to sell these but to give them to those supporting the youth. Hopefully you have received one and are wearing it proudly in support of our youth. If you do not have a Masonic youth group in your community, get involved with the youth activities in your church and schools. Remember the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

As I sit down to write this article for the Youth Committee, the thoughts of the past year come most readily to mind. We all know the difficulties that the Pandemic has brought to each individual but also to our communities, schools, churches, workplace, Masonic Organization, family and friends. The members of the Youth Committee were asked to contact the WGM in their assigned Jurisdictions to inquire and encourage involvement in the respective youth organizations. As members, we all need to really step forward and assist in the provisions for safe activities not only for our members but also for our future members, the youth groups.

As many GC Sessions were cancelled or postponed, our youth groups have also been affected. DeMolay International celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2019 in Kansas City, the birthplace of DeMolay. In June 2020, their International Master Councilor and International Congress Secretary were virtually installed, as was the June 19, 2021 Installation.

Job’s Daughters International planned to celebrate their 100th anniversary in Omaha, Nebraska, the home of their founder in July, but alas, due to Covid-19 restrictions, this was not to be. Their Supreme Sessions were held virtually on July 26-August 1, 2020.

The virtual Supreme Assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls was held July 24-27, 2020 with business sessions and activities for those attending. The next Supreme Assembly will be held in Oklahoma City in July 2022 as they celebrate their 100th anniversary in Oklahoma where it first began.

It was a pleasure to be able to attend and see the participation of adults and youth from their homes.

The younger generations are very efficient in modern technology. Many have attended school only by remote learning all year. In some Jurisdictions, because they were unable to meet in person, the youth groups held social games and activities, Installation of Officers and some meetings virtually.

I do not know if you are familiar with Garth Brooks, American singer and song writer’s song, “The River” but the words of this song have a lot of meaning in our everyday life and the separation that the past year has caused for all of us.

You know a dream is like a river
Ever changin’ as it flows
And a dreamer’s just a vessel
That must follow where it goes
Trying to learn from what’s behind you
And never knowing what’s in store
Makes each day a constant battle
Just to stay between the shores...and

I will sail my vessel
‘Til the river runs dry
Like a bird upon the wind
These waters are my sky
I’ll never reach my destination
If I never try
So I will sail my vessel
‘Til the river runs dry

Too many times we stand aside
And let the waters slip away
‘Til we put off ‘til tomorrow
Has now become today
So don’t you sit upon the shoreline
And say you’re satisfied
Chose to chance the rapids
And dare to dance the tide..... and...

SUPPORTING YOUTH BEGINS WITH “YOU”

(Continued)

Our dream is to get our lives, our Chapters and the youth organizations back to “normal.” We cannot just “sit upon the shoreline and say we are satisfied” but we must “choose to chance the rapids” and when we can, jump right in and get our Chapters and youth vibrant again. There has been some “rough water” but with the love and support of all of our fraternal family, we can overcome and return the enthusiasm and love to our Orders.

The Committee has looked forward to meeting everyone during the “Circle of Friendship and Service Around the World” Triennial Session in Salt Lake City but sadly this has been cancelled. We take this opportunity to thank MWGM, Sister Marianne Shenefeldt, and MWGP, Brother Henry Martin, for our appointments to the Youth Committee. Please remember to keep the MWGM, MWGP and all members and youth around the world in your thoughts and prayers.



Left
International Master Councilor
Cade Lowrance of Tennessee was
installed as the 55th International
Master Councilor in Dallas, TX on
June 19th, 2021.



Right
International Congress Secretary
Andrew Caster of Southern California



Gabriella Sbhq
Supreme Bethel Honored Queen



Celine Freetage, Junior Past Grand Worthy Advisor in Ohio, had the honor of serving as Acting Supreme Worthy Advisor for the 2020 Virtual Session of the Supreme Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.



Maia Garcia
Miss International Job's
Daughters

UNFORGETTABLE IMPACT ON THE JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL YEAR

*Karen Woodring
Highland Chapter #33 (Dundalk)
Grand Librarian
Bethel Guardian #17
Glen Burnie, Maryland*

Job's Daughters International's 100th year anniversary was in 2020. Everyone, especially those who had not been to a Supreme Session in a long time, was looking forward to attending such a spectacular and historic occasion. We would have met hundreds of our Jobie Sisters and friends from the United States, Canada, the Philippines and Brazil during that short week. It would have been a memorable and fantastic week for everyone. The Board of Trustees sent a letter to all Jurisdictions at the end of April regarding the Pandemic and gave us guidelines on how to conduct our Bethels. All Constitutions and Bylaws were suspended, and all CDC health and safety requirements were to be followed. Everyone was quarantined, as you are well aware, therefore; our meetings and activities had to be conducted remotely.

It took some time to get used to seeing one another through the computer screen, but our members were able to visit Bethels all across the Jurisdictions. Delaware and Maryland (DelMar) Daughters "traveled" to each other's meetings, fun events, Installations and even Initiations. These events allowed the girls to keep in touch, see each other, and take a break from online school and isolation.

The Job's Daughters Centennial Celebration scheduled for March 22, 2020 was rescheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2020. We started it off with our Devotional Service at the Grand Lodge Chapel and had a Festive Board. It was a wonderful event that was well attended by Job's Daughters, Masons, DeMolay and other Masonic bodies. Our organization has lost wonderful and caring past



members during the Pandemic. We honored them as a collective group during our annual Neurology Ceremony and individually at Bethel Memorial Services. In our Jurisdiction alone, we had 18 losses, including non-members who were family of members of our Jurisdiction.

My eldest daughter, Caroline, was crowned as the Grand Bethel Honored Queen of DelMar in November. Fortunately, despite the coronavirus restrictions, the Grand Bethel was able to hold a hybrid in-person and virtual Installation. Sadly, most of her meetings were held virtually, without any fun activities.

This past spring, my other daughter, Maggie, was installed as Grand Bethel Honored Queen. She was installed virtually by her sister, along with the Officers and representatives of the Grand Bethel of DelMar.



UNFORGETTABLE IMPACT ON THE JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL YEAR

(Continued)

As more restrictions are being lifted, we hope her term will be filled with fun events and in-person meetings. As Bethel Guardian of Bethel #16 in Glen Burnie, Maryland, I ensured that our Bethel remained active, regardless of the challenges we faced. Countless fun activities and meetings were held virtually on Zoom, as well as virtual fundraisers for our Bethel, Shriners Hospitals for Children in Philadelphia, Anne Arundel Animal Shelter, the HIKE Fund Inc., and many more.



Although 2020 was full of uncertainty, the Bethel adult volunteers remained confident that for the Daughters, this too shall pass. Just like in the story of Job where he remained steadfast against the trials by the adversary, we march forward into the new year full of optimism, courage, and faith that 2021 will make us more resilient, ambitious, mindful, and most of all, open to any challenges that may lie ahead.

WHO'S THAT KNOCKING ON MY ZOOM WINDOW!

