

# The Maryland Star

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

Volume XIII – Issue 4

January-March 2014



## Grand Chapter of Maryland Order of the Eastern Star

Extends Fraternal Greetings  
and Cordially Invites You to Attend the

One Hundred Sixteenth  
"Face In The Mirror" Session

April 27-30, 2014

Hunt Valley Inn

245 Shawan Road

Hunt Valley, Maryland

Further information is available on the Grand Chapter website at [www.gcmd.org](http://www.gcmd.org). If you are planning to attend Sessions, you will need to register with the Credentials Committee.

Hope to see you there!

Bette L. Bowen  
Worthy Grand Matron

William D. Gunn  
Worthy Grand Patron

## FROM THE GRAND EAST

As I traveled this year from Chapter to Chapter, Jurisdiction to Jurisdiction, the question most often asked of me was, "What shall we do to keep interest and get members out to meetings?"

My Sisters and Brothers, find work and projects for our members to do. We have declining membership. Local Chapters are charity driven - supporting their own charities and places of service in their own communities. As we strive to maintain our membership, we must not forget that the deeds of today make history for the future.

Our stumbling blocks of the past can be our stepping stones of the future. We seek to build an Order which is truly dedicated to Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness.

I stood at the Altar and took an oath many years ago. I have dedicated myself to service and embraced the fraternal philanthropy of the Order. If I have helped someone along the way, then I have added a star to my reflection in the mirror. Each good we do for others, each time we help someone, each time we touch someone with love, we are living the tenets of our beloved Order. The dedication and love of our members are treasured gifts that have no price.

From my travels during these past four years, I am grateful for the depth of Sisterly and Brotherly love exhibited by our members. Truly, the lesson that "we love one another" has been well learned. Let us strive for the highest and best. If we fail, we shall be stronger for having tried and be more worthy to be members

of the Order. The only failure we should fear is failure to do our best. Let our bond of union be strengthened so that we may have a clearer and nobler conception of what it means to be a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

We have congregated some of the brightest minds and extraordinary intellects within this Grand Chapter. To them we look for wise counsel and guidance at all levels. This insightfulness is our passport into the future.

This is a year I shall never forget, and each of you has made it possible. I am mindful of the trust that you placed in me. I have journeyed throughout this year with our Watchwords in mind - *Faith, Friend, and Forgiveness*. As I practiced their meaning, our motto of "*Let It Begin With Me*" was a clear reflection of my Face In The Mirror.

When we return home from our 116th Grand Session, may our deliberations be an inspiration to us for a better conception of truth, that there may be more cheer in someone's life and more of sunshine in someone's dark days. May your "Face In The Mirror" be a reflection of the obligation you took at the Altar.

With "Happiness Through Loving Service", I remain,

Bette L. Bowen  
Worthy Grand Matron  
2013-2014



## From White Snow To White Sand!

The first yen that came to my mind, while driving in a blizzard on snow-covered roads to the Port of Baltimore, was white sandy beaches with warm turquoise water and swaying palm trees! After setting sail out of the Port, the crews were shoveling several inches of snow from the ship's decks!



The crew shoveled snow from the deck.



No sunbathing today!

Our special trip to the Eastern Caribbean was enjoyed by our Maryland members, including Grand Officers of the Grand Jurisdiction of Delaware along with some family members. Sharing time together was great for all of us. We enjoyed excursions by the scenic coasts of Puerto Rico, Old San Juan; U.S. Virgin Islands, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; British Virgin Islands, Tortola, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, and St. Martin.

St. Maarten and St. Martin were the highlight of my excursions. This land mass is part of an island with a split personality - Dutch, St. Maarten to the South; French, St. Martin to the North. There is also a third side, the offbeat side! It wasn't difficult to get off the beaten track, as most of that track was actually quite narrow, running from the streets in and about Philipsburg, to the nearby waters offshore, to legendary Orient Beach, to the boutiques and Bistros of Marigot, the capital of French St. Martin.

While touring Tortola, we had a spectacular view of Anegada, the only inhabited BVI formed from coral and limestone. Tortola is the location that Robert Louis Stevenson based his book "Treasure Island." Although we didn't stumble across swashbuckling pirates, we fancied soft sands, gentle teal-colored waters to refresh us while we swam in the sea! When you see Sister Loretta Donaldson, ask her about her dolphin experience!



Sister Bette, WGM, and Grand Spouse, Brother Sam, enjoyed their dinner together.

Brother Charles Potter had the opportunity of meeting his counterpart while in Puerto Rico. Several of us were invited to join the Grand Jurisdiction of Puerto Rico for a "meet and greet" evening. We extended an invitation to these Sisters and Brothers to join us at our 116th Grand Session.

Upon returning to the Port of Baltimore, the temperature was 25 degrees! The ship actually navigated its way through ice-covered waters!

Je vous remercie pour la voile avec nous!

Bette Bowen, WGM

## *2013-2014 Appointed Grand Officers Reception*

The snowy winter weather took a day off to give the 2013-2014 Appointed Grand Officers of Maryland a beautiful sunny day to be honored.

