



Out on a Limb

The wintry winds are blowing in Indiana. It's a time of frosty windows, chances of snow, and the starkness of brown trees against a gray sky. In days like these I find myself saying, "It's a good day to curl up under a quilt and read a good book."

It wasn't until I was a little older that I learned that quilts themselves tell a story. Our family had inherited quilts from a close family friend. I remember my Mom and Aunt talking about the names of the patterns and the meanings behind some of them. There was one quilt that wasn't quite like the others. It didn't have a block pattern and it was as colorful as a crayon box. There were prints of all sorts and the pieces were every shape and size. Mom and Aunt Mary called it the "Crazy Quilt". I believe it is known to most as a "Scrap Quilt".

I asked about this one. I didn't understand why it wasn't organized with blocks sewn in intricate patterns. I listened to the story of the quilt's significance. First, at the time of its making, many people were suffering from the Great Depression. There wasn't much to be had of anything. Each scrap of cloth was precious and used to create something that was useful. These quilts were for warmth and comfort in very hard times. Then, I learned about the scraps themselves. Some were pieces from a dress that was a favorite of the little girl who wore it. Some pieces were from an old apron worn by a grandmother who cooked what little was available and made it a meal fit for royalty. Some scraps were from the coat of a member who arrived in America from Germany, while others were from the worn-out dress shirt that once was a man's "Sunday best". Pieces of a wedding dress or christening dress were there. The old kitchen curtains, the threadbare sheet, and pieces from a blanket that was tattered and torn. Some scraps couldn't be identified. A few were traced back to photographs, but their story was a mystery. All

were stitched together with tiny hand stitches. Each piece, when looked at individually, was beautiful and special. Some brought smiles, others tears, and some brought questions about where they may have come from. The pieces were sewn together in what seemed like a chaotic way, but there was a unique beauty as well.

With 2020 behind us, we can now reflect on the events that made it absolutely CRAZY! Some of those events, like pieces of a Crazy Quilt, brought tears. Plans were set aside to prevent the spread of illness. We fought through the loneliness of not being able to meet in churches, lodges, and chapter rooms. Some fought a dwindling income. Others had medical needs while others finished their earthly journey. Those memories are strong.

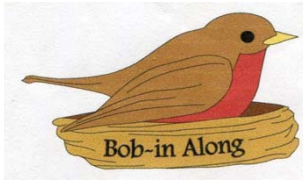
But then, some of the events from 2020 make us smile. Like scraps in the quilt, we recognize the good things. We remember the neighbor who reached out to lend assistance or the friend who sent that card. We reflect on how, while socially distancing, we visited from the front step or from the front seat of our cars, getting to know people we'd otherwise just wave to and go on our way. We whisper thanks for the chance to slow down and work on things we had put off doing. Sisters and Brothers, I will go out on a limb and say, that while the individual events of 2020 may have been crazy, sewn together, they helped us develop an even stronger faith, a greater hope, and a total reliance on God. Like the Crazy Quilt, what may have seemed like chaos, may have its own unique beauty when we step back and take a look.

I wish for your good health and great happiness.

Should the craziness continue, I wish you a Scrap Quilt to wrap yourself in and the eyes to see the unique beauty in the CRAZINESS!

Living a Legacy of Hope,
Jenny





Greetings from the Nest

Welcome to the second month of 2021! Several Chapters are dark in January and some in January and February. That means some are just returning after a break to start a fresh new year. Many meetings were cancelled in 2020, due to uncertainty about the virus and the fellowship has been missed by all. We hope you and your Chapters have been staying well, but we know there are many prayers that have went up, for several, during our months apart. Being Treasurer of my Englewood Lodge, I have been in contact even during the shutdown because the bills never stop arriving. Melody and me are in the East again and have had Chapter meetings since September. Our officers are great about following directives.

The final three Star Points are scheduled to hold their receptions (God willing) in March. We hope that is possible. These were cancelled in 2020 due to the virus restrictions. These ladies represent the beauty of the teachings of our Order, just like the flowers symbolic to their Star Point stations. I hope you will plan to help them celebrate.

We sure have missed traveling and visiting our sisters and brothers across the State. However, the car enjoys its, much needed, vacation. Now a-days the highlights of the day have been sharing coffee with Melody in the morning and discussing the affairs of our country. The big outing of the day is a trip to the grocery or neighborhood hardware store.