*Marty Andrews, Grand Warder
Diablo Star Chapter #178
Orinda, California*

On February 20, 2021, Sister Brenda Jones, Worthy Grand Warder and PGM of Virginia, and the Grand Warders of various Jurisdictions met virtually on Zoom. It was a real international affair with 17 Sisters and Brothers participating, including the Grand Warders of Bolivia, Italy, Alberta and Quebec. We started at 12 pm California time, and because of all of the time zones around the world, it was 9 pm in Italy!

We had a great time visiting and enjoyed finding out what the other Jurisdictions were doing during the Pandemic. I was very pleased to have Sister Brenda join us and get to know some of her Grand Warders around the world.

I would like to thank all of the Jurisdiction Grand Secretaries for their help in getting names and emails of the Grand Warders, as well as Sister Tammy Kinzy, Grand Secretary of California; OES friend Sister Cyntra Giboney; and my escort, Brother Martin Carlson, for their support.

Hopefully we can have another Zoom get-together in the future and more Grand Warders will join our fabulous social time.

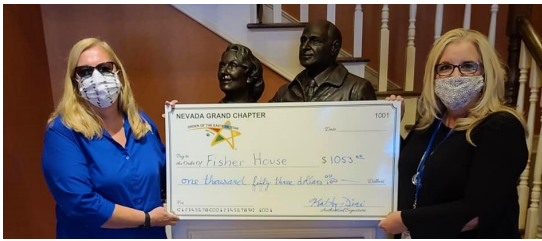


*(First Row) Tammy Kinzy, Grand Secretary of California; Jaimee McCullough, New Mexico; Marty Andrews, Grand Warder, and escort Martin Carlson, California; and Ruth Wrigley, South Carolina
(Second Row) Terry Frisbie, Iowa; Charlie Conroy, Wyoming; Marla Barber, Ohio; Earlene Viehland, Missouri; and Peg Escapule, Arizona
(Third Row) escort to Orville Olson, Grand Warder - Anna Olson, Wisconsin; OES Friend Cyntra Giboney, California; Herbert Carr, Colorado; Debbie Westerman, Kansas; and Rebecca Clay, North Carolina
(Fourth Row) Sheila Johnson, Alberta; Lourdes Echalar, Bolivia; Brenda Jones, WGWarrior, Virginia; Baldo Benigno, Italy; and Louise Smith, Quebec*

NEVADA GRAND CHAPTER CHARITABLE DONATIONS PRESENTED DURING THE PANDEMIC

*Jim Hoff, WGP
Esther Chapter #3
Carson City, Nevada*

Nevada Grand Chapter recently presented several donations to our favorite charities. We would normally make these donations at our Grand Chapter Session but as that was cancelled this year, we did them in person.



**Fisher House
Las Vegas
\$1,053**



**11/12/20
Lou Ruvo Brian Health
Las Vegas
\$6,200**



**11/11/20
Michael's Angel Paws
Las Vegas
\$3,208**



**12/2/20
Veteran's Guest House
Reno
\$2,476**



**12/2/20
Northern Nevada Children's
Cancer Foundation
Reno
\$5,122**



**11/15/20
Food For Thought, Carson City
\$1,522**

MINNESOTA GRAND CHAPTER HOLDS ONLINE AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CANCER PROJECT DURING PANDEMIC

*Kathie Brown, AGM
Acacia Chapter #272
St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

In the challenging year of 2020, we kept some things that had been planned on the Grand Chapter calendar, but ultimately, all had to be cancelled for the safety of our membership. Our cancer project supports the OES Scholar at the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota. We normally hold a dinner event to support this project which was also to include a DJ, games and a silent auction to generate funds. When the November event had to be cancelled, we decided to hold an online silent auction. We used the website charityauctionstoday.com. Item descriptions and photos were on the dedicated website, the amount raised was shown in real time on the site, bidders received a text if they were out bid and at the end, the site generated invoices to the winners. The fee to use this website was 5.7%. We also decided to cover the Pay Pal fees (approximately 3%) rather than pass that along to the winners. We were very happy with how the site functioned and their customer service.

The auction was open from November 26-30, 2020. Thirty items were donated for bidding and there were 49 bidders. There was a variety of items from a fishing trip to a hand-crocheted afghan to gift cards to many baskets put together by members and more. Of course, not all bidders were the final buyers. There were 17 final bidders. Brother Jim Bjostad, AGP, I and the members of the Auction Committee took care of getting the items won to the winners. A big thank you goes to all the donors and all those bidders.

The net proceeds from the sales were \$2,244.20. In addition to the sales, there were donations given and several were in memory of OES Sisters. This total equaled \$1,825. The grand total as of December 11 was \$4,069.20.

This was a very successful event and we are so happy we could do something in this challenging year. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work of several people. The event was co-chaired by Sisters Bobbie Lampi and Judy Whiteman, part of the 2004-2005 Grand Family of which I was also a member. When I asked them to do this, we had no idea this would end up being online. Grand Treasurer, Brother Michael Powles, set up a Grand Chapter Pay Pal account which was more complicated than anticipated. Sisters Kim Bilyk from my Chapter setup the auction website and input all the items and Julia Tollgaard did such a good job of publicizing the auction by email and on Facebook.



MASSACHUSETTS CHARITY CHALLENGE

*Michael Podymaitis, PGP
Tontoquon Chapter #100
Wakefield, Massachusetts*

Covid 19 turned our Eastern Star world upside down. The separation of our Sisters and Brothers from our normal social enjoyment was hard for all of us.

Sister Judith Podymaitis, WGM of Massachusetts 2019-2021, worried that the members would grow apart in this difficult time. So she, along with her WGP, Brother David Frizzell, came up with the idea of issuing a Charity Challenge to all the Chapters. They were to come up with innovative ways to support charities in their communities despite the challenges of the Pandemic.

The results were a fantastic success, as well as bringing the members of 45 Chapters together in a common cause. They were able to donate to 89 different charities, such as Food Banks, Animal Shelters, adopting families, Salvation Army, homeless shelters, as well as many other local charities.

Monetary donations were given as well, totaling \$16,070.35, and with all the food and other donations that were made, were triple that amount.

We are very proud of our WGM and WGP, as well as all our Sisters and Brothers who worked so hard to make this Charity Challenge a huge success.

Excerpts from the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts website: Mass OES News

—Palestine Chapter supports the Salvation Army Waltham Corps TO-GO MEALS PROGRAM

As of October 22nd three deliveries of meals and soup containers have been made

—Wistaria Chapter is supporting the WESTWOOD FOOD PANTRY

—Mt. Carmel is supporting the NR FOOD PANTRY by collecting donations October - December

—Franklin Chapter is supporting the ADAMS ALERTS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT and local churches to collect items for care packages

—Naomi Chapter is supporting an ANGEL FAMILY this Christmas through the First Baptist Church in North Adams

—Brockton Chapter is supporting the EPILEPSY FOUNDATION

—Braintree Chapter is supporting the SALVATION ARMY QUINCY CORPS ADOPT A FAMILY



“Do things for people not because of who they are or what they can do in return, but because of who you are.” Mother Theresa

FLORIDA PGM AND PGP RETREAT

*Betty Joann Green, GGCCM, PGM
Chairman, Eastern Star Journal
Winter Haven Chapter #174
Lake Alford, Florida*



On September 25-26, 2020, the PGMs and PGPs of Florida got together for their 14th Annual Retreat at the Renaissance World Golf Resort in St. Augustine.

