



Out on a Limb

Season's Greetings, Sisters and Brothers! Isn't it amazing that it is December and in just a short time we will celebrate of the birth of the babe in Bethlehem? What a wonderful gift, the gift of salvation in the heart of a baby boy. In a list of the greatest gifts ever given, Jesus is at the very top!

I have been so blessed to receive some very precious gifts at past Christmases. Some came at a great cost of time, money, and sacrifice. Some were given because they held special significance. Some were given to bring joy. Sometimes it was exactly what I wanted, and sometimes it was a surprise that I couldn't have imagined even existed. The thing is that many of them are no longer in my possession. As time has passed, the wrapped gift is gone, but the memory remains.

Now, I have to admit, that not all of the gifts I've received have been as expected. I remember once as a child asking for a Fisher-Price chalkboard desk with sliding drawers on compartments for chalk and an eraser. My mom, wise woman that she was, told me that I should put it on my Christmas list and remember that Santa was watching. It was these words that I remembered the day just before Christmas that she told me to clean my room. Realizing that I really didn't want to take the time when there was snow to play in and Christmas shows to watch on tv, I knew that I had to come up with a good solution to make Mom happy, keep my name on Santa's "Nice" list, and still have time for the fun of the season. So, I decided on the best course of action I could think of and promptly shoved all of the toys, books, and clothes into the walk-in closet in my bedroom. I closed the door

and off I went. When Christmas morning rolled around, I was so excited to see the Fisher-Price chalkboard desk with a bow sitting right under the tree with a little twist. Written on the chalkboard was a message from Santa. "Clean out your closet. Love, Santa". I guess he really is watching!

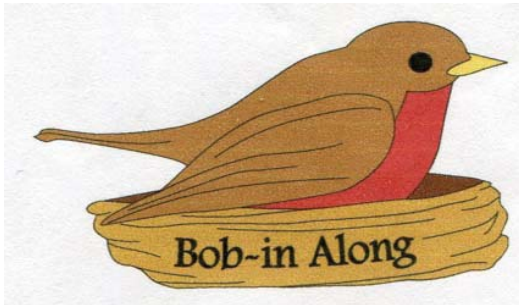
But then, there was that Christmas when I saw the tree for the first time. There were so many presents. Big boxes, tiny boxes, odd shaped items. As our family tradition dictated, the youngest (that's me) would hand out the presents. (Barb would help and we'd wear elf hats sometimes.) So, imagine my surprise when there was a gift addressed to Jan! Then there was another and another. And each one had handwriting that looked suspiciously like my dad's. I don't remember that any of the presents under the tree had my name on them. Not one! Mom and Dad said it was ok for me to open them, and Jan has great taste because she asked for all of the same things I did. I sure hope she enjoyed mine.

You know, while those gifts are gone, the memories make me laugh. The laughter remains. I realize, now that I am older, that the gift is the memory. The gift is the laughter. It is the connection to family and sharing time together.

So, this Christmas I wish for all of you the gift of memories. Ones to make you laugh and that warm your heart, old ones, and ones that you are making in the moment. I'll go out on a limb and say that just under the Baby Jesus on that list of greatest gifts, memories with those we love just might be second...even if they are addressed to someone else.

*Living a Legacy of Hope ~ Jan
(a.k.a. Jenny)*





Greetings from the Nest

The year has flown by and it's already the last of the fall season with winter around the corner. The fall leaves were extra beautiful this time, but they also fell earlier because of the weather being so dry. I hated to see them fall and equally disliked having to rake them.

Do you remember when you were young and you thought 16 would never come so you could drive a car? Or turn 18 so you could get a job and make lots of money? Ha! Then you wanted to be 21 so could be an adult and make your own rules. Well....then you turn 60 and life just flies by as the years tick away. Life seemed slow in your youth, but faster and faster as you age. Seems like it should be the opposite so we could enjoy more of our free time.

Now we are looking toward 2021, and are hopeful the year will bring more calm, normal and satisfying days - days, when we may get back to enjoying get-togethers with our families and friends. We all need the virus and all the government drama to just go away!

All my back yard birds have flew the coop. The black birds, sparrows and squirrels are still around and are all pigs. Keeps me busy filling the feeders. All the special and colorful birds that I enjoy watching are gone until spring.

