

The Maryland Star

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

Volume X — Issue 4

Jan—Feb—Mar 2011

Key West Trip

By Sister Barbara Clark, Grand Electa

WGM Jean Chance and WGP Jon Thompson, Wilma Thompson, Claudia Eaton, Barbara Clark, Isabelle Beagle, Madge & Cecil Jones, Joan Morris, Russell & Karen Gardner, Elizabeth Jordan, Patricia & James Morgan, Barbara Croft, Carol Miller, Helen Williams and Marie Chance, 18 in all, enjoyed a wonderful, warm vacation in Key West, Florida from January 20th through January 25th, 2011. All enjoyed a Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square, lunch at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville where the entire group was filmed for an upcoming television show called "It's All About the Music Man", and toured around town on the Conch Train. Most toured the Harry S. Truman White House, Mel Fisher's Museum and Ernest Hemmingway's home. Several took a Ghost Walking Tour and learned about the many ghosts and strange happenings in Key West. A special surprise for Sister Jean and Brother Jon was a visit to the famous Key West Butterfly Conservatory. Sister Jean was certainly in awe of the beauty throughout the conservatory and spent many hours at the gift shop. Sister Jean and 6 other members ventured out over the water Parasailing!!! And they all survived!!! A great time was had by everyone as there was time for rest, swimming in the pool and much fellowship and laughter. The day after we arrived back in Maryland there was several inches of snow!!!!!! Oh WARM weather where are you?



Birthday Party at Bonnie Blink

By Sister Marcia Betz, Chairman

The Worthy Grand Matron's Birthday Party for the Residents of Bonnie Blink was held on Wednesday, March 9. This is a party given by the Bonnie Blink Committee as the WGM's celebration of the birthday of each of the Residents of Bonnie Blink. Sister Jean and Brother Jon arrived along with members of their Grand Family, traveling companions and past Grand Officers.

Thanks to the donation of flowers from the WGM, WGP, Grand Officers and committee members every Resident received a corsage or boutonniere. Ellis Woodward, singer, guitarist and entertainer extraordinaire, performed non-stop until the end of the party. There was birthday cake, ice cream, drinks and every imaginable dessert treat which was enjoyed by all at the party and there was still plenty to "take home". There were four Residents who are or will be 100 or more years old this year. Sister Jean and Brother Jon gave to each their Butterfly Pin and a "Goodie Bag" with homemade treats. The Birthday honorees were delighted to receive these special gifts. All of the Residents whose birthday was in March also received a special gift presented by the WGM and WGP.

All the Residents were given Birthday cards, gifts and lots of memories. For the Residents that were not able to attend the party, a committee member visited each one and delivered to them treats, gifts and flowers. Birthday cake and other treats were taken to both Health Care Units to be distributed by the Staff. All left the party smiling with WGM, WGP and our entertainer, Ellis, wishing them "Happy Birthday".

The Bonnie Blink Committee has received many calls, cards and notes from the Residents letting us know that they appreciate the generosity of the Chapters of the Grand Chapter.

Memorial Roll

The deadline to submit names for the Memorial Roll is **April 10**. Please send \$12.50 and the name along with the name and address of who to send an acknowledgement to

Tom Pryer, 601 Chapel Heights Dr, Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Grand Representatives Club Luncheon

The Grand Representatives Club will hold their luncheon on Monday, May 2 at noon. The menu will be Garden Salad, Teriyaki Beef Stir Fry, Rice, Vegetables, Spice Cake, Rolls & Butter, Coffee & Tea. The cost is \$28 and \$1 for dues. Make checks payable to ***Grand Representatives Club of MD, OES*** and mail by **April 20** to

Gloria Terrell
6405 Julie Ann Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Youth Committee Quillow Raffle

The Youth Committee is holding a raffle for a Redskins and Ravens Quillow, a quilt that folds up into a pillow. Chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at sessions. Contact any member of the Youth Committee or your chapter secretary to purchase tickets.