Friday evening everyone gathered for a pizza party and gab fest at the Hotel, so glad to finally get to see each other after so many months at home in lock down.

Florida retreats are sponsored by the PGM and PGP Association and are not a part of Grand Chapter. They were started in 2006 by Sister Charlene Williams, who was WGM at the time, and they have since been extremely popular with the PGMs and PGPs.

During the year if problems come up, as they always do in different areas of the State, and if it is felt that all need to be alerted, this is put on the agenda for discussion. The retreat gives us a chance to go over many of the programs that we may chair and get help from our peers for solutions to improve them. All opinions and suggestions are considered. It is never personal, just constructive.

We all go home with a feeling that we have accomplished something that will improve and help our Order. We all went home glad that we had come, happy that we would gather again on the third weekend of September 2021 and do it all again.

INTERNATIONAL GRAND TREASURERS ASSOCIATION

*Sarah Norris, PGM
Grand Treasurer Emeritus
President, International Grand Treasurers Association
Harmony Chapter #53
Cheyenne, Wyoming*

The International Grand Treasurers Association (IGTA) was formed for the purpose of exchanging ideas and strengthening fraternal fellowship among Grand Treasurers and Past Grand Treasurers. The Association seeks to promote social relationships between its members and to inspire a love for the principles of the Order of the Eastern Star.

All duly installed Grand Treasurers and former Grand Treasurers of Grand Chapters recognized by GGC are eligible for membership. Currently dues are \$6 per Triennium. A meeting of the Association is held every 3 years at the location of the GGC Assembly. The business session is preceded by a breakfast held jointly with the International Grand Secretaries Association.

The first President of the Association was Sister Rose Malcolm from Indiana. She served from 1946-1949. There have been Presidents from 16 States and 1 Canadian Province since then. Sister Pacia Brown of Florida served as President from 1991 – 1994. She wrote an installation ceremony for the Association which is still being used.

Current Officers of the Association are: Sisters Sarah Norris, President; Marilyn Mitchell, Vice- President; Lorrie Owens, Secretary/Treasurer; and Pam Brhel, Chaplain. Here's some information about our Officers.

President Sarah Norris, PGM of Wyoming

Sister Sarah retired from the medical profession after working for nearly 50 years. She is a member of Truth Chapter #262 in Kimball, Nebraska, for over 57 years and a dual member in Mizpah Chapter #36 (now Harmony Chapter #53 in Cheyenne, Wyoming) for 32 years and served as WM twice and was installed for a third time in June 2021. Sister Sarah served as Secretary of Mizpah Chapter for 10 years and President of the Grand Chapter Secretary/Treasurers Association.

Sister Sarah served as Grand Ruth, Associate Grand Conductress, Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Matron. She was elected Grand Treasurer and served from 2003 thru 2012. She was appointed by Sister Barbara Benton, PMWGM, to serve on the GGC's Eastern Star Journal Committee.

Vice-President Marilyn Mitchell, PGM of Ontario

Sister Marilyn retired from an accounting firm where she was employed for 36 years and continues to do accounting for 5 churches. She has been a member of Adah Chapter #276 in Dutton, Ontario, for 44 years and served as WM 5 times.

Sister Marilyn has served as Grand Ruth, Grand Treasurer from 1991-1995 (she was elected Associate Grand Matron in 1995), Acting Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Matron. She served on GGC's Jurisprudence Committee for Sister Pat Rasmussen, PMWGM.

Secretary/Treasurer Lorrie Owens of Texas

Sister Lorrie owns her own CPA practice. She retired from being a corporate controller and IRS agent for 21 years. She was Grand Treasurer of Texas from 2009-2017. She has served as Deputy Grand Matron, District Deputy Grand Matron and Grand Adah.

Sister Lorrie has served as WM in various Chapters near Dallas and San Antonio a total of 13 times.

INTERNATIONAL GRAND TREASURERS ASSOCIATION

(Continued)

Chaplain Pam Brhel of Nebraska

Sister Pam is retired from the State of Nebraska after serving as an accountant for 32 years. She has been a member of Blue River Chapter #132 in Milford for 40 years. She has been WM 4 times and Chapter Treasurer for 19 years.

Sister Pam was Grand Treasurer from 2009-2017 and holds the title of Grand Treasurer Emeritus. Currently she is serving as a Grand Trustee.

The \$6 the members pay for dues goes for the cost of breakfast and a monetary gift for the RWGTreasurer. The International Grand Secretaries Association (IGSA) and IGTA split the cost of the breakfast tickets and monetary donations for the MWGM and MWGP.

The dues also cover the cost of a plaque or Past President pin for the outgoing IGTA President if they choose to have one. If they choose not to have a plaque or pin, the leftover funds remain in the IGTA general fund.

Unfortunately, we will not have a GGC Assembly meeting as planned in Salt Lake City this fall; however, if you are interested in becoming a member of this Association, please contact Lorrie at jlo67hogs@aol.com or Sarah at OESsarah@aol.com. We hope all past and present Grand Treasurers will consider joining.



51 YEAR MEMBER RECEIVES GRAND REPRESENTATIVE COMMISSION TO NATIVE COUNTRY

*Oscar Abshire, PGP
Lafayette Chapter #46
Lafayette, Louisiana*



Donna Harrist, WGM, presenting a Grand Representative Commission to Marilyn Lawson

Little did Sister Marilyn Lawson, PM, know when she came to America from Scotland in November of 1969 that she would be returning to her native homeland as the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland's Grand Representative in Louisiana.

Sister Marilyn was initiated into Drumchapel Chapter #568 in Scotland in April of 1969, where she has a Lifetime membership. She married Larry Lawson, who was stationed at RAF Edzell with the U.S. Navy, in May of 1969. Larry, who is a Mason, is a rice and crawfish farmer in Crowley.

After arriving in America, she joined the local Chapter in Crowley in 1970. Sister Marilyn, a devoted member, is currently serving as Associate Matron in Lafayette Chapter #46, the Chapter with which Crowley Chapter later merged.

When Sister Donna Harrist, WGM, learned that she would be selecting a Grand Representative for the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, she knew exactly who the best choice would be. Then on Thursday, September 10, 2020, after many months of waiting on the Commission to arrive and meetings to resume, she presented Sister Marilyn with her appointment.

We are proud of Sister Marilyn and anxiously await an exciting report of her next visit to her homeland.



Flag of Louisiana



Flag of Scotland

*Suzanne Stafford, PM
Long Beach Chapter #51
Long Beach, Mississippi*

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENT
MISSISSIPPI IN CALIFORNIA**



At the March 16, 2021, stated meeting of Long Beach Chapter #51, Long Beach, Mississippi (MS), Brother Larry McVey, WGP, presented Sister Suzanne Stafford, PM, with a commission and badge for Grand Representative of California in MS. Sister Johnnie Sue Ford, WGM, was not able to attend the meeting but sent congratulations. The appointment presentation had been delayed due to COVID.

