

# The Maryland Star

*A Publication of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Order of the Eastern Star*

**Volume XIII – Issue 3**

**October-December 2013**

## **FROM THE GRAND EAST**

Happiness and Prosperity!

From the early days of Dr. Rob Morris and Dr. McCoy, the Order of the Eastern Star has traveled about life's roads and we've learned many lessons. From our history, we know that we have a rich Masonic heritage and are proud of our heritage.

Symbolism opens the door between our fraternities. By this, it coincides with the immutable principles of our Order. Never quite satisfied that all good in Masonry should be confined to men, our founder of the Order and Poet Laureate of Masonry, Dr. Rob Morris, felt that Masonry should be for the entire family.

This year Masonic families are working together to promote the ideals of this wonderful fraternity through mutual respect and love for our Orders. We have common ground whereon all the family can meet - be it Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls, Shrine Temples, Scottish Rite, York Rite, as well as other collateral bodies.

On May 1, 2013 we walked on a new fraternal path in the history of the

State of Maryland, albeit, the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the Grand Chapter of Maryland. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Gerald E. Piepiora, gave permission to place the Square and Compasses upon our open Holy Bible. At our ceremonial, those privileged to observe this historical moment in the chronicle of our fraternities saw the Worthy Grand Patron, Brother William D. Gunn, escort the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brother Piepiora to the Altar to place the jewels on the Eastern Star open Holy Bible.

We embrace the support of our Grand Lodge by using the symbol of Freemasonry upon our open Bible. This covenant with the Grand Lodge of Maryland is the strength through which the support and revered relationship with our Order is maintained.

Let us unite our goals, create a plan, inspire, and all work for a common goal. The true measure of leadership is influence - nothing more, nothing less. As we proceed in our leadership roles, let us remember people determine the potential of an organization and vision determines the direction. Our leadership determines the success.

We are all dedicated, working together in peace and harmony, making a difference in our communities through our charitable and social activities benefitting all mankind. May our fraternal bodies continue to be blessed by our Heavenly Father, the Source of all wisdom and strength.

As we approach the New Year, 2014 is not about changing the dates, but direction; not about changing the calendar, but commitment, and not about changing actions, but attitudes. Let us wave our fraternal magic wand over the Order and resolve to face challenges with courage and confidence, to spread love among our Sisters and Brothers, to lead a life of success and victory, and to pray that God gives us a fresh hope for a successful future.

Happy New Year, Sisters and Brothers. May we share serenity and peace.

Bette L. Bowen  
Worthy Grand Matron

## COMING SOON!

Information on the 116<sup>th</sup> Grand Session, the "Face In The Mirror" Session, will soon be posted on the Grand Chapter Website at [www.gcmd.org](http://www.gcmd.org). It will be held April 27-30, 2014, at the Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, MD. Join Bette L. Bowen, WGM, William D. Gunn, WGP, and the Grand Family of 2013-2014 for this special event in the history of our Grand Chapter!



## WHAT IS THE BELMONT BALL?

That is the question everyone asks upon hearing my title at an Eastern Star function. The other titles are really self-explanatory, but the Belmont Ball is a new title to most Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers.

If you live in the District of Columbia, Maryland or Virginia you may have heard the title before. The District of Columbia held the Belmont Ball at the Belmont Mansion, or the International Eastern Star Headquarters for Children's Charities, for many years, and those of us in the surrounding area were invited to attend. It was a beautiful fundraiser thoroughly enjoyed by those of us so privileged. The evening became magical when we adorned our fanciest dresses and pretended to be Cinderella for one night. Walking into the Belmont Mansion can transform anyone to a long ago era.

Our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Bobbi White, and Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother John Grobler, wish to take us all there once again and in the process raise some money to maintain the Headquarters. A charity event for the "1618 Project" and beyond, will be held on November 8, 2014. (The address is 1618 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20009.) This will be a Celebration of the visit of the Prince of Wales, a Ninety-fifth (95<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary Celebration.

In November, 1919 King George V of England sent his son and heir, the Prince of Wales, to Washington, DC to convey his gratitude in person to President Woodrow Wilson for the aid given by the United States to the Allies during World War I. While the Prince was expected to stay at the White House (not Sister Bobbi's), due to the illness of the President other plans had to be made.

It has been reported that "a panicked Secretary of State (Robert Lansing) sent a telegram to Perry Belmont, asking to use his mansion to house the Prince and his retinue. He agreed, and it became the home of the future King Edward VIII for ten days. Belmont found the whole thing quite amusing and remarked to Minnie Keyes (Right Worthy Grand Secretary at the time of the Eastern Star's purchase of the building) that it was very odd to enter his own home as a guest of the future King!"