Gleaner Chapter No. 49 to Celebrate 90th Birthday

On Sunday, June 12, Gleaner Chapter invites everyone to join them in celebrating it's 90th birthday. The festivities will be held at Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Avenue, Baltimore, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The sit-down dinner menu will consist of tossed salad, stuffed boneless chicken breast and top round of beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, ice cream, birthday cake, coffee and tea. Entertainment will be provided by the "Mood Swings".

The cost is \$30 per person and no tickets will be sold at the door, so please send your reservations and checks made payable to ***Gleaner Chapter #49*** no later than May 25 to

Mary Lou Griffiths
7200 Sindall Rd
Parkville, MD 21234

The dress for the afternoon is business attire. If you have any questions, please contact Florence Littleton at 410-529-3553 after 6:00 pm.

Howdy from Teexas!

By Brother William Sanner, Grand Representative of Texas

The Grand Chapter of Texas held their Grand Session in Amarillo, Texas with the “Luminous Lights” General Banquet in the Amarillo Civic Center, where most of the events were held, on Wednesday August 4th. The Most Worthy Grand Matron was present throughout the Session, Texas being her home state. On Wednesday we were met at our hotel by my counterpart from Texas, Sister Linda Jackson. She and her husband chauffeured and escorted us nearly everywhere and we had a most enjoyable time thanks to Linda and her husband.

On Thursday, August 5th the “Let Your Light Shine” Grand Representative’s Breakfast was held with all the visiting Grand Representatives being inducted as honorary members of the Texas Grand Representatives Club.



L to R: Brother Bill Sanner, Grand Representative of Texas in Maryland and Sister Linda Jackson, Grand Representative of Maryland in Texas

The 128th Grand Session of Texas Informal Opening began at 11:30 AM followed immediately by the Formal Opening at 1:00 PM. The Grand Pages performed a march that brought in the pedestals, emblems and Bible. Texas is one of only 2 Grand Chapters that displays the Square and Compasses on their open Bible. They also always open the Bible to the same page. The Session opened with a rousing “HOWDY!”. The afternoon proceeded with introductions but as time approached to get ready to depart for the show

“TEXAS!” they were cut short right after the introduction of Grand Officers from other Grand Jurisdictions and was continued the next day.



Buses took us to the valley that is second only to the Grand Canyon by way of many sharp curves and switchbacks along edges of steep drops. In the gorge was where the show “Texas!” is staged. Prior to the show we all enjoyed a steak dinner Texas style with all the trimmings. For the show the Most Worthy Grand Matron was seated immediately in front of me. There were horses, Cowboys and Cowgirls in contrast to the farmers and the two sides didn’t get along. And then came the railroad. There was a “prairie fire” to include an “on fire” cowboy and as the night progressed we were also serenaded by thunder and the sky lit up with lightening. Fortunately the rain held off until we had just gotten into the buses.



Unfortunately, early on the morning of the 5th we boarded our plane for the trip home as there was a pressing meeting the next day in Maryland.

Secretary & Treasurer's Luncheon

If you are a current or former Chapter Secretary or Treasurer, you and a guest are invited to attend a luncheon on Wednesday, May 4 at noon. The menu is Melon Wedge, Chef's Salad with ham, turkey, swiss cheese, egg & tomatoes, Coconut Cake, Coffee, Tea, Rolls & Butter. The cost is \$22

Go to the Grand Chapter's website to download the reservation form:

http://www.gcmd.org/IMG_0005.pdf

Mail before **April 15**, make checks payable to *Sylvia Spriestersbach* and send to

Sylvia Spriestersbach
2910 Ritchie Marlboro Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Sessions Pre-Registration

All members are encouraged to pre-register for Sessions as it has proven to be an effective time saver on Monday morning. This method is for your convenience and the committee hopes that you will take advantage of this opportunity.

You can obtain a registration form from your chapter secretary or download it from the Grand Chapter's website.

http://www.gcmd.org/IMG_0001.pdf

Please send your form and a \$10 check made payable to *Grand Chapter of Maryland Credentials Committee* before **April 16** to

Judith Birckhead
2853 Ridge Road
Waldorf, MD 20603-6145

Sanner/Curtis Administration Luncheon

The Sanner/Curtis Administration Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 12:00 Noon. The menu will consist of Garden Salad, Chicken w/Lemon Garlic Pepper Glaze, Starch, Vegetable, Rolls, Lemon Meringue Pie, Coffee & Tea.

