



Grand Court of British Columbia Order of the Amaranth

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Newsletter Submission Challenge
- Diabetes Update
- Supreme Sessions 2010
- Events & Invitations

NEWSLETTER

The *Amaranth Newsletter* is a communication tool for the Grand Court of British Columbia, Order of the Amaranth jurisdiction. We hope it is well received by the membership and look forward to publishing and distributing issues to the membership as often as possible over this next year in an effort to facilitate better communication among our membership.



The Web committee **challenges** the officers and members to contribute to our newsletter. Notification of events along with entry forms, information regarding fundraisers and greetings from the line officers would be appreciated. The contribution can be a short "blurb" about an event or a longer article or greeting.

So put your fingers to the keys or pen to paper, put your brain in gear and send us those submissions. (*send in to GCWebCommittee@shaw.ca or snail mail to HL Susan Bay*) We look forward to reading and publishing your thoughts. Thank you all in advance.

Diabetes Update

Submitted by: HL Phyllis Fox



As Diabetic coordinators we are happy to report a very successful year. This can only be accomplished with the help of the members, family and friends.

With the golf at Fort Langley Golf Course, pioneered and tended by our good friend Joey Gibbons, our Race for the Cure at Fraser Downs and contributions by the Courts and individuals we were able to give \$9,011.85 to B.C. Diabetes Research.

H.L. Frances Wright was a big factor with the start of Biggest Loser and monies going to B.C. Children's Hospital for Diabetic Research with again contributions from Courts and individuals to raise \$5,038.24.

In addition to this the sum of \$125.00 went to the Children's Camp for Diabetes.

Honored Ladies and Sir Knights this made a total of \$112.40 per member.

All these ventures are offered again this year. H.L. Frances has challenged all other jurisdictions and to date has several on board. This is not just about losing weight but about how to eat healthier. Get out the pledge sheets and get on board.

If there is any way you can volunteer for any of these projects or can think of new ideas that would be great.

My Visit to the Grand Court of Alaska, 2009

Submitted by: HL Fran Wright



The Grand Court of Alaska was held on the usual second weekend of August, this year in Wasilla, the home of the former Governor, Sarah Palin.

Six members of the Grand Court of BC attended...GRM Frances Wright, GRP Pat O'Keefe, HL Rae O'Keefe, HL Marguerite Gussman and SK Harvey Gussman and H.L. Janet Pollard.

Our contingent was treated like royalty the entire time. As the meeting room was not at the hotel we were shuttled to and from by Alaska member HL Deborah Foulke, saving us time and taxi fares.

HL Barbara Lee Overton and SK Dwight Cosgrove visited officially along with HL Sally Acuff and HL Vickie Cosgrove, Supreme Wife.

Also visiting were the GRM and GRP from Oregon, HL SuZhan Barclay and SK Mike Lantiser, accompanied by HL Laura Lantiser, GC, HL Elaine Younquist, PGRM, HL Caroline Younquist, HL Pam Knaack and SK Larry White and the GRM from Washington, HL Karen Ekrem accompanied by HL Judy Mosier, PGRM and SK Richard Moulden, PGRP.

GRM H.L. Betty Gutcher presided.

GRM, HL Rita Grady and GRP, SK Stan Foulke were installed along with their officers to begin their "By the Sea" term.

SK Bill Fulsom was up to his usual tricks and stole the SRP's shoes. The shoes were used to collect donations to shave the head of the newly installed GRP. When SK Stan appeared on Sunday morning, indeed, his head was shaven. Obviously enough donations were made to complete the deal and the big winner is Amaranth Diabetes Research.

We didn't spend all our time doing Amaranth things. We joined the tours to the Reindeer Farm (no, they don't FARM reindeer, it's more like a ranch) and the Musk Ox Farm (same thing, they don't FARM musk ox). The Reindeer farm is home to about 300 reindeer descended from a herd brought over from Russia in the 1800s. We could actually walk among, pet and feed these gentle creatures. The musk ox farm is the site of a breeding program begun in 1954 to revitalize the musk oxen population. These animals are not quite so gentle as the reindeer so we didn't have the opportunity to get quite so close. What a great experience!

