

Excelsior Echo



The Official Publication of the Excelsior Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, TN Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliate

Excelsior Echo
Fall Winter
2011-2012



**Grand Worthy
Matron**
Sis. Rubye B. Meeks
Editor-in-Chief

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Publicist**
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Spread the News!

Send your chapter
news & photos to the
Grand Publicist for the
next edition.

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We Shine Brighter...Together

Greetings and Happy New Year!!!

The light continues to shine on and in Excelsior Grand Chapter, and my prayer is that each of us will have a prosperous year. Again, I thank you for electing me to serve as your Grand Worthy Matron. However, this is not a job that is measured by my actions alone. My job is not done until you do your job. As responsible, committed Sisters and Brothers, we must embrace and uphold the meaning of **EXCELSIOR**, "Ever Upward" and I am determined that, together **WE** will make a difference.

Some changes are coming forth, as expected with any new administration, including forms and dues cards. **DO NOT** print your own; they must be purchased from the Grand Chapter and will not be accepted otherwise.

Please, utilize the new Edit issued by MWGM Glass allowing us to pump new life into our Sunbeams, the youth in our Order. Chapters please re-activate your Sunbeam Chapter and sponsor one if you never had one.

For many years, the **Echo** has served as a communication vehicle to promote our beautiful Order, share ideas and spotlight those who are serving their communities and churches. It can only remain useful and in print if you commit to sending in articles about you activities, anniversaries, programs and anything service-oriented. I challenge you to SERVE!

Prayer of One Who Serves

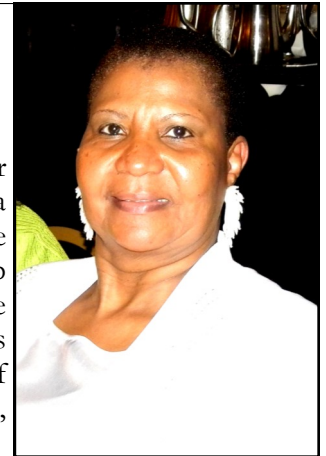
Teach us, good Lord,
To serve Thee as Thou deservest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not heed the wounds;
To toil and not seek for rest;
To Labor and not ask for reward
save that of knowing that
we do Thy will.
AMEN

I look forward to seeing each of you at your scheduled District Visitation and Grand Session in Memphis.

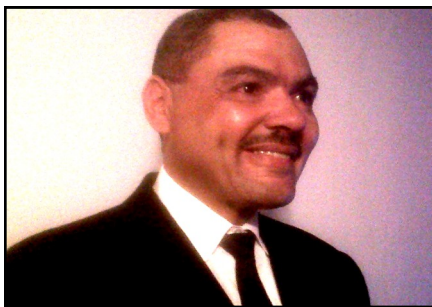
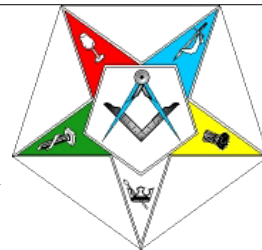
Rubye B. Meeks

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Grand Worthy Matron



A Message from Our Grand Worthy Patron



Greetings brothers and sisters, I pray this communication finds you comforted in the grace of our Lord. All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

The Masonic year is moving fast! I had the opportunity to visit two of our district meetings and Jubilee Day Service with the Memphis District and I am confident that the Order is headed to the NEXT LEVEL in Tennessee!!!

I enthusiastically represented Excelsior Grand Chapter at the Southeast Region of Prince Hall Grand Masters and Grand Chapters, O.E.S. Conference in

Jacksonville Florida on January 21, 2012. This body consists of counterparts from the jurisdictions of Alabama, Bahamas, Caribbean, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee. The exchange of information was invigorating and I have been appointed to the policy and guidelines committee.

I am calling for accountability from the Worthy Patrons to enhance the relationship between Lodge and Chapter and I intend to lead by example. The Worthy Patron should report to the Lodge on the activities of the Chapter and to the Chapter on the activities of the Lodge. Our Lodges and Chapters should be supporting each other (must days, fundraisers, fellowships and the like). We are one body, as a husband is to a wife.

I represented Excelsior Grand Chapter at the funeral and grave service of Grand Master Emeritus Bro. William E. Blevins. His service to the Masonic body will be cherished forever.

I thank Grand Master Glass for his support and instruction and Grand Worthy Matron Meeks for her diligence and respect, their efforts make this post a joy.