On February 23, 2014, 171 people gathered to pay tribute to the eleven special ladies and gentlemen of the Grand Chapter. It was truly their day to be recognized and given tribute to.



Miss Historic Maryland 2014, Audreanna Colombo, Miss Historic Maryland's Outstanding Teen, Rebecca Block, WGM Bette, WGP Bill, and the Appointed Grand Officers

The setting was the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The colors of raspberry and navy blue adorned the banquet room. As the hour of honoring neared, the guests started arriving in their beautiful gowns and tuxedos and Sunday best. As the receiving line began, one could see the hugs, kisses, handshakes but most of all the gratitude that was expressed to the Appointed Grand Officers for a job well done.

Now it was time to get started with the formal introductions of these wonderful officers. Sister Debbie Buckalew, Co-Chairman, served as MC for the event. As each officer was introduced, they were escorted by a Sister from their own respective Chapter. Greetings were extended to all. William Dula, Grand Chaplain, gave the devotion prior to the meal.

Everyone enjoyed an outstanding buffet dinner prepared by Stephanie Apostolou of Tastefully Gourmet Catering. The array of desserts left no one hungry.

Sister Debbie introduced all the dignitaries for the day. We were blessed to have present Past Grand Matrons and Patrons, Grand Representatives, Deputy Grand Lecturers, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, Masonic affiliates, Star Sisters and Brothers and family members.

The time came to honor these eleven special people. Each officer was asked to come forward with a representative from their chapter. The respective Star member spoke on behalf of the chapter and then presented a gift. Each Appointed Grand Officer then spoke.

The afternoon was not quite over yet. As a tribute to these officers, Miss Historic Maryland 2014, Audreanna Colombo, and Miss Historic Maryland's Outstanding Teen, Rebecca Block, performed a dance/ballet to the song "For Good" from the musical "Wicked".



Audreanna Columbo and Rebecca Block joined everyone on this special day...



...and entertained us with their beautiful dancing.

As the song progressed, each officer was escorted through a mirrored door. What a beautiful and elegant sight it was. The girls did an outstanding job. Their outfits of raspberry (the Worthy Grand Matron's color) were made just for this event.

The afternoon concluded with thanks to those in attendance who helped to make the day a success. Each officer was given a homemade hurricane lamp with their picture inside attached to a tea light. Also on the tables were the same type of hurricane lamp, which were given away as a door prize to one lucky person at each table. In closing, everyone said in unison The Mizpah Benediction.

The time came and went for the Appointed Grand Officers Reception. Many memories were made on that 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February. It will live long and dear in their hearts and minds. It was indeed a day "The Lord Hath Made".

Carol Newman, Chairman

## ALABAMA BOUND

On June 29, 2014, at Marlboro's Grand Visitation, I was bestowed with the great honor of being appointed the Grand Representative to Alabama in Maryland by Sister Bette Bowen and Brother Bill Gunn. I was so surprised and excited. It was my first appointment ever and, unaware to them, my future son-in-law has family in Alabama and one of my dear friend's husband was just stationed in Alabama and moved right after school closed. So, the appointment location is special to me.

Alabama's Grand Sessions was in October, so Jimmy and I started making plans to attend their Grand Sessions. My counterpart is a dear lady named Glenda West. She also just received her appointment to Maryland, so we both got to enjoy this honor as newbees. We exchanged cards and phone calls in anticipation of our arrival.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2013, Brother Jimmy Russell and I left at 3:40 a.m. to head to Alabama. We enjoyed the travel time as we anticipated the events of the week and the friends we would meet. It's a long drive, but the

company was great. We don't get much alone time. We arrived in Birmingham at 5:30 p.m. Alabama time (they are an hour behind us). We met up with my friend Sabrina that just moved from Maryland to Alabama and had dinner and spent several hours catching up.



Bunny and Jimmy with her counterpart, Glenda West

On Thursday morning we went to sessions registration, hospitality and met some wonderful and amazing friends. The Alabama Sisters and Brothers were so kind and friendly. Someone spoke to us everywhere we went. The Worthy Grand Matron's theme was Christmas all year long and everything was decorated for Christmas. We received Christmas goodie bags and favors and great food.

Upon the suggestion of one of their members, Jimmy and I drove to see the Vulcan statue and park. He is the God of Steel and the view is magnificent. After talking to an employee at the park, we found out that Talladega Speedway was just an hour away. If you don't already know, for 2013-14, Julia Halla No. 107 Hollywood's theme was NASCAR. Jimmy loves NASCAR, and visiting Talladega was an unexpected and unplanned surprise for both of us. We were able to tour the track and actually get out and walk on the winner's circle. There was another couple on the tour with us and she turned out to be an OES member (not active at the moment) and was in Rainbow. She and her

husband were traveling for their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and stopped to tour the track. They also accompanied us on the tour of the museum at the track. They even had a room dedicated to Dale Earnhardt, Sr., which is Jimmy's all time favorite driver. We took turns taking pictures of each other. In the Masonic Family you meet friends everywhere you go.

