



Jottings from Jake & Jill

Notes in a Nutshell

Subordinate Chapter Spotlights

♥ **50-year pins presented by WGM:** *Margaret Staska and Margaret Webster* at Narcissus at their Metro Area Visitation ...and... *Lona Burmeister* in Ft. Calhoun at the Annual Honors Banquet

♥ **Another 50-year pin:** *Jeanne Warren* was presented her 50-yr. pin by her daughter at Papillion's Metro Area Visitation.

♥ **75-year pin presented by WGP:** *Dorothy Kuhl* in Plainview.

LINCOLN IS "ALIVE"

♥ **Harvest Tea at Temple Chapter** (proceeds to the Youth Foundation);

♥ **Bottle Auction at Columbia Chapter** (proceeds to HIKE);

♥ **Alovah Chapter—Alliance** celebrated 100 years as a chapter with a dinner and special meeting on November 20th.

Fabulous Fraternal Family gatherings:

♥ **Annual "White Elephant Auction"** in Albion--Dinner with Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star & others.

♥ **Annual Honors Banquet:** Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter in Ft. Calhoun.

♥ **Remember...** You can access Nebraska OES News on line at www.neocs.org ...

♥ **Print** your own copy of the OES News from the website.

NEWS FLASH

Take notice of all the events and happenings listed at the left in the Notes in a Nutshell column.

Thanks to all chapters who have been creative goal-setting and fund-raisers for charities. Congratulations to everyone who has just received that coveted 50-year pin. We receive many invitations to visit your chapters for special events. We attend as schedules permit. Please

know that we're thinking about you on these special days even when we cannot join you for your various celebrations!

Many of you have chosen to participate in the Proficiency Challenge. One Worthy Patron opens their building on a weekend afternoon for those who want to recite a part and take the Open Book Test. Another Chapter pooled all of their Red Books of Instruction, Law Books and

Rituals during the fellowship time after their meeting to assist each other taking the open-book quiz for the "Challenge". Keep up your good work.

To quote Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol: "God bless us, every one!"

Merry Christmas and Happy 2005 !

Harvest Tea A Great Success

The brain-child of Sisters Mary Ann Townsend PM and Carolyn Plants PM, both members of Temple Chapter #271 in Lincoln; the first annual Harvest Tea has been declared an absolute success.

The afternoon tea springs from the history of Temple Chapter's Victorian Tea that occurred as fellowship events after special meetings for several years in the 80's and 90's. At it's height the Victoria Tea hosted over 350 guests from Lincoln and the surrounding area.

The new Harvest Tea is a revival of sorts with a couple interesting twists. The tea was hosted by Temple Chapter and it's Past Matrons' Club with three distinct purposes in mind

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1) To reconnect with an event that was much enjoyed and provided opportunity for fellowship and good food in a relaxing environment.

2) To set and meet a goal that reflects the Most Worthy Grand Matron's aim to foster better communication and cooperation among the various fraternal bodies of the Masonic Family. And...

3) To raise funds for a mutually supported charitable endeavor.

Invitations were sent to all Lincoln area Masonic Lodges, to the 2004 Grand Lodge Offi-

cers, to Lincoln area Eastern Star Chapters, to the 2004-2005 Grand Chapter Officers, as well as to the 03-04 Journey of Light Grand Family. Invitations were also issued by word of mouth, email, and telephone to Lincoln and Omaha area Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons as well as many individ-



Our Worthy Grand Matron—Sister Jill Ramsey hosted a table of our Sisters from the Omaha area



Heart Notes

- Remember to make your housing reservations for Grand Chapter.
- Les Bailey, GGCCM reminds you to submit your subscriptions for the OES Journal by December 23rd to receive all four copies of the 2005 Journal. Brother Les wishes you "happy reading," and wishes you a safe and joyous holiday season from all your Colorado neighbors.

50-Year Pins Presented

Sisters Goldie Hamaker and Marcella Fitch were presented their 50-year membership pins and certificates by Brother C. Robert Todd, Past Grand Patron on September 15, 2004. Both Sisters joined the Order of the Eastern star in Sioux Chapter No. 319 in Harrison Nebraska in 1954. Sister Goldie served as Worthy Matron in 1960 and in 1977. Sister Marcella was Worthy Matron in 1987 and 1988. Both Sisters served in many offices and were



Sister Goldie Hamaker, Brother C. Robert Todd, P.G.P., Sister Marcella Fitch

faithful members of Sioux Chapter. (Sioux Chapter consolidated with Ivy Leaf Chapter No. 60 of Chadron in the year 2000.) Many members in the Panhandle chapters will remember these Sisters and the wonderful food and hospitality that were always a part of Sioux Chapter. Those attending the ceremony were Marcella's son, Phillip Henry and Rosemary; Goldie's son, Criss Hamaker and Ruth; Georgia Powell; Shirley Robinson; Don and Betty Mack; Gloria Bannan; Robert and Dorothy Todd from Harrison and Frances Locker from Crawford.

