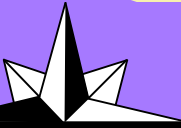


Excelsior Echo



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

Excelsior Echo
Fall/Winter Edition
2013



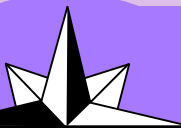
**Grand Worthy
Matron**

**Sis. Rubye B. Meeks
Editor-in-Chief**

*

**Honored Grand
Publicist**

**Sis. Kathleen Evans
Executive Editor**



Spread the News!

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

**Sis. Kathleen Evans
1027 Roeder Dr
Clarksville, TN 37042
New Email
evansksa@gmail.com**

Embracing Winds of Change...

We have been blessed with yet another year, and I remain humble for the leadership opportunity to serve Excelsior Grand Chapter. It seems like only yesterday that we were all gathered in Chattanooga and already we are at the year's end. As we enter into this season of celebration, in the midst of this joyous time of gift-giving, let us remember the reason for the season and to keep **Christ** in Christmas. As we celebrate His birth, we must remember His predestined sacrifice for all mankind.

As members of the Order of the Eastern Star, we are a people of privilege, God's chosen people. (1 Peter 2:9). And, with this privilege we should be ever-mindful to do what God has called us to do. As we collectively continue the work of our beloved Order, we must be committed to enhancing our work in an effort to sustain the life of our legacy. In advancing the Order, and as provided in my "Grand Communication report," we must (again) remember three things: (1) ...trust God with all our heart; (2) ...we must be willing to move (to advance God's work and that of the Order); and, (3) recognize that sometimes "...we must be willing to leave those behind" who are unwilling to complete the work required to show continuous progress in our Order. The all-important task of leading others to the "Eastern Star", to "the Light" of salvation, requires us to move, to change and adapt for the benefit of growth. Our survival will be determined by our ability to embrace change and not begrudge it to be willing to move from our "comfort zone" for the greater good.

Many Chapters have rolls comprised primarily of aged members; therefore, it is important to reach out to reclaim members. Also, it has become very important to extend invitations to those eligible for membership. Growth in active membership will allow us to "pass the torch" to those who will keep our precious Order alive when many of us are no longer able to do so. In order for us to see the precious finite opportunity to pass on the wisdom of the Order to younger members, we should be able to see the benefit of those who have the time, physical ability and skills to advance the work of the Order. We should seek to share our wisdom with our young members and exercise the wisdom to listen and learn as God would have us to do (1 Timothy 4:12).

Continue to frequently visit our official website in place www.tnexcelsiorgrand.org/, submit information (photos and work of benevolence) for publication on our site and in the newsletter because these are produced for our benefit. Keep the joy of Christmas in your heart and minds throughout the season and into the New Year, remembering to keep God first and appreciating the blessing of family and friends. My wish is for you and yours to have a safe and joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Rubye B. Meeks
Grand Worthy Matron





Wisdom from the West



"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee..." Proverbs 2:6, 10-11 (KJV)



I am looking forward to the best year ever in the coming year for us in Excelsior Grand Chapter. To work together in peace and harmony while respecting each other with a determination to make our order better each year and continue to let our light shine. We know there will always be some of us that do not or will not agree on all things but we must strive to do better for the good of our order and grow in love, respect, and knowledge with the help of God. Let us be quick to help and slow to criticize and watch how we grow.

Elizabeth A. Cross

Honored Grand Associate Matron

Greetings! I am grateful to each of you for having received me as part of the body of Excelsior Grand Chapter. My goals this Masonic year are two-fold: To assist our Grand Chapter in assessment and planning our tomorrow. I would like to see us share a vision of Excelsior's future, to successfully accomplish this we must take on a broader view of our Grand Chapter, to think "outside of the box," which will allow us to embrace changes necessary for us to grow together as a Masonic body. Secondly, I would like to assist in providing training for our Worthy Patrons so that they will have a better understanding of how they can assist Chapters in their operation and continued growth, and to cultivate a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with their respective Masonic Lodges. I believe in this Jurisdiction and the brilliance contained herein. I believe in you and your potential to change the World!



Edward V. Leak

Honored Grand Associate Patron

Service and Smiles...in the West (TN)



On November 26, 2013, Benjamin L. Hooks Memorial Lodge and Chapter #229 (pictured left and below) volunteered at the Lowenstein House. The Lowenstein House is mental health psychosocial rehabilitation facility located in Memphis, TN.



