

The Eastern Star Echo of Alaska
April, 2008

Deputy Do-Ins

Friday, March 14, my husband and I drove to Fairbanks where I conducted a School of Instruction for Midnight Sun No. 6 and Fairbanks No. 18. Both chapters participated in a potluck dinner before the meeting. Yumm!

I drove to Soldotna for a School of Instruction on March 18 and had a wonderful time with the members of Star of the North Chapter No. 17. A wonderful potluck preceded the meeting. The ride home the next day was really something as I got caught in a major snow storm in Johnson/Turnagain Pass. Thank goodness for the 18-wheeler in front of me.

My first Official Visit of 2008 was on April 7 at Anchorage Chapter No. 8. The officers did a fantastic job and no one used a ritual!

My husband and I flew to Las Vegas for five days in April and had a wonderful time at the NHRA Drag Races (my first). We also saw three shows. We had a great time but were glad to be home again.

Juneau Chapter No. 7 – Reported by Georgene Brookman, Worthy Matron

Juneau Chapter has moved to their new permanent building and had their first meeting on February 12. Their activities so far have included providing support for the high school Science Fair, a “Men’s Hat Parade” skit performed by the men, and helping at the new Time Capsule Ceremony for the high school. Upcoming events include honoring Mothers and our Country and Flag in May and the Official Visit of Deputy Claudianne Jones on June 10. A chapter fundraiser is a “Blessings Tax” form sent to all members.

Naomi Chapter No. 9 – Reported by Debbie Ackerman, Worthy Matron

Great news from this chapter! Our Worthy Patron, Ron Ackerman, has been elected as Junior Grand Warden for the Grand Lodge of Alaska. We are all very proud of him.

Every year Naomi Chapter No. 9 sells rose bushes on the Saturday before Mother’s Day. Bare-root roses are purchased from Jackson & Perkins. We have a “potting party” in our garage when they arrive. The roses are nurtured in our sunny morning room, where they leaf out and sometimes form buds. This year we will have 33 rose bushes for sale.

And now for the sad news: our long-time Secretary, Violet “Connie” Conard, lost her battle with cancer and passed away March 25. She was initiated into Eastern Star December 18, 1942 in Kansas and served there as Worthy Matron in 1955. Connie affiliated with Naomi Chapter No. 9 in 1979 and was our Worthy Matron in 1982 and 1983. We held the office of Secretary for over 20 years. She was our mentor, our prompter, and our rock. We will sorely miss her guidance.

Midnight Sun Chapter No. 6 – Reported by Deanna Morris, Secretary

In February Midnight Sun No. 6 members had a wonderful time working with the Sisters of Fairbanks No. 18 and the ladies of Polaris Court #2 to prepare lunches for our Masonic brethren who were attending Grand Lodge. It was wonderful to share in this fellowship, especially with the temperatures outside -40 to -50 degrees and the fraternal warmth indoors to bolster everyone. Special thanks go to Sister Leann Folsom and Sister Cathy Sewell who were terrific organizers for this event and to Brother Sam Medsker, Most Worshipful Grand Master, for his invitation to prepare and serve these meals.

The Deputy to the MWGM in Alaska, Claudianne Jones, joined us at our stated meeting in March for a School of Instruction. This is always most helpful but even more so when there are officers serving a position for the first time. It is great to be able to ask questions of one with more experience and knowledge of OES rules, regulations, and practices.

We continue to meet on the second Friday of each month except July and August. Please join us if you happen to be in Fairbanks.

Featured Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, Margaret Dial and Dave Worel, Midnight Sun No. 6. (Photo unavailable at this time.)

WM Margaret joined Eastern Star in Cranford, New Jersey on October 22, 1964. She remained active in Azure Chapter #81 until she married Larry Dial May 22, 1971. The following day they came to Alaska to make their home in Anderson. Larry worked in Civil Service on Clear Air Force Station. Their only child, Diane, was born in 1973. Margaret still lives in Anderson, coming to Fairbanks for appointments and meetings as well as to spend time with Diane, her husband Rick Beshears, and her grandsons and granddaughter.

Margaret affiliated with Midnight Sun Chapter No. 6 on March 12, 2004 by demit. In addition to being Worthy Matron of Midnight Sun Chapter No. 6, she is also active in Polaris Court No. 2, Order of the Amaranth. In her spare time she loves to quilt.

Worthy Patron Dave first joined the Masons while he was serving in the military here in Fairbanks. He was raised in Fairbanks Lodge No. 12 in 1989. When he left the area he demitted and became a member of Solomon Lodge 271 in Springfield, Missouri. He also joined the Shrine in Missouri. After he returned to Fairbanks, Brother Dave joined Tanana Lodge No. 3, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2007. Brother Dave and Sister Kathy joined Midnight Sun Chapter No. 6 on October 22, 2004. In addition to being Worthy Patron of Midnight Sun Chapter Dave is Rabband of the Al Aska Shrine.

Anchorage Chapter No. 8 - Reported by Sherry Love, Worthy Matron

Greetings from Anchorage #8, OES:
Our schedule to date:

February 4 - School of Instruction

February 18 - Obligation Night

March was Stated Meetings

April 7 - Official Visit from Deputy

Claudianne. We honored our Star Points. A special poem was read to each and they were presented with a plant and butterfly pin inside a tote bag tied with a balloon in the respective color of their station.

April 21 - Friendship Night. We initiated two new members - Cheryl Chapman and Terry Mayberry. Each Sister in Chapter received a candle. Brothers received a special treat - candy.

We will Honor Mothers on May 5 then Honor our PM/PP's on May 19. Our final meeting before we go DARK will be held on June 2 when we will Honor Fathers. We will resume our meetings on September 15, Honoring Masons.