We cruised home on the Coral Princess. During the trip home we enjoyed the wonderful benefits of travelling by ship including having the opportunity to dance with Adrian Zmed. If you don't know who that is, look him up on Google. That dance was the highlight of my cruise. We travelled on the inside passage which is between the islands along the west coast of Alaska and BC and the mainland. The scenery was

incredible...one of the many reasons we really are Beautiful British Columbia.

It was a marvelous trip of a lifetime, which I hope to be able to do again. The Alaskans are such hospitable people it was truly a joy to be with them.

Grand Court 2010

Submitted by: *HL Natasha Wright*



Thursday night was the most interesting and informative informal opening I have ever been to. It was amazing to be able to witness so many groups perform their ceremonies. There were six different groups in attendance. The Order of the Eastern Star performed a ceremony written recently to be performed for the public and Most Worshipful Master Brother Douglas Franklin performed the Address to the Brethren which is generally not intended for the public. Both ceremonies were very interesting and quite moving.

HL Fran presented \$4,700 to a representative from the BC Children's Hospital Foundation which was her project. This money was raised by the Biggest Loser program. HL Phyllis presented \$8,228.85 to a representative from the Canadian Diabetic Association.

HL Barbara Lee Overton, SRM, presented Hero awards to HL Hazel, SK Andy and SK Dan for their service to our Grand Court.

There were 11 jurisdictions represented this year: BC, of course, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Florida, Washington, Wisconsin, Ontario, California, Connecticut and Alaska. It was wonderful to have so many guests to join us for our Grand Court.

The Friday evening banquet was amazing and everyone had an absolute blast in their pajamas. There are lots of pictures as evidence.

Saturday was elections and the train was loaded. See the results in the Grand Court officers listing.

HL Fran made sure that this session was enjoyable for all with jokes sprinkled here and there and the secret seat contest where with members were chosen, including many of the Supremes to perform such songs as "I'm a Little Teapot" and "Old MacDonald's Farm" for the amusement of the rest of the membership.



Huge kudos need to go out to all involved and to the hotel for being quick to fix any problem and even quicker to help with all the mechanics that go into set up such as decorations and moving tables and chairs.

The installation was very good. HL Mary and SK David's theme for the year is "Sharing Pearls of Wisdom". Their fun emblems are mermaids, whales, sea horses, and starfish. Their projects are the Diabetic Camp for Children, Canadian Diabetic Association of BC and the Amaranth Book Bursary.

Grand Court of Oregon 2010

Submitted by: *HL Shari & HL Kathy*



Kathy and I met in New West on Wednesday afternoon, where I left my car in the care of May and we set off for Oregon. The travel was uneventful...as it should be. We arrived at the Super 8 in Woodburn about 8:30 p.m. without stopping to do any shopping on the way...almost unheard of...and joined some of our travelling BC members. This was the beginning of the relaxing time for BC members. We had spent the previous weekend working and now it was time to celebrate! Our newly crowned GRM and her GRP and her entourage were ready to relax and recover.

Woodburn Outlet Mall was close by, so in the morning, some of us ignored the hotel's offer of 'free' breakfast and made our way to Denny's for a 'good' breakfast. Then it was on to the Mall. Finally some of the anticipated shopping! We managed to prop up the Oregon economy in one short morning.



The journey to 7 Feathers Casino and Resort in Canyonville, Oregon was also uneventful, for which we were grateful. See the article on the trip to Oregon last August for a full explanation!! (December 2009 issue)

The addition and renovations of the Resort had been completed. An entire wing had been added, the lobby had been moved and a spa area added. It was no mean feat to take all of our 'stuff' to our room. 3 large suitcases, a cooler for our snackables and et cetera, and all our other 'supplies' required a full trolley and both of us carrying something. Even with that, I forgot my sanity saver, my crochet project, in the car.



The session had already started...we were too late for the afternoon 'opening' so we got ourselves settled. Donna and Bob were in the room next to us, as requested and very convenient; Phyllis was already registered and everyone was out and about checking for old friends, session registration, banquet tickets and the Amaranth vendors and we followed suit.

The Resort offers good food, fast and inexpensive in either the restaurant or the sports bar. We had a quick dinner and made our preparations for the 'informal opening' that evening.



GRM HL Su Zahn was amazing! She and GRP SK Mike presided with enthusiasm and grace. Their theme and fun emblems revolved around Mardi Gras and the Coca Cola polar bear so there were jesters and bears everywhere.