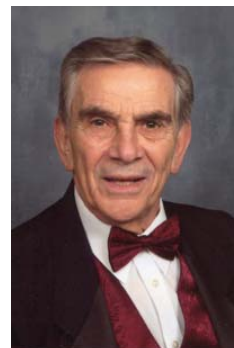
I want to congratulate those who have received Grand Representative appointments. This is as enjoyable to Jennifer and I to present these, as it is for the sisters and brothers that receive them. We hope you enjoy the appointment and are able to meet and talk to your counter partner or attend their jurisdiction in the near future. Though we are all in the same Order, other Jurisdictions do some things a little differently than we do. It's always interesting the way they choose their Grand Officers and how they refer to District Deputies. Their Grand Chapter Sessions are also interesting.

Many enjoy the Holiday Season more than any other time of year, although we may not get to enjoy all the group parties and get-togethers that we've enjoyed in the past. Those who still have jobs look forward to time off work. Christmas is viewed differently by many. Some say Jesus was not born in December because it would be too cold for the flocks to be out in the pastures. But the bottom line is that Jesus 'was born' of the flesh and walked among us and that in itself is a blessing to us all.

In closing: Why did Frosty divorce his wife? Because she was a total 'flake'.

Melody and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year.

Robert E. DeRolf, WGP



Good Things Come to Those Who Wait

And wait is exactly what Sister Winnie Jo Cochran did. Jo was initiated in Evelo Chapter on February 4, 1970. She served as Worthy Matron the first time in 1975-76. Evelo Chapter eventually consolidated with Prairieton Chapter which, many years later, consolidated with Pimento Chapter in 2017. Sister Jo was to receive her Award of Gold at the last Inspection in District 8, in April, but the coronavirus pandemic got in the way. Meetings of Chapters were cancelled, along with Inspections. Once the Worthy Grand Matron gave the OK for us to begin having Chapter meetings it was decided to present Sister Jo with her pin at our August 11th meeting. Arrangements for the presentation were made, but alas it still was not to be. Sister Jo's grandson tested positive for COVID -19 and Jo was in quarantine! August 25 found her once again in quarantine from being with a friend who had tested positive.

Finally! On September 22nd Brother Howard Farrand, Past Grand Patron, and his wife Carla were able to attend Pimento Chapter's meeting. Sister Jo was escorted to the altar and introduced by her good friend, Sister Darlene Lowe (pictured). Brother Howard gave the 50-year pin presentation and Sister Darlene pinned Sister Jo. She was then escorted to the East, given Grand Honors and a hearty congratulations. Yes, the long wait was finally over.

Jo told of her first time as Worthy Matron and how excited she was the evening she was installed. Her father attended the ceremony even though climbing the rickety exterior staircase to the Chapter room was difficult. She closed by saying how much she is enjoying being a part of Pimento Chapter.



District 5 Awards

During this time with the Covid virus and many of our members not able to get out to meet with their Chapters, District 5 had two members receive their 25 and 50 year pins at Versailles on October 2nd.

Sandy Hart (picture top) from Versailles Chapter #333 received her 25-year pin and Connie Nierste from Andersonville Chapter #93 received her 50-year pin. Our lovely Associate Grand Matron did the pinning presentation with Jerry Brooks escorting both members to the altar. Everyone received goody bags to take with them so they could have a treat on their drive home. Versailles will be initiating a new member on December 7, 2020, if you would care to join.



Corinthian Honors 25--Year Members

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Corinthian Chapter #456 honored three of our members who have attained the silver anniversary of their membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Sisters Judith D. Wurz, PM, Marguerite DeVore, PM, and Norma Lee Harden were recognized. Sister Norma was unable to attend due to COVID restrictions at her residence. Our Worthy Matron, Patricia Manuel, read two ceremonies, written by Sister Patsy Hinds, PGM, and Dorothy Grable, PM of Corinthian Chapter, and a past District Deputy. Each Sister was then pinned by Sister Marian Bradbury, PM, and presented with a 25 year Certificate of Membership.



Virtual Dog Benefit

District #7's Virtual Dog Show benefiting the Service Dog Project was a great success! Each Chapter submitted entries for an online "show" with a donation of \$1.00 per bone to vote for their favorite. All the entries showcased the amazing creativity across the District. Many thanks to all who "voted" for their favorite and help to raise over \$600 for the Project! Shown here are the District #7 Service Dog Project Chairperson "Deputy Dawg" Sister Carol Davis, DD #7 along with Project Partner Sister Millie Cooley making the winning presentation to Stanford Chapter Worthy Matron, Sister Sharon Slaughter.