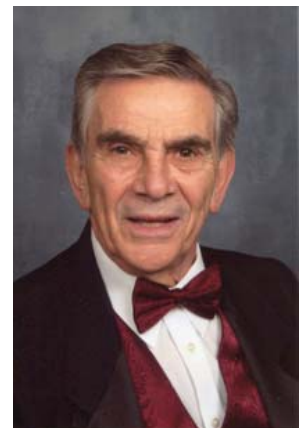
Facebook seemed to be the go-to place for keeping up with family and friends. I personally do not belong to Facebook, but Melody logs on at times and reports any news she thinks might interest me. Some would say I've not graduated to today's world because I do not have a cell phone, email nor Facebook or any other social media network. I just prefer to live without all that clutter in my life. My secretary (Melody) has all this and relays to me on a need to know basis.

Christmas and New Year have come and gone. I hope you were able to enjoy some of the celebrations with family and friends. We were cautious about not meeting in groups so we missed several Christmas and New Year parties we enjoyed in the past.

There are two important holidays in February. The first is Valentine Day on February 14th. In the Star-Lite of 2020 I wrote about the story of the origination of Valentine Day. Who knew I'd be writing an article in 2021? OK, that said, I will give you some facts of the second holiday, Presidents Day. This holiday was started in 1885 to celebrate the birthday of our first President of the United States, George Washington. Through the years we celebrated Lincoln's birthday on February 12th and Washington's on February 22nd. In 1968 a bill was passed to move all Federal holidays to Monday. This made a uniform holiday that allowed workers to have long weekends throughout the year. The bill went into effect in 1971 and Presidents Day became commonly accepted. The oft-cited reason for celebrating Presidents Day is to pay respect to our deceased Presidents as well as to create a general sense of patriotism. The retailers helped to push this through for obvious reasons.

Happy Valentine Day to each of you.

Robert E DeRolf, WGP



30th Anniversary of the Joyful JJ Grand Family

A special day to honor the 30th Anniversary of the Joyful JJ Grand Family was held at the Five Willows in Sullivan, Indiana on October 29-30, 2020. Sister Joy Ellen Kuppler, PGM, welcomed the members able to join the celebration with special invitation to Sister LeVon Holmes, PGM. The overnight provided a great opportunity for many laughs, remembrances, and some serious euchre playing. The morning brought more opportunity to rekindle the fun and friendships that have blossomed over the years.

The business meeting began at 12:30 PM with Sister Martha Santus officiating. A special poem written by Sister Deanna Carrington was read in celebration of the event and a memorial service was held in remembrance of those who had passed since last year's reunion. Trivia questions interspersed throughout the meeting engaged all in a wonderful trip down memory lane before the meal. Sister Carol Davis, District Deputy 7 and Sister Lynn Padgett, WM Hymera Chapter, helped in serving the group.

Bringing the meeting to a close, special remarks were enjoyed from Sister Joy Ellen, PGM, and Sister Gloria Jonas as well as Sister Bonnie Allinder, PGM, and Sister LeVon Holmes, PGM, honoring the legacy of the past 30 years.

Happy 30th Anniversary to All of the Joyful JJ Grand Family!



Front row: Gloria Jonas; Katherine Wilson; Joy Ellen Kuppler, PGM. Middle Row: Carolyn Janik; Bonnie Allinder, PGM; Rovena Harrison; Deanna Carrington; Arlene Mohler; Shirley Wolf; Darlene Krieger; Mayme Lytle; Joyce Owen; Martha Santus; Lynn Shoulders. Back row: Regina Hiple; LeAnne Huls

Linda Torpy Grand Representative Reception



On Sunday, October 27, 2019, Ivy Chapter #69 hosted a rare occasion, an official meeting in a Masonic Temple on a Sunday. We were very happy to honor our Sister Linda Torpy, Grand Representative of Toronto, Ontario, Canada in Indiana.

Linda and Tom greeted their guests in the memorial room. Following the guideline of no activity in the lodge room on Sunday, all other activities were held in the social room.

Everyone was seated at the luncheon tables that were decorated with small Canadian flags, fall leaves and nut cups with nuts and candy corn. Worthy Matron Janice Miller welcomed everyone. PGM Cindy Skura gave the invocation. The pledge of allegiance was repeated by all followed by the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem. Tina Mullens, Grand Esther, gave the table grace.

