



PA Eastern Star Happenings

Issue 24 | Spring 2024



A YEAR OF SPARKLE!



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Issue 24 | Spring 2024
Published four times annually

Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania
Order of the Eastern Star

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you so much for all of the SPARKLING stories that you have submitted all year long! There were always so many stories and pictures, in every issue I had my work cut out to try to showcase everything our Order has been doing. With each issue, I have been so impressed with the amazing things that we are able to do when we work together.

I would like to thank Sister Joyce and Brother Bob for this very special appointment. I deeply appreciate your support and faith in me to highlight the good work of PA OES.

I also want to thank my husband Frank Vitale (5A & 10A) and my mom Tammie Lasswell (5A). Your love, help, and eagle-eyes were key to every single issue I have had the privilege to create.

Finally, I ask the members to continue your outpouring of support and great articles for Sister Michelle as she takes over for Sister Marcia and Brother Mike. I truly hope to hear that she too has more articles than she can handle for each issue!

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In SPARKLING Star Love,
Katie Lasswell Vitale,
PA OES Magazine Editor 2023-2024

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe that this is my last article for the OES Magazine and in just a few short weeks Sister Marcia and Brother Mike will become your new Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. Joyce and I wish them and their officers the best as they prepare to lead our beautiful order into 2025. May God's blessings and safe travels be with each one as they begin their new journey.

Our Grand Family has experienced an incredible year. From the chapter visits, vesper services, honor days, and anniversary celebrations, to the many more events, each of you has made this such an enjoyable year. We always left those functions with smiles on our faces and many happy memories. During our travels, Joyce and I have tried to inject a little humor, enthusiasm, and fun into our visits, our remarks, and with each other. I've had a lot of firsts this year, beginning with a pair of blue sparkle shoes I wore at our installation. Well, I now have 6 pairs of sparkle shoes: blue, gold, silver, green, red, and purple. I also added a gold sparkle coat and white sparkle pants to keep the fun going.

You know, "FUN" isn't a four-letter word. Often, we are too serious, too focused on the task at hand, and forget that our members want to have fun. There is a time to be serious, like when we are doing our ritual work, but there is nothing wrong with having fun during our meetings, banquets, and projects. People like to have FUN, LAUGH, and be HAPPY.

The outpouring of support for our special projects, the Shriners Hospitals and the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Centers, has been overwhelming. The organ concerts alone have raised over \$25,000. I'm looking forward to hearing the final reports at Grand Chapter to see what our impact will truly be. All of you are what makes Eastern Star a success. It's not the WGM or WGP, or other officers; it is all of us working together to keep this organization moving ahead – hmm...moving ahead like a tractor! Don't ever think that what you do doesn't matter or that you're not important, BECAUSE YOU ARE – YOUR SPARKLE COUNTS!

I hope that each of you keep the enthusiasm going and spread SPARKLE wherever you go. Thanks for a great year!

May God bless PA OES and all of our Sisters and Brothers,
Worthy Grand Patron Bob Trimble

Super SPARKLER Spotlights from Worthy Grand Matron Joyce Plonka

Kimberly Amic of Sewickley Chapter #439 is a first-time WM, and has been SPARKLING for her chapter since she joined in 2019! Kim has signed 10 petitions, 8 of them for couples, all of whom have become involved in Sewickley Chapter since their initiations. She also made sure to assign 2 members to each chapter representative position and committee: 1 new member and 1 veteran member, to foster mentorship between the members. She has also increased engagement in Sewickley's activities by setting up a Facebook group, enabling more people to access the information about events.



Barbara Clinger is a proud member of Phoenix Chapter #15. She joined OES in 1996 at Emporium Chapter where she served as WM and DDGM before the chapter transferred to Phoenix. At Phoenix, she has served lovingly as Electa for 17 years, Grand Representative to New Mexico, and several appointments. She spreads her SPARKLE wherever she goes and is a willing helper to all in Region 6. Barbara is a member of First Baptist Church where she volunteers and assists with different fundraisers with the women's ministries. She is a member of the Cameron County Vets Club, assisting with the Easter Egg hunt and the Cash Bash. During voting season, you will see her working at the polls. During the summer, she assists with the Community Vacation Bible School.



Darlene Anderson has faithfully served our beautiful order for over fifty years! She is a member of Clairton Chapter #316 and is currently

Secretary, an office she has held for many years. She has served the Grand Chapter as Grand Chaplain for Sister Joyce E. Ferguson and has held several Appointed Grand Chapter Committee appointments. Her exceptional organizational skills and attention to detail are put to good use as she performs the duties of Secretary of PAGO. Darlene is always willing to step up and SPARKLE wherever she is needed and smiles throughout Region 4. She enjoys traveling with her region and is seen at many OES events. She leaves a sparkling trail of shimmering light and joy!



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What's Happening at *Masonic Villages*

MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS

Congratulations to Volunteer of the Year, Mary Ann Size (pictured with Angela Rackleff, sales and marketing manager). Mary Ann serves as the vice president of the Executive Committee and treasurer of the Social Committee. She assists with Social Committee fundraisers and community events, including holiday picnics and parties and volunteer projects. Those off-campus also benefit from her talents, as she volunteers at The Meadows, a nearby assisted living community.



