

The Maryland Star

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

Volume X — Issue 3

Oct—Nov—Dec 2010



Approximately 80 members of Maryland and West Virginia Grand Chapters pose for a group photo following a train ride through the beautiful countryside along the Potomac River.

A Swing Through Western Maryland

By Sylvia Spriestersbach, #61, Grand Ruth

The Grand Family of 2010-2011, along with their traveling companions and a host of other members, traveled to Western Maryland to attend Grand Visitations at Martha Washington No. 10, McKinley No. 12, Mountain No. 15, and Oakland No. 67. The days were filled with lots of activities, while surrounded by the beautiful fall colors.

On Friday, eighty Maryland and West Virginia Sisters and Brothers took a scenic train ride on the Potomac Eagle, followed by a delicious dinner at Romney Chapter.

On Saturday, everyone enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings at Will O' the Wisp at Deep Creek Lake. On Sunday, after attending church with Sister Mildred Martin, PGM, we enjoyed fun, food, and fellowship at a picnic put on by the Grand Star Points. We all had a great time.

In Memoriam

*Brother William D. Jones
Past Grand Patron 1979 – 1980*

Entered Eternal Rest on December 26, 2010

Wings of Friendship Session

The 113th Annual Session, “Wings of Friendship”, will be held Sunday, May 1 through Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City. Your chapter secretary has received the session packet, please contact them for the necessary forms and information.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Hotel Reservations—March 30

Rehearsal Luncheon \$8—April 1

Banquet \$45 thru *chapter secretary* prior to April 7

Corsage/Boutonniere Orders—April 12

Sanner/Curtis Luncheon \$25—April 15

Secretary/Treasurer Luncheon \$22—April 15

Preregistration \$10—April 16

Bonnie Blink Committee Activities

Feb. 9 – Wednesday 2:00 pm Valentine Tea

Mar. 10 - Thursday 2:00 pm WGM Birthday Party

Apr 17 - Sunday 3:00 pm Palm Sunday Services

Apr 21 - Thursday 2:00 pm Bingo

For more information contact:

Chairman, Marcy Betz, 410-544-7152

Here Comes the Bride!

By Sister Deborah Cohen, Pentalpha #38

Pentalpha Chapter #38 of Germantown held a Bridal Themed Afternoon Tea and Silent Auction on October 9, 2010. Wedding and bridesmaid gowns from years gone by were loaned by several members of the Chapter and were modeled by Chapter members and members of Hope Assembly #12 IORG. After a social time with tea and light refreshment the Bridal parade got underway under the direction of Sister Debbie Cohen, who also made the bouquets to go with the gowns which were from the 1990's back to the early 1940's.



Sister Michelle Brink modeled her gown. It is a replica of an 1860's style ball gown which she made herself for her Civil War Theme wedding in 2005. Jewelry for the show was supplied by Cookie Lee representative, Rhonda Singleys. Brothers from Pentalpha Lodge #194 assisted in escorting our 'brides' in the bridal parade. The parade was complete with bridesmaids from the Rainbow Assembly wearing gowns from 1996 and 1971. The guests enjoyed a delicious wedding cake made by Sister Edna Liembach's daughter. It was a wonderful afternoon of fun and fellowship between the three organizations which make up the Pentalpha Masonic Family.



Grand Representative Trip to Missouri

By Ed Ford, Grand Representative of Missouri

The weekend of August 20-22, I had the pleasure of travelling to Missouri to attend a Chapter meeting and the Honoring of my counterpart but first I watched lightening dance all around the plane as we circled Kansas City's Airport before landing safely. Most MO Chapters do not go dark during the summer so on Friday evening I visited Areme Chapter #461 in St. Joseph, MO, where our friend Sister Grace Sexton is Worthy Matron. That evening they honored their "West" and Associate Matrons and Associate Patrons from 3 other Chapters within their district with a very interesting program. Travelling allows one to see how meetings are done differently in other Jurisdictions and in MO, Distinguished Members and Guests are seated on the Northeast side by title and everyone is introduced. As I had been told by a friend, they even introduce the church mouse if they show up, so under Reception of Guests, the Conductresses escort the various groups either to the West or thru the Labyrinth where they are introduced and then escorted to the East where they are greeted by the Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron and the Distinguished Guests. There's also no Roll Call of Officers. Being a hot August night, the refreshments were ice cream sundaes with all the toppings.



