Star - Lite Magazine



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Worthy Grand Matron
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SOAP notes from Jill,

The clock is ticking and it will soon be June and Grand Chapter. What fun this year has been thus far and I see no reason why it shouldn't continue. We had some days of R and R during January and February. You just can't predict the winter weather so our decision to slow things down in early 2017 wasn't necessary weather wise, but it was certainly appreciated, although as I told the Grand Family, my hug meter was running a little low.

We are well into the Deputy Receptions and in giving the Tributes we've learned so much about each one of our Farmers' Daughters. Thus far, we've had award winning baton twirlers and a ballerina, who knows what else we'll learn about our girls.

The "Pig Kissing" project Brother Ron and I are promoting continues and so far (thank goodness) I have the most money. He says he's about ready to begin begging. Just remember—think pink!



Plans are underway for the "Bountiful Blessings of Friendship and Faith" Grand Chapter Session. We hope to see you there as the WGP and I wind-up our year. There might even be some surprises.

Don't forget to sign-up for our "Bluegrass Fever" bus trip. We depart on Sunday, May 21 and return on Tuesday, May 23. While on the trip we will take a train trip, have a dinner cruise, visit a Shaker Village, have breakfast at the horse track, visit a horse farm and visit Rob Morris' home, etc. They've promised there won't be much walking, but you may ride a horse if you'd like.

As this will be my final correspondence on Star-Lite, I want to thank you for all of the love and kindnesses you have extended to Jon and me. As the years go forward, I will continue to require my "hug meter" to be replenished.

Trivia Time---The Figure "3"

The figure 3 is a prominent number in the Bible and in the Order of the Eastern Star.

In the Bible, there are...

- 3 wise men, guided by the Star in the East
- 3 crosses on Calvary
- 3 favored apostles: Peter, James, John

In our Order, there are...

- 3 governing bodies of O.E.S.
- 3 warnings or woes in initiation
- 3 motions that the Conductress makes in opening or closing the Bible
- 3 motions that the Star Points use in giving the signs of their degree
 - 3 raps of the gavel

Three is also the number of sides in a triangle, and triangles are very important in our Order. The equilateral triangle, in which all three sides are equal and having equal angles, is a symbolic representation of the only perfect entity, God.

Jill Rice, WGM

Clips from the Barber Shop



Worthy Grand Patron

Ron Mendenhall (Karen) 6019 S Prairie St Star City, IN 46985 574-595-7341 Tippecanoe #96 D#17 ronkaren@pwrtc.com

I would like to begin my final article for our Star-Lite magazine to share with each of you what a sincere honor it has been for me to serve as the Worthy Grand Patron for our very special State of Indiana. Since I was born and raised in this beautiful state, you can understand why I am so proud to be a Hoosier. Sister Jill and I have been greeted so warmly as we have visited with each of you. Your chapters have gone above and beyond to make us feel so very welcome. Sister Karen and I have been so blessed to be able to share this special year with Sister Jill and Brother Jon Rice. They are great people and have helped to make this year so awesome for the both of us.

I trust that you have been able to meet our special elective and appointive Grand Officers and our District Deputies during this year. We sincerely thank them for their special efforts to serve our beautiful order. There are close ties that are formed in each Grand Family.



I am sure I do not need to share that with each of you who have consented to serve in other families before us. We are so blessed to have members who are willing to serve their home chapters and our Grand Chapter over and over again. Without these willing souls we would not be able to continue. It has been a great pleasure to make new friends and to greet special people that we have known for years.

One of the most difficult tasks that is assigned to each Worthy Grand Patron is the closing of our Eastern Star Chapters who are no longer able to sustain their memberships. I have found that the desire to have a chapter remains strong, but the participation of membership continues to be a struggle. We have many members who are not able to drive, and our members who have young families have commitments to those organizations in which their young children are involved. We thank those chapters who have worked at making consolidations possible so that our surviving members can continue to enjoy the fellowship of our Order. Don't give up on our young members. When their children are grown, they will return as long as we continue to make them welcome. Do look for opportunities to invite others to join our fellowship.

The Lord has blessed us with mild winter temperatures and weather. We have not been required to cancel or postpone meetings because of deep snow and extreme ice. For this we are most grateful, since this has made it possible for you to be able to meet and greet those who consented to serve our Order this year. Thank you for the warmth and kindness that you have extended to our Grand Officers and District Deputies as they have visited your chapters during the year. We extend warm wished to all of you who will continue to hold offices and to participate in our beautiful Order of the Eastern Star. Please continue to be supportive of those special people who will continue to serve our Order in the coming months and years.

> God bless you all! Ron Mendenhall, WGP

The Mystery Bus Trip: Bluegrass Fever

The New Year has arrived and the mystery has finally been solved - we will be horsing around in the Bluegrass state of Kentucky! Fill out the traveler's reservation form and return it to your District Chairman or Donna Cecil. We hope to get at least 56 travelers (3 from each district) to join us.

Our journey begins on an Imperial Tours motor coach. Our first stop in Kentucky will be a train ride aboard coaches built in the 1920's and 1930's. We continue to Portofino's Restaurant (Italian food). After dinner you can walk to Kentucky Theater and enjoy a movie (\$8.00). The bus will return to pick you up and your luggage will be in your room.

The next morning we set off for the Kentucky Horse Park! Take a horse drawn carriage tour of the park, tour the museum and see a horse show. We will then venture on to Shaker's Village of Pleasant Hill after which we'll enjoy a relaxing one-hour cruise and dine aboard the Dixie Belle Riverboat (included). After dinner we head to Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour, featuring grassroots independent artists from Appalachia and around the world.

We will eat breakfast at "Track Kitchen" (\$5.95) located at the famous Keeneland Race Track where you can talk with jockeys and trainers and watch the race horses while they are being groomed or worked out. The Aviation museum is next for a tour of planes and jets. As we turn for home, we will visit the Rob Morris Home, cemetery and museum to pay our respects and learn more about our Founding Father.