Department, with the help of a team of volunteers, provided dinner, a DJ and photo opportunities. The auditorium was decorated with flowers and other spring-like touches.



6abc Action News stopped by to do a piece on Philly Senior Stage, whose director works with residents to put together several theatrical performances throughout the year.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY

Second grade students from Sewickley Academy met up with residents for bingo games and poetry readings on campus. Intergenerational gatherings like this one, and opportunities with the on-site child care center, provide benefits for people of all ages.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN



Residents commemorated Maundy Thursday by taking a step back in time to when Jesus and his disciples gathered for the Last Supper. They listened to the inspiring story of each disciple's memories,

as brought to life by a group of dedicated volunteers, experiencing the food and feelings of this moment.



Residents, led by veteran Barbara Zitrick, have been coordinating several Quilt of Valor presentations each year. The most recent

one in April featured 15 resident veterans representing various branches who served in different conflicts and locations. Each veteran was awarded a quilt handmade by the Masonic Village Piece Makers quilt group.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL

Residents from the health care and personal care areas attended the annual Spring Fling. Many dressed in gowns and suit jackets for this special occasion. The Recreation

Residents learned about different activities during the Opportunities Expo in April. Interest and hobby-based resident clubs, card and game groups and more had representatives at the event to share about their offerings and schedules. Events like these help new residents get connected with others who share their passions and may inspire established residents to try something new.

MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER

The annual Spring Fling basket and 50/50 raffle fundraiser held on April 20 was a great time for residents, staff, families and community members alike. Thanks to everyone who attended the event for supporting our residents and our Mission of Love!



The 129th Sessions Committee



General Chair: Patricia Sopp

Patty is a 43-year member of OES and a 3-time WM. She is a proud member of Albion Chapter #22, serving as Adah. Patty is also a member and past Queen of Daughters of the Nile, and Past Worthy Advisor and Mother Advisor of the International Rainbow for Girls.

Patty was DDGM in 1992-93 and Grand Esther in 2008-09. One of her greatest moments was being part of the cast of the Work of 1867. She has had numerous AGCCMs; her favorite was General Chair for Service Dogs 2010. She served on previous sessions as Out of State Entertainment 1995, Honors and Protocol 1997, and Grand Banquet 2011.

Patty has been married for 52 years to PP Bill, a 31-year member. He was Potentate of Zem Zem Shrine in 2016. They have 3 children: Billy and his wife Heather, Stephen (deceased) and his wife Colleen, and Allison and her husband Joel. They are blessed with 4 grandchildren: Jake, Josey, Everly, and Alaina. They also have a spoiled Beagle, Poppy! For 40 years, Bill and Patty owned and operated Country Liv'n Kennels and Invisible Fence Company before turning the leash over to Allison and Joel, to enjoy wintering in Arcadia, FL. Patty brings SPARKLE to everyday life by being the reason someone smiles today!

Co-Chair: Diana Hlavsa

Diana has been a member of Irwin Chapter #400 since 2005. She served as WM in 2014-15 and again in 2022-23. She has also served Grand Chapter as Magazine Editor, Western Chair of Caring and Sharing, and DGM of Region 5A. She is a member of the Forever Sparkle Club Board for WGM Joyce Plonka. Diana is also a past Worthy Advisor and current Board President of Irwin Assembly #42 International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Diana is a first-grade teacher in Penn Trafford School District. When she isn't teaching, she loves to spend time with her family and friends. Diana and her family love to spend time at their camp in Pymatuning. She can bring SPARKLE to everyday life by being a kind person. Something as small as a smile can brighten someone's day.

Secretary: Dawn McCoy

Dawn is a member of Robert Fulton Chapter #446. She has enjoyed serving her chapter in several positions over the years, including WM in 2003-2004 and 2013-2014 and currently as Secretary. She started her way in the Masonic Family as a member of Job's Daughter's and is a Past Honored Queen of Bethel #14.

Dawn is honored to serve Grand Chapter this year as Secretary for the 129th Session Committee, and has greatly enjoyed making new friends this year. When Dawn isn't with her Masonic Sisters and Brothers, she is spending time with her own family and close friends. She likes to read and take walks and listen to music.

Dawn encourages us to bring our SPARKLE to this wonderful Grand year!

Treasurer: Judith Wright

Judy has been a member of Phoenix Chapter #15 since 1999, holding offices every year since her initiation, including 3 terms as WM and currently as Secretary. She had the privilege of initiating her husband Bob, serving together in the East, and traveling with him to many Eastern Star events until his passing in December 2019.

She served as 118th Session Treasurer for PGM Cheryl Wilson and PGP Bradley Lewis, and as Grand Warder for PGM Diana Michael and PGP William Johnston, and enjoyed

meeting so many wonderful Sisters and Brothers on her travels. She was also the Grand Representative to Tennessee in 2019-2021.

Judy retired from banking as a Branch Manager and fills her free time with enjoying life, traveling, and helping others. She is active in the East Smethport Christian Church, volunteers with the Community Elf fund every Christmas, and many community events. She enjoys the many sports her grandchildren participate in, as well as the school activities of her great-niece and nephews school activities.

