

# The Maryland Star

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

Volume XI – Issue 2

July-August-September 2011

## ***Olala! Paris to Normandy***

***August 15-23, 2011***

by Bill Sanner

It is hard to put into words the magnificence of the sights, sounds, and tastes of our experiences on the recent Grand trip to France. Cheese and wine in a sidewalk café, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, gardens everywhere we went, Monet's water garden, Van Gogh's last home, Versailles, Honfleur, the beaches of Normandy and the American Cemetery overlooking the English Channel, taking in the castles, bridges, swans and graceful chateaus as we made our way blissfully down the river. And churches, every stop had its cathedrals and churches, monuments to God and the Saints, such as Joan of Arc.



The group included Sister Linda Sanner, WGM, and husband Bill; Brother Pat Curtis, WGP, wife Mary, and their friends Lois and Bill McCrabb; and Sisters Maureen Cole and Grace Walker.



Sister Linda, WGM, and Brother Pat, WGP, at the Eiffel Tower

## **Daughters of Job No. 74 Summer Gathering**



Sister Linda Sanner, WGM, and members and friends of Daughters of Job No. 74 enjoy their annual summer lunch at the Silver Spring Restaurant in Bel Air, MD, on Sunday, August 7. MMmmm good!

**Julia Halla No. 107 Honors 50-Year Member  
by Karla Light, WM**

Julia Halla No. 107 in Hollywood had its Grand Visitation on Friday, September 9, 2011. During the evening we were thrilled that Sister Lynn McGuffie, PM, was presented with her 50-year member pin and certificate by Worthy Grand Matron Linda Sanner and Worthy Grand Patron Patrick Curtis. Lynn was Worthy Matron in 1987-1988 and Grand Organist in 1995-1996. She has been a true and loyal member of our chapter, and always has a smile on her face. We love her very much!



L-R: Sister Linda Sanner, WGM; Brother Randy Geck, WP; Sister Lynn McGuffie, PM; Sister Karla Light, WM; and Brother Patrick Curtis, WGP

**Travels with the Grand Conductress  
by Bette Bowen**

This year has been relaxing and entertaining. Every day is a journey to be traveled. It's all about attitude and state of mind! As Grand Conductress, I've been privileged to greet many of my counterparts from the District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, New Mexico, and West Virginia. Our fraternal ties are strengthening and we are sharing many interesting ideas and thoughts.

July's highlight was the Reception/Banquet hosted by the Grand Chapter of West Virginia for Sister Bobbi White, RWAGM. Sister Bobbi's theme was "Dancing with the Stars." Brother Sam and I dusted off our dancing shoes and joined the Grand

Chapter of WV to celebrate Sister Bobbi and her "Lucky Stars." In attendance were two PMWGMs, twenty-seven jurisdictions, numerous distinguished guests from other appended bodies, Sister Bobbi's family, and countless friends.



L-R: Sisters Debbie, WGM of WV; Bette; and Bobbi, RWAGM

Many activities were planned for the guests including Casino Night and Tour of the Capitol. The State Capitol is situated on the Kanawha River. Charleston is a quaint town with its selections of Victorian-era buildings. Many people who joined this tour were fascinated by its beauty and realm. The WV Veterans Memorial honors more than ten thousand men and women who defended our Nation. This Memorial is dedicated to WW I, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans. Brother Sam and I did miss a huge adventure - The Capitol Flea Market! Later we learned this market is better known as WV's Jewel! The market is diverse in that folks shop for hours, eat delicious foods, and then enjoy live music!

It has been said that there is more pleasure in anticipation than in realization. Brother Sam and I have enjoyed every courtesy extended to us these past eight months. May we continue to be faithful to every trust and considerate in every act, directing our efforts to comfort those in distress; and may His Spirit, whose Star we've seen in the East, continue to be with us, inspiring us to enjoy the "Treasures of Life" and share our happiness with others.

