# IN THE GARDEN WITH THE WGM

Sisters and Brothers,

It's time to relax a little after the rush of Christmas and the New Year. I hope that everyone enjoyed Christmas with their families and friends. I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

With Christmas Love in our hearts we will continue the second half of our year. I didn't schedule anything for January as this will let everyone re-group and be ready for the finish.

The first half of our year has gone well. The inspections and receptions have been well attended, thanks to our members for being considerate of our Grand Officers. As we begin the receptions for our Honey Bees (District Deputies), please support them. They are doing a wonderful job in their Districts.

Honor Mornings and Nights for the Grand Star Points have started. Please fill the Chapter rooms and get to know these beautiful ladies as they travel the state with their stories and love of our Order. It takes time and money for them to do this. I hope you will support them with encouragement and love.

The Masonic Home Project is well under way. As you know, we are going to purchase equipment for the Memory Care Unit at the Home. This project will help the Alzheimer's residents, some of whom are in the final stages of this awful disease. All of us have been touched in some way with Alzheimer. The equipment will relax and calm them when they get agitated and less medication will be needed. Please help us make this a reality.

My cross is not too heavy, My road is not too rough, Because God walks beside me, To know this is enough.

Safe travels to all, may God's Love surround you always.
Betty Swisher, Worthy Grand Matron



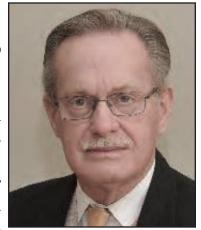
# **GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT 20**

Greetings from District 20,

Once again, I thank you for welcoming Diane and me into your Chapters. All the gifts we have received are truly appreciated.

The best Christmas gift I can get is having my family with me on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. I also thank Jesus for His blessing for my family.

We are starting the last half of our year of service to our Grand Chapter. The first half has gone by very fast. It will not be very long from now that we will be getting our reports



ready for the printer. We still have a few more inspections, thus decreasing the mileage and are at home to do the final preparation for Grand Chapter.

I look forward to spring which is my favorite season.

I trust everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love to all of my sisters and brothers, H. Fred Smith, Worthy Grand Patron





### 20 YEARS OF PRECIOUS MEMORIES

The Precious Memories Grand Family celebrated their 20th Anniversary at the annual Christmas Dinner November 1, 2014. Nineteen members and 1 guest enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the Greentown Chapter. After dinner entertainment was provided by Jennifer Mansur, PD#15, including singing the opening and closing odes from our special year.

A memorial was given in honor of the members that have passed away, followed by our business meeting. Mom Virgia returned to the deputies the scrapbook each had prepared for her at the end of our special year, an embroidered towel and our annual jar of apple butter. A wooden cut-out of a Precious Moments, made by Arnold Custer, was given to Virgia & Mark as a thank you from their Deputy Daughters.

What a special afternoon of sharing memories and laughter. We look forward to seeing more of you at our summer get together in August 2015 at the Chateau. Sara Boardman, Secretary



Front Row – Julie Ridenour, Mark Ridenour, Virgia Hendrick, Vernie Hendrick..Second Row – Linda Navel, Joan Hipsher, Sara Boardman, Stacy Snyder, Sharon Muir, Jonita London. Third Row – Bill Hipsher, Marcy Alm, Kay Purdy, Ron Muir, Dave London. Fourth Row – Don Navel and John Purdy



## ALICE IN THE WONDERLAND OF LINCOLN

Franklin Chapter welcomed several guests to their November 12th stated meeting at the Franklin Masonic Lodge. Many of the regular officers were absent due to the many activities in which they participate. All the offices were filled with the help of some of our visiting friends. A special poem, "Friendship", was read by Worthy Matron Jonny Beeler for both the opening and for the honor of Alice Bradley Myers who had been the Organist for Franklin Chapter for at least twenty years. She had also played for Installations, Inspections and Receptions. She is moving to Southern Illinois to her childhood home and is rejoining her original chapter of Eastern Star there.