She has 3 granddaughters and 1 grandson. She SPARKLES the most when she sees her grandchildren's smiles and the many phone conversations she has with them. She also SPARKLES when she renews friendships with her Sisters and Brothers.

Choir Director: Barbara Carothers

Barb is a member of Stoneboro Chapter #110, and has served as WM twice (2012-2013, 2022-2023). When not heading to the East, she has been comfortably ensconced at the instrument since her third meeting after initiation in December 1999.

She has served as Installing Chaplain and Installing Organist for the other chapters in her region and served as the Region 1B representative for Karing for Kids last year. She was Western Chair for Charity for PGP GeeGee Plyler, and she has sung with the Grand Choir at Grand Chapter.

Barb retired after 35 years of teaching math at Grove City Area High School, and 25 years of playing for Musicals, Choral Concerts, and State and Regional Choral Festivals. She continues to teach Algebra and Quantitative Analysis as an Adjunct Professor at Thiel College. She is also the Secretary, Tech Director, and Praise Band Leader at her church, and continues to play for local High School and College Theater performances as lead pianist.

She and her husband Jack, a member of Lake-Myrtle Masonic Lodge, have 5 children, 7 grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. She and her family SPARKLE when attending concerts, trampoline parks, amusement parks, and goofing off - and maintaining season tickets to the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball games.

Daily Lunches: Debra Kobosky

Debra was initiated in 2011 and is a PM of Monessen Chapter #205. She is also a plural member of William E. Gelston Chapter #435. She has held several AGCCM appointments and has served the 2017 Grand Trustees as their Personal Page. She served as DGM for PGM Linda Watson and PGP Jeff Miller and continued for PGM Linda Dimino and PGP David McKibbin. She is very proud of the Barbara E. Adams awards that have been bestowed upon her in the past five years. Debra encourages everyone to participate in this program as it can boost your confidence and aid in learning the importance of each station.

Eastern Star has introduced Debra to so many amazing Sisters and Brothers, taken her to some unforgettable places, and given her the opportunity to serve her Chapter and her community. Her experiences have enhanced her knowledge of the Order, as well as providing her with a better understanding of herself and her abilities.

Debra SPARKLES by sharing her excitement in meeting new challenges and accomplishing goals for Eastern Star and our members.

Decorations: Michelle Burns

Michelle began her Masonic journey at age 12 when she was initiated into New Castle Assembly #1, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. She was privileged enough to be elected Grand Hope, serving under PGWA Emily Seibert in 1983-84.

She is a third generation OES Member, joining New Castle Chapter #105 at a District meeting in September 1985, and serving as WM to transition her chapter to their new home at Mercer Chapter #180 in 2012. Her mother, Margaret McKinley, was a 75-year member; her aunt, Glenna McDaniel, served as Grand Sentinel for PGM Shirley Markel; and both of her grandmothers, Helen McKinley and Hazel McCracken, were members in good standing. Her father, Paul McKinley, was a 33rd Degree Mason, and she attributes her loyal dedication to the Order to his guidance and dedication to the Masonic fraternity.

Michelle is married to James (Robbie) Burns, and they have 4 children and 6 grandchildren, keeping them extremely busy with sports and extracurricular activities. When she retired as a nursing professional, she found herself at the organ of Independent Methodist Church and at the keyboard of her computer typing the weekly bulletins.

Her true passion is in creativity and decorations, and you may find her at the church decorating for Holy Week, Christmas, or Harvest through the year, but Michelle encourages us to remember that whatever our passion is, it should "Explode With Enthusiasm" because each of us bring our own creativity and SPARKLE to OES.

Divine Service & Necrology: Dale Goodyear

Dale is a PM of Conrad Weiser Chapter #449 and now enjoys the role of Chaplain in her chapter. Her fond memories of serving OES include Grand Page for Grand Secretary Emeritus Mary Ann Rhode, Eastern Chair of Aluminum for PGM Emily McCarthy, DGM during PGM Orpha Kemmler's 2 years of service, Garden Suite Club Board member, and Grand Chaplain for PGM Linda Watson. She is honored to be the Grand Representative of Puerto Rico.

Retired after 38 years of teaching high school English, 25 years of breeding and showing llamas, and 14 years of running road races and marathons, Dale now lives in Reading with her husband Dan and Goldendoodle Maggie. Dale loves learning in all its forms and enjoying trying to make people laugh, even if it is at her own expense.

Dale hopes to spread some SPARKLE by smiling, laughing, and praying with others.

Grand Banquet: Valerie Guiseppe

Valerie was initiated into Fraternal Chapter #249 in November 1982. She served as WM in 2002-03, and is currently Treasurer. She has served Grand Chapter as various AGCCMs, Page and Personal Page, Grand Martha in 2013-14, 123rd Session Committee Decorations in 2016-17, Grand Representative to District of Columbia for 2017-20, and 127th Sessions Committee Co-Chair in 2021-22.

Valerie and her husband, Bill, enjoy traveling, especially with their Yorkie, Whittle Bear. They vacation frequently between the mountains, the beach, and the bay, and they especially enjoy extended camping adventures each spring and fall. Her most treasured joy comes from spending time with family and friends, for whom she provides SPARKLE through hearty food, encouraging words, artistic remembrances, and a mindful presence. Every day is a great day to SPARKLE!