**Grand Representative Trip to Georgia  
June 9 -11, 2011  
C. Elaine Niemeyer, Towson No. 70**

What a thrill it was to again take a road trip this past June to Georgia with my mother, Sister Chris Walz. My husband, Keith, agreed to come along in place of our "road companion", Sister Bonnie Wagner, PGM of MD and GGCC Member of Knights Templar Charities. Just days before leaving, Sister Bonnie damaged her knee and doctor's orders were, "No traveling until after surgery!" We missed her company, but are glad she is doing so well!

We arrived Thursday morning at the Macon Marriott City Center Hotel, where the Sessions were held. Right off the bat, we ran into my counterpart, Brenda Payne and her husband, Randy, who is Grand Representative of Scotland in Georgia. We were introduced to everyone Brenda met!



L-R: Sister C. Elaine Niemeyer, Grand Rep. to GA; Sister Brenda Payne, Grand Rep. to MD; Brother Randy Payne; Grand Rep. to Scotland, and Sister Chris Walz

Later that afternoon was the Informal Opening for the "All That Jazz" Session. "Razz A Ma Tazz Minstrels" and "Revel Rousers" danced around the Convention Center room throwing colored beaded necklaces while the band played up-beat music! The Grand Officers and their escorts came out of the "Creole Queen" paddle boat that was connected to the Grand East.

I was told that Pages and Ushers can be any officer from a Chapter. Your WM asks if you'd like to participate at Sessions. If you say, "yes" you would get a letter from the WGM telling you what to wear and your assignment.

The Bible and Emblem Ceremony was very impressive. Men with white gloves brought in the altar, set it down altogether, then did the same for the Star Point chairs and pedestals. While a narrator read a program and soft music played, two characters (heroine and male escort) walked in and stood behind a pedestal; each Star Point entered and stood beside her chair; a page went to the altar to pick up the emblem walked over and handed it to the Star Point who then placed it on her pedestal.

After the Grand Chapter was called to order, the Grand Officers marched around the Grand Chapter to lively music for at least four minutes. They certainly got a "work-out" each day!

The next day, all three of us attended the "Carnival of Friendship" Grand Representative Luncheon. Each Grand Representative in Georgia decorated their table and we enjoyed my counterpart's company along with three other Georgia gals. Returning to the business part of the afternoon, WGM, Sister Beverly Klenke stated a new Chapter had been started and they were able to initiate 22 members!

That evening, we attended the "Midnight Masquerade Banquet", which was enjoyable. I was delighted to receive an Honorary Membership Certificate to the Grand Chapter of Georgia! Everyone was so friendly and made us feel welcome. It was a wonderful time to get to know my counterpart, Sister Brenda who was the Personal Secretary to the Jr. PGM, Sister Annelle Hammond, whom I was very happy to greet again. Sister Brenda and I have been in contact via e-mail and phone. If things go as we planned, Sister Brenda, her husband, Brother Randy, Sister Annelle and a few others will attend MD's Grand Session next year! Even though my commission ends October 28th, I can't wait for them to visit! I thank Sister N. Pearl Johnson and Brother LeRoy Dill for this fabulous opportunity...I loved it and will always cherish this honor.

**"Joy is the Music of Angels" Grand Session  
June 20-22, 2011  
Ethel Dill, Grand Representative to Pennsylvania**

**Thelma and Louise, Eastern Star Style!  
Gay Topper, PM  
Grand Representative of Texas in Maryland**

LeRoy and I arrived Sunday afternoon and checked into the Holiday Inn Express about 20 minutes from the York Fairgrounds. We went to the hospitality room in the Toyota area and were given blue bags with a blue basket embroidered on it and filled with lots of goodies. Registration was not open, so I treated LeRoy to a Father's Day dinner at Alexander's Restaurant about 15 minutes from the fairgrounds. We had been there before, so we knew the food was good.