On November 11, 1919 a Banquet was held in Honor of the Prince at the Belmont Mansion, hosted by the Vice President of the United States, Thomas R. Marshall and Mrs. Lansing.

On the Society page of the Washington Post, dated November 12, 1919 it read "The Belmont home, which reflects the French Renaissance period, was a beautiful setting for the dinner party." A listing of Dignitaries of the United States and around the world in attendance was included.

Each and every member of the Order of the Eastern Star and your friends are invited to join us on this momentous occasion. Our Most Worthy Grand Matron and Most Worthy Grand Patron welcome you to a celebration of this wondrously beautiful building and a salute to an event of great significance in our history.

Wilma J. Thompson, Chairman  
Belmont Ball

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**November 8, 2014**  
**The Belmont Ball**  
(more information to follow)



## MAKING NEW FRIENDS IN 'KELLOGG' COUNTRY

The 'Faith, Freedom and Friendship' Session of Michigan's Grand Chapter was held Oct 7-11, 2013 at the McCamly Hotel - Kellogg Center in Battle Creek, Michigan. There were over 700 members in attendance. The guests were welcomed with beautiful blue skies and fall colors that were at their peak.

I was met at the airport by Barbara Rocque, head of transportation. She's a prior Representative to Maryland. She was very friendly. My counterpart, Kay Webb, met me at the hotel. We hit it off right away and became fast friends. I got to share a room with her, and her good friend, Mary Lue Verran. We became the 'Three Amigos'.



The Three Amigos!

Sister Kay loved the Maryland scarf I brought her. I had mine on most of the time, too. Everyone would say, 'Hi Maryland!' The scarves became the hit of Grand Session. Thanks Sister Sylvia for making them! I met several people

who had either lived in Maryland or who had gone to the University of Maryland.

The Grand Chapter room was decorated in red, white and blue with huge, sparkling stars hanging from the ceiling. The East dais was draped in an American flag. The Grand Officers wore bright red formals, the Grand Committee was in white, and the Honorary Grand Marshals were in royal blue. At the beginning of each session they would march in and do a formation of an American flag. It was very impressive.



Karla and her counterpart, Kay Webb

The WGM's Special project was 'Paws with a Cause', and several of the service dogs were there. I was allowed to greet them every morning and get my 'doggie fix' for the day. They were wonderful and were honorary members of the Grand Representatives club.

Even though both jurisdictions do a lot of things the same way, there were several differences. The Grand Representatives club, the Michiganders, has a scholarship program and gave a scholarship each to the Job's Daughters,

Rainbow and DeMolay. At the Informal Opening, the Grand Chaplain and Grand Marshal did the Reception of Guests. The WGM has a personal secretary. Her duties are similar to our Grand Marshal.

The chapters in Michigan don't have Grand Visitations. If they have a special meeting or event, they can invite the WGM and the Grand Family to attend. Chapters have one business meeting per month, and then a social event. Each Worthy Matron picks the attire for her officers. They are all the same and can be any color. When voting on legislation at Grand Chapter, the members use paper ballots, just like for Election of Officers.

At the last session, the AGM and AGP announce their Grand Family and Grand Committee. Then the outgoing WGM and WGP and the Grand Officers go to the West and present the AGM and AGP gifts for their year. Both the outgoing and incoming WGM declare Grand Session closed together. The closing thought for Grand Sessions was "In the pages of your life, write the best story you can."

It was a wonderful trip, and I made many wonderful new friends. I wish to thank Sister Linda Sanner and Brother Patrick Curtis for my commission and this wonderful opportunity. I hope I represented Maryland well.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karla Light, DGL  
Grand Representative of MI in MD  
2011-2013



**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL TREASURE CHEST OF FRIENDS LUNCHEON HELD**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Treasure Chest of Friends Luncheon was held on Sunday, October 20, 2013 in Frederick. Over 70 people enjoyed a delicious meal of spiral ham, fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and other goodies. The committee members would like to thank Juanita Bowers, PGM, and the members of Frederick No. 79 for preparing and serving the meal. They always do a fabulous job!

Club President Patricia Hodgson welcomed everyone. Brother John Ertel, Grand Chaplain 2011-2012, gave the blessing. Distinguished guests were welcomed. Linda Sanner, PGM, and Patrick Curtis, PGP, welcomed everyone and reminisced about their year. Bette Bowen, WGM, and Bill Gunn, WGP, also gave remarks. Sister Patricia Hodgson presented monetary gifts to WGM Bette and PGM Linda for their special projects. The club committee then surprised Sister Juanita with a little birthday gift as a thank you for all she has done for the Treasure Chest club.

