

# The Maryland Star

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

**Volume XII – Issue 3**

**October-December 2012**

## **General Grand Chapter 47<sup>th</sup> Triennial Assembly**

"The Nature of God's Love Around the World" Triennial Assembly was held November 1-9 at the Fort Worth Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas. Sister Rennie Ofton, MWGM, and Brother John Grobler, Acting MWGP, were pleased to welcome so many Eastern Star members from near and far. They enjoyed presiding over their sessions and attending the many receptions, banquets and social activities planned for them.

Sister Debra Hribar, WGM, and Brother David Hall, WGP, proudly led the Maryland delegation while in Texas. With some overlap of titles, Maryland attendees included ten Past Grand Matrons and Patrons, twelve Grand Officers, four Deputy Grand Lecturers, six Grand Representatives, seven members and two travel companions. Maryland members arrived and departed at various times, but most were there all week.

Maryland was especially proud of our General Grand Chapter Committee Members for 2009-2012: Sister Cheryl L. Johnson, PGM, International Headquarters Committee; Sister Bonnie Tyree Wagner, PGM, Knights Templar Charities Committee; Brother Raymond B. Rankin, PGP, ESTARL Committee; and Brother Kevin A. Hribar, PGP, Payroll Committee.



The Maryland Breakfast was held on November 6. An invitation to the breakfast was extended to the members of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, and two of their Sisters attended: Ina G. Huie, PGM, Chairman of the International Headquarters Committee of the General Grand Chapter, and Jane Frances Grolig, PGM.

Congratulations to Sisters Claudia Eaton, Grand Conductress and Chairman of the Maryland Breakfast, and Jean Chance, PGM, and Barbara Clark, Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer respectively of the Maryland Triennial Assembly, for a job well done.

Various changes were adopted at Triennial, including changes to the Ritual, which should soon be forwarded by the Right Worthy Grand Secretary to the various Grand Jurisdictions.

Installation of General Grand Chapter Officers was held on Thursday, November 8. Congratulations to Sister Barbara "Bobbie" White, PGM of West Virginia, and Brother John E. Grobler, PGP of Washington, who were installed as Most Worthy Grand Matron and Patron for 2012-2015. Their "Hope For Tomorrow" Session will be held in Pittsburg, PA, in 2015.

Special honors were bestowed upon Maryland by the appointment of the following for the next Triennium: Sisters Mary Adeline Bradford, PGM, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee; M. Ernestine Hale, PGM, member of the Youth Committee; Wilma J. Thompson, PGM, Chairman of the Belmont Ball; and Brother Jon A. Thompson, PGP, member of the Scottish Rite Charities Committee. We are so very proud of all our Maryland members!



Jean Chance, Jon Thompson, Joan Morris and Wilma Thompson visit at the Maryland Breakfast



Debra Hribar, WGM, rode a Texas Longhorn at the Stockyards on Saturday evening. Yeeeee haw!



A huge wire star covered with cowboy hats hung from the ceiling of the convention center



Longhorns on their way to the rodeo



A beautiful centerpiece at the Maryland Breakfast



Toby and Donovan Harvie, Donna Almony, Ray Rankin and Madge Jones...

## Triennial - From an Usher's Perspective



...Linda Sanner, Kevin Hribar and Joan Morris...



...Judy and Ernie Birckhead and Jon Thompson...



...and Bill Sanner and Barbara Clark all had fun at the Stockyards and enjoyed wearing their new cowboy hats!

The 47<sup>th</sup> Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was held in Fort Worth, Texas Nov 2-9, 2012. It was my first time to attend. I was very fortunate to be selected to represent the Grand Chapter of Maryland as an usher. I would like to thank Sister Jean Chance, PGM, for nominating me and Sister Rennie Ofton, MWGM, for appointing me as an usher. I had a wonderful time!

The role of the ushers was to be assistants for the Worthy Grand Officers and to help attendees find their way around the Convention Center. We were dressed in white, in the same style as the Worthy Grand Officers. We performed a drill on Monday in the form of an angel, in honor of MWGM Rennie.