Monday morning began with the Grand Representatives breakfast at 7 a.m. We were seated in front of the head table. After breakfast, each Grand Representative was called and introduced and given a large blue bag (very heavy) also with more goodies in it, and formed a line in front of the head table and given a hearty welcome. There were over 200 people in attendance.

We attended the morning session, then the noon luncheon, "The Hills Are Alive", and were seated on the first level of the head table since I was escorting LeRoy as a PGP.

The Grand Representatives were introduced at the afternoon session under Fraternal Correspondence. We were introduced at the altar with our counterpart by state, and information was given about when our stated joined the Union and our Grand Chapter was formed. We all wore white blouses and dark blue skirts, and the men wore white shirts and dark blue pants. We also wore a red scarf over our left shoulder. It was a very nice ceremony, after which the Grand Chapter recessed until the Informal Opening at 6 p.m.

We stayed for the Informal Opening at 6 p.m. and Formal Opening at 7:30 p.m. I was introduced again, and so was LeRoy. The Formal Opening was over at 10:45 p.m., when we headed back to the Holiday Inn. It was a tiring day but lots of fun. My counterpart, Sister Rose Marie Hoke, was so excited that LeRoy and I were there. We left on Tuesday morning to come home.

In March of this year, when I was appointed Grand Representative of Texas in Maryland by Sister Jean Chance, WGM, and Brother Jon Thompson, WGP, Sister Sylvia Spriestersbach and I immediately planned on a road trip to the Grand Chapter of Texas Grand Session taking place in Houston, Texas in August. We left on Sunday, August 7, driving through Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas, arriving late Monday afternoon at the Duncanville, Texas home of Carolyn and Tony Arthur, Sylvia's sister and brother-in-law.

We had a great visit with Carolyn and attended her Chapter, Duncanville No. 1014, that night. Yes, Texas Chapters meet in July and August. I was happy to substitute as Chaplain, and Sylvia was privileged to present a program on our founder, Dr. Rob Morris. Presenting a program on Dr. Morris in August is a requirement in Texas (comparable to our presenting Signs and Passes, the Obligation, and Landmarks each year).

On Wednesday morning we left Dallas for Houston. After checking into the Hilton Americas Hotel, we went in search of the vendors. After a delightful afternoon of shopping, we were both pleased to purchase a few special things to remember our trip by.

That evening we attended the "It's a Small World After All" General Grand Chapter Banquet honoring Sisters Rennie Ofton, MWGM; Alma Lynn Bane, RWG Secretary; and Rosemary Swetland, Worthy Grand Organist. It is indeed a small world as we spotted Sisters Jean Lockard, PGM, and Vickie Starr, AGM of the District of Columbia, and enjoyed chatting with them. Seats are not assigned at the banquets and luncheons, so we went in search of two empty chairs, ultimately sitting with a delightful group of members from Texas.

On Thursday morning we attended the "Friends Around the World" Grand Representatives breakfast and sat with a few of our new friends from the night before, as well as the son and daughter-in-law of the late Brother Frederick W. Clark, MWGP, who had passed away in

December 2010. The breakfast buffet was delicious, and we collected many favors and memorabilia from other jurisdictions. I was honored to receive an Honorary Membership to the Texas Grand Representatives Association.

The 129<sup>th</sup> "Garden of Friendship" Session was called to order at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 11, by Sister Betty Benham, PGM of Texas. The Processional culminated in the introduction of Sister Mary Ruth White, WGM, and Brother K. Arthur Drescher, Jr., WGP of Texas. The Bible, Bible Marker and Square and Compasses were presented, with the Square and Compass being laid upon the open Holy Bible. Various flag presentations followed, with the grandsons of the WGM presenting the United States flag.