Working Together for the ICAN Service Dog Project

Deputy Sisters Carol Davis, #7 and Carol Sloan, #8 learned about the masks Sister Deby Thomas, PGM, was making and selling for the ICAN Service Dog project. We decided to go together and order some to sell in our Districts. Much to our delight and surprise, we had to order masks four times! In just 2 weeks, we sold 65 masks in our two Districts.

Brother Rick Allen, Worthy Patron of Twelve Points Chapter in District #8 also ordered masks and posted a message saying the first 15 members who walked through the door for the next meeting at Twelve Points Eastern Star would be given an ICAN Service Dog project mask. Great idea, Rick!

When District #8 formed their Eastern Star Team for the "MORE THAN PINK Walk" this year, my sister told me she would give an additional \$25 for each member of the team who actually showed up for the walk. I asked her to give the extra donation to the Service Dog project instead and she agreed. Thanks to Sister Christy Lybass' generosity, District #8 was able to contribute an additional \$350 to the ICAN Service Dog project.

Sister Carol Sloan ~ District Deputy #8



The end of July, after months of not being able to have Chapter meetings or come together as a group for our monthly Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron meetings, we were excited to once again be with each other and talk about how our Chapters were coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks were worn by all; and social distancing was observed. Another topic raised was the virtual "Susan G. Komen MORE THAN PINK Walk" being held on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Last year our District raised \$2,207 and we were anxious to try again. Sister Carol Sloan, District Deputy, went on-line and once again created our Eastern Star team with herself as the Team Captain.

That Saturday morning those participating, wearing our District 8 O.E.S. T-shirts, gathered at Sister Carol and Brother Doug Sloan's house to walk through their subdivision. Doug had put last year's group picture on the Woodridge Subdivision Facebook page to let our neighbors know we would be there. Sister Carol Davis, Carol's Deputy Sister from District #7, had baked individual loaves of pumpkin and zucchini bread for each member of the team, and Carol passed out the Komen collar face masks to everyone. Doug Sloan took the group picture and we started out on our 5K walk through the

neighborhood. Doug had created maps showing a 1-mile walk for those who didn't want to try the 3-mile trek and they were sitting in the driveway cheering for us when we arrived back at the house. The weather was beautiful, and we once again realized how much we all enjoy being and working together as Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers.

It was a smaller, but mighty, group this year. Our 2021 team was made up of 16 O.E.S. members who raised \$2,385 for the fight against breast cancer! Team Captain, Sister Carol Sloan was given special recognition as the Top Survivor Fund Raiser for the Wabash Valley in the virtual Opening Ceremonies video for Central Indiana.

Carol Sloan, District Deputy #8
2 Time Breast Cancer Survivor

Pictured:

Row 1: Sisters Christi Deal, Carol Sloan

Row 2: Sisters Carol Davis, Peggy Wiggins, Carrie Kesler, Pam Malone, & granddaughter, Baby Lena

Row 3: Debbie Thompson, Pam Hopler, Tammy Shake, Carolyn Wilson, Ann Mangus, Brother Doug Sloan

Working Together For a Good Cause

Isabel Alger, Worthy Advisor for Friendship Assembly #44, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, was looking for a worthwhile service project for the fall. When her Associate Mother Advisor told of a need she observed following her recent surgery, the girls decided they would like to help fill the need.

During the months of September and October they worked to create special vests with pockets to hold drainage tubes/bulbs following breast cancer surgery. Using men's extra-large T-shirts, they turned up the hem and sewed seams to create 6-inch pockets across the front of the shirt. The shirts were then cut up the center to form ties to make them easier to put on and take off. After they were washed the shirts were folded, Pink Ribbons were created to pin on the front of each vest, and they were placed in zip-lock bags. A sticker was designed, and placed on each bag, showing the shirt had been created by the Rainbow Assembly. The special shirt vests were then delivered to the local Wabash Valley Breast Cancer Survivors group for distribution in their bags given to those who have undergone breast cancer surgery.

