

The Maryland Star

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

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October-November-December 2011

A SPECIAL GRAND VISITATION PROGRAM

Mary Lake, Arundel No. 80

On November 29, Annapolis Chapter No. 46 sponsored a special ceremony performed by Job's Daughters prior to their Grand Visitation. Daughters from Bethel 16 Glen Burnie, Bethel 22 Elkridge and the Grand Bethel performed the Closing Cross Formation. They entered the room, formed a cross, knelt and sang two verses of "Nearer My God to Thee". Three of the officers also signed the words.

It is interesting to note that all the Daughters have a parent, grandparent or sister who is a member of an Eastern Star Chapter, including Sister Cathy Savoie, the Grand Bethel Honored Queen, who is also Star Point Ruth in Harford Chapter No. 83.



l-r: Chloe Littzenberger, Bethel 16; Cathy Savoie, Grand Bethel & Harford No. 83; Linda Sanner, WGM; Maggie Harden, Jobie-to-Bee, Bethel 22; Patrick Curtis, WGP; Sara Haughee, Bethel 16; Amanda Harden, Bethel 22; Nicole Nowland, Bethel 16, Corrine Harden, Bethel 22, and Claire Litzenberger, Bethel 16

A FEAST BY THE PAST GRANDS!

Congratulations to the Past Grand Matrons and Patrons who prepared a delicious fundraising dinner to benefit the Grand Chapter. The dinner, held at Harford No. 83 on November 12, was attended by 75+ members and enjoyed by all. Hope they make this an annual event!



The fellowship hall was filled with lots of happy diners



The kitchen help, as always, was hard at work



WGP Pat Curtis, wife Mary Jo, and others enjoyed their meal...



...while WGM Linda Sanner and members visited with each other

Julia Halla No. 107 Donates to Shrine Club

Julia Halla No. 107, Hollywood, held a yard sale to benefit the Pa-Po-Peake Shrine Club's Travel fund. Worthy Matron Karla Light presented a check for \$293 to Randy Geck, President of the Pa-Po-Peake Shrine Club. The local club transports several children per year up to the Shriner's Hospital. They made at least seven trips in 2011.



Brother Randy Geck and Sister Karla Light



Pot of Gold Lottery



½ Price Sale! Tickets - \$5 each
Makes you eligible for three \$100 drawings,
plus the \$500 drawing at Sessions!

Congratulations to our current winners:
Mary Jane Mueller, Towson No. 70
Isabelle Beagel, Odenton No. 29 - \$500!
Brother Ernest Birckhead, Unity No. 112

Remember, you can't win if you don't play!



Treasure Chest Silent Auction



There will also be a silent auction at
Sessions for the treasure chest used for the
Pot of Gold drawings. Support this year's
Special Project—MD Masonic Youth Groups.

For more information contact Karen
Smith at 301-843-2568, garysubu@aol.com,
Karen.f.smith@navy.mil, or 202-404-7058.

Thank You!

I wanted to take the opportunity to
thank everyone who sent cards, e-mails and
called following my recent surgery. Each day
something new arrived and it sure did lift my
spirits, especially in those first few days
following my procedure. I just hope the
cards I have sent to others in the past have
helped as much as those I received. Again,
thank you for your thoughtfulness and love.

Karen Smith, DGL
Unity Chapter No. 112

The Lights Visit Orlando Chapter

On a recent visit in October to Orlando,
Julia Halla's Jim and Karla Light were fortunate
to visit Mizpah Chapter No. 190. They were
greeted very warmly by WM Olivia Knight and
WP Harris Springer. The whole Chapter was
very friendly, and they were made to feel right
at home. Florida has the same ritual, but many
of their marches and customs are very
different. Karla and Jim were invited to enjoy
the meeting from the East.



Jim and Karla Light, WM Olivia Knight and
WP Harris Springer

Mizpah No. 190 was getting ready for their
'Official Inspection', which is similar to our
Grand Visit. In Florida, the Worthy Grand
Matron only gets to each Chapter every four
years, due to the large number of Chapters.
This year Mizpah would be visited by the Grand
Conductress. The Star Point pedestals are in
front of the chairs. Their offering is called the
'Silver Roll'. They have 'Celebrations', which is
our Happy News, where they hand out chocolate
candy. Sounds like a good tradition to have.