Then, it was back to the hotel and across the street to tour the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. It was a three-story museum with tons of history and paraphernalia. Back to the hotel and into the tux and formal for their banquet.

The centerpieces were all Christmas themed and the food was delicious. My counterpart was not arriving until Friday morning, but we sat with some wonderful representatives from other jurisdictions. Each person put their name on the back of their ticket and turned them in. Then, the Worthy Grand Matron drew four tickets to receive a present all wrapped up for Christmas as a door prize. What a neat way to do these gifts!

There were vendors galore (shoes, clothes, accessories, jewelry, badges, etc.). You name it, they had it. Brother Jimmy ordered a Blue Lodge badge, and it was ready for pick-up the next morning. The Grand Representatives Luncheon was on Friday morning at 11 a.m. Again, each table was decorated with a Christmas theme and the favors were beautiful. We enjoyed a delicious meal, good fellowship with our counterparts and Grand Representatives from other jurisdictions. We even had two Past Grand Patrons and their spouses at our table.

At 1 p.m. the afternoon session began, which included the cavalcade of flags. It was exciting to walk beside Glenda in the ceremony. The entire room was the most beautiful Christmas Wonderland I have ever seen. It was breathtaking. The East had a Christmas tree that spouted out snow. There were angels and even Star Point dolls in puffy gowns. Each archway in the North, South and West were festively decorated. The Altar was glass and

had a red velvet cloth in the bottom with the nativity in the center of the cloth. Words cannot do justice to the beauty of the room.

As my niece was getting married on Saturday, Jimmy and I had to say our goodbyes Friday evening and head home in time for the wedding. We took a few more pictures with Glenda and left after the afternoon session. They don't do installation until Sunday afternoon. I was able to meet the Associate Grand Matron and Associate Grand Patron but was unable to stay for the installation.

We had a rainy and foggy trip home, but we made it safely. We arrived back home at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, got a few hours sleep and was at the wedding at 3 p.m. What an exciting and busy few days.

This trip meant more to me than ever expected. I was honored and surprised at the appointment and excited about the trip to a place we had never been. However, never in a million years did I expect this trip to be the last trip I would take with my husband. Just one short month later, he passed away from a heart attack. It was so unexpected and quick. But, I am thankful to God and Bette for giving us the opportunity to share this last adventure together. We truly had the best time with each other and friends, new and old.

If you ever get the opportunity to visit a Grand Sessions in another jurisdiction, please take advantage of it. The hospitality was wonderful. We met new friends everywhere we went. It was an amazing time. Happy New Year to all and thank you all for your cards, calls, thoughts, prayers, food and friendship! Without you all, I would not be able to keep my spirits up. I know that God puts people in our lives for a reason, and he surely blessed me when he put my OES Sisters and Brothers in my life. God Bless You All!

With Star Love and Admiration,  
Bunny Russell  
Grand Representative to Alabama

## IN MEMORIAM



**Mildred S. Martin, PGM**

Worthy Grand Matron 1960-1961  
Entered Eternal Rest January 3, 2014

"I know that you've been lonesome  
For I've been lonesome, too.  
Now in a few short hours  
I'll be home with you.

I've traveled far, I've found much love  
And laughter; it would seem  
That I was ever walking  
In a happy, lovely dream.

And for the dream, I'm thankful  
For the beauty of paths I've roamed;  
But forever I'll be happy  
That I share with you our home."



## NEW MARYLAND STAR EDITOR

Congratulations to Sister Beverly Southall, Havre de Grace No. 27, who will be Editor of the Maryland Star for the 2014-15 Grand Year. Sister Beverly has lots of experience with newsletters and publications. She will do a great job reporting on the events and happenings in the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

After this edition, if you wish to subscribe to or renew an old subscription, please make your check payable to the Grand Chapter of MD Star News and send to Beverly Southall, 1678 Perryville Road, Perryville, MD 21903. Subscriptions are \$6 for four quarterly newsletters or may be downloaded from the Grand Chapter website at [www.gcmd.org](http://www.gcmd.org).

On behalf of Sister Beverly Pazak, Co-Editor, we would like to thank everyone for their support of and interest in the Maryland Star and especially thank those who contributed their many articles to each issue. We have enjoyed being a part of the history of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

Gay S. Topper, Editor  
2011-2013



### It's not too late!

You are cordially invited to attend  
The sixth and final Johnson-Dill  
"Our Birdwatcher's Club" Luncheon  
Sunday, April 6  
Doors open at 1 p.m., dinner at 2 p.m.  
Entertainment to follow  
The Crowder Center  
424 East Wesley Circle  
Denton, Maryland  
Buffet menu - \$20  
Deadline - March 25  
Contact Karen Smith, Sec/Tres  
For more information  
301-843-2568/garysubu@aol.com

### CALENDAR

APRIL	
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
MAY	
6	JPGM received in Oakland No. 67 7:30 p.m.
7	WGP received in Harford No. 83 7:30 p.m.
13	WGM received in Annapolis No. 46 7:30 p.m.
13	JPGP received in Victory No. 40 7:30 p.m.