Come Catch the Bluegrass Fever and join us on this amazing 3 day adventure Sunday - Tuesday May 21-23, 2017. Costs are \$419.00 per person double occupancy, \$389.00 per person triple occupancy, \$369.00 per person quad occupancy and \$539.00 per person single occupancy. We depart from Lafayette @ 8:30 AM at the Imperial Charter Service, 2150 Sagamore Pkwy North, Lafayette IN 47903 with pick-ups (to be determined) in Lebanon @ 9:00AM, Indianapolis @ 9:30 AM, and Columbus @ 10:30 AM.

Join us for a trip full of fun and adventure including: 2 nights lodging at Clarion Hotel Lexington, 5532 Athens Boonesboro Rd. Lexington, KY, 2 breakfasts at the hotel, 1 dinner (pork BBQ or Chicken), Admission to the Kentucky Horse Park, Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour, Shaker Village, Dixie Belle riverboat ride, Bluegrass Scenic Railroad train ride, aviation museum tour, Keeneland Race Track, and visit the Rob Morris Home in LaGrange, KY!

Be sure to join us for this amazing 3 day adventure of horse power and history of the Bluegrass Region. Walkers are transportable!!! All luggage will be handled by Imperial Charter Service & hotel personnel.

RESERVATION FORM

Traveler's Name		
Street Address_		
City	State	
Phone Number	District	
Name of Emergency Contact:		
Relationship to Traveler:		
Contact's Phone Number:		
Names of roommates:		
1	2	
3	4	
Hotel Room Preferences: (If Available)		
1. Two Double Beds	One Double Bed	
2. One King Size Bed		
Other:		

- Payment Plan:
 - 1. Deposit Payment: \$100.00 due March 15, 2017. Balance due by April 14, 2017.
 - 2. Return this form & deposit to your district chair so they can confirm & document your reservation or mail to: Donna Cecil, 1953 Hilltop Dr., Schererville, IN 46375-1909

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Donna Cecil at 219-322-2512 or email at dovielady@yahoo.com



Terry Ring, Grand Adah

Sisters and Brothers I am Terry (Theresa) Ring and honored to be serving as your Grand Adah for the Fields of Faith Grand Family. I am a member of the New Castle Chapter in District 12.

I was born to Ernest and Mary Swoveland who farmed near Losantville. My brother, sister and I grew up on the farm riding wagons during crop harvesting in the spring, summer and fall. I had more fun catching the bugs and grasshoppers. When I wasn't following my dad around,

riding a wagon or tractor I enjoyed walking barefoot through mud puddles feeling the mud squish between my toes or making hollyhock doll.

I attended a small country school from first grade through my senior year. As a young teenager I was introduced to my father's lodge and my mother's star chapter. I got to help clean tables and wash dishes. The most fun was working at the Dinner Bell tent during the Muncie Fair helping the Losantville Masons serve ham and beans to raise money for their lodge.

When I was a freshman in high school a new boy came to town and his name happened to be Tom Ring. We became high school sweethearts and in December after I graduated, and while Tom was home on leave while serving in the Marines, we were married. When Tom was sent to Vietnam I moved home and lived with my parents. This is when my sister and I were initiated into Eastern Star. I wasn't active until we returned home to Indiana after his discharge.

We have two sons, Jeff and Craig; they have blessed us with six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. I retired from IU Health Cancer Center in New Castle and opened up a gift shop called Outback Treasures. Tom now calls this my hobby because I am seldom home.

In 1970 I was elected Associate Conductress and went through the line to become Worthy Matron. I have held an office every year since then and served as Worthy Matron thirteen times. In 2005 I was Grand Page for Sister Susie Roach and Brother Dwayne Taylor. In 2012 I was Beach Bunny #12 for Sister Sonda Schapson and Brother Cary Hetrick which has led me to Grand Adah.

Adah gave her life to serve her father in keeping his promised vow. I am living the life of Adah as I am fortunate to still have both my parents living. I serve them with fidelity in faithfulness, loyalty and support.

My pin is a ring with a blue star; the ring represents my last name. The sword, veil and violet symbolizing Adah, M & E to honor my parents, for without them I would not be here today. The palm tree is a reminder of my Paradise of Faith Grand Family and 12 for my district.

Remember: We can be pushed from the past or we can make a mark on the future. JC Watt

Terry Ring, Grand Adah

Solsberry Delivers

Before Christmas, gift bags were distributed to all known shut-ins. The bags contained a variety of items that we thought the shut-ins could use. Bev Weaver is shown opening her gift bag delivered by Norine Bunch.

Marilyn Saum, Secretary, Solsberry #547





Victoria Phillips, Grand Ruth

Greetings Sisters and Brothers. I felt humbled when asked, and consider it a privilege to serve this year as Grand Ruth in this Fields of Faith Grand Family.

I grew up on a farm in Pulaski County with two older brothers. My parents were Victor and Carol Day, and they were very active in their Chapter and Masonic Lodge. I was a Rainbow girl, and joined Tippecanoe Chapter at age 18. I left for college after that, attending Indiana State University, then migrated east to Indianapolis. While I working as a Civilian 911 dispatcher at the Indianapolis Police Department, I met my husband David, who was a patrolman. We were married in 1985.

We moved to near Acton shortly after our daughter, Tara, was born. With encouragement from my parents and new neighbors, I affiliated at Acton Chapter in 1990. Our son Grady was born the same year. I accepted my first station, Ruth, in 1991, and David was initiated that year. We served together as WM and WP in 1995-1996.

I have had a station every year since 1991, and have been WM five more times without David (he got promoted at work and started working long hours!). In 2013-2014, I was honored to serve as Ray of Sunshine #11 for Mama Elizabeth Lashley and Papa Darrell Arthur in the Showers of Blessings Grand Family.

Both of our kids married in 2015, so our nest is mostly empty now, except for two spoiled, little dogs. David and I both still work full time. He is a Lieutenant with IMPD and in his 38th year, and I have been at Travelers Insurance for 18 years. We all enjoy traveling, football, auto racing, David's cooking, and just spending time with our family and friends.

The clasped hands at the bottom of my pin are part of the Rainbow emblem, reminding us to extend a hand or lend a hand. In memory of my parents there is a white rose. The umbrella is in honor of my Showers of Blessings Grand Family. The number 11 represents my Acton Chapter and all the Chapters in my District, and the circle of stars are to commemorate this year with my Grand Star Point Sisters, whose friendships I cherish. My pin is in the shape of a shield, a replica of my husband's badge. In the center is the sheaf of wheat. Ruth gave up the freedom to choose a new life when she remained with Naomi. She trusted God and gleaned where he placed her. She did this with humility and grace and she received God's reward for her sacrifice.