They have a Rob Morris picnic in the summer
and have a Ritual Competition at Grand Sessions.
Those wishing to serve as elected Grand
Officers send out resumes and letters of
intention to be read as communications in each
of the Chapters. Jim and Karla are hoping to get
to visit them again on their next trip to Orlando.

ERNIE BIRCKHEAD'S GRAND REPRESENTATIVE'S TRIP TO COLORADO

Well, at last, on September 15, 2011 we were on our way to Denver, Colorado for their Grand Sessions. We left home in Maryland driving south to Richmond, Virginia, then west on I64, arriving in Kansas City, Missouri three days later to visit some friends. The next day we pushed westward, stopping at Ford Riley, Kansas, Home of the Big Red One, the 10th Mountain Division and the Calvary Museum (think George Armstrong Custer) and on to the Double Tree Hotel in Denver, arriving at four in the evening. After checking in and finding our room, we decided to dine in the hotel restaurant. We started a conversation with two ladies at the table next to us and were surprised to find out that they were Grand Esther and Grand Electa of Kansas. They were very friendly and were overjoyed that we had journeyed all the way for the Grand Sessions.

The next morning we picked up our credentials and were both surprised to be honored with an Honorary Membership to the Colorado Grand Chapter. That evening was the Grand Representatives Banquet. They do something different. Instead of everyone running around placing their cards and gifts at the different tables, bags were placed (one for each person attending the Banquet) in the registration room. The Grand Representatives put their cards and goodies in those bags and just before the banquet the hotel personnel moved the bags and placed them on a table in the corner of the Banquet room so that everyone who wanted one could take one after the Banquet had ended. That saved a lot of confusion and went very smoothly.

After dinner, we attended the opening of Colorado's 2011 *Celebrate Life* Grand Sessions. What a grand and glorious extravaganza unfolded in front of us. The Grand Officers paraded in single file then split up and did a series of interlocking and flanking movements -

they did this drill before each opening. Then they paraded around to their respective places and began conducting business.

At the opening of each Session, the Bible and Emblems were brought in by five ladies in white with appropriate color capes and retired at the end of each daily Session. A different person (someone special to the WGM and/or WGP) placed and retired the Bible each time. Very impressive. For the Cavalcade of Flags, Brother Ernie carried our beautiful Maryland flag with distinction and pride. Unfortunately, the pictures did not turn out very clear.

Thursday's Session opened at 9 a.m. for business, after lunch convened for more business and stopped for dinner. After dinner, the Grand Officers conferred degrees on two new members. An initiation is done every year at Grand Sessions.

As we all realize, each Grand Chapter does some things differently. Here are just a few of Colorado's Grand Chapter variations: On Wednesday evening a segment of time at the beginning is set aside for the introduction of the Youth and Adult Leaders. They are brought into the room together, introduced by the Grand Conductress, granted seats in the Grand East, and then each Youth Leader was asked to speak. We heard from the Grand Worthy Advisor, IORG, the Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Miss Colorado's Job's Daughter, the State Master Councilor DeMolay, and the State DeMolay Sweetheart. At 7:45 p.m. the Grand Officers retired to seats on the sidelines and the Tribute to the Bible and Emblems Ceremony began. Next was the Call to Order, and the Grand Officers, Special Appointments and Grand Pages performed a drill that ended in the formation of the Hollow Square. The Tribute to the Flags was given by the travel companions and spouses of the Grand Officers. Sister Robin Terry, WGM, and Brother Lloyd Hanna, WGP, presided in a relaxed manner over their Grand Sessions. They took turns giving thanks and greetings, and the time went fast.

On Friday the visitors went on a scheduled trip and traveled by motor coach to Colorado Springs, where we visited the Air Force Academy and the Garden of the Gods, an area of rock formations surrounding a large sheltered park-like setting where in days gone by the Indians came each year for spiritual renewal. Beautiful! We were scheduled to travel to Pike's Peak but that part was canceled - something about too many "older" visitors and the high altitude!