You can download the reservation form from the Grand Chapter's website: http://www.gcmd.org/IMG_0004.pdf

Deadline is April 15. Make checks payable to *Sanner/Curtis Administration* and mail before **April 15** to

Karla Light Sec/Treas
23295 Town Creek Dr, Lexington Park, MD 20653

Schools of Instruction

The first School of Instruction will be held on Saturday, May 21 at Frederick Chapter 79. AM & AP School is at 10:00 am and the general school will begin at 1:00 pm. Lunch will be served at noon at a cost of \$8.50 for a Kaiser Roll w/ Sliced Beef au jus, Cole Slaw, Pasta Salad, Homemade Pie, Coffee & Tea. Make checks payable to **Frederick Chapter No. 79** and mail by **May 12** to

M. Jean Lentz
5639 Crabapple Drive
Frederick, MD 21703

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The second school will be held on Saturday, June 4 at Kensington Chapter No. 39. AM & AP School is at 10:00 am and the general school will begin at 1:00 pm. Lunch will be served at noon at a cost of \$12 for Roast Pork Loin, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable, Apple Sauce, Assorted Desserts, Rolls, Butter, Coffee & Tea. Make checks payable to **Kensington Chapter No. 39** and mail by **May 23** to

Adele Witmer  
15300 Walbrook Court, Apt 3G  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

## 2011-2012 WGM & WGP's Special Jewelry

Chapter Secretaries will be placing an order for the 2011-2012 WGM & WGP's Special Jewelry prior to April 21. The cost will be \$4.00 and a designated representative of your chapter will be picking them up at the Sanner/Curtis Administration Luncheon. Please contact your chapter secretary to pre-order your pin.

## Ways and Means

We still have the horse pins available, and two of the large tote bags. We will have some other items available at Sessions.

## Grand Representative Trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil

*By Sister Shawn Garren, Grand Representative of Sao Paula, Brazil*

On March 17, I boarded a plane to attend the Grand Session of Brazil in Sao Paulo. I was met at the airport by my counterpart Sister Heidi Maithias and spent the next several days with her and her family visiting Sao Paulo.

After several days of touring, we went to a Mineral & Gemstone Store and then had tea at the House of Italy forty-two stories above the city, the views were breath-taking. After tea, there was a samba rehearsal & I thought I was just going to watch but the next thing I know I'm joining them. I attended Heidi's chapter meeting. It was fascinating hearing the ritual in Portuguese. The women sit on the Worthy Matron's right and the men sit to Worthy Patron's left. In attendance that night were Grand Representatives of Sao Paulo in Scotland, Bolivia and Maryland. We each spoke about our Chapters, how long we have been in the Eastern Star, our experiences in our Grand Chapters, and how we support the Masonic Youth in our State.

On Thursday we were given a tour of the Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo and visited the Grand Master. It was a very formal introduction and a very moving experience. After the introductions he provided each visitor with a special thank you gift. That evening we attended the Informal Welcome Dinner. The entertainment that evening was a Brazilian Country, Rock and Rock-a-Billy artist and everyone had a good time.

Friday Morning I attended the Grand Representatives Meeting, The Worthy Grand Matron thanked all the visiting Grand Reps for attending and was please to report that she increased the number of Grand Representatives in Sao Paulo to 89 appointments. In the afternoon was the ritualistic opening of Grand Chapter and various reports. Some interesting facts - Sao Paulo has 37 chapters with 1,047 members and this was the 4<sup>th</sup> Session. Friday evening was the Formal Opening and I was officially welcomed; Heidi and I walked in together while she carried the Maryland State Flag.



The biggest honor I had was carrying the American Flag. As I'm standing there waiting for the American National Anthem to begin, tears begin to flow because I AM proud to be an American. After this meeting we went to the formal dinner.