(L-R) Sandra McKelvy, WM; Suzanne Stafford; Larry McVey, WGP; and Kevin Rapier, WP



Flag of Mississippi



INITIATION OF BROTHER LOGAN JOHNSON

At a special meeting on March 24, 2021, Long Beach Chapter #51, Long Beach, Mississippi, the Officers were pleased to initiate Brother Logan Johnson.

Brother Larry McVey, WGP, assisted by presenting some of the lectures. Brother Logan is a member of Southern Star Lodge #500, Long Beach.



(L-R) Sandra McKelvy, WM; Logan Johnson; and Kevin Rapier, WP

QUEBEC MEMBER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS AND RECEIVES GREETINGS FROM THE QUEEN

*Brenda Shaw-Radford, PGM
Victory Chapter #34
Hemmingford, Quebec
Quebec Correspondent for the Eastern Star Journal*



Sister Helena Lengacher is a member of Owl's Head Chapter #35 in Mansonville, Quebec. Recently Sister Helena celebrated her 100th birthday with greetings from Queen Elizabeth II. Sister Helena was thrilled to receive the card and best wishes from her Majesty. Her family held a party for her. Due to the Covid virus, it was a much smaller party than originally intended. The family welcomed cards and letters of congratulation for Sister Helena.

Sister Helena was born in Waterland, Belgium, on September 6, 1920, just towards the end of another Pandemic – the Spanish Flu. She arrived in Canada as a War Bride in September 1946, having married Brother Fred A. Lengacher, PGP, who was a Sergeant in the Canadian Military. They had 7 children, 30 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Sister Helena continues to be healthy

and lives independently in her own home. Her home is the same one that her late husband, Brother Fred, built for her more than 70 years ago.

She was 19 years old when War broke out. She was spared her life by the Germans because she could speak many languages so they used her as a translator. When the Allies were breaking through, the Germans destroyed the dykes and flooded the town. Sister Helena and her father were hiding in a bombed-out cellar as they tried to stay clear of the retreating Germans. The water was rising, and they had given up hope of surviving when they heard soldiers approaching. The door to the cellar opened and someone asked, "Is there anyone down there?" Eventually, Sister Helena answered and the soldier said he was a Canadian and had come to liberate them. Later the same soldier wanted to chat with her but she did not pay too much attention to him. The troops moved further and further away from their home but that one Canadian soldier kept coming back every time he had a chance. Of course, you must have guessed by now that the Canadian Soldier was Sergeant Fred S. Lengacher. To read Sister Helena's full story of the war years in Belgium, her love story and her emigration to Canada, go to the Website for Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

<https://pier21.ca/walls/Service/helenalengacher>

Sister Helena's daughter Laura told me how immensely proud of her they are and that she is an inspiration to everyone who knows or meets her. She received close to 200 cards, notes and letters. Some were from complete strangers who had read her story on the Pier 21 website and were moved by her leap of faith in coming to this beautiful Country that they call home.



*Top (L-R) Helena and her daughter
Laura
Middle (L-R) Christine, David and
James
Bottom (L-R) Steph, Celina and
Larry*

CANADA'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTES' WOMAN OF THE YEAR IS FROM QUEBEC!

Louise Smith
Cowansville Chapter #17
Knowlton, Quebec



Former Cowansville resident, Sister Evelyn Beban Lewis, age 99, was the recipient of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada's 2020 Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award. Candidates were submitted from across Canada, and Evelyn was chosen. She was supposed to receive the accolades and the certificate at the Quebec Annual Convention of Women's Institutes in June 2020. Due to Covid19, the Convention was cancelled. Rather than wait to see if there will be an annual convention in June 2021, the certificate and well wishes were sent to Evelyn's new residence in Kirkland. Joan Holthe, the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, sent an accompanying letter of congratulations. Joan was to have been at the June 2020 convention to have given Evelyn her award. Covid19 changed all that. When the Montreal area lowers its colour zone, several members of the Fordyce Branch of the Women's Institutes of Quebec (which meets in Cowansville) will go to visit Evelyn to partake of cake and tea as an additional homage to this remarkable woman.

Evelyn was nominated by her Women's Institute Branch (Fordyce) along with three accompanying testimonial letters. She was nominated for many reasons.

Evelyn was a dedicated teacher for many years at Cowansville High School which later became Heroes' Memorial School. She derived great joy from teaching and she bolstered the self-esteem of her students. After she retired, she volunteered for many years, until her seventies, as a music teacher for the Kindergarten classes at Heroes' Memorial. She has supported various end of the school yearbook prizes. She was a founding member of the Heroes' Memorial Bursary Fund, helping to support students who attended Heroes' Memorial in their post-secondary studies.

She has been an active member of Cowansville Chapter #17 for 70 years. Up until 2 years ago, she has held an office for each of the 15 years prior to that. She served as WM in 1953.

Evelyn was a very active member of the Trinity Anglican Church in Cowansville. She was a member for her entire time of living in the town. She took on many roles as a member of the Church and was a backbone of the Church.

She has been a member of the Women's Institute for over 60 years. Evelyn was always on hand to be of help. She was in charge of communications and she wrote monthly articles about the Women's Institutes, both her branch and beyond, for the Sherbrooke Record. She also wrote about OES for the Sherbrooke Record, too, until about 2 years ago.

For her whole life, Evelyn has supported and promoted women's issues and various organizations in the Townships. She is a wonderful role model for what a professional woman can achieve during her career time and afterwards as a volunteer for her community. On top of this, Evelyn successfully raised a happy family.

With a profile such as this, it is no wonder that Evelyn Beban Lewis was selected as Canada's Woman of the Year. Congratulations!



(L-R) Janet Patch WGM; Donna Mitchell, WM; Evelyn Lewis, PM; Norman Cook, WP; and Robert Weidner, WGP

HONORING OUR 103 AND 100 YEAR-OLD MEMBERS RECEIVING THEIR 60 AND 80 YEAR CERTIFICATES



My name is Pati Sawyer Boex. I am the Fraternal Relations Director at the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus, in Denver, Colorado. Here is an amazing story about two of our residents.

Lillian Rogers turns 100 and receives her 80 year certificate and pin

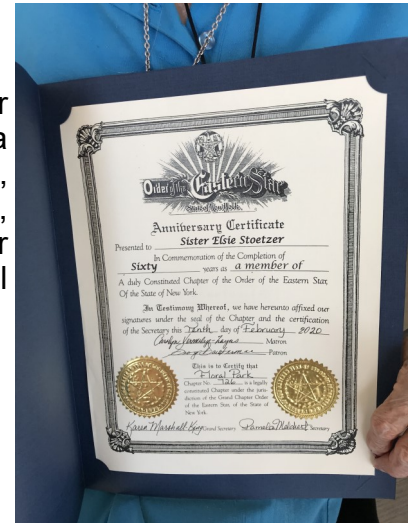
(L-R) Cheryl Williams, AGM, and Anna Peterson , WGM Sisters Elsie Stoetzer and Lillian Rogers

On August 18, 2020, we celebrated not only Sister Lillian Rogers turning 100 years old, but she also received her 80 year membership pin from the Order of the Eastern Star, sent to us from the Grand Chapter of New York, Owasco Valley Chapter #330. As far as any records show, Sister Lillian is the only one in Colorado and New York to have ever received this grand honor.