Back in Denver on Saturday a short Session was opened to finish business and then the Grand Chapter closed. The Grand Family retired with a Ceremony of Retiring of Jewels and the Bible was retired very reverently by the WGM, escorted by the WGP. At the 6 p.m. Session the 2011 Grand Officers had seats on the sidelines. Sister Robin and Brother Lloyd were in the Grand East and, after calling the Session to order introduced the Hostess of the evening. She introduced each incoming Grand Officer with a short bio, and they took seats on the North and South. The Emblems were brought into the room by the Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls. The Job's Daughters placed the Emblems while the Hostess read the ceremony and were taken up after the Installation by the Rainbow Girls. Very impressive! The incoming Grand Officers retired informally, and the room was prepared for Installation. The Hostess introduced the Installing Officer of the evening. The Installation proceeded in an exemplary manner by all and ended about 11:30 p.m. The obligation was given on the floor East of the Altar. The DeMolay prepared an arch for the WGM and WGP to walk under (and then retired). The chairs were removed as they became empty and a professional photographer took pictures as officers stood behind the Altar. Under presentation of jewels, the Junior Past Grand Officers came from the sidelines and informally presented the newly installed officers with their traveling pins.



Judy and Ernie with Shirley Day

Sister Robin Terry, WGM, and Brother Lloyd Hanna, WGP, treated us as though we were old friends and extended all the courtesies of royalty. They also have an Assistant to the Grand Conductress, Sister Shirley Day. Her job is to stay outside the meeting room and prepare distinguished guests for the Grand Conductress. This is an appointment and a very highly prized position of great responsibility. Sister Shirley is from Chapter No. 10 in Colorado Springs, the home Chapter of my counterpart, Brother Rex Mortenson, who was not able to attend. She was so kind and helpful, answering our questions about how and why things are done that we really hated to say goodbye to her.



With PGM Rita Bucholtz and PGP Leonard Beasley

McKinley No. 12 Honors 50-Year Members

Congratulations to three treasured members of McKinley No. 12! Brother David Hall, AGP, was pleased to present 50-year certificates to:



Sister Suzie Mowen



Brother Ben Elkins



Sister Ginny Roberson

Most important to me, I was able to meet last year's WGM, Sister Rita Bucholtz, and WGP, Brother Leonard Beasley, who were very happy to greet us and spend a few minutes talking to us. We took them a few mementos of Sister Jean and Brother Jon's year and some mementos of Maryland: a Maryland flag pin, a crab pin, etc.

A few statistics: the Grand Chapter of Colorado has approximately 5,000 members. This Session had 195 out-of-state pre-registrations and 291 Colorado members. There were 22 visiting Grand Representatives. The Senior Warden, representative of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Colorado, said the State has 131 Lodges and 10,000 members.



Visiting Ken and Shirley Deal

On Sunday we journeyed to Grand Junction, on the other side of the Rockies, where we spent two days with our friends from Unity, Ken and Shirley Deal. The Colorado National Monument is in Grand Junction and is almost as beautiful as the Grand Canyon - on a smaller scale. Then, on to the Arches Monument, the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert and lots of miles of beautiful American scenic views along the Interstate Highway system. In all, 50,000 miles, 15 states, three weeks and wonderful times together.

We had a wonderful trip. Thank you, Sister Jean and Brother Jon, for this extraordinary opportunity.

Respectfully,
Ernie and Judy Birckhead

GRAND CHAPTER CALENDAR

JAN.

- 7 Deputy Grand Lecturer Exam
- 14 Exam Snow Date
- 15 Eastern Star Scholarship Fundraiser
- 16-28 WGM/WGP Southern Caribbean Cruise

FEB.

- 4 School of Instruction for Installation Towson No. 70
- 11 School Snow Date
- 26 Appointed Grand Officers Reception

MAR.

- 4 Friendly Wings Club Luncheon
- 11 Highland Chapter No. 33 – 95th Birthday – Del Capri Restaurant, Dundalk, MD
- 18 Carousel Club Luncheon
- 22-24 Rainbow Grand Assembly, Hunt Valley Marriott

APR.

- 1 Palm Sunday Service
- 15 Bird Watchers Club
- 21 Sessions Rehearsal, Highland No. 33
- 29 to 5/2 MD Grand Session, Ocean City, MD

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Down Memory Lane

Frances Bernstein has memory books of Adah Chapter No. 25 (February 23, 1916-October 12, 2011) available for interested members. Contact her for more information at 240-396-7501 or Franbruce1@aol.com.