A special note: Isabel Alger's Eastern Star petition was read, the first Friday of March, at Brazil Chapter's meeting. As you know, all Eastern Star meetings were cancelled shortly after and before they were able to vote on her petition. We had intended for Isabel to be one of our candidates at the last Inspection in District #8, but it didn't happen. When the Chapter was finally allowed back in the Temple for a meeting, they voted to accept Isabel as a new member. Five members of her Rainbow Advisory Board were invited to fill an office for her initiation. Her mother, Sister Ann Alger, walked with her as a proxy candidate. Congratulations Sister Isabel!

Sister Carol Sloan, District Deputy #8



Fishers Collects

At our September stated meeting, we collected diapers, wipes, and Depends for the Come to Me Food Pantry at Fishers UMC. The items we collected totaled 100 pounds! We received a thank you from Linda Williams, the Pantry Coordinator, and she said:

"We desperately needed these items. During these months of the epidemic, many new families have needed food/non-food assistance from our pantry because of job loss. Many of these families had never needed help in the past. Your donation

helped us to continue to serve these as well as others who needed help. This has been a challenging time for all of us; but God has provided our needs, especially through people like you."

Edna Baker, Secretary

Lego Land & ICAN

Greetings from Lego Land in District #11! On September 26, 2020 at the Sahara Grotto in Indianapolis, the first annual Lego event was a success. We were blessed to make well over \$1,000.00 for our Service Dog project.

We were sponsored by District #11 chapters and Doug Davis who owns "It's a Block Party", which sells different kinds of Legos. Mr. Davis is located on South Meridian Street in Indianapolis. He donated three Lego sets that were raffled off.

Doug and Miriam Murphy, WM of Prospect Chapter #452, coordinated the Indy Lug (Lego User Group), which is a group of Lego enthusiasts. They exhibited many Lego displays at the event for all who attended to enjoy.

Tammy Sweezy, WM of Millersville Chapter #300 and "ApPAWse" Service Dog Chairman, coordinated with ICAN to have our furry friends and their handlers at the event for people to meet and greet. The ICAN service dogs were Breezy, Charlie, Louis, Mooch and Charger.

All who attended enjoyed the day.



WGP Bob DeRolf & Melody, WM Miriam Murphy, Terry Prall, WP of Prospect Chapter



WM Tammy Sweezy (pink top) & ICAN handlers with the ICAN dogs.

New Grand Representative



On September 14, 2020, the Worthy Grand Matron made a trip to District 11 and presented a Grand Representative of North Carolina to Sister Ramona Goss of Englewood Chapter. This was a first meeting back after months of being apart and this presentation just added more joy to the evening. Jennifer was assisted by the Worthy Grand Patron in his home chapter.

LaPorte Honors Muriel Berryman

Greetings from District 19. I thought I would give everyone an update on our lives up here.

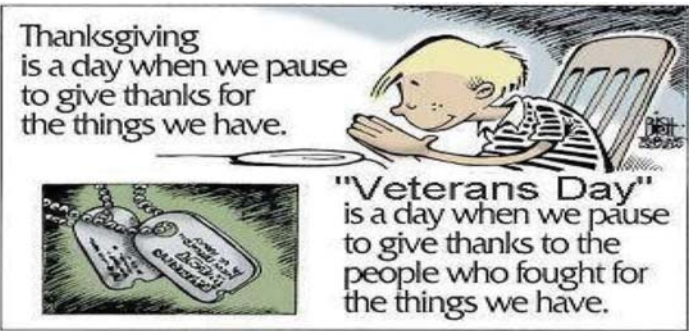
First and foremost, a small group of us presented Muriel Berryman with her Secretary Emeritus Certificate on October 13, 2020. Muriel was initiated April 19, 1955, making her a member for 65 years. Her Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron were Cora Metcalf and Dwight Palm. The first office she held was Electa in 1961. She served as Worthy Matron in 1979, with Robert Barnes as WP, in 1982, with William Taggart as WP, and 1990, with PGP Larry Deutscher as WP. It was in this year her daughter, Vicki Deutscher, served as Grand Adah.

Throughout her years she served as Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Treasurer, Marshal, Adah, Ruth, Esther, and Electa. She was appointed as Grand Representative in 1992. Muriel served as personal Grand Page to Worthy Grand Patron Larry Deutscher in 2000, and President of the 19th District Association in 2001-2002. She received her 50-year pin in 2005. For 30 plus years she was secretary for LaPorte Chapter #280 and we are proud to be able to keep honoring her in this way. Congratulations Muriel!