May we too, see the needs of those before us daily, and ask God for a heart of faith to meet those needs.

Thank you all for the kind words and warm welcomes we received as we traveled around this wonderful State. May you all stay blessed!

Victoria Phillips, Grand Ruth

Thank You

To the members of the Order of the Eastern Star in Indiana,

I have been as you all know since June of 2016, in closer contact with my mother in Georgia, helping her help my Step-father Larry to get him strong and back on his feet after his rough year after breaking his hip, along with his acute COPD/Congestive Heart failure. I was there with her in July thru September. He had struggled with us helping him and wearing my mother and myself down, I came home and ended up going back after Christmas, actually New Year's Eve. He had gotten worse and after three weeks there he finally left us on January 12 at 8:50 am, peacefully. I want to thank you all who sent cards, flowers, prayed and called during this time. It was so much appreciated.

Thank you Love and Believe

Tina Vredenburgh, Jr. PGM



Elizabeth Gargis, Grand Esther

I am Elizabeth Gargis from Lakeville Chapter in District 20. I want to thank Sister Jill and Brother Ron for allowing me to serve in the Fields of Faith Grand Family as their Grand Esther.

I was born in South Bend on March 9, 1959 to the late Robert and Marjorie Inwood and was welcomed by my older brother Michael. My dad and I were initiated into St. Joseph Chapter in 1978 and were honored to have my Mother serving as Conductress; a special time I will never forget.

I was first time Worthy Matron in 1989-1990 with my Dad at my side. I then affiliated with Lakeville Chapter where I am still serving as one of their officers.

Doug and I have been married for 22 years and have a blended family of son Steven and daughter-in-law April, grandson Thomas, daughter Holly and fiancé Eddie. I also have spent many years in Search and Rescue training my German Shepherd Zeus for tracking and training. We were about to be certified by Homeland Security when Zeus became ill and we could not continue with the program.

I have served Star Points multiple times, Chaplain, Marshal and all the line officers. I received an invitation from Sister Sherry Johnson asking me to be her Rose of Peace, aka Frogette #20, in the Garden of Faith Grand Family. Sister Jill confronted me at a reception and asked if I would be her White Ray for the Fields of Faith Grand Family. I am humbled and blessed to serve as Grand Esther. I will always cherish this journey and the many wonderful friendships I have gained.

Elizabeth Gargis, Grand Esther.

Christmas Donations for Students

For several years Andersonville Chapter #93 and Brookville Chapter #449 have teamed with the local Masonic Lodges during the Christmas season to provide donations to area elementary schools. Brian Caudill, meat director of the local Sav-A-Lot grocery store and a Masonic member, coordinates with Marty Bowling, District 7 Educational Trainer for Indiana F&AM Freemasons and the school principals to supply as much help for the holidays as our donations provide. The families are chosen by the local schools of Brookville Elementary, Laurel Elementary and Liberty Elementary. This is the sixth year for these area chapters and lodges to pool our resources together and have provided more than \$10,000. Standing at the far right representing the Eastern Star chapters is Lena Peters, Associate Matron of Andersonville #93.





Gleda Brooks, Grand Martha

My name is Gleda Brooks. I come to you from the Versailles Chapter in District 5.

I was born in 1947 in Portland, Indiana to Floyd and Jane LeMaster and am the youngest of their three children. For the first 14 years of my life, I was raised in Union City, Indiana. Then our family moved to Hanover, Indiana where I graduated from Southwestern High School in 1965. For the next 10 years I was a farmer. The following 2 years I worked as a secretary while attending I.U. Southeast in New Albany, Indiana. In 1977 I met the love of my life, Jerry. We were married in May of 1978, and have a blended family of three children, seven grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

In the fall of 1978, I began working at South Ripley Elementary School in Versailles as a teaching assistant. I taught reading and math to at-risk children in the second, third and fourth grades for the next 25 years. After retiring in 2003, I found that I missed the children too much, so I substitute taught for the next 11 years. In 2013 my husband was appointed pastor to two small country churches, so now I am a preacher's wife.

Jerry has been a Mason for almost 50 years. However, I don't come from a Masonic background. I am the first in my family to join Eastern Star, which was in 1993. In 1994 I was elected Associate Conductress not knowing I would be the Worthy Matron in 4 years. Surprise! I have also served in the stations of Martha and Esther, am a Junior Past Matron and Junior Past President of the 5th District Convention. One of the "highlights" of my time in Eastern Star was when I had the honor of serving as Esther when my mother was initiated into our order in 2000.

In 2014, Sister Betty Swisher asked me to join her and Brother H. Fred Smith in their S&S Bouquet of Love Grand Family as their Honeybee #5. What a wonderful year! In 2015, Sister Jill Rice and Brother Ron Mendenhall took me to a stairwell and asked me to be one of their Star Points in their Fields of Faith Grand Family. In October, Sister Jill told me I would be Grand Martha. I love Green!

I chose a triangle for my pin because it has three points. Those points represent the three most important things in my life. The top and foremost point stands for my God and has an open Holy Bible beneath it. The bottom left point represents family and inside it is an apple. The bottom right point is for friendship and has an angel inside it. In the center I chose a hummingbird. When I see the hummingbird's delicate grace it reminds me that life is rich and beauty is everywhere. Under it is a #5 for my beloved district.

It is truly an honor to serve you this year as your Grand Martha. I hope that I have represented you and our beautiful order well and will continue to do so the rest of the year. My closing thought for you is this.....Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil. It has no point.

Gleda Brooks, Grand Martha

To all our Sisters and Brothers,

Bill and I wish to thank you for your caring words, cards, hugs and prayers at the sudden loss of my youngest brother. Your expressions of love were a great comfort to us.

Louaine & Bill Sorg, DD#3



Ann Herron, Grand Electa

I was born in Jeffersonville, Indiana on August 17th to Floella Bruce Reed and the late Lawrence Zig Reed. I have an older sister, Aline. I attended New Washington grade school and was an excellent student excelling in mischievousness and talking too much. Not much has changed since then.