Honors & Protocol: Cheryl Mansour

Cheryl was initiated into New Castle Chapter #105 in 1983 and joined Mercer Chapter #180 in 2013. She served as WM in 1991 and in 2008. She held many offices during her years of service to her local chapter, and has served as Western Chair Caring & Sharing, DGM for PGM Paula Kauffman, Personal Secretary to PGM Diana Michael, and Grand Representative to Indiana by PGM Linda Watson. In addition, Cheryl was Mother Advisor and Board Chairman for New Castle Assembly #1, International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

She is the mother of 4 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. She retired in 2013 as an Administrative Assistant at Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV in Grove City, PA. She currently lives with daughter Nina, son-in-law Bill, and their 3 children.

Cheryl believes that bringing SPARKLE to everyday life is another way of saying enjoy the fellowship, fun and sisterhood of Eastern Star.

Hospitality: Jona Green

Jona is a 25-year member of Robert Fulton Chapter #446 and is proud to be the fourth generation of PMs. Even before she was in Job's Daughters, Jona knew Star would be part of her life. She watched her mother leave once a month in a white dress - how exciting! She has served two times as Worthy Matron and is now Star Point Ruth. This is her first time on Sessions. Hospitality is a great appointment for this former restaurant manager.

Time with family and friends makes for a SPARKLING life! Share your smile and share your SPARKLE!

Housing: Judith Lewis

Judith was initiated into OES in 1991. She is a 32-year member of Fraternal Chapter #249. She served her Chapter as WM twice, held numerous appointments, and was a DDGM for PGM Beverly Small. She was President of PGM Mary Ann Naugle's Snow Board and her Grand Martha. Currently, Judy serves as President of the Forever Sparkle Club Board for WGM Joyce Plonka.

After 23 years, Judy retired from the Coatesville VA Medical Center. She was married for 52 years, and has 3 daughters, 1 grandson, 1 granddaughter, and 1 great-granddaughter.

Judy believes that a smile is a gift that we give to each other, one that brings SPARKLE to everyday life.

Information: Sandy Voegler

Sandra is a member of Norwood Herrington Chapter #356 since 1997 and served her chapter as WM in 2005 and 2006. She has served her Chapter as Secretary since 2009, and the Grand Chapter as AGCCM for MS (2007), Cancer (2009), We Are Family (2010), Registration (2013), Thanksgivers (2014), Community Services (2015), Golden Stars (2016), and the DGM of Region 3 in 2011. She is also a member of the Forever Sparkle

Club Board, Order of Amaranth, and a board member of Faith Assembly #150 IORG.

Sandra is married to Norman Jr, and their family includes 2 children and their spouses, Norman III & Jacqueline and Kimberly & Nicholas, and 4 grandsons, Will, Liam, John, and Jameson. She is a referral/credentialing coordinator at Genesis Medical Associates – a Family Medicine Practice in Pittsburgh for the last 5 years and has worked in healthcare for 38 years.

Since becoming Chapter Secretary, she SPARKLES through the many conversations with members, learning new things about them and hearing about their history with OES.

Pages: Katie McGuire

Katie is proud to be a third-generation member of OES. Since joining Clairton Chapter #316 16 years ago, she served as WM three times (2011-2012, 2015-2016, and 2023-2024). Katie served the Grand Chapter in numerous capacities including as a Grand Page twice (2009, 2012), several times as an AGCCM, and as DGM (2013-2014). She is a Past Grand Worthy Advisor of PA Rainbow Girls.

Katie lives in Verona with her husband Brian and their daughter Jordyn, age 5. Her family attends Beulah Presbyterian Church in Churchill. Katie is the BSA & Compliance Officer with Mars Bank, working to safeguard the Bank and its customers from financial crime and ensuring compliance. Katie brings SPARKLE to everyday life by encouraging everyone around her to SPARKLE just as they are, as God created each of us perfectly!

Paraphernalia: Joseph DeThomas

Joe is currently WP of Martha V. Paul Chapter #404, and is a PM of Sunset Lodge #623 (now #237). Joseph is the Secretary of the Masonic Temple Preservation Association, which hosts numerous Masonic bodies. Being in charge of Paraphernalia is right up Joseph's alley as he is one of the Co-Chairs of the Washington Whiskey Rebellion Festival, which requires a lot of the same skills.

For his day job, Joseph is a Warehouseman in the shipping department for Komatsu Mining Machinery Global Warehouse and also a councilman for the City of Washington. Joseph is an Eagle Scout who served as a leader in various positions in the BSA for decades. One of his crowning achievements is serving on staff at the 2010 World Scout Jamboree in England for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. Another crowning achievement is receiving an Army Accommodation Medal in the US Army.

Joseph is married to Angela DeThomas, PM of Martha V. Paul Chapter #404 and current Organist. Together, they have 3 sons and a daughter, and 3 granddaughters.

Saturday Night Entertainment: Suzan Freed

Suzan is a long-time member, serving as WM in 1992-93 and 1998-99 for Naomi Chapter #55, and in 2020-22 for Woodlawn #164. She has served as AGCCMs, as Grand Page in 1999, as Sessions Decorations in 1999-2000, as DDGM in 2001, as Grand Electa in 2008-09 for PGM Mary Ann Naugle and PGP Clarence Echternacht, and as Grand Representative to Georgia in 2010-12.