Nancy Minix. DD #19



Pictured are: Debbie Harris, Nancy Minix, Muriel Berryman, Larry Deutscher, PGP, Vickie Deutscher, and Karen Lyness



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR STAR-LITE?

You have received this issue, but will you get the next one? Check your expiration date on the back page to the left of your address. If it says your last issue is December 2020, then you need to renew now! Fill out the form on the next to the last page and include your check made out to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES and mail to Nancy Pratt, 3597 N. Old U.S. 31, Rochester, IN 46975.

Thank you! We couldn't continue without your support!

District 20 News

Chapters are meeting and are abiding by the rules and regulations that are in place. It is so good to see everyone, but it is so hard not to hug and socialize. We are looking forward to a time when hugs are allowed again.

The PAST DEPUTIES held their meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 14th at Starlight Chapter in Elkhart. There were approximately 12 present; all wearing masks and social distancing. The meeting was led by Sister Barb Woods. She gave each lady a beautiful hand towel. Sister Marilyn Theiss gave hand-made pumpkins as prizes for winning games that were played. A good time was had by all.

BRISTOL CHAPTER has been active – from their homes...in making face masks. First, they sold them and gave the profit to their town's food pantry. That was a 2-month project. Also, they are part of the group making a total of 36,000 masks for the Elkhart County Schools. Each student receives 2 masks. Bristol chapter alone has made over 3000.

WARSAW CHAPTER Worthy Patron, Jerry Hartman, (pictured) was presented with a beautiful Quilt of Valor hand made by Sister Linda Greene. The Mission of the Quilt of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Jerry was very excited and appreciative of this honor.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



Spencerville

Covered Bridge Donation

Members of the Spencerville OES Chapter attended and helped with the Spencerville Covered Bridge Restoration chicken and fish fry and auction on Aug.1, 2020. The Chapter donated \$200 toward the project- \$100.00 designated by Worthy Matron Ann Merritt as her project and another \$100 donated by OES members. From left, are OES members Randy Drake, Ronda Fogle, Mike Gettys and Becky Hoover. Accepting the donation are Friends of the Covered Bridge Committee members Pat Holman and Mary Hollabaugh Diehl.



Donates School Supplies

The Spencerville Chapter has partnered with Riverdale Elementary School in St. Joe, IN. and three preschool programs in DeKalb Eastern school district to provide school supplies. Each of the 20 classrooms receives kits containing pencils, pens, crayons, markers, glue, folders, binder notebooks, paper tablets and other school supplies requested by Riverdale teaching staff. This is our 10th year supporting this program. In the picture Riverdale Principal Brennen Kitchen, left, accepts the donation of school supplies from OES members Ronda Fogle and Becky Hoover while student Arianna Lauer is ready to put some supplies to use.



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 after we receive the request. The short information you want printed about the individual or group can be mailed along with a check payable to Indiana Grand Chapter, OES with the notation: Stellar Stars, to:

**Nancy Pratt
3597 N. Old U.S. 31
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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.



In Honor of the
Grand Secretary Office

Thank you for all the hard work that you do in keeping our Grand Chapter running smoothly by keeping the Chapters informed and up to date.

Elizabeth Lashley, Grand Trustee & PGM

In Loving Memory of our Dear Sister Jo Risk. She never met a stranger. She will be missed by everyone. Rest in Peace Jo! Love, your Sisters & Brothers of Acton Chapter #173

In Honor of
Jennifer Nicholson
Robert DeRolf and the
Legacy of Hope Grand Family
John Quinn, Englewood Chapter #483



In Loving Memory of
PGP Mike Rumsey
Who is missed by
Sisters & Brothers of
Lois Chapter #147



In Loving Memory of
PGP Robert Branigan (1947-2016)
Connie Branigan
Wings of Faith Grand Family
(2003-2004)

Starlighter Grand Family
Edythe Gordon & Murl Frazier
Celebrating 30 Years
1989 – 2019

In Loving Memory
Charlie Swisher
Betty Poff
Mitch Crask
Becky Shroyer
Janet Sweet
S&S Bouquet of Love Grand Family

In Loving Memory of
Past Grand Patron
Ron Mendenhall (1943-2017)
Past Grand Sentinel
James Thomas (1960-2017)
Fields of Faith Grand Family
(2016-2017)

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Send articles and pictures with self-addressed stamped envelope if you want them returned to:

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