After grade school I attended New Washington High School where I played Volleyball, was an officer in the National Honor Society, and editor of my High School Year Book my Senior year. I intended on becoming an Ancient History Professor, specializing in Egyptology, which explains the Egyptian Pyramids on my pin.

We all know life doesn't always go as planned. So a husband and a daughter became the most important things in my life. I did continue my education at I.U. Southeast, studying Anthropology, Accounting and History. My marriage ended after several years and I found myself as a single mom.

In 1981 Bill Herron moved in next door to me. I didn't think he was my type, but feelings changed and we were married in 1986. Bill added 3 children to the mix and we became a version of the Brady Bunch. I have 3 grandchildren who are the light of my life.

I began my Postal Career in 1969 in Louisville, Kentucky as window clerk, and after several promotions I became Postmaster of the small town of Otisco, where I still live today. I retired in 2012 after 43 years of service.

My Eastern Star journey began when Bill and I were initiated into Ella Fisher Chapter in April of 1987. I was appointed Esther in March of 1988 and was coerced into being Worthy Matron in 1989, where Bill served in the East with me. You might say it was like the blind leading the blind. We made it thru that year and contrary to what people might think, we weren't the reason Ella Fisher Chapter consolidated with Blazing Bright Chapter in 1993.

In 2012 I was appointed Grand Representative of Minnesota by Sister Sonda Schapson and Brother Cary Hetrick. In 2015 Sister Tina Vredenburgh and Brother George, with Brother Larry Frost and Sister Nancy asked me to be Pretty Penguin #3. I will be forever grateful for that experience as I made lifetime friends with my 20 sisters.

I was honored to be asked by Sister Jill and Brother Jon, and Brother Ron and Sister Karen to be their Grand Electa. Along with my 4 new sisters, I have enjoyed representing this beautiful Heroine and sharing her lovely story.

Again I want to thank you for allowing me to be your Grand Electa and for the opportunity to meet such wonderful people throughout our wonderful State.

Always remember, we should, in our daily lives, put into practice the lesson taught by the story of Electa, that "We Love One Another".

Mary Ann Herron, Grand Electa

Fishers Chapter Welcomes the Baby New Year

At our January 10th stated meeting, Fishers Chapter #446 had a "baby shower" for the Baby New Year 2017. The picture shows some of the many items that our members donated. Seven lucky members won door prizes donated by our Worthy Matron. It was a fun way to welcome the New Year.

After the meeting, the items were then donated to the Come to Me Food Pantry at Fishers United Methodist Church. It totaled to 138.4 pounds.





Welcome to Da Bears Country

It was a beautiful sunny day on November 12, 2016 as everyone was greeted by Terry Larkin, Grand Warder of the Indiana Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star at the Ladoga Christian Church.

During the social hour folks enjoyed popcorn and root beer in a Chicago Bears decorated fellowship hall.

The reception started off with a power point tribute to Terry with Tim McGraw's Humble and Kind playing during the slide show. WM Stacey Larkin welcomed everyone and gave a brief description of what the Order of the Eastern Star is founded on. Naomi Mitchell, PGM, gave the invocation.

Terry was presented at the altar by Dede Beedle, Conductress of Roachdale Chapter. Terry was serenaded by seven of his grandchildren who sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children" followed by Susie Alpha singing "Everything is Beautiful". Terry was escorted from the sanctuary and then escorted by the Basket of Dreams Grand Family and Magical Moments of Faith Grand Family clad in his Dick Butkus number 51 jersey and a blow-up Chicago Bears football helmet. Once introduced, Susie sang "I Swear" as this was the song that was played when Terry and Stacey were married.

WGM Jill Rice gave a tribute to Terry which drew several laughs from the crowd. Terry introduced WGM Jill and WGP Ron Mendenhall and continued with introductions accordingly. Pat Endsley, GGC Committee Member of the Cancer Fund, PGM, and Bill and Cathie Randles, GGC Committee Member of the Membership Committee, PGM, and Walt were introduced. PGMs and PGPs in attendance were: Barbara Terry and Jim, Grand Representative of Montana in Indiana; Naomi Mitchell; Cindy Cohee; Frank Norman; Sue Crowder, wife of Larry Crowder; Greg Onken, Grand Trustee; Cary Hetrick and Michelle; and Darrell Arthur and Becky. Terry greeted every group with a knock-knock joke.

Attending from the Fields of Faith Grand Family were: Jon Rice, husband of WGM; Karen Mendenhall, wife of WGP; Cindy Skura, AGM, and Dave; Terry Ring, Grand Adah and Tom; Victoria Phillips, Grand Ruth; Gleda Brooks, Grand Martha; Mary Ann Herron, Grand Electa, and Bill; and Jim Thomas, Grand Sentinel and Sandie.

District Deputies, The Farmers Daughters and the Country Gentlemen, were introduced. Attending were: DD#1 Lori Barnett and Kevin; DD#4 Jean Hoffman; DD#6 Phyllis Pruner; DD#7 Marie Snodgrass and Larry; DD#9 Mary Anne Jones and Bob; DD#12 Donita Davis and Derek; DD#13 Cheryl Pritt and daughter Shelby; DD#16 Donna Scanlon and Dave; DD#17 June Roth; DD#19 Donna Cecil; DD#20 Marilyn Thiess; and DD#21 Sara Hobson and escort Jim.

All others in attendance introduced themselves. Terry then introduced his family.

With Veterans Day being the day before Terry's reception and Terry being a Veteran himself, Stacey had all the Veterans in attendance come down and stand in the East. A tribute of "God Bless the USA" was played for them. American flags were waved by the convocation. It was a very beautiful sight.

Entertainment of the Eastern Star Shuffle was provided by The Twins and the Red Headed Step Sister, aka Susie Alpha and Sherrell Bryant, "The Twins", and Deb Cramer, the "Red Headed Step Sister".

Catherine Randles gave the benediction and Frank Norman gave the table grace. All were escorted to the dining room for lasagna, white chicken lasagna, garlic bread and delicious desserts.

Terry would like to thank Roachdale Chapter #247 and District #9 for all the help in making his reception such an enjoyable day.