Suzan is excited to serve on this 129th Sessions Committee, and is looking forward to seeing everyone's neon outfits at the PA Shore next month!

Suzan is self-employed as an auto-trimmer, working on aircrafts. She has 2 sons, Scott and Skyler, and 4 granddaughters. Suzan SPARKLES because she is a loyal friend to all in her life!

Technical Advisor: Robert Holderbaum

Robert has been a member of Corinth Chapter #229 since 2003 and was initiated into Irwin Chapter #400 in 1998. He served as WP for Irwin in 2001-02, and is a 9-time WP for Corinth from 2003-23. He also served as WM of Shidle Lodge No. 601 in 2001, and as the Sovereign Prince of Pennsylvania Council Princes of Jerusalem for the Valley of Pittsburgh in 2011-2012. He was coronated a 33rd degree in 2019. He is currently serving on the Advisory Board of both Pitcairn Assembly #90, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and Lincoln Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and as the Deputy Illustrious Master of Washington Council No. 1. A cherished memory for him was when PMWGP Robert C. Penoyer asked him to be a General Grand Chapter Special Appointment. Getting to serve as an Eagle to Brother Bob is a special honor that he will cherish for the rest of his life.

Robert has been happily married to Sister Carla Holderbaum PM since August of 2001, and has twin daughters, Emma and Ellie, both of whom are Rainbow girls and members of Eastern Star.

In his spare time, he enjoys participating in theater productions and doing background work on various TV shows and movies filming in the Pittsburgh area. He brings a SPARKLE to everyday life with his love for Eastern Star and his family.

Vendors & Safety: Heather Seigworth

Heather is a member of Clarion Chapter #267, joining in October 2012. She is a 3-time WM, and has held several AGCCMs. She also served as a Grand Page. Her mother and 3 sons, Tim, LJ, and Rusty, are all members of Clarion Chapter with her.

Heather is looking forward to Grand Chapter this year, and is excited to SPARKLE by bringing new opportunities to the members.

Personal Secretary to the WGM: Roberta Hensel

Bertie is a 53-year member of Mercer Chapter #180. She has had the pleasure of serving the Order in many different capacities over the years. She is a retired elementary teacher, having taught for 36 years in the Grove City Area School District. Upon retirement in 2009, she was elected to the School Board for 8 years, serving as President for 2 years.

Bertie is a life member, Elder, and Organist of Leesburg ECO Presbyterian Church. She believes that the best way to bring SPARKLE is to SMILE and treat everyone as you want to be treated.

Long Range Planning Committee Corner

Calling all members!

Remembers that all members in good standing are eligible to vote in elections and on legislation. Be sure to use your vote in June 2024 at Grand Chapter on the PA Shore!

There will be additional information available at Grand Chapter about the schedule for 131st Grand Chapter Sessions in 2026.

A Tribute to the Oldest Member in PA Eastern Star

Rarely do you read in your local newspaper an obituary that is so interesting, it reads like a great novel or a chapter in a history book. You can't put it down. This was my response to an obituary in the Harrisburg PennLive about a resident who passed away December 21, 2023, at the young age of 107.

Fannie Huber was born in Numibia, PA a small community located in southern Colombia County, approximately 9 miles south of Bloomsburg. In 2020, Numibia's population was 274 residents.

Fannie's grandfather was the local barber in the town and years later her husband Kenneth was the postmaster there. As a young child, Fannie developed appendicitis and had to have an appendectomy. The surgery was carried out in her grandfather's barber shop. Can you imagine in the early 1900's in a rural community, how this surgery must have been performed! Fannie lived through two World Wars, many global conflicts, and historic changes in technology. She was born during the Presidential term of Woodrow Wilson, and survived the Spanish flu epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Primarily a homemaker, Fannie was known as an independent woman that had a quick wit and was interested in politics and world affairs. For 30 years, Fannie volunteered at the Red Cross blood-mobile and worked several summers at Knobels Amusement Park. At her 100th birthday she was honored as the Grand Marshall of the Catiwissa Halloween parade. Fannie attributed her longevity to having a glass of white wine every day.

I must tell you the most amazing part of this story is that Fannie Huber was a 79-year member in good standing of the Order of the Eastern Star. Fannie was initiated on November 16, 1944, as a member of Catawissa Chapter #265 during the term of PGP Maude T. German and PGP E. Joel Carpenter, who led the 51st Grand Chapter in Scranton, PA. When Catawissa chapter closed, Fannie moved en masse to Bloomsburg Chapter #279 on October 4, 2012, where she remained a faithful member of our Order. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to this wonderful woman and member of The Order of Eastern Star. We should all celebrate the lives of our members, especially the ones who have lived more than a century and remain loyal sisters and brothers.



~ Submitted by Emily McCarthy, PGM

Chapter Anniversaries



Connellsville Chapter #247 celebrated its 105-year Anniversary with a get together at Bud Murphy's Sports Bar. Gwen Rose, the Chapter's oldest PM, was able to join her Sisters and Brothers at the gathering. Sister Rose served as WM in 1964!