L to R: Jr. PGM Sister Patti Crotty, Brothers Ed Ford, Jr PGP David Bachhuber, Grand Representative of MD inMO Jerry Hatfield

MO Grand Representatives have an "Honoring" and on Saturday, I surprised my counterpart, Jerry Hatfield, by attending his Honoring (yes, those that knew I was coming kept it a secret). The room was full and the East was set-up to look like Ocean City's Boardwalk and beach. They even had a lifeguard on board. To go to the beach one needs a bathing suit and so they

dressed Jerry and his wife Lorraine in old-fashioned bathing suits and presented him with various items needed for attending our Session in May. No trip to the beach is complete without a picnic and ice cream cones and all were invited to a picnic in the Refreshment Room. I had the pleasure of meeting Jerry's family, the Jr. PGM, Sister Patti Crotty (who gave me my appointment) and her WGP, Brother David Bachhuber, the current WGM Sister Amy Wehmeier and WGP Brother Leonard Stephenson and several other Grand Representatives. That evening, Jerry and his family invited me to their house where we shared lots of laughs looking at the pictures taken at his Honoring.

Thank goodness the flight home was smooth sailing. Thank you Sister Pearl Johnson for my appointment to this great State. And FYI - MO has a very active Grand Representatives Club whose emblem is a Ladybug!

Mountain Chapter Honors Their 50 Year Member

Mountain Chapter No. 15, Frostburg, recently honored Margaret Phillips with her 50 year membership pin. Also last May, Sue Bowser was presented her 60 year membership pin.



L to R: WM Janice Frazee, Margaret Phillips, Sue Bowser, WP Phil Beeman

A Visit to Big “D”

By Sister Sylvia Spriestersbach, Grand Ruth, Marlboro 61

My sister, Carolyn Arthur, finally joined the Order of the Eastern Star! My mother, Sylvia Kirby, flew in from Arizona, and I drove from Maryland to attend Carolyn’s initiation into Duncanville #1014, on December 14th. The Chapter had delayed her initiation from October to December so that I could attend – October and November were just a little busy here!

Attending meetings in other jurisdictions is always interesting, seeing what they do differently. The most interesting action was approving a motion to delay all business until after the initiation. This was especially nice for me, since my sister was then able to see me presented as a Grand Officer!

Their initiatory work was beautifully exemplified. Sister Carolyn did not receive ribbons from the Star Points or a Bible. However, the Chapter did present her with a brand new Ritual, which she has been studying faithfully!

I had the pleasure of meeting Duncanville’s own Past Grand Matron, Sister Jimmie Lee McMahan, 2001-2002, and Sister Sula Reilly, Past Grand Ruth, 2008, a member of Balch Springs #1132. Sister Sula exemplified Ruth’s initiatory work beautifully.

I was pleased to bring greetings from Sister Jean Chance, WGM, and Brother Jon Thompson, WGP, and the Grand Chapter of Maryland, and invited everyone to visit Maryland Eastern Star!

Like many Chapters here in Maryland, Duncanville had to call on other local Chapters to help with the initiation: Balch Springs #1132, Waxahatchie #559, Lancaster #943, and Grand Prairie #219, to name a few. Everyone was so friendly and outgoing, welcoming us and inviting my sister to attend their Chapters. My sister was worried about not remembering the signs and passes in order to prove she was a member. She was assured that with all the different Chapters represented, someone would be able to vouch for her!

One of the most symbolic gestures made was after the Conductress opened the Bible, she placed the Square and Compasses on the lower right-hand corner. One of the Masons

explained that special permission had been given by the General Grand Chapter to do this, since objects are not to be placed on the Bible.

In spite of the long drive and horrible weather, the trip was wonderful. My mother and I were thrilled to share this special occasion with my sister. Now, I want to get her back to Maryland to visit Marlboro #61!



L to R: Sisters Sylvia Spriestersbach; Charlene Thomas, WM; Carolyn Arthur; Sylvia Kirby; Brother Wayne Holbrook, WP

Eastern Shore Trip

On Monday following New Year’s Day the Grand Family traveled to Salisbury on the Eastern Shore to attend the Grand Visitations at Wicomico No. 91, Worcester No. 102 and Roelma No. 113 where we were surprised to sit in chapter with Brother Arthur Holley. It was one of his first social outings since his accident. He was happy to be able to spend time with his Sisters and Brothers.

During our stay we had an indoor picnic. Thanks to Brother Terry for making oyster stew and to Sister Jean and her apprentices for frying up crab cakes, putting together Oysters Rockefeller and slicing green beans—french style (what an experience!!!).