Guests introduced were: Joyce Small, Grand Trustee and Past Grand Matron; Barbara Heath, Star-Lite Reporter for District #6; Sandra Heath, 6th District Choir Director, Worthy High Priestess and Supreme Escort for the Canadian Flag, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem; Sue Midkiff, Grand Representative of Alberta, Canada and Co-Chairman of the Membership Committee; and Nancy Baker, Worthy Matron of Ransford IMH and Grand Conductress of Amaranth. Past Matrons and Past Patrons attending were - Martha and Bill Duke and Sheila Haag of Seymour; Dick Midkiff of Ransford IMH; and Anna Burton, Grand Marshal of Job's Daughters; and spouses - Lonnie Small, Spouse of PGM and David Johnson, WP and spouse of Grand Adah. Alice Myers, our honored guest was escorted to the East, given a hearty welcome and seated in the East for the evening.

To honor Alice and her many achievements at Franklin, she was presented by Conductress Anna Burton to each officer for facts about Illinois, her new home. The skit was written by Barbara Heath and entitled "Alice in the Wonderland of Lincoln." It presented many facts Alice said she did not know. An example, the ice cream sundae originated in Illinois. Also some crazy stories about Alice were told. One was about her dressing up as a pig for a play about Cinderella, and she laid on the floor and made pig noises all through the play. Pictures were presented of that event to her. Each officer gave her a small sack of candy as well. She was encouraged to not forget us.

After the closing, all went to the dining room where the tables were decorated in royal and silver. Cookies, pieces of fruit and cheeseball and crackers were served with either apple cider or iced tea. It was a fun evening, but it certainly had its sad times too. We wish Alice good luck in her new home in the Wonderland of Lincoln.

Barbara Heath, 6th District Star-Lite Reporter



Veterans honored by Franklin were Dick Midkiff, David Johnson, William Duke and Lonnie Small



Barbara Heath, Alice Myers and Anna Burton



## NINEVEH HONORS VETERANS

On November 4th Nineveh Chapter held their Friends' Night beginning with a pitch-in dinner prior to the meeting. The table decorations were tiny plastic figurines surrounding a bouquet of red, white and blue stars with an American flag. Worthy Matron Patsy McKee and Worthy Patron Mike Duncan presided over the meeting.

Jim Young entertained for a few minutes with comic relief and sang several patriotic songs and some old country favorites while the officers went to the chapter room to get prepared for the meeting. We learned from comments that Patsy "loves to celebrate and party." She began by reading a prayer written by a 17-year old girl for her brother who was in the service. The flag was escorted by two veterans and a lady.

Guests introduced were Perrietta Appleton, PGM, and Joyce Small, Grand Trustee and PGM. Sandy Harris, DD#6 was also escorted to the East. Four Grand Chapter Committee Appointments attending were: Betty Bush, Bouquet of Love Masonic Home Project, District 4; Virginia Prairie, Autism; Sue Midkiff, Co-Chair of Membership and Grand Representative of Alberta Canada; and Barbara Heath, Star-Lite Reporter #6. Also introduced were: 2 Worthy Matrons - Nancy Baker, Ransford IMH, and Lou Morning, Mooresville; 17 Past Matrons and Past Patrons including Ann Sims of Nineveh who is a 67 year Eastern Star member.

The guest speaker was introduced for the evening's program. He was Retired Brigadier General S. Stewart Goodwin who served actively in the Air Force for 37 years. He also served in the reserves and the National Guard. We learned that Crown Hill cemetery in Indianapolis has the most veterans honored. This is by the most acreage. On the 100th anniversary of Indiana's Statehood, the State parks system was begun and in 2016 another State Park will be established. Every veteran should know this verse from John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." A Veteran takes an oath to give even his life for his country and his fellowman. Everybody in the Military is important and does an important job, even the cook and the supply officer. Your motto should be "Pray for peace."

All the Veterans were escorted across the East along with General Goodwin for introduction. At this time they could tell about their time in the service and something about their experiences. A donation was given by Nineveh Chapter to the War Memorial.

Friends were introduced and presented calendars.

Barbara Heath, Star-Lite Reporter #6.





## GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year our WGP has chosen "Autism Awareness" as his special project. Needless to say I was excited to hear this. I would urge everyone to seek out their District Chairperson for this project and purchase the beautiful "puzzle piece" pin to support this project.

When Brother Fred came across an article in the Elkhart Truth newspaper about an Autistic little boy name Cody and his quest for a Service Dog, it laid heavy on his heart. Brother Fred asked me, "What can we do to help this little guy?" Seeing the emotion on Brother Fred's face, I knew at once we needed to try. Sister Candy May was just installed as Worthy Matron at the Millersville Chapter and I approached her with the story. She immediately volunteered three "Millersville Saturday Breakfast" donations to the cause. Since Candy's passing, the Millersville Chapter has honored her commitment and to date has donated close to \$1,000.00. We have one more breakfast on April 4th 2015; let's make it the biggest one yet.