State College Chapter #388 celebrated their 100-year Anniversary and honored Grand Sentinel Ed Glantz on April 5. Several local elected officials, including Congressman Glen "GT" Thompson (a mason from Kittanning Lodge in Armstrong County), Representative Paul Takac, and Centre County Commissioners Mark Higgins and Amber Concepcion, shared remarks and presented Proclamations and citations in honor of the Chapter.



Entertainment was provided by Penn State student vocalists Penn Harmonic and an amazingly tasty dinner was prepared by Mt Nittany United Methodist Church. It was beautiful also to be joined by Brothers and Masonic leaders from State College Lodge No. 700. They shared the history of WGM Anna M. Rote, who signed the Chapter's charter and constituted State College #388. Several Anna M. Rote Memorial Chapter members also joined in sharing more of her story. She was a dressmaker, and guests honored her by dressing in fashions through the decades and showcasing a hat collection in the centerpieces that have often been used at tea parties and other events with the service dogs.

The highlight of the evening was the service dog raisers partners from Roar for More: SSD University Park Puppy Club and Susquehanna Service Dogs who stole the hearts of so many. It is truly a blessing to be in community with these partners as we work to make a difference together. The Chapter is grateful to all who attended to honor their legacy, their future, and their Grand Sentinel.



Hershey Chapter #509 displayed the Golden Sparkle Award at their February meeting following the announcement that every installed officer had received

their BLUE BAND for participation in the Your Sparkle Counts program.

YOUR SPARKLE COUNTS!

At the March meeting of Harrisburg Chapter #552, the award was displayed in honor of their members earning a total of over 10,000 points!

Shiloh Chapter #153 captured the "Your Sparkle Counts" trophy in January and has kept hold of it ever since. Chapter Representative, Nancy Shaffer, has done an excellent job of keeping members on track and submitting monthly reports.



Congratulations to these SPARKLING Chapters!



Finding True Happiness

For Robert and Bonnie Weikert, Masonic Village at Elizabethtown was a place they could never forget. After visiting the 1,400-acre campus for a colleague's wedding, the couple knew it was a notable option as they pursued a new chapter of life.

"There are many places out there, but none of them have what Masonic Village has," Robert said. "I mean, how do you forget this place?"

When Robert developed severe arthritis and the couple could no longer safely maintain their home, they decided it was time to transition to a continuing care retirement community. After research and various campus tours, they confidently knew in their hearts Masonic Village was their forever home.

"As much as we hated to leave our home, Masonic Village seemed to be a better fit," Robert said. "We had to show a little courage and move, and I am not sorry we did."

Although the couple needed to downsize from their previous home, they found comfort in narrowing down the belongings that meant the most. They were especially grateful they could bring along their two cats. The effortless process gave Robert and Bonnie peace of mind and allowed them to enjoy all aspects of their move.

"Our new home is very comfy for us," Bonnie said. "When you walk out the door, it is a whole new world."

Robert and Bonnie enjoy the freedom Masonic Village provides. They have learned they can be as busy or as idle as their hearts' desire. Together, they participate in bus trips, browse campus libraries, attend concerts and take advantage of the outdoor walking trails. Bonnie likes to complete puzzles around campus, while Robert regularly visits the auto shop to work on his antique Corvette.

"It is just a fun place to be. The people here are what makes this place run," Robert said. "They take care of you and are top notch."



The couple appreciate the kind and welcoming environment of Masonic Village the most. Soon after their move, Bonnie was having a tough time operating the washing machine in their apartment. After working up some courage, she traveled next door to ask her neighbors for some help.

"Soon enough, there was a room full of kind people helping us figure out our washing machine," Robert recalled.

The Weikerts have felt very touched by the Masonic family's bond. This impact encouraged Robert to begin the application process to become a Mason. The couple also plans to take on volunteer positions in the future, as a way of giving back.

"People here treat others the way they should be treated," Bonnie said. "The amount of kindness reciprocated here is just amazing."

While the couple thought their transition to Masonic Village would be challenging, they found the process to be a dream come true. Robert and Bonnie now participate in the Masonic Village way of life, finding joy through simple living and community.

"Since moving here, I have learned the world does not have to be the negative way it is," Robert said. "If the world was working the way Masonic Village does, everyone would experience true happiness."

Masonic Village at Dallas: 570-446-5658
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown: 717-473-0614
Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill: 484-535-3119
Masonic Village at Sewickley: 724-242-5099
Masonic Village at Warminster: 215-672-2500

Community Service and Fundraising Projects

Donegal Chapter #422 donated \$500 for material to make blankets for the Shriner's Hospital in Philadelphia. Janet Duffy and Connie Saylor had a great time making the blankets, and displayed them at the Region 10A Vesper Service in November.



On February 13, WGP Bob Trimble and Janet drove to visit the hospital. They presented the 50 blankets with children's designs to Marketing Director Erin Winkler, and had a tour of the facility, which has a very uplifting and friendly atmosphere.



On April 6, Tunkhannock Chapter #74 SPARKLED by sponsoring a cornhole fundraiser to support Patriots Cove.