Elsie Stoetzer, 103 years young, receives her 60 year certificate and pin

Not to be out done, Sister Elsie Stoetzer, who is a youthful 103 years old, received her 60 year pin, also from New York. Sister Elsie is a member of Floral Park Chapter #726.



RACHAEL WHITNEY RECEIVES HER 75 YEAR PIN ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

*Patricia C. Darby, PGM and WM
Jessamine Chapter #75
Gardner, Massachusetts*



Sister Patricia Darby, PGM 2015-2016 and WM of Jessamine Chapter #75 in Gardner, Massachusetts (MA), presented Sister Rachael Whitney with her 75 year pin on April 26, 2021, her 100th birthday.

Sister Rachael was initiated on December 8, 1942, in Windham, Maine (ME), which means that she is really a 79 year member. She attended Sargent College in Cambridge which is now part of Boston University. She holds a Physical Education degree and a certification in Physical Therapy. Rachael is in excellent health and participated in several of the online fundraisers that Jessamine Chapter held this past year. Sister Rachael served in the Army and was sent overseas as a Physical Therapist and served in England and Germany. Her husband served in the Navy, and they had four children, three daughters and one son. Two daughters live close by, one lives in Florida and the son lives with her. When she and her husband lived in Winchendon, MA, they both attended the former Faith Chapter #129. She later affiliated with Jessamine Chapter on December 1, 1979. In the picture, you can see a vase of lovely large and small carnations in the Star Point colors given to Sister Rachael on her birthday from Jessamine Chapter. She recently appeared on the front page of the Gardner News in a large photo showing her receiving the Boston Post Cane in recognition of being the oldest resident of Ashburnham. The cane tradition began in 1909 when the publisher of the former Boston Post newspaper, Edwin Grozier, designed 700 walking sticks with heads made of 14-carat gold and each engraved with the name of a town in New England, with the request that they be given to each community's oldest resident. She also received a citation from State Senator Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, at the ceremony. Sister Rachael, who is a member of Ashburnham Community Church, said she enjoys spending time with her family and working on a variety of puzzles to keep her mind sharp. She has lived in Ashburnham since 1955. During Sister Pat's delightful visit, she asked Sister Rachael about her mother who passed away at 92 and was informed that her Mother had two sisters, one who lived to be 100 and one was 102, so it seems that it must be in the genes. Sister Pat asked what her secret to longevity was and she replied: "I have no idea. I never smoked or drank. Just put one foot in front of the other and keep on doing."

Sister Pat organized a card shower for her in MA, as well as in ME. Sister Rachael was so surprised and honored to be receiving so many cards.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Jessica MacLennan, WM
Celtic Star Chapter #19
Blue Hills, Nova Scotia*

*Sister Miriam Munroe receiving her
70 Year Jewel*

*(L-R) Beth Brett, AGM; Miriam Munroe;
Jessica MacLennan, WM; and Shane
MacFarlane, AGP*



Celtic Star Chapter #19, Blue Hills, Nova Scotia, had the pleasure of presenting Sister Miriam Munroe with a 70 year jewel on October 3, 2020. Sister Miriam joined the former Dr. Gordon MacLeod Chapter #37 70 years ago and served in several Offices. She has seen many changes in Chapter protocol during her membership. Her original Chapter consolidated with Victoria Chapter #19 in Baddeck and Starlight Chapter #66 in Port Hawkesbury, making her a Charter member of Celtic Star Chapter #19. The presentation was made by Sister Beth Brett, AGM, and Brother Shane MacFarlane, AGP.

50 YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE

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



*(L-R) Iris Newman; Darlene Amirault, WGM; and
Wilma Verge, PGM, who was serving as the WM*

Sister Iris Newman joined OES in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Amethyst Chapter #28 in January 1969. Sister Iris started taking an Office not long after. Over the span of 50 years, she has held all five Star Points, Chaplain, all the Line Officers and found herself as WM in 1976-77, and then served as Secretary for 25 years until both Amethyst and Emerald #58 Chapters combined as one in 2013 forming Evening Star Chapter #28. Sister Iris served on Catering, Publicity and Phone Committees (she is still serving on this one). She was a Grand Representative to New Brunswick in 1992-1993 and to Alabama in 2008-2009. She also served as a Grand Chapter Committee Member on Publicity and was fortunate to have travelled to the Grand Chapter of New Brunswick in Bathurst and our Grand Chapter yearly.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS AS A DEVOTED MEMBER

*Clara Wampler, PGM
Federal Chapter #38
District of Columbia*



*Ellen S. Balko
WGM 1982-1983*

Sister Ellen S. Balko, PGM, not too long ago, received her 70 year service pin and certificate. She celebrated with Federal Chapter #38 members in the District of Columbia for her long and dedicated experience in our beautiful Order.

She, along with her three sisters and one sister-in-law, joined this very active Chapter at the same time. Sister Ellen has served in many Chapter Offices, including WM in 1955, 1970, 1973, 1991, 1995, 1997, 2002, 2006 and 2010. When asked to become a Grand Officer Star Point in 1968, she did not hesitate to accept the challenge. She was honored to receive a Grand Representative Commission on several occasions.

Sister Ellen joined the Grand Line in 1979 and became WGM in 1982, sharing the East with long-time friend Brother Sherwood Dameron.

Her Grand Chapter Association, formed in 1982, "The Peacemakers," has been going strong ever since. Once a year, we all meet for her "Christmas in July" event, the longest active Association in this Grand Chapter.

She also served several times on GGC Committees and as Ambassador to New Jersey.

Sister Ellen now serves as Chapter Treasurer and has for several years. She exhibits a witty and clever personality while keeping a cool head and when asked, offering sage advice.

Congratulations, Sister Ellen. You are loved by so many Sisters, Brothers and friends around the world. Keep up the good work!

Editor's Note: I was WM of Highland Chapter #33 in Dundalk, Maryland in 1983-1984. During WWII, my Chapter formed a close friendship with Naomi Chapter #3 in the District and each year, the Chapters would have a bus trip to visit each other's Chapter. This was before I joined but can you imagine a time when we could fill 2 buses - that's 90 members! - just to visit their favorite DC restaurant and then attend Naomi's Chapter meeting? Federal Chapter would fill a bus and visit Highland Chapter after a stop at their favorite Baltimore restaurant. It was my 3rd meeting as WM when Naomi Chapter paid a visit (but only with 1 bus). Normally the visiting WM and WP would be invited to sit in the East and I was comfortable with that because we were friends. I knew the WGP but really did not know the WGM that well. WELL, after Introduction of Guests, I extended my hand thinking that the WM would be joining me in the East only to find the WGM and WGP joining us. Think back to the 1st time you actually were one-on-one with a WGM and WGP - nerves certainly kicked in at that point! - but Sister Ellen quickly took my hand and smiled her beautiful smile and calmed my fears. I remember she said something like, "We all were in your shoes at one time and it will be fine." Thus began what has now been a friendship of 38 years. AND...that evening I learned a valuable lesson that I used while I was WGM because what Sister Ellen said is so true. All of us serving as WGMs were at one time a 1st time WM and nervous when our WGM was seated next to us. I shared this story with my WGP, Brother Randy Geck, who totally agreed remembering his 1st time as WP and so we both strived to put each WM and WP at ease while visiting their Chapter.