Fraternally submitted,

Cedric J. Bailey Sr.

Cedric J. Bailey Sr.
Grand Worthy Patron

Do all the good you can, by all means you can, in all ways you can, in every place you can, at all times you can, to everyone you can, as long as you can, do all the good you can.

—John Wesley, Founder of Methodism

In Memoriam



Past Grand Master William E. Blevins

PMEGM/PREGM/PMEGHP Lawrence Wilkes

HGDD Emma Clark- #220

Sis. Waulene Scott-# 293

Sis. Roberta Britten- #34

Sis Viola McWherter- #109

Sis Minnie Hewlett- #6



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Sis. Rita Trice- #220

Sis. Mary E. Jackson

Sis. Roberta Britten- #34

Sis Mattie Stewart- #34

Sis. Emma Duncan-#22

Bro. Albert Bond- #220

Bro. Marvin Cullen- #2

Bro. Clyde Greer- #223

Rev. Bro. Joe Dillard- #61



Let us continue to pray for these families and those of whom I have not been apprised.

# Leadership In Transit...Southeast Regional Conference

The Southeast Regional Conference includes the Jurisdictions of Alabama, Bahamas, Caribbean, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee. This year the annual meeting was held in Jacksonville, Florida, January 20-22 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

Our own MWGM, the Honorable Arvin Wesley Clyde Glass attended the Grand Masters Conference which was held at the same time and place.

PGWM Eva N. Drain is the Conference Treasurer and GWM Rubye B. Meeks served in the absence of the Conference Secretary. GWP Cedric Bailey, Sr. served on a committee. HGAC Evelyn Y. Tinnon was in attendance. GWP-E James Anthony Buck and



PGWP James Stewart have served as Co-Chair; PGWM June E. Jones, Secretary and the late GWM Bernice Stevens, Treasurer.

Next year in January the Conference will be hosted by Tennessee and held in Memphis, Tennessee. Start planning to attend and enjoy the fellowship, lectures and updates from each Jurisdiction and a luncheon.



## Please note corrections to the Circular: No. 86 2011-2012

Sis. Deborah Ray is Chair of Appeals and Grievances (pg. 11)

Sis. Kathleen Evans is Co-Chr (pg. 11)

Sis. Elizabeth Nelson- #233 added to Ways and Means -Co-Chr (pg 12)

HGDD Eva N. Drain- Phone (731) 738-5331 or (731) 780- 2123 (See District 9 on pg 12)





## Star Enlightened...Gems of the OES

While the instruction which takes place during the

initiatory work is without question one of the most significant of all of our efforts, it does not end with the initiation ceremony. Continual self-instruction using the knowledge gained is of primary importance to every member. Understanding the message of the Bible, using the tools and skill one has acquired, and working constantly toward the goal of becoming a more worthwhile individual, these are the obligations of the Eastern Star. See Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 15:5; Proverbs 4:13; Proverbs 8:33; Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 16:22; Proverbs 24:32; 2 Timothy 3:16

**Esoteric things are taught only to a chosen few (see Romans 9:29).** In the specific application to lodge work, it refers to those things which are transmitted to the candidate for degrees during initiation. The serious member who studiously applies himself to the work of the Order by searching for the secret, hidden and mysterious meaning of our symbolic teachings ever increases his understanding of our esoteric concepts.

Jewels of the Office – The jewels for the offices outside the Centrals Jewels, which are the Star Points, have their origin in the Foundation Stones of the New Jerusalem as described in the Revelation of St. John. The foundation stones, in turn, have their origin in the jewels described as adorning Aaron's breastplate (Aaron being the first high priest). These jewels all have associated meanings which are not necessarily the same as those symbolized by the Emblem of the Officer. It must be remembered that the Jewel of the Office represents the Office itself and that the Emblem represents the Officer. (p. 101)

Foundations Stones – When these stones were used in ancient symbolic writings, they became associated with certain virtues, sterling attributes, and spiritual refinements. In the work of the Eastern Star, each office was selected to represent certain such spiritual refinements as these are seen to be the foundations of the human spirit. The jewels of the five Star Points are referred to as the Central Jewels.

***Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal...And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. Revelations 21:11 & Revelations 21:18-20***

(1) Jasper (associated meaning perfection, prescience) is a precious stone which is described today as a dark kind of quartz. In ancient times, jasper was described as being a bright colored variety of chalcedony, very transparent and brilliant. It appears to have been very similar to the diamond in reflective properties and is said to have had a green tint. Because of its reflective qualities, it has an associated meaning of God's Glory. The first foundation stone and the Jewel of the Office of the **Worthy Matron**. See Revelations 4:3;

(2)Sapphire (faithfulness) – The sapphire is the second foundation stone and is the jewel of the office of the **Worthy Patron**. It is also known as the lapizlazuli and the azure stone. It is said to have the associated meaning of faithfulness towards all of the creatures of God. The sapphire is bluish in color and appears to have a covering of golden dust.

The **Associate Patron** lacks mention of a jewel, only that of an emblem, the Star within the Star. Opposite to the sun's rising in the East, it is symbolic of reflection. The woman and the man in the West, therefore, should reflect the dignity and authority of the East, also symbolic of the contemplative or thoughtful portion of life. When the Associate Patron was placed with the Associate Matron in the West, the reflective ability of the West was symbolically doubled. The Associate Patron in the West should symbolize to the member the necessity for doubling her own efforts to reflect the Light. See Isaiah 43:5 and Matthew 24:7

3)Chalcedony – Chalcedony is now applied to a transparent or translucent, more or less indistinctly crystallized form of quartz. It is usually white or gray and is used for engraving and ornamental carvings. This jewel represents of the Office of the **Associate Matron**. The Chalcedony is said to have the associated meaning of perfection in obedience to God.

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(4)Emerald (associated meaning eternal life), the fourth foundation stone, is a precious stone of green color and it is a variety of beryl. The emerald is the jewel of **Martha**. It is the birthstone of those born in May and is said to insure all kinds of domestic happiness. Another variety of the emerald is the jewel of the office of the Secretary. It has an association meaning of Deathlessness. See Exodus 28:18 and Revelations 4:3

(5)Sardonyx is the fifth foundation stone and it is the jewel of the office of **Treasurer**. The sardonyx is a kind of chalcedony which is striped in three colors. It has an associated meaning of humility and purity.

(6)Sardius is the sixth foundation stone and it is the Jewel of the Office of **Conductress**. It has an associated meaning of loyalty to Christ. It is multi-colored.

(7)Chrysolyte, also known as serpentine, or as gold stone, is a silicate of magnesium and iron, which varies from a bright yellow to a green color. It represents of the office of the **Associate Conductress**. It is said to have an associated meaning of Heavenly Wisdom. It is the seventh foundation stone.

(8)Beryl is a semi-precious stone of extreme hardness. Beryl is usually green or of a greenish hue, but, not infrequently, it is found in a clear crystal state. In this form (clear), Beryl represents of the office of the **Marshal**. It is said to have the associated meaning of the "Love of the Father." See Exodus 28:20

(9)Olivene is the modern name for Topaz. This is assigned as the Jewel of the office of **Chaplain**. The true topaz is yellow, but the Olivene is of a definite green hue. It has an associated meaning of "Benevolence."

(10)Chrysoprasus is one of the varieties of chalcedony. Usually it is a lovely apple green. It represents the office of the **Organist**. It is said to have an associated meaning of constant and cheerful endurance. It is the tenth foundation stone. See Revelations 21:20

(11)Jacinth is described as being a precious stone which is orange to reddish, sometimes hyacinth, in color. In the early times the jacinth was a yellow stone which was tinged with blue or purple. It was similar to the cairngorm and amethyst. It has an associated meaning of "unchanged-ability." It is the eleventh foundation stone. It is the Jewel of the office of the **Warder**.

(12)Amethyst is a precious stone of a violet blue color. It is a kind of quartz. It is the twelfth foundation stone and is said to represent loyalty. The amethyst is also the birthstone of those born in February. It is the Jewel of the Office of the **Sentinel**.

The turquoise (associated meaning obedient loyalty), or the blue sapphire, is used to represent the character traits exemplified by **Adah**. The turquoise, representative of the virtues of **Adah** indicated that if we wish to make our lives a shining star, we must first master the virtues of the first Star Point, which is obedient loyalty. Topaz (associated meaning humble fulfillment of duty) – Two forms of Topaz are used as jewels of office. The bright yellow form is dedicated to the office of **Ruth**. The jewel has been associated with "rarity." Friendship such as enjoyed by Ruth and Naomi is a rare gem and well worth treasuring. The variety known as Olivene is dedicated to the office of the Chaplain.