Showers of Blessings Christmas Gathering

December 3rd, 2016, the "Showers of Blessings" Grand Family, "Rays of Sunshine" (District Deputies), and spouses celebrated their annual Christmas gathering at home of Elizabeth Lashley, PGM. Not only were we blessed with beautiful weather, the food was abundant as well as delicious, and fellowship was fantastic. I speak of the weather, as no one knows from day to day what Indiana weather will be like.



Having the party at our residence made the day quite enjoyable. Everyone was able to be "non-formal" as it certainly was without formality! Twenty-nine were able to attend. Understandably those not able to join had family and other Grand Family obligations, and/or illness.

A decision had been made not to exchange Christmas ornaments or cards. In lieu of the ornaments and cards, a collection was made and the money donated to THE HUGS PROGRAM. THE HUGS PROGRAM speaker, Karen Stark, at General Grand Chapter, made quite an impression on this Past Grand Matron. With things as they have been in the world, we need to keep our Military in our constant "thoughts and prayers". Remembering our Service men and women remind them that we care and realize their sacrifice.

AGM Sister Cindy Skura and AGP Brother Cecil Scott, along with their spouses, presented us with our color for their upcoming year...GREEN. Our District Deputy Daughter will be Grand Martha and whomever she is, we know we will be quite proud of her. At this time we have not been told who she is. In Indiana the Grand Star Points are appointed from the previous four Grand Family District Deputies, the fifth is a Sister Deputy of the incoming WGM. Sister Cindy and Brother Cecil continue to make Brother Darrell Arthur, PGP, and myself very proud and we wish/pray for the best as they go forward into their Journey in June.

Brother Darrell spoke and gave us information as to why Sister Becky was not in attendance. She had broken her arm and had just had surgery.

Wishing each and all many Wonderful Blessings in the New Year 2017! In Star Love, Elizabeth Lashley, PGM

Solsberry Initiations

On September 14, 2016, at Solsberry Chapter #547, Alisha Johnson received the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star. Her father Donald Johnson, her grandmother Cathy Johnson, and her mother Crystal Johnson walked with her.

On October 12, 2026, at Solsberry, Nicole Johnson and Joseph M. Johnson received the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star. Cathy Johnson, grandmother of Nicole, was pleased to be present at both of these initiations. Submitted by Marilyn Saum, Secretary, Solsberry #547



Front row: Joan Bryant, Patti Burch, Crystal Johnson, Alisha Johnson, Cathy Johnson Back row: Garry Bryant, Donald Johnson



Joan Bryant, Patti Burch, Nichole Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Garry Bryant, and Cathy Johnson

Athens 75th Celebration

February 4, 2017 was a very heartwarming event for Athens Chapter of Crawfordsville, Indiana. It may have been cold that day, but for what was to take place warmed your heart. Elsie Allen, 106 years young, was to receive her 75 year Diamond Award for her many years of service in Eastern Star. What an event and quite the accomplishment!

As we prepared for the day, cake and punch was provided by the Chapter. Once Sister Elsie arrived, she was presented a wrist corsage and was surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors. Sister Catherine Randles, GGCCM, Grand Trustee and PGM, was given the honor of this wonderful presentation. It was at the request of Sister Elsie to receive this special award at the Masonic Temple here is Crawfordsville.

In her many years of service, Sister Elsie started out serving as a Star Point Electa and eventually was honored to serve her Chapter as Worthy Matron in 1960.

Family and friends in attendance were: Louise Fugate, daughter; 3 of her 4 grandsons - William Fugate, David Fugate and his wife Shari, Richard Fugate and his son, Clayton Fugate (Sister Elsie's great grandson); Becky McDonald (OES member) widow of John McDonald, nephew; and niece, Cindy Lewis. Robert, the 4th grandson lives in Georgia and could not attend.

Several members of Athens Chapter were able to attend: WM Dede Beedle and her husband Richard, WP; Walt Randles, Secretary; Marlene Elmore, Treasurer; Vivian Zentko, Organist; David Layton, Chaplain; John Lofland, and his wife Lela, Conductress; Mary Cramer; Star Point Clara Brawner; and Catherine Randles, PGM.

This lovely lady has a heart of gold and very gracious as she made it a point to be introduced to each one during refreshments. Sister Elsie is also a great supporter of Athens Chapter's fundraiser of selling Terri Lynn Fruit and Nuts, and she continues to make sure she gets to the Beauty Shop every Friday. Quite the Lady!

Congratulations, once again, Sister Elsie for everything.



Dual 50 Year Award Ceremonies

It was a glorious evening at Englewood Masonic Lodge in District 11 as Brother John Durham was to receive his 50 year award. At the same time his lovely wife, Janice Durham, was eligible to receive her 50 year award from Englewood OES. They requested if they could receive their awards on the same evening. All agreed this would be a special time for the family and a first for our Englewood Masonic Family. The evening began with a delicious dinner followed by the award ceremony. Brother John Durham was presented his award by Englewood's own Brother John Grein, Grand Treasurer and Past Grand Master of the Indiana Grand Lodge.



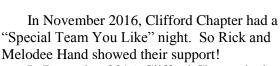
This was followed with the award ceremony for Sister Janice Durham, presented by Sister Bonnie Allinder, Past Grand Matron of Indiana Grand Chapter. Several family members and friends were able to attend to complete this special evening. The evening adjourned with prayer, pictures and many congratulations.

Submitted by Melody DeRolf, WM

In October 2016, Clifford Chapter #587 had a "Hawaiian" night. Pictured are Randy Paetzel, WP, Bill Duke and Jim Haislup.

<u>Clifford</u> <u>Notes</u>

Worthy Matron Jody Phillips and Worthy Patron Randy Paetzel wish all Brothers and Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star a God blessed year.



In December 2016, Clifford Chapter had a "Christmas Sweater" night. Pictured are those who attended. Jim & Nelda Haislup and Rick Bush also attended, but were not in the picture.







Masonic Home Bingo

The Sixth District annual Bingo Party for the residents of the Indiana Masonic Home was held on Sunday, January 29th. This year it was held in the Bistro of the new Community Center. A highlight of the day was the 200 plus stuffed animal toys used as prizes with all the other variety items. Co-Chairmen



The large assortment of prizes is shown

Doris Bedell and Sally Nicholson coordinated the activity for the day.