PS - We both had the dove as our fun emblem and on the night of my Installation, my WP, Brother Harry Stein, presented me with a beautiful white dove that I named "OES" but known as OE. OE lived to be a teenager and brought much joy to our home. But Sister Ellen and Brother Sherwood topped this because in the East at their Session, they had 2 doves in a beautiful cage and you guessed it, one decided to deliver several eggs! And yes, they both "cooed" us from time to time!



*Pat Haywood, PM
WM of Friendship Chapter #75, Vancouver
Langley Chapter #50, Langley
British Columbia*

MY GET UP AND GO....

***MY GET UP AND GO JUST GOT UP AND WENT
IT'S ONE OF THE WORST TIMES I HAVE EVER SPENT
WHATEVER I DID IT WAS ALL WRONG
THE DOOR BELL WOULDN'T DING, IT JUST WENT DONG
I WAS CRANKY AND TIRED AND REALLY BLUE
OH MY GOODNESS, WHATEVER WILL I DO
MAYBE PLAY SCRABBLE OR VACUUM THE FLOOR
THEN I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO GO OUTDOORS
THEN I SAW ALL THE FLOWERS AND THE SUN WAS REAL BRIGHT
GUESS WHAT, THE DAY TURNED OUT ALRIGHT***

WWII VETERAN CONTINUES YEARS OF SERVICE

*Terri Robinette, Grand Electa
Golden Rule Chapter #6
Trussville, Alabama*

Brother Tommy McCollough has lived his days in service. He was a Merchant Marine, humbly serving his Country in World War II. He continues to represent his years of Armed Service through his volunteer work and proudly wearing his uniform hat on occasion. Brother Tommy transitioned his desire to serve to the Masonic Order and later to the Order of the Eastern Star, and his membership extends over 50 years. Brother Tommy is a member of Metro East Kings Solomon Masonic Lodge #932 in Birmingham and a dual member of Eastern Star with ties to Golden Rule Chapter #6 in Trussville, Alabama, and a Chapter in California with his daughter.

His laugh and often booming voice are recognized and cherished by all. Brother Tommy exemplifies the traits of a Sister or Brother. Yet what makes him stand out from the crowd is his woodworking. Brother Tommy has a long standing tradition of making gavels for the incoming WGMs and the WM of his Chapter. He can tell you what type of wood the gavel was carved from and the origination of the wood. Each gavel is unique from size to type of wood, and he adorns each gavel with a metal plate with the name, year and title. What makes this show of love and thoughtfulness even more incredible? Brother Tommy recently celebrated his 95th birthday and followed the occasion with the presentation of a gavel for the upcoming WGM and his own Chapter's new WM. Regretfully, he announced that may be his final gavel. I am privileged and blessed to own a handmade gavel from Brother Tommy. It is a gift that I will treasure forever, as will so many of my Sisters. Brother Tommy's generosity, thoughtfulness and love of the Order makes him a vital part of "Good of the Order".



Brother Tommy McCullough presenting final gavel to 2020 - 2021 Worthy Grand Matron Sister Nance DiPiero

MALDEN AND PINE CITY, WASHINGTON, LABOR DAY FIRE

*Jean Flanigen, PM
Malden Chapter #149, Whitman County
Temporarily Meeting at Fraternal Hall, Oakesdale, Washington*



“Are you guys ok?”

It’s the first thing we say to each other in the Malden/ Pine City area these days. Once that question is answered, it is immediately followed by, “Is your house ok?”

We lost so much on Labor Day 2020. Our community’s heart got burned up.

Malden and Pine City are more than a collection of buildings. They were where we fought for years to get a library and finally got one. It was where we met, all of us for miles around. The Masonic Lodge Hall that burned held every bit of history of the Eastern Star Chapters from Malden, La Crosse, Colfax, Palouse, Farmington, Oakesdale, Tekoa, St. John, Sprague, Garfield, Rosalia and even Cheney inside. People came from as far south as Colton and north from Spokane to attend meetings there.

What I’m saying is, we lost a vital member of our organization.

Most of the buildings that burned were older. Folks here remember going to them after school when they were little kids and climbing trees on hillsides that are now bare. Malden and Pine City weren’t new, by any means. Both towns have barely survived, like so many in Whitman County. But they survived for a reason. Because people lived there and worked there. We gathered in them to socialize and worship.

Christmas will never be the same for those of us who attended, faithfully, every year to hear His Song in the Old Stone Church in Pine City. Hearing the beautiful, sacred music within those ancient walls is something we simply can’t replace. Oh, we can go across to the Grange Hall which survived the fire and hold it there but it just won’t be what we have considered the beginning of the Christmas season for 16 years.



MALDEN AND PINE CITY, WASHINGTON, LABOR DAY FIRE

(Continued)

The Church survived but Easter egg hunts just won't be the same without the Community Center to house them and the library with the librarian as a willing participant, keeping the excited children inside with stories until time for the hunt. The children may no longer be there, as many families in the area were renters. They will have no say over whether their home is rebuilt. That's the trouble with this fire and I would imagine there are too many communities that can relate to this. The trouble with any disaster is that it's not just buildings, it's not just houses. It's where new parents brought home a precious baby. It's where proud Masons have stood for almost a century. We had reading clubs and knitting clubs... we had a life.

Now there is charred blackness and choking ash every time you move something in your desperate search to find something, anything - Please God!

It brings tears as I write this, as I have been one of those digging through the rubble, brought to a standstill by the tiniest remnant - like a doorknob.

That doorknob, however, represents hope. I think everyone finds something, their own version of a doorknob, in their search after devastation. One thing you can cling to and say, "We will rebuild."

I have heard that sentence as often as I have heard, "Are you guys ok?" and my heart swells every time I hear it. I'm filled with pride to know these amazing people who have just lost everything and still say it. Sometimes life is hard and sometimes it jumps up and down on your head. This is one of those "jump on your head" times.

And yet, I see my neighbors and friends, lifting their heads, even with their cheeks wet with tears and saying, "We will rebuild."

I say it with them.

"We will rebuild."

Editor's Note: It was my pleasure to have several talks with Sister Jean regarding her beautiful article of survival and the fellowship we as members of our beloved Order share. As we talked and she was giving an update on how things were now, I thought our members also like to be informed. It once again proves that our Star shines bright even in the darkest of times. Enjoy!