WM Sherry Love, Deputy Claudianne Jones, WP Jerry Pinion, Anchorage Chapter No. 8, Official Visit 4/7/08

Star of the North Chapter No. 17 - Reported by Cheryl Smith, Esther

Star of the North is off to a great 2008. We had a dessert auction following our February stated meeting which is always a great way for our members to support the chapter by bidding on decorated boxes or containers with goodies in them. Usually one has no idea what is inside the package so it is very interesting to see how high the bidding will go. **Brother Billy Harris** does a great job as auctioneer!

Deputy Claudianne Jones held a school of instruction for us in March. We so much appreciate her efforts to keep us abreast of the latest changes in ritual work and her patience as some of us experience CRS! (can't remember stuff!)

We initiated two new members this month and heartily welcome **Anna and Sam Eason** and look forward to seeing them in Chapter.

Sister Margaret Burnett just underwent a double partial-knee replacement surgery here at our Soldotna hospital and **Sister Nita Douthit** reports her surgery went well. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers.

Snowbird **Allen Scouler** has returned home once again and it is good to have him back.

Matanuska Valley Chapter No. 14 – Reported by Claudianne Jones, Deputy and Secretary
We initiated Jean Palmer and John Paul Jones on March 19 and welcome them into our chapter. Sisters Ina Ayers and Michelle Ludlum are our newest affiliated members.

On April 26 we will have a Bunco party and salad luncheon, which is always a fun few hours. On May 3 a fantastic steak dinner will be served with a Chinese Auction culminating the evening.

The Masons were honored at our April 2 meeting. Worthy Matron Victoria Ault presented each with a “tuxedo saver.”

Featured Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron



Tichi and Dennis Cole, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, Star of the North Chapter No. 17, Soldotna, Alaska

Tichi and Dennis are in the East for the first time and are doing a great job. Their enthusiasm is catching! Visit their chapter and see for yourselves. They joined Star of the North Chapter in

December 1985. They have been in Alaska since 1971; 7 years in Fairbanks, Soldotna for 19 years, Valdez for 3 years, and in 2000 returned to Soldotna. Tichi hailed from Texas and Dennis from California via Montana. They met in Fairbanks. Their daughter Brandy lives in Anchorage and has 5 children. Their son Vince lives in Raleigh, North Carolina and has four children. Their other son Lenny lives in Chester, Montana with his four children. Thirteen grandchildren keep them busy! Tichi's favorite pastimes are the grandchildren. She also loves to cook, bake, garden, and do crafts. For hobbies Dennis enjoys golf, flying, and playing with their grandchildren.



Matanuska Valley Chapter No. 14 L-R Dennis Morgan, #16; Dave LaCombe, Ron Bowen, Victoria Ault, WM; Marvin Fitzpatrick, WP; Sam Wilt, and Reid Hays.

Some members keep their Chapters strong,
While others join and just belong.
Some dig right in, some serve with pride.
Some go along, just for the ride.

Some volunteer to do their share,
While some lay back and just don't care;
On meeting nights some always show
While there are those who never go.

Some always pays their dues ahead,
Some get behind for months, instead.
Some do their best, some build, some make,
Some never give, but always take,
Some drag, some pull, some don't, some do.

CONSIDER, which of these are you?

Denali Chapter No. 16 – Reported by Betty Prentice, Associate Matron

Denali finished installing their 2008 officers last month. They are:

Worthy Matron, Barbara Kennedy, PM; Worthy Patron, Eugene Prentice, PP; Associate Matron, Betty Prentice, PM; Associate Patron, Dennis Morgan, PP; Secretary, Gwyn Fitzpatrick, PM; Treasurer, Ileana Hawkins; Conductress, Bonnie Duncan; Associate Conductress, Sandy Polsky; Chaplain, Henry Dunbar, PP; Marshal, Sonja Stoces; Organist, Pat Dart; Adah, Mary Tasker, PM; Ruth, Louise Baxley, PM; Esther, Victoria Ault, PM; Martha, Sharon Combs; Electa, Theresa Thurston; Warder, Joan Ricker; Sentinel, John Bishop.

We're sewing chemo caps and tying fleece blankets for the homeless. One of our Arizona members made several chemo caps and donated them to a hospital in her area in the name of Denali chapter!

Our Friendship Night is April 28. Our May 12th meeting is the Official Visit of our Deputy, with a planned potluck dinner at 6:30 followed by our meeting at 7:30 p.m. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Denali took over the operation and management of The Poke, the little general store located in the Anchorage Pioneer Home. Our Grand Opening was the first week in March. We're open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; if you are available to help in the store, even one day a month, you may call Barbara Kennedy (272-7071) or Joan Morgan (337-5706). We are learning to know the residents... from the gentleman who will buy every single Hershey bar on the shelf (we quickly learned to put out only a few bars each day), to the one who likes his Snickers frozen; we also find many of the staff will stop in to buy something for lunch.

Two of Denali's members, who are also clowns, were asked to help with the 90th birthday party of one of the residents. Following the party they visited a number of the rooms of patients in the dementia unit who were unable to attend the party. We posted pictures of

the party the next day on the window of The Poke, but they disappeared!

A big thank you to the Masonic members of Anchorage 8 and Denali 16 who have donated air miles to help with the travel of some of the Nugget girls who will be attending Grand Assembly in Juneau this June.



Back row –“Buttons” - Jean Kaufman and “Mrs. Honey” - Betty Prentice with LaVon, the birthday gal, in the wheelchair, and lady in front in polka dot dress is Marilyn Joiner, Recreation Director at the Pioneer Home. (Denali Chapter No. 16)

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? FROSTBITE!