There were greetings from representatives of a number of groups, during which time Brother Henry Martin, PGP of Texas, was nominated as RWG Sentinel by Sister Marianne Shenefelt, RWAGC and PGM of Wyoming. After the greetings, all nonmembers retired, followed by the Ritualistic Opening. The Grand Officers sat in rocking lawn chairs with padded seats, making their time spent on the floor very comfortable! The Grand Warder and Grand Sentinel sat close to each other on either side of a pedestal, giving their raps on the same pedestal but using different gavels.



Sister Linda Jackson, my counterpart, presented the Maryland flag

During introductions, I was pleased to be presented with the Grand Representatives of Texas in Other Jurisdictions, escorted to the Grand East and given Grand Honors. Later, I participated in the Grand Representatives Flag Program with my counterpart, Sister Linda Jackson of Longview, Texas.

That evening we attended the "Deep Purple Night" General Banquet honoring the WGM and WGP. In our search for seats, I was fortunate to sit next to Sister Wylma Peacock, a former Grand Representative of Maryland in Texas, and her daughter, Sister Wynelle Coats. During her appointment, Sister Wylma became great friends with her counterpart, Brother Ted Shea of Wicomico No. 91, who I know well, having been in the same Grand Family in 2005. It's a small world indeed, where you are only a seat away from meeting a friend of a friend! That's one of the best things about traveling to other Chapters and Grand jurisdictions.

Early Friday morning we were on the road again. We headed to Memphis, Tennessee and Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley. Our timing was impeccable, as we were there during "Elvis Week", which marked the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death on August 16, 1977. After leaving Memphis on Saturday afternoon, we traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, touring the Biltmore House and estate on Sunday. It was a wonderful, relaxing day.

Unfortunately, though, all good things must end. It was a wonderful trip with a great friend and filled with a lifetime of good memories. Again, I want to thank Sister Jean and Brother Jon for the appointment. I've already enjoyed it tremendously and am looking forward to attending the Triennial in Fort Worth in November 2012. Looks like another road trip for the two of us!

Note: For those of you who may not be familiar with the "Thelma and Louise" reference in the title, it refers to a movie about two friends named Thelma and Louise who take a road trip together. Unfortunately, their trip did not end well. I'm happy to say ours ended just fine.

**WGM AND WGP SPECIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE  
MARYLAND MASONIC YOUTH GROUPS**



**Longaberger Basket Bingo**

WGM's Special Project Fundraising Event to Benefit  
the Maryland Youth Groups –  
Saturday, October 22  
Centennial Lodge, Home of Marlboro No. 61  
6110 Croom Station Road  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
Doors open at noon – Games begin at 1 p.m.  
Food and Beverages will be sold  
Prizes -- Longaberger Baskets and pottery pieces



**Holiday Wreath Sale**

What better way to help our Masonic Youth  
than by decorating your homes for the holidays?  
All products are real and made from fresh Balsam  
Fir evergreens. See samples and place your orders  
between now and the Basket Bingo on October 22  
at Marlboro Chapter.



**Pot of Gold Lottery**



\$10 donation makes you eligible for 12 drawings  
\$100 prizes each month except December and April -  
\$500

Congratulations to our current winners:  
Sister Kitty Neff, WM, Chestertown No. 86  
Brother Richard Naegele, PP, Gleaner No. 49

**Next Drawing – October 22 at Basket Bingo!**

Contact Karen Smith at 301-843-2568,  
[garysubu@aol.com](mailto:garysubu@aol.com), [Karen.f.smith@navy.mil](mailto:Karen.f.smith@navy.mil), or  
202-404-7058 for more information.

**Ways and Means Update**

by Phyllis Pahutski, Chairlady

Thank you for the outstanding support of the  
Fabulous Fall Fashion Show. The committee is  
indebted to you!

We had two fundraising items at the Fashion  
Show. The first was "The Best of Country Cookies"  
cookbook from the publishers of Taste of Home  
Magazine for \$10.50.