10 Months Later

It's still hard to see... the devastation is still very evident. Of the 121 homes burned, only 2 have been replaced in Malden and 1 in Pine City. That's not the whole story, though.

Malden and Pine City are alive. The fire destroyed a lot, for sure but there is movement. People have pitched in from all over. Even Elon Musk provided free wi-fi after the fire. Folk from the Mennonite Community north of Spokane have built a home for a fire victim. It's usually busy around the burn area nowadays, with people cleaning up, starting over and most of all, not giving up.

A fire like this makes you very aware, very quickly. There were 50 mile an hour winds that day and that's how fast the fire moved. The smoke boiled up; it looked like a bomb had gone off. Electricity and all phone service were the first to go. Then the roads were blocked, in rapid succession, and the only way out was past my front door; a gravel road 11 miles long. My husband got our generator powered up and we frantically watered and watched car after car, truck after truck, every driver, every passenger with the same look of abject terror on their faces. Leaving everything behind to burn.

One Chapter member was trapped in her home, with her son and pregnant daughter-in-law. With every avenue of escape cut off, she threw them in her truck and started out across an alfalfa field in search of the creek. She knew the creek was there, she grew up on the place, knew every inch by heart but she could not find it, the smoke was too thick. She stopped the truck, telling her son and daughter-in-law to stay put and she felt ahead of her, with her toes, ready to drop to all fours. Her husband and brother, both firefighters and Masons, were trying to get to her but could not. The flames roared to 30 feet when they hit the pine trees of Malden.

MALDEN AND PINE CITY, WASHINGTON, LABOR DAY FIRE

(Continued)

God was watching over the people that day, though. The flames split when they hit the green alfalfa field. They watched their family home burn, but they were alive.

You learn... nothing matters so much as our connections to each other. After the fire, my husband and I went every day into what we called the "Pit." The fire was hot enough to melt glass and aluminum but it's amazing what survived! --a tiny china cup, Eastern Star emblem intact--a clay cow, a PM's fun emblem with its black spots burned off--and unbelievably, a stove we all hated, a monstrosity from the 70's, survived with an aluminum teapot still on the burner? It provided a much needed moment of laughter, one though tear-stained, when we joked that's how the fire started--someone left the teapot on!

We lost so much but oddly, we gained so much. We drew closer. We realized how much we care about each other. One Chapter member lied to get through fire lines, saying she had food and water for my husband and I. She then drove through an active fire to our house because even our cell towers had burned. Another Chapter member took the roundabout route; a detour of almost 50 miles. When he got here, he said, "Oh, my brother and I were just out for a drive and thought we'd drop in." Laughter is indeed the best medicine, especially when it's mixed liberally with Brotherly and Sisterly love.

So a word of advice... go hug your loved ones. Don't hesitate to say, "I love you". Thank God for the very special bond that you have with your Eastern Star family, for it is special and unusual in this world. Cherish it. It may be what gets you through a very hard time.

Editor's Note: Two more tidbits of information I'd like to pass along:

—I viewed the following You Tube video which includes an interview with 2 of the Lodge Brothers Malden Freemason's Lodge Destroyed in Wildfire-You Tube (<https://www.youtube.com>)

—"The DNR wildland fire investigation determined that the Babb Fire started due to a branch from a multi-dominant Ponderosa Pine tree came into contact with an Avista Utilities power distribution line causing a fire to start in the seasonally dried grasses, bushes and timber. Approximately 121 primary residences, 8 commercial buildings and 94 other structures were destroyed in this fire," the report said. Courtesy of Fox 28 Spokane 5/18/21



AN EASTERN STAR SUCCESS STORY

*Patti Owen, PM
Manchester Chapter #339
Hillsboro, Tennessee*



“People will forget what you said,
People will forget what you did but
People will never forget how you
made them feel.”

At a time when many Eastern Star Chapters are struggling to stay afloat, even without social distancing, quarantines, and cancelled meetings, one Chapter has found the key to success... everyone matters! Although it is a sort of unwritten motto, it is the cornerstone of the relationships built within Manchester Chapter #339 who meet in Hillsboro, Tennessee. The WM, Officers and members

continue to flourish in spite of living through a major Pandemic. It just takes a little bit of ingenuity and a whole lot of heart!

Before the world turned upside down, Installation of Officers in March was anything but ordinary! The tone of the day was established with a Scottish theme complete with kilts, tartan patterns and even a bag piper! Hopes were high for a fun and successful year. Then came Covid-19. Although there has only been one regular meeting, our Chapter found ways to have fun and success not by looking at what is missing, but by looking toward new and different possibilities with optimism.

Another reason for the great success of Manchester Chapter is the great support of our Masonic Brothers. For the past 2-3 years, we (and they) have made a concerted effort to enhance relationships among the whole Masonic family. It has made all the difference in the world.

Perhaps one major complaint we have heard by some members in other Chapters is, “We never *do* anything.” For our members, that hasn’t been a problem. Although Chapter business cannot be discussed anywhere but in meetings, we used social media and Zoom to keep up with each other’s lives, just to say “We miss you.” and to remind each other of various things through our private message board. During isolation, we managed to complete our 2019 scrap book and hold an online silent auction while still maintaining social distance. We have had Sisters who made and donated masks to our Masonic family and the community as a whole, in addition to members who donated items for a school supply drive and a school hygiene products drive. Our Environmental Committee is hard at work recycling cans and bottles and is working with our “No Kill” pound as well. We even helped our Masonic Brothers by donating shoes for their shoe drive for children in the Philippines. As things are beginning to open up, we have continued with our plans. The online Homemade Silent Auction was a great success, and the rest of 2020 will be busy, busy, busy! The Second Annual Orvel Hastings Golf Tournament will be held in October and is expected to be even better than last year. Also, we are in the process of holding a bakeless bake sale, as well as waiting excitedly to hear from the Manchester Christmas Parade as to plans for this year, since our float won first place in 2019. We continue planning for the Eastern Star Christmas Bazaar, which has been moved to 2021, and are looking forward to the Masonic-Eastern Star Christmas party, as well as hoping to have a big turnout for a Fun Night at the Drive-In.

In spite of all the hard work, the success has been rewarding. The fact that Manchester Chapter has initiated 15 new members and has affiliated/dualed 5 new members in the past 5 years has kept everyone busy but has given us more people in our family! As 2020 comes to an end, we are hoping to go out on a positive note with a New Year’s Eve trip to Savannah! Whatever the future holds, we are prepared, excited and if 2020 has taught us anything, be flexible.

Remember: Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see, so Be Kind!

EDITH CAVELL CHAPTER #25 DONATES TO THE “GO BABY GO” PROGRAM!