Residents Beverly Coffel and Sarah Hurst sat with Sandra Heath, PM of Ransford IMH Chapter.

Masonic History of the Indiana Masonic Home

Submitted by Keith Maple, State Historian

This is part 2 of some of the history of our Masonic Home. Part 1 was in the January issue.

1889 – The Grand Matron's recommendation for the establishment of an orphan's home was not concurred on.

1891 – On motion of Past Grand Patron Robert Van Valzah, a committee of three was appointed to act with a like committee to be appointed by other Masonic bodies to draft or devise plans to raise money to buy grounds on which to erect suitable buildings to be known as a Masonic Widows and Orphans Home – Robert Van Valzah, Nettie Ransford and Martin H. Rice being appointed.

The Grand Chapter further adopted the following: (Resolved) that it is the sence of this grand body that the time has arrived when some definite action should be taken relative to establishing a home for the widows, orphans and aged members of the Masonic fraternity, and while we distain any intention of either dictating or instructing the great body of Masons in the state of Indiana as to their duty, we do desire to place on record the fact that we will be found working in the vineyard of charity, when the home, which we have an abiding faith to believe will eventually be built, shall have become a reality.

The death of Robert Van Valzah occurred before the next meeting of the Grand Chapter and the remaining members of the committee never made a report.

1902 – A special committee on a future Home was appointed. The Worthy Grand Matron asked the Chapters in a New Years' letter to contribute to the Home fund and \$220.00 was received.

1903 - It was recommended that each Chapter set aside a day to raise funds for a future Home.

1905 - \$1,351.16 was collected for the Home.

1906 – Nettie Ransford provided banks to Chapters that wanted them for penny collections for the Masonic Home Fund. Seventy six Chapters responded. (One of the banks, Number 1, is still at Warsaw Chapter.)

1907 - \$128.14 was raised by 16 Chapters for the Masonic Home Fund making a total of \$2,555.21.

1908 – The Chapters contributed \$950.58 to the Masonic Home Fund making a total of \$3,124.00.

1909 - \$1,262.98 was received for the Masonic Home Fund. \$344.13 was received from the penny banks.

1910 – The Grand Chapter authorized a letter to be sent to the Grand Lodge asking that a representative of the Grand Chapter be permitted to speak before the Grand Lodge in behalf of a Masonic Home. Bro. Philip Zoercher, PP of Tell City Chapter, was appointed as the representative.

1911 – Strong support was urged for the erection of a Masonic Home in Indiana. Bro. Philip Zoercher reported he was well received at the Grand Lodge where he spoke in behalf of the Grand Chapter urging the erection of a Masonic Home. He reported that the Grand Lodge had not yet decided to enter into a corporation for a joint home.

1912 – A per capita tax of 10 cents per member and \$2,659.70 was received for the Home Fund, making a total of \$15,000.00 in the Fund.

1913 – The first gift was given to the Masonic Home, amounting to \$20,000.00. The first member was appointed to the Masonic Home Board. This honor was given to Sister Nettie Ransford.

1915 – A letter was read from the Grand Master of Masons announcing that the cornerstone of the new Masonic Widows and Orphans Home would soon be laid. The Indiana Eastern Star Home Association was dissolved by action of the Grand Chapter.

1916 – The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, Brother Charles Benedict was received. He in turn introduced the directors of the Masonic Home Board, including five Past Grand Masters, all of whom were Past Patrons of three Eastern Star Chapters.

Address of the Most Worshipful Grand Master: "It was the Order of the Eastern Star that started the movement for a Masonic Home. It had been proposed to the Grand Lodge of Masons but failed. When your messenger, Bro. Philip Zoercher, knocked at the door of the Grand Lodge and presented, your demand was acceded to the proposition. Not only that, but under the splendid leadership of your Grand Secretary, Mrs. Nettie Ransford, you laid on the Altar of Masonry the splendid sum of \$32,000.00. I commend you for this splendid accomplishment. I commend you, more than all, for the spirit with which this donation was made. The Home in Franklin will be a home in reality mostly because of the assistance and helpfulness of the Eastern Star. No matter how beautiful you may build the structure, in marble and decorate with gold, it would not be a home without the tender and sympathetic touch of women."

"All praise to the Order of the Eastern Star for their commendable undertaking. Your Grand Secretary, Mrs. Nettie Ransford, is entitled to the highest praise shared by all the members of your noble Order. You have not striven in vain in the years gone by. Your dreams have come true and from it all we shall soon possess one of the finest Masonic Homes in the country. Let us be truly thankful for all these glorious women. Let us all work together to further the cause of Masonic benevolence. We wish no conflict, no dissention, only the privilege of striving to build ourselves more and more like the image of God."

The Grand Matron in her address told of the cornerstone laying of the Masonic Home on October 21, 1915. The Home Fund per capita of 10 cents per member brought in \$3,300.00. More History to follow in upcoming issues.

Historic Joint Wife & Husband OES Reception

Saturday, February 11, 2017 found Pimento Chapter in District #8 and members from the entire state making a "Joyful Noise" for Eastern Star. One hundred fifty-five members and friends gathered in the Historic Landmark Masonic Temple in downtown Terre Haute to honor Carol Sloan, DD#8 and her husband Doug Sloan, Grand Representative of New Mexico in Indiana. As far as anyone can determine this is the first husband-wife joint Eastern Star reception to occur in Indiana.

The morning began with pictures and indulging in Terre Haute's famous "Square Donuts". Guests were welcomed by Nicky Napier, WM. Ruth Thompson, PGM, gave the Invocation. Carol and Doug were jointly presented at the altar and Jenny Walton sang "What a Difference You Made in My Life" to them. "Carol's Joyful Noise" provided her escort and Pimento Chapter and Former Grand Representatives of D#8 provided the escort for Doug.

Doug introduced "The SideNote Barbershop Quartet" as the entertainment. This group of two college freshmen and two high school seniors had toes tapping and smiles on faces in short order.

WGM Jill Rice read Carol's tribute and Tina Vredenburgh, Jr.PGM, read Doug's Tribute. Carol remarked that she knew why so many had come: The historic joint reception of a husband and wife; to see the Terre Haute Masonic Temple; free food; and they wondered what Doug would do!