Kipp Collegiate Elementary is a charter school located at 230 Henry Ave in North Memphis. About a month ago, this institution requested donations of socks and underwear for students who may have accidents at school and may need to change or students who are not fortunate enough to have these articles of clothing on when they come to school. Benjamin L. Hooks Memorial Lodge and Chapter #229 came together and were able to donate 40 packs underwear and 40 packs of socks. Bro. Edward V. Leak and I will present our contribution to the school on Monday, December 2, 2013.



Memphis District Offers Leadership Training *at District Workshop for Matrons and Secretaries*



Nineteen "sitting" Matrons participated in an informative interactive meeting on Saturday October 5, 2013. Serving as Matron of a chapter requires a firm, personal commitment in order to live up to the responsibilities of the office. In addition, a matron should fully perform all duties she agreed to fulfill when installed as Matron. W.M. Donna Berkley gave an in depth presentation and instructions on how to correctly complete returns. Chapter secretaries joined the second half of the meeting Grand Worthy Matron Meeks was also present and gave encouraging remarks.



Memphis Matrons Take A Break **Travel-Saavy Stars Enjoy a Getaway** **and Beat the Shutdown.**



Recently a group of Worthy Matron's from Memphis traveled to Hot Springs, Arkansas for a weekend of relaxation and recreation. They enjoyed wonderful food, fun and even partook of the famous Hot Springs baths and massages. No better way to start the new Masonic year with a refreshing outlook. This diverse group of ladies included Sis. Kimberly Shropshire, Sis. Helen Davis, Sis. Chandra McKinner and Sis. Montee Hunt (HGADD). The retreat was open to all "sitting" matrons and the most recent "past" matrons. Plans are already under way for the next retreat.



Star Celebration

Star Celebration

Fit for a Queen



Wheeler Leona Chapter 232 with Honored Grand Associate Matron Elizabeth A Cross and District Deputy Mary Threat. The guys are from CC Rusell 262 and Great Light 300 along with Deputy Grand Master Andrew Jackson who supported our day.

District 1B (East Tennessee) Celebrates Esther Day



District 9 (West Tennessee) Celebrates Esther Day



District 9 and visiting Chapters with PGWM Sis. June E. Jones (pictured left)

Districts 4 & 6 Members (below)



PGWM June E. Jones, delivering Esther's Day Celebration address (pictured left)



St. Mary's #5 & St. James #78, District 4 (MiddleTennessee) Celebrates Esther Day



Higher Heights



Bro. Eric Norfleet received his 33rd degree in North Carolina October 2013. He is Associate Patron of Jackson Mound Chapter #62. We offer congratulations to him, as well as, Bro. Fred McWilliams who received the same degree.



Corrections to the Circular

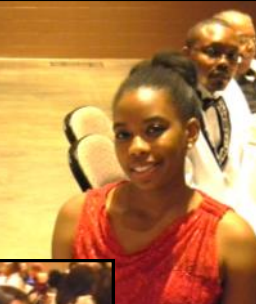


Anita Few- correct address
3830 Deerfoot Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Evelyn Tinnon- correct email
Address
eytinnon@hotmail.com

Correct sentence- bottom
page 9
"When selecting regalia from
Macoy's,"

Beautiful Reflections
of a Beautiful Relationship...
of a Grand Fellowship...







Centenarian Celebrity

Celebrating More than a Century



The Dash Poem

by Linda Ellis

*I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end*

*He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was **the dash** between those years*

*For **that dash** represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.*

*For it matters not how much we own;
The cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend **our dash**.*



Sis. Sallie Johnson, PM celebrated her 102nd birthday and was surprised with a visit from Grand Worthy Matron Rubye B. Meeks, (seated right) Honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron Irene Robinson (seated left) and Honored Grand Associate Conductress Eveyln Tinnon (standing right) and Sis. Matilda Powell, WM, Ruth Chapter #44, Chattanooga (standing left).

Sallie B. Johnson died on Friday, November 22, 2013. She was a member of New Mount



Camel Baptist Church. She was a long-time member of the Order, a member of Ruth Chapter #44 in Chattanooga. She was laid to rest on Wednesday, November 27, 2013.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good until all men, especially unto them that are of the household of faith" Galatians 6:10 (KJV)