*Carol Chisholm, PM
Edith Cavell Chapter #25
Calgary, Alberta*

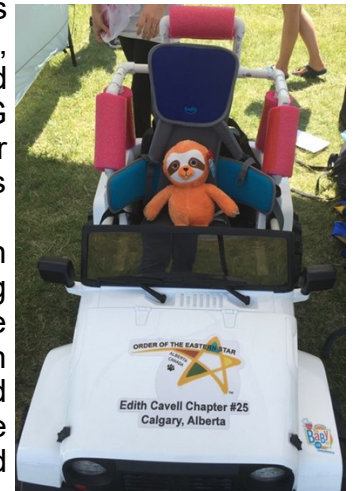


Edith Cavell Chapter #25 in Calgary, Alberta, made a \$3,000 donation to “Variety – the Children’s Charity of Alberta” which supports children living with disabilities. At Variety, they believe that every child has the right to be active, be social, and to belong!

Go Baby Go (GBG) is a Toddler Mobility Program that gives young children who are living with various types of disabilities the chance to maneuver their environment in a fun, independent, non-stigmatizing way.

Using off the shelf battery-operated ride on toy cars that have been modified with push-button switches, supportive seating, 3D printing adaptations and communication devices for children with various types of disabilities, GBG provides opportunities for children who have very limited control over their bodies (i.e., hands, legs and feet) the ability to move independently in ways that they otherwise would not be able to do on their own.

All of the children who receive GBG cars have mobility challenges with modifications, including taking the foot pedal functionality out and switching the power to another source, such as to a big button that they install on the steering wheel. Supportive seating is added to the cars for all of the children for both comfort, as well as safety as many children lack torso control and require specialized seating to hold them up. Most of the vehicles are remote control operated allowing parents and caregivers to override what the child is doing or offer up a bit of help if needed with steering.



On a warm sunny day in July at South Glenmore Park in Calgary, Sisters Viola and Carol were able to meet Sierra, a beautiful 2½ year old girl and her parents Emily and Clint, as she was presented with the jeep sponsored by our Chapter. Sierra has MMPEI (a form of epilepsy), is unable to walk and has no back or neck strength. She is able to hold things for a short period of time and is able to push a button. When Sierra came to the GBG car gifting, she needed 100% support from her parents to transfer her in and out of the vehicle, but once securely in place, and with a bit of guidance, Sierra was able to push the button and power the vehicle on her own with her parents steering remotely.

Her parents were thrilled to accept the jeep with our logo and it didn’t take Sierra long to take her new wheels for a spin!

INVERNESS CHAPTER #65's COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

*Barbara Blanton, PGM and Chapter Secretary
Inverness Chapter #65
Inverness, Florida*



Sister Carol Poole, WM of Inverness Chapter #65, Inverness, Florida, was busy delivering needed items during the Pandemic to several charities as part of the Chapter's Community Outreach Program.

Carol Poole delivered needed items to the Citrus County Animal Services



Carol Poole delivered gifts and essential items to the Citrus Abuse Shelter Association (CASA). Pictured on the right is Sunshine Arnold, CEO of CASA.



Carol Poole delivered items requested by Jessie's Place, the Citrus County's Children's Advocacy Center. Pictured on the left is Melissa Bowermaster, Executive Director of Jessie's Place.

OES JEWEL RETURNED TO HOME

*Judith Lewis, PGM
Priscilla Chapter #51
Penacook, New Hampshire*



My husband, Brother Ed Lewis, and I like to see Masonic items find a proper home and not end up in a yard sale. Unfortunately, when a family reaches the point when someone dies and there is no interest in the items left, this is the time we need to help find a proper home for the items.

This is what happened to a man in Concord that passed with no family, so we were called in. It has been a difficult summer to move stuff to new homes, but we were able to move items to three Lodges and two Museums.

One item was a real pleasure in being able to return it to its home and that was an Eastern Star PM jewel. As in the case of most jewels, it had a name of a Chapter but not the State. So, after searching three potential States, we found it originated in Maine back in 1895. Now we knew it came from Pine Tree Chapter in Westford, but that Chapter had consolidated with another Chapter which, in turn, consolidated with Corner Stone Chapter #193 which meets in Westford.

What makes this jewel so special is that it belonged to Sister Rose B. Graham, the very first WM of Pine Tree Chapter back in 1895. This could not be just mailed back to that Chapter so finding out when they meet, we packed the car and off to Maine to present the jewel back to its original home. Accepting the jewel on November 24, 2020, for the Chapter was Sister Lucille Manos, PGM. A happy ending for what could have been a tragic loss.

If you know of anyone that has any Masonic items unknown what they are or what to do with them, let us know and will see that they go to a place where they will be appreciated in the future.



*(L-R) Lucille Nanos, PGM of Maine, and
Judith A Lewis, PGM of New Hampshire*

LEBANON CHAPTER #108 ONLINE CHRISTMAS PARTY “SHARE THE JOY”

*Dr. Rena Robey, PM
Lebanon Chapter #108
Manchester, Maryland*



On Monday, December 21, 2020, the Sisters and Brothers of Lebanon Chapter #108, Manchester, Maryland, gathered online to celebrate and share the joy of Christmas. Despite COVID, Lebanon Chapter knows how to have a good time! Everyone enjoyed traditional Christmas carols and festive contests to keep the mood lively. The mask decorating contest was won by Sister Pat Hodgson, PM, with her crazy battery-packed blinking lighted mask. We also hosted a Christmas memory contest where various members shared their favorite recipe, ornament, decoration or memory of this holiday season. The competition was so fierce, a tie was named between the WP Brother Ed Lambert's elaborate outside decorations of his childhood home and Sister Dale Little's adorable memory about having so many sisters they had to be numbered by her father. Sister Pam Simmons, PM, also shared a favorite ornament, a beautiful angel, from her secret OES pal that ended up to actually be revealed to be her father! Prizes of gorgeous pink poinsettias were provided and delivered by Sister Pat Lambert, WM. So many memories and laughs were shared making for a wonderful evening. We also enjoyed a reading entitled, "The Legend of the Animals," shared from our Sister Nancy Ford, GGCCM Editor of the Eastern Star Journal and PGM, about all the animals bringing their gifts to the baby Jesus on that glorious night. Special thanks to our mystery guest judges, Sister Nancy Ford, and her husband, Brother Ed. Sister Nancy and Brother Ed are WM and WP of Highland Chapter #33, Dundalk. Sister Nancy served as our Deputy Grand Lecturer for many years and has special ties to our Chapter. We thank them both for serving as judges and participating in the fun. Lebanon Chapter enjoys connecting and looks forward to keeping our Star burning bright in 2021.

HARFORD CHAPTER #83'S VIRTUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE ZOOM MEETING

*Sheri Marley, WP
Harford Chapter #83
Bel Air, Maryland*



One of the traditions of Harford Chapter #83, Bel Air, Maryland, is that at our last Chapter meeting of the year, we all bring in Christmas cookies to share with each other. Alas, Covid has forced us to stop having meetings in person and we have been having Zoom Meetings every other week for all our members to participate in. At the end of our last meeting before Christmas, we all went and got a cookie to present and share with our group "virtually." Everyone described what kind of cookies we had and all were eaten live on line.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and we wish everyone a prosperous and safe New Year!



JOURNAL GUIDELINES

www.easternstar.org

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

Articles are received continuously
with no specific deadlines.

EASTERN STAR JOURNAL

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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 **BOTH** email addresses shown above
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

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