Introduced were Jill Rice, WGM; Ron Mendenhall, WGP; Tina Vredenburgh, Jr.PGM; and Larry Frost, Jr.PGP. Assisting were Nicky Napier, WM; Norman Cheesman, WP pro-tem; Stephanie Fisher, Conductress; Sherrie Cheesman, AC; Rick Lassiter, PGO and GR of Italy, Organist; Jenny Walton, Soloist; and Mike Roach, Photographer. Jerry Burns, WP of Terre Haute Chapter, was in charge of the meal assisted by members of the Masonic Fraternity and Central Christian Church (DOC).

Fifteen Past Grands and 10 spouses were introduced. Doug told them a story about the time he and Mike Roach gave Francis Hoagland an Atomic Fireball that was so hot it made tears come.

Also introduced were 8 Fields of Faith Grand Family members and 4 spouses and 15 Deputies and 8 spouses. Self-introduced were 4 current Grand Representatives and 21 Former Grand Representatives. Carol and Doug's family was introduced. Doug told a story of how, at age 7, he walked barefoot across freshly laid asphalt, because that was the way he had always gone, and left his mark on the floors, steps, locker room and the pool at the YMCA.

Self-introduced were; Grand Chapter Committee Appointments, WMs & WPs, PMs & PPs, PG Organists, Distinguished Officers of Masonic and Affiliated Bodies, and Officers of Youth Groups. Also recognized was Pimento Chapter, D#8, Past Deputies of D#8, the Wings in Time Grand Family (Carol's first Deputy Family), Pimento Lodge, and the 26 members and friends present from Central Christian Church (D.O.C.). Carol's "Joyful Noise" was escorted across the East. She presented each WM with a new OES Ritual and each WP with a copy of an up-to-date CR&R.

Doug continued his YMCA story by reminding us to be careful of solving a problem a certain way just because that's the way it's always been done. Be especially careful when it means your old and timetested solution leaves behind a mess that someone else has to clean up.

Finally, Carol asked those diagnosed with cancer to stand, then those with an immediate family member diagnosed with cancer to stand. Only a few were still seated. Over \$500 was donated to the OES Cancer Fund as a result of this reception. Special thanks go out to all of you who gave. Go forth and "Make a Joyful Noise for Eastern Star"!



Jon Rice, husband of the WGM; Jill Rice, WGM; Carol Sloan, DD#8; Doug Sloan, GR; Karen Mendenhall, wife of the WGP; and Ron Mendenhall, WGP.



Nancy Frost, wife of the JPGP and GR of Oregon; Larry Frost, JPGP; Carol Sloan, DD#8; Doug Sloan, GR; Tina Vredenburgh, JPGM; and George Vredenburgh, husband of the JPGM and GR of Wisconsin.

Solsberry Donates

At the November meeting, Solsberry #547 voted to donate to the work done by B.J. Yoho a.k.a. B.J. "Claus."

Claus, a sixth grader at Eastern Greene Middle School, had recently hosted his sixth annual toy drive to benefit young patients at IU Health Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

When B.J. first started the toy drive in 2009 he collected around 100 toys; however, last year the event collected nearly 3,000 toys.

Every year, B.J. Collects money for the drive and he and his mother, Blane Yoho, go shopping for toys with the collected money. He also helps deliver the toys to the children at Riley.

Claus was born with Spina Bifida and has faced nearly twenty surgeries so far in his life. He knows what it is like and what children are going through when they are faced with sickness.

Submitted by Marilyn Saum, Secretary



The person on the right is Norine Bunch, who is delivering the check

Bottle Cap Rewards

Perhaps you saved one bottle cap or perhaps you saved a hundred of them, it does not matter. Just know that whatever amount of caps you saved you contributed to the new benches at the Indiana Masonic Home. With the help of many all over the state, we were able to purchase 4 benches.

Bill Shoulders, GGCCM of Our World of Youth and PGP, allowed us to borrow his trailer and helped George Vredenburgh, husband of Jr. PGM Tina Vredenburgh, load up all the bags of caps. Bill and George traveled to Vincennes and delivered the caps to Green Tree Plastics and brought back 4 benches to the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin where they were distributed around the campus. Rick Brinson, brother-in-law of Tina helped drill the holes for the plagues.

Larry Frost, Jr. PGP, and Tina Vredenburgh, Jr. PGM, purchased a bench, the Dare to Dream Grand Officers purchased a bench, together the Grand Star Points purchased a bench, and the Pretty Penguins and their Snow Buddies purchased a bench. There was some caps left over and they were given (paid forward) to the Rainbow for Girls in Indiana who are working on collecting caps. Grace Nelson, GWA, for the Rainbow for Girls and her Grand Officers are collecting the caps, so if you still are collecting and need a place to take them or give them to, check with Bill Shoulders and he can help!

I want to thank
all of Indiana Order of the Eastern Star
for all their hard work in making
this project a success.
Love and Believe,
Tina Vredenburgh, Jr. PGM, and Larry Frost, Jr. PGP











Washington Donates

Washington Chapter #210 donated "Blessing Bags" and baby care packages to "HOPE'S VOICE" of Vincennes, IN. HOPE'S VOICE provides services to those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. The Order of the Eastern Star is a Fraternal Order in which charitable contributions are provided to the community and those in need. Each year our local Chapter does a charitable deed within our District. HOPE'S VOICE was chosen as many times individuals are in a situation of having left their homes, with no advance notice, and seek shelter having no possessions with them. Our "Blessings Bags" provide personal hygiene items for immediate use/need. Baby items are also greatly appreciated. We can't forget those of the youngest age who are unable to speak for themselves in these situations, providing soft toys, diapers, cleansing items, blankets. If you wish to donate, please contact: Melissa Haaff, Director of Hope's Voice (812) 886-4470. To learn more about the Order of the Eastern Star contact: Elizabeth Lashley, PGM of Indiana Grand Chapter OES (812) 486-3904.







Ann Wingate, Chili Champion

A "Chili" Night at Mooresville

On Wednesday night, December 7th, when most people were thinking of the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, many people were sampling chili at Mooresville Chapter. This was a "cook off" and several varieties of chili were presented. You had your opportunity to taste one or all before you voted for your favorite.