In September, Brother Frank, Sister Linda Reynolds, Brother Mark Reynolds (from the Pendleton Chapter) and I set up a booth at the Masonic Home Festival. There we were able to raise close to \$500.00 selling specially designed tee shirts by ESEWII, baked goods donated by Sister Angie Harris, wooden plaques made by Brother Frank and by putting a jar out asking for donations. Thank you to all who visited our booth. During a visit in District 12 the generosity of the members was so overwhelming that we were able to meet the goal for Cody.

On November 9th, Brother Frank, Briley and I met with our WGP to present a check toward Cody's Service Dog. The Masons of Bristol Lodge served lunch and the reporter who did the original story was present. She was amazed that total strangers raised that amount of money for someone they would never meet. My response to her was, "That's what Eastern Star is all about". But the story doesn't end there!

A Veteran who was wounded in Afghanistan asked about helping him reach his goal. I am pleased to announce that he was able to obtain a dog to meet his needs.

One day I received a phone call from a desperate father. Andrew's Dad, Eric, called me and asked if Eastern Star could help his son obtain a service dog. Andrew's situation is different than Cody's. Andrew was born with Muscular Dystrophy and is confined to a wheelchair. He is 10 years old, is in the fifth grade, and plays baseball in a Miracle League in the summer and hockey in the winter.

I turned to Social Media and asked the members if they could find a spot in their hearts to help Andrew. The response blew me away! By just suggesting to the chapters who want to do a Community Service, but may find it difficult to get out into the community, to just designate a coin march to Northern Indiana Service Dogs to help Andrew. Working with Rachel (you may remember her from my session), Sister Patricia Shepard from the Keystone Chapter and my Pendleton Chapter, set up an account for Eastern Star. We are able to send donations directly to Northern Indiana Service Dogs, 1913 - F N. Michigan Street PMB 190, Plymouth, IN 46563. If you wish to help, send your check to the address listed and add OES Otto on the memo line. As you can see from the picture, Andrew has had his first training session with Otto. This was possible only because of the faith Rachel has in Eastern Star. I am presently working with her to add our Eastern Star to the jackets of the dogs we sponsor. Can you imagine seeing our beloved emblem walking around the whole State? Imagine the impact that will have on the public!

# GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER COMMUNITY SERVICE

























## RANSFORD IMH WELCOMES FRIENDS

With an average snowfall expected, Ransford IMH Chapter welcomed many, many friends to their Friends' Afternoon on Sunday, November 16. After a welcome and the Lord's Prayer, introduction of guests began.

Those introduced were: Joyce Small, Grand Trustee and PGM and spouse Lonnie; Appointive Grand Officers - Lexi Johnson, Grand Adah; and Diana Surfus, Grand Electa; and Sandy Harris, DD#6 and her spouse Roger.

The following introduced themselves: Grand Chapter Committee Appointments - Patsy McKee, Nashville Trip; Sandra Heath, 6th District Choir Director and Supreme Escort to the Canadian Flag; Barbara Heath, 6th District Star-Lite Reporter; Roberta Lamson, World of Youth; Doris Bedell, Historian for the Grand Chapter; Sue Midkiff, Grand Representative of Alberta, Canada and Co-Chairman of Membership. The only visiting Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons were Wanda Lillyblade of Fortville and Carl Hinshaw of Lynhurst.

The Officers introduced their invited friends and gave each a gift. The entertainment for the afternoon was provided by John Skaggs who played the keyboard and sang old favorites, Ragtime, religious and patriotic songs while encouraging all to sing-a-long.

Remarks were made by Joyce Small, Lexi Johnson, Diana Surfus and Sandy Harris. Joyce presented an Honorary Membership to Martha Duke of Nineveh who plays the piano for Ransford quite often. The Closing prayer was then given by Joyce. Refreshments of with Nancy Baker, Worthy Matron cookies and ice cream were served in the hallway. Barbara Heath, Star-Lite Reporter #6



John Skaggs, entertainer, stands and Dwain Baker, Worthy Patron at Ransford IMH.