The dignitaries were escorted in and greeted by the GRM, GRP, SRM and SRP and seated on the Throne. The business of the evening moved along at a brisk pace with everyone having their say. Everyone included members from Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Eastern Star, Ladies Oriental Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, Demolay, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon.

The Supreme Royal Matron, HL Barbara Lee and Supreme Royal Patron, SK Dwight brought their remarks and the official part of the evening closed with a small reception.

Then the real fun began. Folks were invited to our room for a visit. I caught SK Dwight counting people in our room and assured him there was room for more. At that time we had about 20 with guests arriving and leaving constantly. There were many conversations going on, mostly folks catching up on the past year's events. Eventually the joke tellers were convinced to get the ball rolling and HL Iris, SK Andy, HL Helen, HL Mary and others complied and entertained the rest of us with jokes most of us have heard several times but continue to enjoy over and over.

The casino drew some of our members but most of us were content to wander through on our way to the various meetings and events. Friday morning began the actual business of the session beginning with introductions followed by the reports of the GRM and GRP. They progressed through many of the required reports and recessed at noon for a lunch break. At 2:00 p.m. the session resumed, closing with the Necrology report and Memorial.

The BC contingent was invited to our room for a reception hosted by HL Kathy, the Grand Representative to Oregon from BC. Again we had members from all the jurisdictions join us for refreshments and snacks then rush to prepare for the banquet.

Too bad we didn't read the invitation correctly...it was 'fancy dress' and not just masks. The SRM and Supreme Page arrived in Renaissance costumes, our own HL Helen was garbed in a long black cape, black body suit and fishnet stockings, SK Don complemented her, dressed as a priest and many others were dressed suitably. The food and service were excellent and the Grand Officers, seated at the head table provided some unexpected showers with well aimed squirt guns and HL Phyllis was 'pied'. Everyone had a great time and the festivities carried on in various members' rooms.



Our road trip carried on with the drive to the Coast for some rest and relaxation at the Young's. We did indulge in some retail therapy during our 3 day stay. Yes, Oregon's economy was in good shape while we were there! The Young's were most hospitable, as usual, then we said our "See you soon's" and headed for Pasco, Washington on Wednesday morning.

MY YEARS IN AMARANTH

Submitted by: HL Pat Haywood

Since the age of 14 I have been involved in Fraternal Organizations – first with the Order of the Rainbow for Girls in Toronto as well as the Order of the Eastern Star where I also joined in Toronto in 1964.



I moved to Vancouver in 1966 and re-connected with OES and eventually I found the Order of the Amaranth to join. My mother, the late Ruth Haywood was already a member and I already knew several members so it made sense to join, which I did, in Evergreen Court in June of 1973.

One reason in joining was I would be able to have an evening out on the weekend. My very first meeting was the following Saturday at Cypress Court which then met on Royal Avenue across from the Royal Towers Hotel. My first office was Charity and was going to take that station the next year as

well but that changed after I attended my first Grand Court at the Hotel Vancouver.

I was very impressed and on the night of our elections went in as Associate Conductress. I was Royal Matron in 1978 with Esther Niles as GRM and Bill Rae as GRP. There are 3 of the 1978 Matrons still active in court – Anne MacDougall was RM of Cypress and Iris Harris RM of Arbutus Court.

Over the years I was in several offices and was GRM in 1994 with John Bradley as my GRP. I have attended several Grand Courts in Oregon, Idaho and Washington and one in Ontario when H.L. Lillian Worton was installed as GRM. I learned that one of my close friends knows Lillian having lived in Guelph and her sister and Lillian are best friends – IT IS A SMALL WORLD.

In 1978 I was Grand Representative to NSW and attended their special session with Joan Foran as SRM and David Cook as SRP. Visits were also made in the state of Queensland. I also attended a few Supreme Councils, two in Oregon, one for Bernice Laurens, and the other for Joan Foran, St. Louis Missouri for Elizabeth Araneta and Don Yerxa and one in California when GRM. On visits to Australia I usually have a visit with my counterpart there, and have attended a couple of subordinate courts.

It doesn't matter where you go you are always warmly welcomed in a subordinate court, especially when it is on the other side of the world. This past year was especially enjoyable being GFC as I corresponded with almost all of the jurisdictions.