After lunch, WM Janice introduced the head table and then turned the meeting over to Linda. Cindy Skura, PGM, gave a tribute to Linda. Then Linda thanked everyone for coming. She introduced her family and friends and spoke of her correspondence with her counterparts in Canada. Due to health problems for both Linda and Tom they were not able to travel to Canada or to our Grand Chapter. She thanked her chapter members Diann Slaymaker, Rosemary Trump, Janice Miller, Eileen Sklar, Sue Purvis and Vi Miller who helped prepare for the reception. Without their help the reception wouldn't have been possible.

The meeting closed with the benediction given by Roberta Ancil, DD#18, and a thank you from WM Janice to all for coming to honor our special Sister Linda.



Seated: Linda & Tom Torpy with Ivy Chapter members Diann Slaymaker, Rosemary Trump, Janice Miller, Eileen Sklar, Sue Purvis and Vi Miller

D#11 Initiates on Halloween

District #11's Oakland Chapter #159 had a couple of firsts when we initiated Suzanne Jones on Halloween afternoon this past year. It was our first initiatory in the new lodge building and also the first following the WGM Jenny Nicholson's Covid-19 instructions complete with masks and social distancing and plenty of hand sanitizer.

For this auspicious occasion, we were fortunate to have WGP Bob DeRolf (who was accompanied by Sister Melody) in the East and AGP Rick Lassiter in the West. They do the ritual work superbly and impressed our new member and her husband, Brad, who is already a member of the Chapter. Also participating were our own Peggi Barassi, Grand Organist, who provided beautiful organ music; Patty Pracht, DD#12, Secretary of

Oakland Chapter; Jenny Walton, Past Grand Electa, Past DD#11 and Conductress at Oakland Chapter; and Marilyn Bohrer, Past Grand Martha and Past DD#11, who was filling Adah's station while it has been vacant this year in memory of our long time Adah, Marilyn Dixon, Past Grand Organist.

The officers were all complimented for their hard work and wonderful presentations. Many compliments were extended to everyone. Our new member, Suzanne, was very impressed with the ceremony and plans to become active.

We did have a quick mask removal (but only temporary) so we could take a picture to be placed in the Lodge Time Capsule.

As we left, we were each given a goody bag filled with candy and bottled water...no tricks just treats this Halloween.

Debbie Hooten, WM
Ken Sullivan, WP



Front row: Bob DeRolf, WGP; Suzanne Jones
Row 2 L-R: Kay Lawrence; Brad Jones; Debbie Hooten, WM; Jenny Walton; Mary Davis; Rick Lassiter, AGP; Ken Sullivan, WP
Row 3 L-R: Betty Lou Hoover; Peggi Barassi, GO; Bill Davis; Joan Rose; Marcia Greene; Marilyn Bohrer
Row 4 L-R: Earl Jacobs; Melody DeRolf; Patty Pracht, DD#12; Kay Verdin; Joey Cline; Margie Ray

Royal Center's Alternative Friends Night

Due to the virus, the members of Royal Center Chapter #375 felt that having a Friend's Night in the chapter room would be a little daunting. So on Saturday, November 7, Leila Ferguson, WM; Nancy Pratt, AM; Becky Mullens, Conductress; Tina Mullens, Grand Esther; and Mary Barnett, Electa; gathered at the chapter to create an alternative Friends Night - they made Friends Night cards for all the officers of the other chapters in District 18.

These cards were then signed by Chapter members during the regular meeting on November 11, 2020. Also, during this meeting members honored each other as a friend.

The Friend's Night cards were a safe way of keeping in touch with Sisters and Brothers in District 18. We enjoyed making the cards and they were enjoyed by many who received them.



Royal Center Creates A New Way of Extending Christmas Greetings

Due to recent events, Royal Center Chapter #375 felt that the way of extending Christmas Greetings to some of our members needed to be reinvented for 2020.

On Saturday, November 7, Leila Ferguson, WM; Nancy Pratt, AM; Becky Mullens, Conductress; Tina Mullens, Grand Esther; and Mary Barnett, Electa; gathered at the chapter to create an alternative Christmas Greeting with handmade Christmas Cards.

The December meeting was cancelled due to the concerns of the virus. So in lieu of everyone signing the cards at the December meeting, like they did for the Friend's Night cards at the November meeting, a list of officers and regular attendees was made a part of the cards. Included with these cards, Nancy Pratt, AM, made Eastern Star colored lace stars and lace snowflakes that were to be hung off suction cups. They can be displayed during the holiday season or all year long to be enjoyed. We thought this was a good way to give a little something along with the cards.