The new officers for the 2013-2014 were elected and installed. They are: President-Cheryl Johnson, PGM, Woodlawn No. 101; Vice President-Karla Light, DGL, Julia Halla No. 107; and Secretary/Treasurer-Robin Stewart, PM, Howard No. 20.

We look forward to seeing everyone in October 2014!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karla Light, DGL  
Julia Halla 107

## GREETINGS FROM OREGON

I was your Grand Representative of Maryland in Oregon in 2006-2008. Half of my term was with Violet and half of it with David. So much fun!

I know Janet Herring and her husband, Art, came back at your Grand Chapter in May 2013. I just wanted to catch you up on the happenings of our chapter, Victoria No. 76.

We have been very busy this past year and going to get busier. For the first time, Victoria is preparing to put on a reception for a Worthy Grand Matron. We have had two Worthy Grand Patrons, Brother Karl Wipper in 1971-72, and Brother Loren Newkirk in 2000-01. Now, our member Judy Rooth, is Associate Grand Matron and working hard preparing for her Grand year next year. Myles McMillan was appointed to Senior Grand Deacon of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Oregon AF & AM. So he is just

starting the grand line in Oregon. So we'll be supporting him also.

We have a reception for the Grand Marshal, Tracy Harris, on November 16, 2013. October 30, 2013 we will be honoring Sister Carol Motta, whose commission expires December 31, 2013 as Grand Representative of Ontario. She and her husband, Bill, just returned from a visit to Ontario.

The last time I wrote to you, Victoria was working on membership. Since that time we have taken in about 10 members by affiliation and about 5 by initiation. We are preparing to initiate another next month. This is so exciting. On the other end of the spectrum, our jurisdiction membership continues to get smaller. We have 62 chapters with one of them under consolidation.

Since installation of Grand Chapter this past June, we have been to the Pendleton Roundup in Pendleton, Oregon and had our reception of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. Our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Ann Thomas and our Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Craig Sipp are from eastern Oregon and invited all of us over for the Roundup. We're celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> year as a Grand Chapter this year. There is a western theme, complete with cowboy boots and western style formals and tuxedos. Sister Ann is using the boots in her theme to "stomp out Cancer".

Love and hugs to you all,

Lohree Kottke

## HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!



Caroline No. 62 celebrated their 90th birthday celebration at Caroline Country Club in October. Members attending included Sister Pearl Johnson, PGM, & Dr. Christian Jensen, seated. Congratulations to the members of Caroline Chapter for achieving such an important milestone in the history of your Chapter!

### APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS RECEPTION

February 23, 2014  
1 - 5 p.m.

Grand Lodge of Maryland, Cockeysville, MD

Menu includes:

Field Greens Salad  
Chicken Marsala Rustico  
Pork Loin Dijon  
Baked Three Cheese Ziti  
Rosemary Roasted Potatoes  
Fresh Green Beans  
Buffet Dessert Table  
Coffee and Tea  
\$35 per person

RSVP by February 3

Contact Norma Miller, Secretary/Treasurer  
for more information  
norma15@comcast.net  
301-689-5051

## CALENDAR

<b>JAN</b>	
4	Exchange with MD, DC, in DE (location TBD) 2 p.m., Lunch 1 p.m.
11	DGL Proficiency, Odenton No. 29
16	Laurel No. 75 GV (Special)-8 p.m.
18	DGL Proficiency SNOW DATE
19	FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE - WV, VA, DC and MD, Charles Town, WV - 1 p.m.
<b>FEB</b>	
1	School of Instruction for Installation, Unity No. 112
8	SNOW DATE
15	North American Conference of Grand Masters - MD Hosting
23	Appointed Grand Officers Reception, Grand Lodge of Maryland - 1 p.m.
<b>MARCH</b>	
2	Friendly Wings Club Luncheon, Frederick No. 79 - 2 p.m.
22	Past Grands' Dinner
<b>APRIL</b>	
5	Grand Lodge Open House - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
6	Birdwatchers Club Luncheon, Denton, MD - 2 p.m.
10-13	Grand Assembly IORG, Hunt Valley, MD
13	Bonnie Blink Palm Sunday - 3 p.m.
19	Grand Session Rehearsal
27 - 30	Grand Session - Hunt Valley, MD
<b>MAY</b>	
6	JPGM received in Oakland No. 67 - 7:30 p.m.
13	JPGP received in Victory No. 40 - 7:30 p.m.