Saturday morning I did some shopping and relaxed by the pool. At the afternoon meeting, there were 2 ceremonies, one between the Sao Paulo and Bolivia Grand Chapters explaining their friendship and co-operation together as Sisters and Brothers in the Eastern Star. Then eighteen Job's Daughters from Agnes Bethel No. 11 presented a ceremony explaining what Job's Daughters is and why the Star should support them. This was truly amazing for me as a Past Honored Queen and I met with them afterwards and took lots of pictures. They gave me a special cheer saying they were happy to meet me and we are all sisters through Job's Daughters. During the evening's traditional Brazilian Barbeque there were presentations to the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron including the Samba performance that was rehearsed on Tuesday. It was a lot of fun and everyone was really surprised that I was up there with the other dancers. I had a BLAST. After the presentations we again danced the night away.

Sunday was the Open Installation. It was beautiful and there were speeches and well wishing from the Distinguished Guests and Sister Paula Swansey, Virginia's Associate Grand Conductress gave the greeting for the American Star Members. I had



the pleasure to meet the first Worthy Grand Matron of Sao Paulo, who appointed Brother Pat Curtis as Grand Representative during her year and I met the Worthy Grand Matron who signed my commission to represent Sao Paulo. The events ended too quickly and I had a hard time saying farewell to all the fast friends I met while in Sao Paulo. I want to tell who ever is the next Grand Representative of Sao Paulo in Brazil, reach out and get in touch with your counterpart. You may get lucky and she or he will understand English, if not don't let that discourage you. If you have access to the Internet, Google has a program that can translate your letters into Portuguese. It's not perfect but it does get the point across. The Brazilians are a gracious people, who love to have a good time and they have showed me so much love I will be going back for another sessions one day.

Sister Leslie, "Miss Daisy", I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity; It is one that I will always remember.

## Upcoming Events

|         |                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| Apr 9   | Sessions Rehearsal                         |
| Apr 10  | Bird Watchers Club Luncheon                |
| Apr 16  | Grand Chapter Choir Rehearsal              |
| Apr 17  | Palm Sunday Service at Bonnie Blink Chapel |
| Apr 21  | Bonnie Blink Bingo                         |
| Apr 28  | DC Formal Opening                          |
| May 1   | Sessions Banquet                           |
| May 2-4 | Wings of Friendship Session                |
| May 5   | Parkton's Welcome Home for Jon Thompson    |
| May 10  | Annapolis' Welcome Home for Jean Chance    |
| May 21  | School of Instruction at Frederick         |
| Jun 4   | School of Instruction at Kensington        |

## WGM-WGP's Special Project

*By Sister Bette Bowen, Chairman*

Life changing connections between horse and rider – that's what each of you has achieved this year when generously making your donations to the Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's Special Project, **Maryland Therapeutic Riding**.

As Chairman, it is my privilege to thank you for lovingly participating in this mighty organization nestled in the rolling hills of the equestrian center in Crownsville, MD.

Your donations will richly contribute to the rehabilitation of physical, mental, emotional conditions, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, neuromuscular disorders, post-traumatic brain injuries, and cognitive disorders.

With your support and dedication this year, **MTR** shall continue to meet its goals. Programs, such as Horses For Heroes, a specialty program for Veterans and active duty military who have been wounded; Horses For Hope, a program for women in need of emotional encouragement; and Hippotherapy, a healing treatment program that improves posture, balance, and mobility, are all changing lives in individuals through your financial gifts.

**MTR**, the riders, and clients sincerely thank you for your support in 2010-2011. It has been my honor to serve, to work, and to chair Sister Jean's and Brother Jon's Special Project during the "Wings of Friendship" year.

## **Publication Info**

**Next issue:** April, May, June 2011

**Deadline for Submissions: June 30, 2011**

**Send to:** Gay Topper, [gay.topper52@gmail.com](mailto:gay.topper52@gmail.com)

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## **Message from the Editor, Mary Lake**

As this Grand Chapter year comes to a close, so does my role as Editor of the Maryland Star. I want to thank all my Sisters and Brothers for their encouragement, support and kind words.

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