B.J. Mitchell, WM, and Sandy Harris, AM, played the bean Bag Santa game

Vouchers were reindeer pockets filled with red and green M & M's. The East was decorated with an angel, a snowman and a cowboy filled with pink flowers. B.J. Mitchell conducted the meeting since it was Mooresville's stated meeting night. She read a poem about "Frosty Face" and had the introductions.

Those present were: Joyce Small, Past Grand Matron and Grand Trustee; Victoria Phillips, Grand Ruth; Grand Chapter Appointments: Barbara Heath, Star-Lighter #6; Debbie Hamilton, Bus trip to Rob Morris' Home in May; "Chapel Fixer-upper"; Caroline Janek, WGM's Project; and Nina Sayer, Cancer Fund; 16 Past Matrons and Past Patrons; one distinguished Mason and Lonnie Small, Spouse of the Past Grand Matron.

Following the stated meeting, the "Chili Winner" was announced. Ann Wingate won the honor of the Chili Champion. After the closing, everyone went to the dining room for an assortment of cakes, pies and cookies. Several played a Bean Bag Santa game.

Barbara Heath, Star-Lighter Reporter #6

Check your



WGM OFFICIAL CALENDAR

Apr 3 Last Inspection in D#9

Apr 22 100th Anniv. Golden Rule D#11
Apr 29 Last Inspection in State GOEx D#11
May 20 125th Anniv. New Castle D#12
Jun 9-11 Indiana Grand Chapter

INSPECTIONS

Baby Dedication 7:10 pm, Award of Gold 7:20 pm Inspection 7:30 pm Unless otherwise noted

Apr 3 D#9 at Montezuma with Athens Our Last one Apr 7 D#11 at Millersville w/ Lawrence, Oakland and

Keystone

Apr 10 D#13 at Gas City with Mississinewa, Swayze and

Upland

Apr 12 D#21 Luncheon @ Caruso's Italian Restaurant in

Angola

Inspection @ Sylvan Chapter in LaGrange

with Prentiss & Albion

Apr 17 D#3 Luncheon Charlestown Masonic Temple

Invitation only

Inspection @ Scottsburg w/ Hanover

Apr 19 D#1 Luncheon @Wolf's Bar-B-Que in Evansville

Inspection @ Evansville with Lynnville,

Friendship & Robert Morris

Apr 20 D#20 Luncheon @ Warsaw Lodge

Inspection at Warsaw with Bristol, Goshen

and Starlight

Apr 24 D#8 at Bowling Green w/ Knightsville and Brazil

Apr 29 D#11 at Prospect w/ Bridgeport GOEx

the Last one for 2017

If you don't see all the information that you need, please contact your District Deputy.

Please be aware that on occasion a date and/or location will be changed and it will be too late to make the correction in the magazine. Thank you for your understanding.

RECEPTIONS

Apr 1 Marilyn Thiess, DD#20 at

Warsaw Lodge, 1620 W Center St, Warsaw, IN 46580 Social at 9:00 Program at 10:30 lunch to follow

Apr 1 Sara Hobson, DD#21

Kendallville Masonic Lodge 707 S. Orchard St, Kendallville, IN Social 2:30 pm Program 4:00 pm Dinner to follow RSVP by March 24 to: Barbara Miller, Sec. 515 Richmond St. Kendallville, IN 46755 260-347-3137

<u>District 2 Association</u> cordially invites you to: "Spring Friend's Day" in the Country

When: May 13, 2017

Where: The Lashley's (address below)

Time: 12:00 noon e.s.t (meal),

activities/entertainment to follow

RSVP by: May 6, 2017 to

Elizabeth Lashley, PGM

2498 S 500 E

Montgomery, IN 47558 lashleyrrt@hotmail.com

This is a FUN Day: outdoors (provisions made in the event of rain), casual dress, No formalities.

Special Guests: Grand Star Points

No charge for meal, RSVP needed for number to prepare for.

Check your

FRIENDS NIGHTS

Apr 1 D#11 Oakland

LaBelle Apr 8 D#3

Apr 13 D#11 Acton

April 18 D#11 Lynhurst

May 22 D#11 Bridgeport



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Stellar Stars

Stellar Stars is a great way to honor or remember an individual or a group for a full year. The costs of Stellar Stars are: \$10 - \$24 for 1 Star; \$25 - \$49 for 2 Stars; \$50 - \$74 for 3 Stars; \$75 - \$99 for 4 Stars; and \$100 and up for 5 Stars.

These will run for 1 year (4 issues) after we receive the request. The short information you want printed about the individual or group can be mailed to NANCY PRATT, 3597 N. Old U.S. 31, Rochester, IN 46975 along with a check payable to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES with the notation: Stellar Stars.

Please consider honoring or remembering those special Eastern Star people in your family, chapter or district with a Stellar Star for everyone to see and know that they are special to you.

1 Star

In Memory of **Bobby Lewis** Who gave many years Of service to OES and **Grand Chapter** Robert DeRolf, G.M.

Stellar Stars











2 Stars

None

3 Stars

In Honor of Patricia Mang Past Deputy of D#15 Golden Keys

4 Stars

In Memory of the **Past Grand Patrons** of District 2 George Dye 1958-1959 Warren Mitchell 1974-1975 Joe Elmore 1982-1983 Henry Huff 2008-2009 From District 2

5 Stars

In Memory of R. L. "Bob" Branigan PGP 2003 - 2004 On Loving Wings of Faith Connie Branigan

Star - Lite

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Star-Lite is your magazine, help keep it interesting!

Submit your news so all can see what is happening in our great state. Check the deadline dates if you want your news in a certain issue, especially items for the calendar. Please limit your articles to 500 words. There is no charge to print pictures and more than one per article is permitted. Remember to identify everyone in the picture (if possible).

To submit articles through the web page click on ROSTER, scroll down to Star-Lite Magazine, click on Nancy Pratt, fill in the required information, type in a short message and click SEND. Your message will be received and a response sent so you may then submit your articles and pictures directly to the editor.

To send snail mail: Nancy Pratt
3597 North Old U.S. 31
Rochester, IN 46975-8312
Email: starliteeditor@comcast.net

Remember to send the article, photo, and a return envelope.

Copy deadlines: November 15 for January Issue

February 15 for April Issue May 15 for July Issue August 15 for October Issue

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5733 Elderberry Road
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