Karla and friends at Triennial

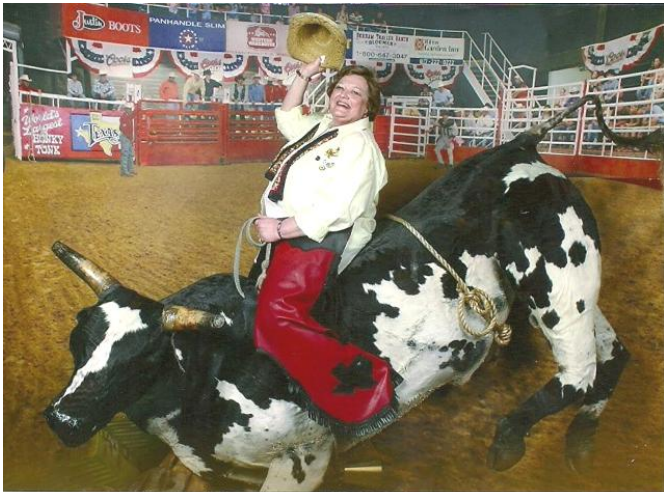
I was thrilled to discover some of my 'fellow ushers' were from Wyoming, my home state. One gal, whose husband is the Junior Past Grand Patron of Wyoming, was our paperboy when we were growing up. I thoroughly enjoyed making new friends at the luncheons and banquets. I met people from all over the world. Everyone passed around their business cards and little goodies.

## FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER



It was very interesting to see how General Grand operates. There was a wide variety of resolutions to be discussed and voted on, and just about as many opinions! Even though I couldn't vote, I sure learned a lot.

The social activities were a lot of fun. We went to a rodeo on Saturday evening. Those little calves sure were good at avoiding the cowboy's lassos. Be sure to ask PGM Linda about her bull ride.



Linda Sanner rides the bull!

We also got to take a VIP tour of Cowboy Stadium on Sunday. What an amazing place! Our little tour guide, Danielle, was great! From the rafters down to the star on the field, we saw it all. There was a Maryland breakfast Tuesday morning that was delicious. The WGM hosted a light supper in her room on Wednesday evening.

The next Triennial Assembly will be in Pittsburgh, PA in November 2015. I would like to encourage everyone to start saving their pennies so they can attend. I'm sure looking forward to it!

Karla Light, DGL  
Julia Halla No. 107

Come one, Come all, to the  
Grand Chapter of Maryland  
Ways and Means Committee's  
Fashion Show Fundraiser!  
Saturday, January 19, 2013  
The Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
3800 North Charles Street,  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Doors open at 2 p.m.  
Dinner served at 3 p.m.  
\$35 for everything – vendors, Silent Auction,  
Dinner and Fashion Show,  
with clothing provided by Ann Taylor!  
RSVP by January 7 to:  
Karla Light, Sec.-Tres.  
23295 Town Creek Drive  
Lexington Park, MD 20653  
Registration, Chapter Basket Donation  
Forms and additional information  
can be found on our website at  
[www.gcmd.org](http://www.gcmd.org).

This is a fundraising event so please support  
your Grand Chapter accordingly.

Contact Karla Light at  
[karla1260@verizon.net](mailto:karla1260@verizon.net) to be a model  
during the fashion show.

If you are unable to attend but would  
like to make a donation, please send to  
Karla at the above address.

See you there!

Randy Geck, Chairman  
301-758-0768  
[rgeck@xecu.net](mailto:rgeck@xecu.net)

## Santa and his Elves Visit the Christmas Festival

Over seventy Sisters, Brothers, and friends gathered at the Double Tree Hotel, in Annapolis, MD, on Sunday, December 9, to celebrate the season and join Sister Debbie Hribar, WGM, and Brother David Hall, WGP, in raising money for the Grand Chapter Charities.



WGM Debbie and WGP David welcome everyone

The hotel was festively decorated for the season, as were David and Judy Hall, seen below.



David and Judy, ready for Christmas

Members enjoyed a delicious lunch, joined in singing Christmas carols -- led by Brother Ernie Birckhead and accompanied by Brother Kevin Hirbar -- and cheered when Sister Toby Harvie, Grand Adah, was the lucky winner of the beautiful open star pin and earrings, donated by WR Chance Jewelers.