Grand Representative Trip to Rhode Island

By Nancy Ford, Grand Representative of Rhode Island

Early on October 8, Sister Pearl Johnson, PGM, and I flew to Providence, Rhode Island, to attend their 115th “Love Works Magic” Session. This is a small Jurisdiction with 8 Chapters and just over 2,000 members but to quote the Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Manuel (Mandy) Arruda, “We’re small in size but big in heart.” My counterpart, Brother Jim Mason, was at our Session when I was presented my Grand Representative Commission. I’ve enjoyed getting to know Jim and even though he served as Page for the Associate Grand Patron and our time together was limited, we enjoyed his company and was our escort making sure we were in the right place at the right time. Session was held at the Scottish Rite Temple in Cranston which is filled with beautiful murals and Masonic antiques. Pictures were taken on Friday morning followed by a Luncheon at the Temple prepared by the local Rainbow Assembly. The Session Room was decorated with Disney characters in keeping with the “Love Works Magic” Disney theme. The Informal/Formal Opening was held during the Afternoon Session and included the Cavalcade of Flags. The Grand Representatives Banquet was held that evening at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Providence. In lieu of entertainment, the President of their Grand Representatives Club gave a presentation of Rhode Island trivia. The presenter was quite entertaining and we learned new facts about Rhode Island, including the official name being “Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.” Coffee milk, introduced in the 1930s, is the official State drink and manufactured only in Rhode Island. The Emblem and Bible Ceremony was presented on Saturday morning. After a catered Luncheon, there was a short business Session and Election of Officers. Credentials reported around 179 registered. Installation was held on Saturday evening. Thanks to Brother Jim for his friendship and hospitality; to Sister Pearl for presenting me with my Commission and travelling with me; and to the members of Rhode Island who are truly, to quote Brother Mandy, “big in heart.”



L to R: Nancy Ford, Grand Representative of RI in MD, James Mason, Grand Representative of MD in RI, Pearl Johnson, PGM

Eastern Star Scholarship Foundation

Scholarship Applications are due by March 15. For an application contact Barbara Berkman 410-827-6888 or JoAnn Scarborough 410-661-2111.

Do You Know a Combat Vet Who Needs Some Time Away?

By Sister Karen Smith, Unity #112

“Home of the Brave” is offering combat veterans and their families the opportunity to stay for free up to one week in a vacation home near Ocean City, Md. For more information contact Tina Pearson founder of Home of the Brave at 443-926-9962 or visit their website at www.thehomeofthebrave.us.

The house is handicapped-accessible and has three bedrooms with three bathrooms and sleeps eight. It is located on a quiet country road just 25 minutes from the beach. Whether vacationing for a few days or a week, families can renew relationships while taking advantage of the nearby activities or just spending quiet time together. Bed linens and towels are provided. Guests are responsible for food, transportation and any incidental costs.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Lords, ladies, knights, princesses, and subjects all
take heed!

The Regal Lady Jean

And

His Royal Highness, Sir Jon Allen

Are hereby honored to recognize and celebrate

Their Majestic Grand Family of 2010 - 2011

Hence the royal pair have decreed that all within their kingdom shall be invited to
the

Marriott Hunt Valley Castle Inn
245 Shawan Road
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

For a feast of fine food, entertainment, and to holst a glass of ale (or other
appropriate beverage) to toast the achievements and accomplishments of the
following humble, appointed servants

Lady Karen L. Janczy	Grand Chaplain	Unity No. 112
Lady Leslie R. Gilliam, PGM	Grand Lecturer	Unity No. 112
Lady Claudia A. Eaton	Grand Marshal	Annapolis No. 46
Lady Mary L. Lake	Grand Organist	Arundel No. 80
Lady Jeanne M. Gunn	Grand Adah	Victory No. 40
Lady Sylvia Spriestersbach	Grand Ruth	Marlboro No. 61
Lady Barbara Clark	Grand Esther	Parkeon No. 42
Lady Debra Buckalew	Grand Martha	Mountain No. 15
Lady Isabelle Beagel	Grand Electa	Odenton No. 29
Lady Madge Jones	Grand Warder	Howard No. 20
Lord David Holley	Grand Sentinel	Roelma No. 113

Dinner shall consist of the following:

Endorsed Chicken
(baked half with herbed blanc)

Meat Tile

(Short stack of ribs in Cabernet Demi glaze)

Beggars Purse

(Marinated grilled vegetables with lentils in a puffy pastry)

Accompanied by:

White & Wild Rice with fine herbs

Grilled Zucchini and baby glazed carrots

Fresh fruit tart on a painted plate of Raspberry caulis

Drinks and assorted rolls with creamy butter

Salad shall consist of mixed greens with peas, chopped figs and toasted pecans
served with Blood Orange Vinaigrette

All of this for only a cost of \$32.00 for each royal subject. Remit thy royal checks
payable to

Grand Chapter of MD, Appointed Grand Officers Reception and send by the swiftest
of means before the 15th of February in the year of our Lord, 2011 to:

Lady Christine Roby, Secretary-Treasurer
23 Humbird Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Those subjects replying after said date shall take their chances on the remainder of
available seating and refreshment! Heed this warning or thou shalt be unhappy
with their accommodations!

The time to gather is noon with the feast commencing at one-thirty o'clock.

An opportunity to meet and pay greetings to the royal appointed servants shall
begin at twelve-thirty o'clock, on Sunday, February 20, 2010.