Patriots Cove is a sanctuary in Noxen, PA, set on 40 acres where veterans and their caretakers can gain some much-needed relaxation. The cornhole fundraiser at Flying Bags



was a very fun time. Community businesses helped with donations and prizes for the winning teams. Many chapter members came out and SPARKLED for this great event, raising \$1800 for this noble organization!



Trinity Chapter #138 donated 45 pairs of new reading glasses to the Boswell, Pa Lions Group on May 8. AM Valarie Collins, WM Paula Barron, and Secretary Barbara Lynne Darr presented this donation to the Lions Treasurer Tim Woy.



As one of their annual community service projects, Hershey Chapter #509 donated lunch to the Derry Township Police Department, thanking them for their service.



WP Bob Watson and PGM Linda Watson delivered the goods to Police Chief Garth Warner!



Bird Chapter #460 hosted the Grand Family on November 14. This SPARKLING event included learning the foxtrot and sharing a sit-down dinner served by our Masonic Brothers of Union Lodge #479. This was followed by a fun meeting and an

apple crisp dessert and refreshments. Congratulations to

Grand Martha Lisa Francart, who won 2 free tickets to 2024 "Daniel" production from Sight & Sound, Lancaster, PA! All proceeds from the evening, \$1,058, went to The Shriners Hospitals for Children and The Scottish Rite Dyslexia Centers in PA!



Community Service and Fundraising Projects



Region 10B held their Crafting to Cause SPARKLE event at the York Masonic Center on February 2. 65 guests, with the Grand Family and Bethel #1 Job's Daughters, created 750 Valentines Day cards, which were distributed to residents of 7 local nursing homes and assisted living facilities.



Shiloh Chapter #153 shared their SPARKLE with the community through their third "Ugly Sleeping Bag" event. WM Julie Britten reached out to all of Region 1A and members of the community to assist making the bags to serve the needs of their homeless neighbors. Everyone gathered for lunch followed by a work session. There were 25 in attendance, including participants from Erie Insurance. They completed 7 bags in just over 2 hours. The bags were delivered to the United Methodist Mission in Erie.



During their Socks, Socks, and More Socks event in early January, Triangle Chapter #483 collected over 230 pairs of men's, women's, and infant socks.

The socks were delivered to a local shelter, which was very excited about the well-timed donation and stated that there is often a high need for such items in the start of the year.



East Penn #336 held their first Bingo event at Lyons Fire Company. It was open to the public and many Sisters and Brothers came out to help. They had 83 baskets for the raffle, a bake sale, and a purse raffle. They were blessed to have donations from local businesses and chapter members. It was a SPARKLING day of friendship and fun.



During the winter, members of Perry Chapter #459 presented Karn's Grocery Store Gift Cards and winter socks to Gary Roeder, the Housing Case Manager of the Veterans Housing in New Bloomfield, to be donated to the veterans living there. The Housing Program helps homeless and disabled veterans. Perry Chapter also donated 150 pairs of socks to the Veterans Hospital in Lebanon.

Fulton Chapter #519 was able to help veterans, youth, and their community through multiple fundraisers! Via a Ham Sandwich sale, Apple Dumpling sale, and their "Charity Begins at Home" craft/vendor/yard sale, they raised over \$2,700 for the Santa's Toy Box Program in Franklin County, the Catholic Mission Children's Christmas Program in Fulton County, and the veterans at the Hollidaysburg Medical Center.

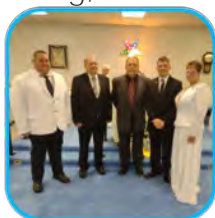


Region 2 has supported their veterans, youth, and community this year! Clarion Chapter #267 donated to 28 Fire Departments and 10 EMS Stations to show appreciation of their time, service, and bravery. They also trimmed a Veterans and OES themed Christmas tree in the park and donated to Clarion Community Learning Workshop, which aids future teachers who tutor students with extra support needs. The region also worked with Humphrey Charcoal, Brookville, PA to donate 100 10-pound bags of charcoal to the Butler VA Healthcare Domiciliary, along with. A keyboard, an X-Box video game system, and a monetary donation from Morris Chapter #14.



Chapter Events

Trinity Chapter #138 held their installation of officers on May 2 at the Somerset Masonic Temple. It was a fun and exciting evening, and included the attendance of the Worshipful Master, Dave Damico, and Masons from Somerset Lodge No.



358, along with family and friends and members from other chapters in the region. This was the first time that this Worshipful Master had attended an OES installation, and he expressed that he was not aware of all that Eastern Star does, but had learned a lot from the event.



On Sunday April 28, East Penn Chapter #336 held their annual tea party. They had root beer floats to kick off the party.

The famous mentalist, Matt Bailey, entertained them while they enjoyed an afternoon of friendship. And of course everyone left with some unique prizes.



In October, sisters from Western PA traveled to Newville to spend time with PGP Jeffrey Miller at his corn maze at Maple Lane Farm. It was a SPARKLING afternoon of fellowship.



OES members from left to right: Debra Kobosky (4), Marsha Hunter (5A), Kristie Kennett (8A), Sallie Plummer (5A), Jackie Steele (5A), PGP Jeffrey Miller (8A), Beth Devericks (5A), Janice Decker (5A).