## MOORESVILLE INSPECTION INITIATES SIX

On Thursday, November 6th many Eastern Stars travelled to Mooresville for the third Inspection in District 6. Those participating were Eminence, Morgantown and Mooresville Chapters.

The Baby dedication was under the direction of Morgantown. Virginia Prairie and Jeff Prairie, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron presided. Seven children were dedicated to the principles of our Order. There were four babies: Jonathan Lynn Brewer, son of Eric and Sister Alexis Brewer, the grandson of Sister Daria Brewer of Eminence Chapter; Isabella Marie Martin, daughter of Nicole Martin, Granddaughter of Donna Marie Klebursh and Great Granddaughter of Mary Margaret Girdner; Mayson Elijah McDonald son of Jennifer McDonald & Edward McDonald and grandson of Sandy and Roger Harris, District Deputy #6; Dresden Asher, son of Kansas Howell and David Asher, Grandson of Patty Williams and Great Grandson of Lois McDaniel; and three children - Kyle Callahan and Kinley Williams, son and daughter of Brandon and Michelle Williams, Grandchildren of Brian and Debbie Gregory, Great grandchildren of Mark and Eleanor Adamson; Shelbie Gregory, daughter of Brian and Debbie Gregory and Grandchild of Mark and Eleanor Adamson.

Two 50-year members of Mooresville Chapter #260 were presented their gold awards by Sister Betty Swisher, WGM. They were Sister Genevieve Moreland and Brother Nicholas Moreland who were presented at the altar by Brother Fred Smith, WGP. They were pinned by their son and daughter.

The Opening ceremonies were conducted by Jamie Yeadon-Fagbohun, WM and Brian Patrick, WP of Eminence Chapter. Introductions: WGM, Betty Swisher and WGP, H. Fred Smith were escorted to the altar for introduction. "A Friend Is An Angel" was read in their honor.

Joyce Small, Grand Trustee and PGM was also presented at the altar. Appointive Grand Officers were Lexi Johnson, Grand Adah; Pat Miller, Grand Ruth; Sherrell Bryant, Grand Esther; Deb Cramer, Grand Martha; and Diana Surfus, Grand Electa. The District Deputies were Janet Sweet, DD#2; Sue Hays, DD#7; Betty Poff, DD#8; Cheryl Tichenor, DD#12 and our own Sandy Harris, DD#6.

There were five Grand Chapter Committee Appointments, 8 WM and WP, 2 Grand Representatives, 22 PM and PP, an Officer of the Master Masons - Patrick Briney, and the following spouses: Charlie Swisher, Diane Smith, Gloria Jonas, Widow of Jerry Jonas, PGP; Lonnie Small, David Johnson, and Jim Poff.

Mooresville officers did the Initiatory work. Lou Morning, WM and Gary Folck, WP presided. There were six candidates: Family of Sandy Harris, DD#6 were Amy Miles, daughter; Jennifer McDonald, daughter; Neysa Peterson, niece; and McKenzie Peterson, niece. Also Brenda Catania, and Sister Tina Hand who was a proxy from Mooresville. The Bible verses were given by David Johnson, spouse of Grand Adah.

The Closing was conducted by Virginia Prairie, WM and Jeff Prairie, WP of Morgantown Chapter. The decorations in the East, in front of the Conductress and in the West were a variety of gardening tools and watering cans. The pedestals were draped with blue and white netting in honor of Grand Adah who is from District 6. Eight veterans were recognized by the WGM.

Barbara Heath, Star-Lite Reporter #6



Left to right: Diana Surfus, Grand Electa; Deb Cramer, Grand Martha; Sherrell Bryant, Grand Esther; Pat Miller, Grand Ruth; and Lexi Johnson, Grand Adah attended the Inspection at Mooresville.

# **NETTIE RANSFORD DAY 2014**

On Sunday, November 2, 2014, the Kresge Chapel at the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin was the scene of the celebration of Nettie Ransford's 176th birthday, sponsored by the Eleventh District and the establishment of the Indiana Masonic Home. Annette Helen Campbell was born in Little Falls, New York on November 5, 1838. She married William Ransford in 1858.

She had a very long Eastern Star history including the desire to establish a Home for the widows and orphans of Master Masons. She worked with the Indiana Masons to establish the Indiana Masonic Home for this purpose. She entered the Home herself and died there in 1928. The Tribute to Nettie Ransford was given by Mary Davis, Past Matron of Oakland Chapter.