Therefore, come one, come all to this annual gathering of the Grand Family of
Maryland 2010 - 2011.

All inquiries shall be directed to Lady Deborah Raynovich, Chair, @ 301-387-4545.

Michigan, the Home of Kellogg's Tony the Tiger

By Carol Itter, Grand Representative of Michigan

Last March I received my commission as Grand Representative of Michigan and I was able to attend their Grand Session in October. I was accompanied by Sisters Phyllis Johnston, #38 and Bonnie Wagner, #29. I flew out a day early and did some sight-seeing with my counterpart, Howard Keller and his wife Margie. I saw Tony the Tiger's building and the Henry Ford Industries.

The session was held at the McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek. The WGM and WGP's theme was "Garden of Peace and Harmony" and the room, which could hold 4000 people, was beautifully decorated. After their session was over the hotel could slide the floor back for ice hockey or skating!

On Monday we spent some money at the vendors and then went to a "Country Hoe Down" party where everyone was dressed as in the Old West. There was one man who was 6'6" and dressed all in black with a little bit of white at his neck. I thought he looked like a preacher so I went up to him and said "Howdy, Reverend" and he said he was an undertaker. Oops!

Tuesday was the Formal Opening. In the morning I went to the Grand Representative's Breakfast. Howard and I were in the Flag Ceremony. It was a beautiful ceremony! On Wednesday after the meeting we went to dinner with Howard and his chapter at "Clara's on the River". Howard treated Bonnie, Phyllis and me to dinner.

On Thursday we left early and drove to Frankenmuth to the world's largest Christmas store. We spent so much time there that we had to spend the night. We ate dinner at Zehnder's Restaurant where we had their "Famous Frankenmuth Chicken Dinner", what a great meal! Then we continued shopping—there were over 40 stores!

We left on Friday morning and returned to Maryland 11 hours later, Phyllis drove the whole way! Thank you to Phyllis and Bonnie for a wonderful trip and all their help.

I am looking forward to seeing Howard, Margie and some of their chapter members at our sessions in May!



L to R: Sisters Phyllis Johnston #38, Carol Itter #20, Brother Howard Keller Grand Representative of MD in MI, Sisters Margie Keller, Bonnie Wagner #29

Grand Chapter Charities Committee

In March the Grand Chapter Charities Committee will be taking jewelry and other items to be auctioned off at the Crumpton Dixon Sale Barn in Crumpton, MD. We are asking everyone to donate one or two pieces of gold or silver jewelry along with any small items in good condition to be auctioned. Please call so that we can make arrangements to pick up any items before the auction in March. Contact Mary Johnson 410-778-4724 or 410-708-1200 or Regina Widderich 410-833-2527.

Friendly Wings Club Luncheon

Sister Jean and Brother Jon hope that you will join them on Sunday, March 6, 1:00 pm at the Annapolis Elks Lodge, 2517 Solomon's Island Rd, Edgewater for the Friendly Wings Club Luncheon. The menu will consist of a house salad, broiled crab cake, chicken cordon blue, twice baked potato, green beans, rolls, butter, coffee, tea and assorted desserts. The cost of the luncheon is \$28 which includes dues for \$1. Make checks payable to the ***Friendly Wings Club*** and mail by Feb 25 to

Kathleen Joyce
605 Truxton Road
Annapolis, MD 21409

Upcoming Events

Feb 5	School of Instruction for Installation
Feb 9	Bonnie Blink Valentine Tea Party
Feb 12	Grand Chapter Choir Rehearsal
Feb 20	Appointed Grand Officers' Reception
Feb 26	Grand Chapter Choir Rehearsal
Mar 6	Friendly Wings Club Luncheon
Mar 10	Bonnie Blink WGM's Birthday Party
Mar 12	Grand Chapter Choir Rehearsal
Mar 18	Rainbow Grand Assembly Formal Opening
Mar 20	Carousel Club Luncheon
Mar 12	Grand Chapter Choir Rehearsal
Apr 2	Gathering of the States
Apr 2	Grand Chapter Choir Rehearsal
Apr 3	Parkton #42—90th Anniversary Celebration
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

Grand Chapter Choir

Would you like a reserved seat at sessions with a great view of the East? Would you like to have a robe to keep you warm without the hassle of dragging around a shawl or sweater during sessions? Would you like to make new friends and sing beautiful music and have some fun at sessions? Then you need to join the Grand Chapter Choir. Rehearsals for sessions will begin next month. All rehearsals will be held at the Bonnie Blink Chapel from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday mornings

February 12	March 12	April 2
February 26	March 26	April 16

If interested contact the director, Sister Virginia Phillips 410-297-9069 or by email vphilli@comcast.net

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Deadline for Submissions: March 31, 2011

Send to: Mary Lake, Editor, lakeml@aol.com

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