We are also offering a beautiful hand-woven,  
**Order of the Eastern Star Basket!** Contact Nancy  
Ford at 410-965-1589 to order your basket or  
Phyllis Pahutski 410-569-0005 for details.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Pentalpha No. 38 Shopping Extravaganza!**

Saturday, October 15, 1 – 4 p.m.

Held at Pentalpha Lodge

20516 Boland Farm Road, Germantown

Vendors include Cookie Lee Jewelry, Longaberger  
Baskets, AVON, Creative Memories, Mary Kay  
Cosmetics, Tastefully Simple, and a Mystery Vendor

Contact Phyllis Johnston at 301-972-0607 or  
[phyllisj44@comcast.net](mailto:phyllisj44@comcast.net) for further information

**You're Invited!**



All Friends and Fuzzy Slippers Night  
Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Unity No. 112, Camp Springs, MD  
Wear your cutest slippers and win a prize!

## Publication Information

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## GRAND CHAPTER CALENDAR

### OCT.

- |    |   |        |
|----|---|--------|
| 6  | Formal Opening - Grand Chapter of West Virginia |        |
| 8  | Past Grand's Dinner                             |        |
| 10 | Ionic #73 - <b>Special</b>                      | 8 p.m. |
| 13 | Worcester #102 - <b>Stated</b>                  | 8 p.m. |
| 14 | Suicide Bridge Riverboat Luncheon Cruise        | 1 p.m. |
| 14 | Wicomico #91 - <b>Special</b>                   | 8 p.m. |
| 15 | Roelma #113 - <b>Special</b>                    | 2 p.m. |
| 18 | Freedom #87 - <b>Stated</b>                     | 8 p.m. |
| 20 | Ruth #7 - <b>Special</b>                        | 8 p.m. |
| 22 | Special Project - Basket Bingo                  |        |
| 24 | Esther #47 - <b>Special</b>                     | 8 p.m. |
| 26 | Arundel #80 - <b>Special</b>                    | 8 p.m. |
| 28 | Halloween Youth Dance - Grand Lodge             |        |
| 29 | Harford #83 - <b>Special</b>                    | 2 p.m. |
| 30 | Galaxy Club Luncheon                            |        |
| 31 | Lebanon #108 - <b>Special</b>                   | 8 p.m. |

### NOV.

- |    |   |        |
|----|---|--------|
| 3  | Hagerstown #89 - <b>Special</b>                       | 8 p.m. |
| 4  | Frederick #79 - <b>Stated</b>                         | 8 p.m. |
| 5  | Maryland / Virginia / West Virginia Social            |        |
| 6  | PAGO Lunch  |        |
| 7  | Pentalpha #38 - <b>Special</b>                        | 8 p.m. |
| 11 | Queen Esther #3 - <b>Stated</b>                       | 8 p.m. |
| 12 | Ways and Means Dinner by Past Grands, Harford Chapter |        |
| 14 | Laurel #75 - <b>Special</b>                           | 8 p.m. |
| 16 | Centreville #69 - <b>Special</b>                      | 8 p.m. |
| 18 | Grand Lodge Banquet                                   |        |
| 19 | Grand Lodge Annual Communication                      |        |
| 29 | Annapolis #46 - <b>Special</b>                        | 8 p.m. |
| 30 | Severna Park #117 at Odenton #29 - <b>Special</b>     | 8 p.m. |

### DEC.

- |    |  |        |
|----|--|--------|
| 3  | Job's Daughters Pageant - Scottish Rite, Baltimore | 8 p.m. |
| 4  | Maryland JDI Spr. Visit - Grand Lodge of MD        |        |
| 7  | Gleaner #49 - <b>Stated</b>                        | 8 p.m. |
| 9  | Marlboro #61 - <b>Special</b>                      | 8 p.m. |
| 10 | Lewes Del. Unity Chapter - Exchange                | 2 p.m. |
| 15 | Kensington #39 - <b>Special</b>                    | 8 p.m. |