Notice: Articles and calendar items for the Nebraska OES News must be received by the 15th of the preceding month! Submit to:

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ual Sisters and Brother as we could reach.

A special challenge was issued to the Grand Officers to set their own tea tables to be judged for over-all attractiveness, originality, and creativity. Several attendees signed on to host a whole table and participated in the challenge. The tables were judged by a panel of three Journey of Light Grand Family members (Wanda Fisher, Margaret McCall, and Joan Young) who awarded the prize of a ceramic lidded bread pan decorated with a stylized Santa to Sister Diane Brown (Temple #271).

This year, 10 members and two adult sponsors from Lincoln Assembly #6, Order of the Rainbow for Girls served the tea and helped with set up and clean up. Ladies; you did a fantastic job and we are very proud of you. Thanks so very much!! Special thanks to Laurie Seig, Mother Adviser, and Tiffany Westerholt (Rainbow Girl and newest member of Temple Chapter 271). Your help was invaluable!!!

Look for additional photos

of the tea on the Grand Chapter website!



Diane Brown's winning table setting. Pictured are Sister Diane and Brother Jim Brown PGP, with their grand-daughters also pictured—Brother Kurt Weiss.

Next year, we hope to energize another group to help set, serve and clean; giving the Rainbow Girls the opportunity to attend and enjoy. In fact we hope to make a rotation of sorts so everyone has opportunity to serve and be served.

The response was gratifying with over 130 groups and individuals making reservations to attend this first Harvest Tea. The proceeds of \$571 will be given to the Masonic Youth Foundation of Nebraska for the 2005 Masonic Youth Conference.

Plans are underway to expand and improve on

Worshipful Brother Ivan Vrtiska and his lady Karen were among the Grand Lodge Officers who attended the Harvest Tea.



our initial efforts for this fantastic Masonic Family fellowship event. We will establish a planning committee with representation from several of the Masonic Family organizations. We will endeavor to establish a western and eastern tea... making this a Harvest Tea weekend; with easier access to everyone in the state. We are even hoping to gain corporate sponsorship and donations to further expand the margin of profits so that the available funds for the designated charity will be as great as possible.

So make plans now to attend next year. We have designated November 5, 2005 for the 2nd Annual Harvest Tea. Hope to see you there!

Grand Chapter Committee Notes

-Rosalie Curtis
Membership Chair

The Membership Committee met Saturday, October 23—2PM at the Holiday Inn, Kearney.

Sisters Jill Ramsey Worthy Grand Matron, Betty Kirby Grand Conductress, Betty Garwood Associate Grand Conductress, Rosalie Curtis—Chairman, and members Wanda Fisher, Nellie Frizzell, and Shirley Carlson were in attendance.

Recommendations:

- * Each Chapter to appoint a membership committee.
- * Each member to carry a petition, know how to fill it out and submit with

proper fees and documentation.

- * Each new member carry a petition, learn how to fill it out and submit with proper fees and documentation.
- * Call or write to members to remind them of meetings and offer rides.
- * Each member look at their own family to see who is eligible.
- * Put your Chapter news in your local paper.
- * Ask all new Masonic members and their spouses to become members.



Meet our Grand Officer: Jan Barnard, Grand Treasurer

A member of Herman Ch. 216, Herman, NE for 29 years, serving as Secretary for 12 years. Treasurer of the Herman Community Church. Two years retired Elementary School Teacher having taught at Plattsmouth, Tacoma, WA, Omaha and Tekamah-Herman.

Married 42 years to Richard (Dick). Jan says, "We built a home six years ago in the middle of our 90 acre pasture, home to our herd of Texas Longhorn Cattle and two donkeys. We have three children, Deanna, Omaha, Bruce, Blair, and Mark. Bruce has sons, Chris, 14 & Ben, 13, who live in Yutan. Mark, wife Linda, and sons, Colton, 5

and Jacob, 1 live in Herman." "I enjoy reading, playing Bridge, my flowers and plants, Church and Star friends and activities and most of all, those Grandsons!" "I am so very honored to be your Grand Treasurer!"