Toby Harvie, winner of the jewelry raffle

Seven vendors sold their many gift items, raising money for their own Chapters. The bidding was hot on several items at the Silent Auction, capably led by Sisters Barbara Clark and Nancy Stokes. Many had their pictures taken with our own Santa, Brother Ken McNeely, including the Grand Family.



Santa with the Grand Family



Ken was a great Santa!

Santa was helped out by his two special elves, Sister Judy and Brother Ben Benton!



Judy and Ben, Santa's helpers

Thanks to all who helped in the planning for and working at this event, and a special thanks to those who came to enjoy and afternoon of fun and fellowship!

Sylvia Priestersbach, Chairman  
General Charities Committee

## Masonic Youth Service Award



(l-r) Harold and Shawn Garren, Stephen Ponzillo, III, Mary Adeline Bradford, Richard Naegele and William Eppig

Congratulations to Mary Adeline Bradford (Rainbow), Shawn and Harold Garren (Job's Daughters), Richard Naegele, (DeMolay), and William Eppig (DeMolay), who received Most Worshipful Past Grand Master John C. Naquin Masonic's Youth Service Award.

Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and dedication to our future!

## COMING SOON!

Information on the  
115<sup>th</sup> Grand Session  
"Dreams, Friendships and Memories"  
April 28-May 1, 2013

Clarion Fontainebleau Resort  
Ocean City, Maryland

will soon be posted on the  
Grand Chapter Website at  
[www.gcmd.org](http://www.gcmd.org)

Join Debra Hribar, WGM, David Hall, WGP,  
and the Grand Family of 2012-2013  
at their special session on the Shore!

## Marlboro No. 61 Happenings

Marlboro No. 61 had much to celebrate at their Friendship Night on December 4.

First, Sylvia Kirby was presented her 50-year certificate by Debbie Hribar, WGM, and 50-year pin by Gay Topper, WM. Sylvia was escorted to the East by her daughter, Sylvia Spriestersbach, and given Grand Honors. Sylvia affiliated with Marlboro Chapter on January 6, 2009. She is also a member of Mesa Starlight No. 16 in Mesa, Arizona.



Gay Topper, WM; Debra Hribar, WGM; Sylvia Kirby; Jim Cloud, WP; and Sylvia Spriestersbach

Sister Debbie then surprised Jim Cloud, WP, by presenting to him the Rob Morris medal, given to those who are active in submitting petitions for new members.



WGM Debbie and WP Jim, medal recipient

Finally, monies collected in that evening's Good News Basket, together with prior donations, were delivered to the WM's and WP's special project, Community Support Systems. CSS is a local facility assisting those in need in the area. The WM was proud to deliver 38 scarves, 53 hats, 20 pairs of socks, 103 pairs of gloves, 300+ pounds of canned goods and a donation of \$1,000 just in time for Christmas. Thanks for making their dreams come true!



Gay Topper, WM, and the angels at CSS

## CALENDAR

### JAN.

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 4  | Severna Park No. 117 - <b>Special at Odenton</b>                                | 8 pm |
| 5  | Deputy Exams  |      |
| 7  | Kensington No. 39 - <b>Exchange with DC</b>                                     | 8 pm |
| 14 | Daughters of Job No. 74 - <b>Stated</b>   | 8 pm |
| 19 | Ways and Means Fashion Show Fundraiser, Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Baltimore | 2 pm |

### FEB.

- |   |                         |  |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| 2 | School for Installation |  |
|---|-------------------------|--|

### MAR.

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 1-15  | Chapter Installations                         |  |
| 3     | Friendly Wings Dinner                         |  |
| 9     | Past Grands Dinner                            |  |
| 10    | Carousel Club                                 |  |
| 15-16 | Rainbow Grand Assembly, Hunt Valley, MD       |  |
| 16    | Grand Bethel, JDI Installation, Unity No. 112 |  |
| 24    | Palm Sunday Services - Bonnie Blink           |  |