Service Dogs Project Updates

WGP Robert Trimble selected the service dogs as one of the charities to focus on as part of his honor day on May 11. The Grand Family and Service Dog Chair Tara Mondock were hosted by Kirstin Downie, Director of Development and Communications, for a tour of the Canine Partners for Life (CPL) facility in Cochranville. The facility is used to breed and whelp litters, to train puppies and partner them with a person in need, and then to train the human partner and the dog together. They also engineer and build/assemble the harnesses used by service dogs customized to the needs of the human partner and dog.

Some of the puppy raisers and staff from CPL attended Bob's Honor Day luncheon, and were presented with a check from PA OES for \$25,000, which was supplemented by two personal donations, bringing our total donated to \$30,000! Through this new relationship and our donation, the PA OES brand will be shared with the broader public in two ways:

First, we named two of the puppies from the CPL litter, born on March 10. Robert – in honor of WGP Robert Trimble along with his chapter Robert Fulton #446, PMWGP Robert Penoyer, and OES founder Robert Morris. Marshal - in honor of WGM Joyce Plonka and AGM Marcia Holland to carry the legacy of both of these Past Grand Marshals.

Second, we'll share PA OES through this CPL partnership by stocking the "Encouragement Corner," which will carry the PA OES brand at the facility and will be supported by PA OES. The Encouragement Corner is designed to provide encouragement for CPL clients during Team Training.

Team Training is when CPL clients meet their service dog for the first time. They are away from home for 2.5 weeks, staying in the local area and coming to CPL's Campus each day for training, educational lectures, journaling, group activities, and trips with CPL Trainers. This is an exciting time that can also be overwhelming, and a little encouragement can go a long way. Clients, staff, volunteers, and guests are asked to write something encouraging for each other on the boards in the "Encouragement Corner," and then to they choose something from the treasure chest that PA OES will be stocking.

Also at Bob's luncheon, guests donated supplies to support CPL, and these were taken to the facility just in time for the next team training in early June. Robert Fulton Chapter #446 members have graciously accepted the responsibility to operate as the headquarters for this important relationship with CPL going forward.

We encourage you to please follow the PA OES Service Dog Facebook page to follow the journey of the puppies and to learn how local chapters can get involved to make a difference. Mark your calendars for the next Day with the Dogs in Grantville on July 9!





Golden Stars



WGM Bob Trimble and other members of Robert Fulton Chapter #446, previously from Octorara #463, had the honor to present PM Margaret Michner with her 75-year pin! Margaret was initiated on Sept. 22, 1948, serving as Adah, Esther, Martha, WM, and DDGM in 1976 for PGM Joyce Cooper.



Tunkhannock Chapter #74 honored their 50-year member Kristin Snover in October. WM Paula Geary and Beverly Palmieri presented the Golden Star pin to Kristin. Also honored that evening were Marie Vieczorek and Elizabeth Booth who are both 25-year members.



Priscilla Chapter #64 celebrated 25- and 50-year members at their Golden Stars Luncheon honoring 3 Golden Star members.



Chapter members brought food to share, and a day of fellowship and camaraderie was had by all!



19 shining Golden Stars came together on Oct. 15 to be honored at the Eastern Sparkling Stars of Gold Luncheon. Almost 120 members and friends were there to help them celebrate this wonderful milestone in their Eastern Star life. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful home cooked dinner by the NOVA Auxiliary and each Golden Star was greeted by WGM Joyce and WGP Bob personally.

Old friendships were rekindled, and each shared their favorite offices from their many years of service. Included in the Golden Stars was Grand Ruth, Carol Ruffner, who gave the response for the Golden Stars. Those who could not make the event shared their appreciation for being honored.



WGM Joyce Plonka celebrated her Homecoming with Mercer Chapter #180 on May 4. All guests showed off their best SPARKLES to celebrate Joyce's joyful year of service. Great fun was had with introductions from Marilyn Monroe (PGM Rhonda Johnson) and Joyce was pleased to present money raised through donations at the organ concerts across the commonwealth to the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Centers.

WGP Robert Trimble celebrated his Homecoming with Robert Fulton Chapter #446 on May 11. Demin, overalls, and some SPARKLING boots were all the rage to honor Bobby's farming roots. Willie Nelson (PGP Donald Graver) and Minnie Pearl (PM Sidney Graver) made everyone feel welcome, and Bobby was pleased to present funds raised by the Service Dogs Committee to the Canine Partners for Life organization.



Thank You, Volunteers!

April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, and since Masonic Villages is grateful for all the help our dedicated volunteers provide, staff recognized them in creative ways.

Masonic Village at Elizabethtown threw a fiesta, including lunch and salsa dancers to celebrate their volunteers. These dedicated individuals serve in campus libraries, boutiques, visitors' centers and gift shops; the Masonic Health Care Center; with Masonic Village Hospice; and much more.

Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill volunteers were feted with a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in their honor. They enjoyed a special lunch, including dessert, and a lively performance by the Philadelphia Mummers. Volunteers serve across the campus, whether it be in the Gift Shop, showing movies, at the Market Place or in other roles.

**For volunteer opportunities
at all our locations, visit
www.masonicvillages.org/volunteer.**

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