Diamond (associated meaning purity) – The diamond is a very hard native substance consisting of crystallized carbon: when transparent and without flaw, it is regarded as the most valuable of all precious stones. The flawless, durable and valuable diamond is the jewel dedicated to the office of **Esther**. Esther's character was flawless, her standards and beliefs durable, and her life, as she lived it, of great value to her people. It is the Jewel of the office of Esther. It is said that the diamond means adamant and that it give the wearer great courage, endurance, and strength. See Jeremiah 17:1; Ezekiel 28:13

Ruby (associated meaning sacrifice) is the jewel dedicated to the office of **Electa**. Its deep red color is symbolic of warmth, love and sacrifice.

# Service in Motion...in Middle Tennessee

**Eclipse Chapter No. 220 (Nashville)** Our Chapter is moving forward and looking to a very successful year. Our Chapter's goal this year is to truly practice our belief of charity and community service by becoming a significant factor in the community. Our Worthy Matron Sister Cecily Wiseman has started on the road with many Community Service Projects.

The **Second Annual Halloween Bash**, hosted by Kingdom Riderz Motorcycle Club who provided food, games, and candy to the neighborhood youth. Eclipse Chapter No.220 volunteered their time by helping with candy stations, games and serving food. The kids had a blast and so did Sis Kristal Brown, Sis Kia Gant, Sis Julia McClain, Bro LeBrone Roberts, and WM Sis Cecily Wiseman.



At the **McGruder Family Resource Center's "Build Day"**, we helped build a playground for adults and youth in **ONE DAY** that's right **ONE DAY!** There was something for **EVERYONE** to do. Those who came out to **PLAY**, were Sis Kristal Brown, Sis LeGene Johnson, Bro Ronald E. Pillow, Sis Robbie R. Pillow (who assist in making two picnic tables along with Bro LeBrone Roberts), WM Sis Cecily Wiseman, and several Prince Hall No.1 Brothers.

We participated the Tennessee State University Homecoming activities. Prince Hall Lodge No.1 had their **Annual Homecoming Fundraiser**. This was the first of **NEW** beginnings, Brothers and Sisters working together. **TEAM** work makes the **DREAM** work...We had a large Sisterly turn out for this event., Sisters G. Bridges, K. Brown, K. Gant, L. Johnson, J. McClain, R. Morrow, R. Petty, R.R. Pillow, WM C. Wiseman, Brothers R. Chafen, M. McClain, R. Pillow, L. Roberts and Petitioners the Dailey's, and the Wheelers.



KEITH SEARCY

Thanksgiving Day the **Keith Sercy Foundation** serves food to the less fortunate as well as provide meals to area families. Volunteers either serve food at the church or they deliver food to approximately five families. The Chapter donated to **Toys for TOTS**, during our regular meetings members brought gift cards, toys and made monetary donation to the 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Enrichment Center. The Chapter was represented at

**Hands on Nashville's** the largest Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service event by painting the fire hall located in Green Hills. This service honored the selfless work of our city's firefighters and other first responders and was also to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



MLK DAY

## Memphis



# Jubilee Day

## Celebrating Freedom & Masonic Unity



On December 31, 2011 the Memphis District Masonic Family observed our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Jubilee Day. This celebration marks President Lincoln's signing of the historic Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, legally freeing slaves in the United States. The event was held at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church (McLemore). Pastor Dr. A McKinley Royal (B. L. Hooks Memorial Lodge No. 229) spoke on the theme: "Being Fruitful". Each Masonic body was appropriately dressed to demonstrate that the Masonic family is one unit. Bro. Arvin W. Glass, MWGM, and the Memphis District also welcomed the NAACP, Congressional, State and local officials, as well as, Brothers and Sisters from other Jurisdictions and Districts.



## Out With the Old, In With the New

**Etta M. Selmon No. 291's** Past Worthy Matron, Sis. Essie Patterson and Past Worthy Patron, Bro. James Horton fellowship with the sitting Matron, Sis. Sharon Franklin and newly elected Worthy Patron, Bro. Edward Sample. Bro. Horton served as Patron for Etta M. Selmon No. 291 with three matrons. The most recent past Worthy Matron of the Chapter was Sis. Essie Patterson and she sat at his right for thirteen years. They are pictured at the First Annual Breast Cancer Luncheon held in Memphis.

Another demonstration of the importance of generations working together to properly share the light .

# Precious Moments...