The Indiana Grand Choir, though small but mighty, sang three selections "Let There Be Peace," "In the Garden" and in conclusion, "God Bless America." The choir is directed by Ginny McCabe and the organist was Rebecca Roland.

Two checks were given. One to Dan Barenie, Grand Master of the Indiana Grand Lodge for the Home Fund, and the check for the Fruit Fund to Betty Swisher, Worthy Grand Matron. A sum-



A portrait of Nettie Ransford, 1838-1928

mary report of the Worthy Grand Matron's Project to provide wheelchairs for the Home last year was given by Elizabeth Lashley, PGM and Darrell Arthur, PGP.

It was a beautiful autumn day, sunny and slightly breezy, and made everyone happy to be out and about their business.

Barbara Heath, Star-Lite Reporter D#6



## DOUBLE HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A double Birthday celebration was held on Saturday, October 11th at the Peru First Christian Church Fellowship Hall in Peru, Indiana. Barb Wagler of Converse Chapter #334 and her daughter, Kim Ziner, celebrated their birthdays. Barb turned 90 years old and Kim turned 60 years old. Pictured are some of the family who attended the party. They are Kim's husband Steve Ziner, Kim (Wagler) Ziner, Barb's husband Milford Wagler, with Barb sitting. Cake, punch, nuts and mints were enjoyed by 62 guests.



# Check your Calendars

WGM OFFIC	WGM OFFICIAL CALENDAR				
Feb 8	Valentine Tea IMH				
Mar 21	Worthy Grand Warder Reception				
INSPECTIO	NS				
Baby Dedicat	ion 7:10 pm,				
Award of Gol	d 7:20 pm				
Inspection 7:3	30 pm Unless otherwise noted				
Feb 24 D#13					
Feb 26 D#11 at Millersville w/ Beech Grove,					
Keystone & Lynhurst					
Mar 2 D#8 at Riley w/ Terre Haute & Pimento					
Mar 9 D#5					
Mar 11 D#9 at Alamo w/ Athens, Montezuma					
& Hed	ges				
Mar 16 D#4	_				
Mar 18 D#12					
Mar 24 D#10	at Whitestown w/ Lebanon &				
Carter	sburg				
Mar 26 D#19	-				

Mar 30 D#1

RECEPTIONS						
Jan 10	Thelma Coy					
Grand Representative of Arkansas						
at Lebanon Chapter						
Feb 21	Betty Poff, DD#8					
Feb 21	Tulie Ann Jadzak, DD#9					
Feb 28	Sandy Harris, DD#6					
Feb 28	Tiffany Ingles, DD#10					
Mar 7	Janet Sweet, DD#2					
Mar 7	Sue Hays, DD#7					
Mar 14	Margaret Smith, DD#14					
Fort Wayne Masonic Lodge						
Social 9:00 am, Program 10:30 am						
Lunch to follow						
RSVP by March 6th to:						
Elizabeth Sullivan, WM						
In lieu of gifts please make a donation to						
WGM or WGP projects in her name						

Mar 14	Sheri Auld, DD#21
Mar 21	Fred Rowe, Worthy Grand Warder
	St. Hedwig's Memorial Hall
Mar 28	Pat Crask, DD#11
	Lawrence Masonic Hall, 9:00 am
Mar 28	Cheryl Tichenor

### ed FRIEND'S NIGHTS

TRIEND S NIGHTS					
ed					
6:30 pm					
10:00 am					
6:30 pm					
6:30 pm					
6:30 pm					

### GRAND STAR POINT HONOR NIGHT

Feb 20 D#10	
Mar 6 D#7	Bloomfield
Mar 13 D#14	Waynedale
Mar 20 D#21	

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

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



## We Need Your News!

Help keep Star-Lite interesting! Submit your news so all can see what you are doing. Check deadline dates if you want your news in a certain issue, especially items for the calendar. Please limit articles to 500 words. There is no charge to print pictures and more than one per article is permitted. Please remember to identify everyone in the pictures.

To submit articles through the web page Click on ROSTER, scroll down to Star-Lite Magazine, click on Nancy Pratt, fill in the required information, type in a short message and click SEND. I will receive your message and respond so you can then submit your articles and pictures directly to me.

Send articles, photos and return envelope to: Nancy Pratt. Editor

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Copy deadlines:

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11. Lena Walker

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