Reception for HL Peggy Ball and SK Bill Shuck, 2010 July 01

Submitted by: HL Shari, HL Kathy & HL Phyllis



It was Canada's birthday evening and we Canadians, for the most part, were decked out in maple leaf pins and flags. HL Phyllis wore her maple leaf hat for most of the day. All of us 'Canucks' were asked to stand and the entire room sang "Happy Birthday, Canada". Thanks to HL Sandi Smallwood for recognizing our special day.

The reception was held in the largest ballroom of the Wyndam Airport Hotel in Milwaukee the day after the completion of the 2010 Supreme Council session. With over 360 members, family and friends expected the grand ballroom was the only place to be. It's such a great idea to hold the reception as an add-on to the Supreme sessions. It gives so many more members the opportunity to show their support of the Supreme officers.

We were seated at a table with HL Jean, BC, HL Joyce, a very new member from Ontario, HL Judith and SK Bert, Florida and HL Joyce and HL Frances from Portsmouth, England. One of the greatest pleasures of attending any events at a Supreme Council is the opportunity to meet members from all over the world. It was our pleasure to spend time with our table mates!! It was a first Supreme Council for HL Joyce, Ontario, HL Frances and HL Joyce, England. Our Portsmouth members enjoyed themselves enough to have already booked a family vacation in Orlando for next year and are eyeing Ontario for 2012. We look forward to spending more time with them next year.

We heard brief remarks from several Officers seated at the head tables with HL Sandi Smallwood guiding the events and

providing 'stories' about each of the speakers. No one was immune to her little roastings.

The GRMs and GRPs, acting as the crew of the Amaranth Train, sang 'The Little Train that Could' with HL Peggy and SK Bill as the conductors in honour of their fun emblem and then Elvis (SK Dwight) entered the building. He was announced by his loyal entourage of Marilyn Monroe, Dolly Parton, Ann Margaret, and, of course, Priscilla Presley. He regaled HL Peggy and SK Bill with an Amaranth version of "Are You Lonesome Tonight" with Marilyn, Dolly, Ann Margaret and Priscilla offering back up vocals. Barbara Lee, Diane Dean, Diana Kifer and Catherine Thompson did the honours of portraying the backups.

All in all it was a great evening and a fine ending to another wonderful Supreme Council Session.



To All Brethren and Concordant Body Members:

**FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY BARBEQUE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010**



It's with pleasure that I invite you to participate in the 1st Annual Masonic Family BBQ on Sunday, Aug 15, 2010 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at Gizeh Shrine Centre, 3550

Wayburne Drive, Burnaby, BC.

Gizeh Shrine is excited to be hosting this event along with Zarah Temple Daughters of the Nile, and invite all members of the Masonic Family to join us for a family day with lots of activities for the children and grandchildren as well as an opportunity for everyone to bring non-members out to see what we do and discover more about our individual organizations. Shrine Clowns and some of our Units will be on hand to entertain.

Volunteers and ambassadors are needed for meeting and greeting the public. Our hope is that this will become an annual event to promote good will and membership for all concordant bodies.

As most of our organizations are in recess for the summer we are asking for your assistance in getting the invitation out to all of your members by phone, email, etc. Please let us know how many of your members and guests will be attending. Please note, there is no charge for the barbeque. I look forward to seeing you on August 15th.

Fraternally,
Wayne Reese- Potentate
Shriners of B.C. & Yukon



Dogwood Court Annual Bowling
Tuesday, September 14
7PM - ?

Lucky Strike Lanes
1205 6th Avenue
New Westminster

Cost is \$10 which includes 3 games and shoe rental.



Please contact HL Kathy 604-271-8347 for tickets and/or more information.

Join us in the Thirsty Duck Pub after.

This is always a fun event...no pressure, just fun with real pins and balls.

PLEASE, REMEMBER...



- to purchase tickets for the Grand Court Meat Raffle
- GC Ways & Means is collecting Canadian Tire money to help purchase items for 2011 GC
- The "Shop & Support" program is in full operation and looking for your support. Please contact: HL Susan Bay for information
- GC "Pirates of the Caribbean Dinner", Oct 30/10 Contact: HL Shari or HL Kathy for details
- Oregon visits BC, August 20th - 22nd - Day Trip followed with the GC Annual BBQ at the Stutt's
- **Updates to the GC Calendar are uploaded regularly on the GC Website at:**

www.amaranthbc.ca

Newsletter
DEADLINE

FOR NEXT ISSUE

November 14th