Submitted names of members who are in a nursing home, a shut-in at home, those who cannot attend meetings because they can't drive, or a member that just needs to be touched during this season were sent the Christmas Greetings.



Chalk One Up for Knightsville!

The members of Knightsville Chapter #238 in District 8 busied themselves in 'old school' service. Even with Covid restrictions prohibiting gregarious events, our Chapter collected chalk for the First Christian Church Day Care in Brazil, IN. Still enjoying 70-degree weather, the children can display their artful imaginations clear up to Thanksgiving. Hopefully, O.E.S. will be viewed as a positive force in the community as each box of chalk was labeled Knightsville Order of the Eastern Star with contact information. Pictured is Becky Proffitt, in the solid purple jacket, delivering the chalk to a member of the staff.



Spencerville Eastern Star Food Bank Program

The Spencerville Eastern Star is a faith based Philanthropic Organization. One of our missions is to go out in our community and help feed the hungry and less fortunate. The Spencerville Eastern Star Food Bank Program was started by our member Arden Dwyer about 20 years ago. Spencerville OES began this program with 1 food bank and later increased this program to area food banks in local churches.

In 2019 our program expanded to include the Woodburn Christian Children's Home located in Woodburn, IN. Our 2020 program expanded to include the Quiet Knight's Veterans Food Pantry in Waterloo, IN, and the Hearten House Women's Shelter in Auburn, IN.



OES Member Terri Rosenbury presenting a check to Quiet Knight Treasurer Chris Lamm



Shelter Ministries Board Member Joe Hines and OES Member Terri Rosenbury

DeKalb County Veteran's Court & Disabled Veteran's Award



The Spencerville OES Chapter #386 recently donated Christmas gift bags to the DeKalb County Veteran's Court to be given to our Veteran's in honor of their service to the USA. The Veteran's Court is a problem-solving court focused on addressing the needs of veterans in the criminal justice system. In DeKalb County, the Veteran's Court began in March 2018 and is held in Circuit Court. The Veteran's Court held its first graduation in August 2019, with Spencerville OES and Concord Lodge of Spencerville hosting the ceremony at the Court House. Pictured are Christine Fodrey WM; Jim Rosenbury, Concord Masonic Lodge member; and Ann Merritt Committee Chairman.

Many of Spencerville OES members are Veteran's, or our family members have served in the US Military. Each year at our October stated meeting, we select a committee to chose from many local Veteran's programs to receive a gift from Spencerville OES. This year we have chosen the Disabled American Veteran's Chapter #43 to receive \$500.00. This program helps local Veteran's that need transportation to Doctor and Hospital visits. These funds will also help spruce up the meeting area for their members. Pictured are Phillip Snider-Commander; Larry Uehlein, Treasurer; and Spencerville OES Member Ronda Fogel.



Spencerville OES Pajama Party for Woodburn Christian Children's Home

In 2019 the Spencerville Chapter #386 expanded their FOOD PANTRY program to include the Woodburn Christian Children's Home. WCCH located near Ft. Wayne, IN, is a not-for-profit residential children's home. WCCH helps boys and girls ranging in age from 6-21 years old. They help children who otherwise do not have a home. They currently have 13 children living at the home.

As Spencerville OES discussed new ways to help the children living in this home, we decided to throw a Pajama party! We purchased Pajamas and Slippers for each child. Spencerville OES Members also donated new games and puzzles, homemade candy kits and microwave popcorn for the children. Presenting these gifts and our Food Pantry check for \$400.00 is Spencerville OES Member Terri Rosenbury to WCCH Board Chairman Joe Hines.



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
Rochester, IN 46975**

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

Honoring 6 Stellar Officers
of Knightsville Chapter #238, D#8
who merit appreciation
Timothy Poff, Ann Mangus
Joetta Brown, Rose Mary Price
James Poff, Vicki Beddow



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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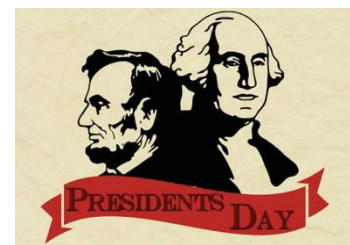
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Please remember to mail all Star-Lite correspondence, including renewals, address changes, Stellar Stars and ads, to Nancy Pratt, Editor, NOT to the address on the back of the magazine. That address is the Grand Secretary's office and we use that address for non-profit mailing rates. The Grand Secretary's office does not keep track of Star-Lite information, the Editor does.

Happy
Valentine's
Day



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 February 2021, 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!

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

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