



Order of the Eastern Star
Grand Chapter of Wisconsin

One Hundred and Sixteenth Annual Session
Garden of Faith

Marriott Middleton Convention Center
Middleton, Wisconsin
May 15, 16, 17, 2007

Grand Officers:

Worthy Grand Matron: Helen Wheeler
Worthy Grand Patron: John Knee
Associate Grand Matron: Laurie Twardy
Associate Grand Patron: Cal Wells
Grand Secretary: Sharon Swartwout
Grand Treasurer: Mary Olson
Grand Conductress: Kris Engbring
Associate Grand Conductress: Bobbi Jo Oyen
Grand Chaplain: Marv Engelke
Grand Lecturer: Phyllis Eklov, PGM
Grand Marshal: Don Jensen Sr.
Grand Organist: Joye Kuhlka
Grand Adah: Judy Emerson
Grand Ruth: Margarette Haubrich
Grand Esther: Alice Hedberg
Grand Martha: Carrie Peterson
Grand Electa: Rosie Fiscus
Grand Warder: Edwina Koth
Grand Sentinel: Ron Rasmussen

Grand Trustees:

Harley Bennett, PGP, Chairman
Audrey Pavlik, PGM
Harold Carpenter, PGP

Theme: Garden of Faith

Aim: Membership – new members and encouraging members who have not attended for a time to return.

Motto: Together in Faith, we will grow stronger.

Scriptures:

WGM: “For we walk by faith not by sight” 2 Corinthians 5:7

WGP: “In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:6

Honored Stations: Martha (WGM) and Chaplain (WGP)
Watchwords/Emblems: Fully Rely on God = FROG
With Hope and Love Excel = WHALE

Daily Guide: Prayer
Flowers: Pink/white water lily, red rose.
Colors: Shades of red, blue, green and white
Fun Emblem: Bluebird of Happiness (WGM)
Anchor (WGP)

Clubs: Helen's Faithful Gardeners and John's Anchors
Grand Family: Stars and Stripes
Escorts: Reapers
Grand Representatives: Bluebirds of Happiness
District Deputies: Care Takers
Arrangements Committee: Podhoppers
Projects: The Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment (HIKE) Fund (WGM)
Make a Wish Foundation (WGP)

The Garden of Faith session was dedicated to our late Sister Debbie Schier, Vega Chapter, who was a District Deputy and the Grand Chapter nurse for many years, and late Brother Tom Ross, Starlite Chapter, Madison, a member of the Arrangements Committee this year and several other years.

General Grand Chapter Committee members:
Karen Carpenter, PGM, Member of the Registration Committee
Harley Bennett, PGP, Member of the Youth Committee
Phyllis Eklov, PGM, Member of the Visionquest Committee
Terry Fedje, Friend of a Feather

Tuesday Afternoon:

Musical Prelude: Mary Pat Vreeland, FAGO

Prologue written, arranged and narrated by Bonnie Clark, Lemonweir, Mauston. The robes worn by the Five Star Points were over 100 years old and were handmade by members of Martha Chapter, Jefferson, formerly of Ft. Atkinson. The robes were worn by all members and were made of wool and lined because meetings held in the cold months tended to be cold and heating limited.

“Come into our garden to the altar of faith and prayer and see what fidelity, constancy, purity and love will tell you there. We walk by faith not by sight.” A solo: “Help us Accept Each Other” was sung by Noreen Christensen, Sparta Chapter.

Grand Chapter called to order by Phyllis Eklov, PGM (and Helen's fraternal Mom) and Nick Schultz PGP (and Helen's “little brother”).

Invocation: Marguerite Bullis, WM of Acadia Chapter, Brookfield.

Soloists Noreen Christensen and Linda Schreier.

“It is a grand and glorious feeling to say real words of cheer and to let each and everyone of you know that WGP John and I really mean it when we say, “we are so glad that you are here.”

Flag Ceremony presented by the Western Stars Area Club. Written and narrated by Judy Bessinger, Ruth Chapter, La Crosse and Viroqua Chapter. “Historic Flags,” a video presentation by Mary and W. David Olson.

A Piece of History from 1907 address of welcome by Sister Belle Barr, WM of Vega Chapter: Bright Eastern Star whose golden ray illumines our path, make bright the way. Shine on, still turning night to day for those in need. Let thy light shine in darkest places. Illume the path of all earth’s races, from Arctic to Antarctic glacier, chase hatred and greed. Let Faith, Hope, Charity and Love still be our Creed.

“The Heart of Our Country”, a tribute to our Veterans, presented by Linda Sedall, Clarence Lee, Kelly Drescher and Joye Kuhlka, Grand Organist. Brother Clarence recited the poem, “The Ragged Old Flag” and the Pledge of Allegiance was given. “We asked God for a flower, He gave us a garden. We asked for a tree, He gave us a forest. We asked for a river, He gave us an ocean. We asked God for protection, He gave us veterans. “America the Beautiful” was sung by all. Kelly Drescher sang a solo entitled “Before You Go” as the veterans were escorted to the East where they were greeted and patriotic ribbons were pinned on them.

Tuesday Evening:

Musical Prelude, Kay Scafe, FAGO. Opening Formation: Masonic Youth Groups, Joye Kuhlka, Grand Organist.

Welcome and Introductions: Martha Swanson, PGM, and Roy Skogen, PGP.

Grand Officers were introduced using symbols of our great country to reflect the theme this year of “Patriotism”.

Entertainment:

Helen’s Precious Memories Grand Family (She was Grand Martha), sang “I Believe in Angels”.

Sister Margarette Haubrich taught us “Hey Diddle Diddle”.

Sister Krissy Konemann, LaBelle Chapter, Mukwonago, and Helen's granddaughter, danced to "I Can Only Imagine".

Sister Kathleen Glunz, Frederic Chapter, sang and signed to "He Touched Me."

Meliora Kifer, Fond du Lac Chapter, sang, "If We Hold On Together".

A skit was performed by the Grand Officers.

A check for \$7,300 was issued to the Hearing Impaired Kids fund. A check for \$8,000 was presented for the Make a Wish project.

Twenty one scholarships totaling \$7,100 were distributed this year.

Brother Dick Prunuske, LaBelle, Mukwonago, was honored for his many years as editor of the Eastern Star page of the "Masonic Journal."

The Closing Ode was "Let There Be Peace on Earth".

Wednesday Morning:

Opened by Karen Carpenter PGM and W. David Olson, PGP, Helen's WGM and WGP in the Reach for the Stars Grand Family.

The Opening Ode is "Prayer is the Key to Heaven".

The Worthy Grand Matron read a poem about faith by Helen Steiner Rice.

Martha Ceremony, written and arranged by Barbara Bollinger, PGM, Ronald Pete, PGP. Organist Karen LaCourt FAGO, Soloist, Noreen Christensen, FAGO. Former Grand Marthas were column bearers.

Four columns were placed on the Altar. The first column represented King Solomon and wisdom. The second column represented King of Tyre – Hiram, and represented strength. Solo: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee". The third column represents Hiram Abif (builder of King Solomon's Temple) and beauty. The fourth and final column is the Broken Column which represents the unfinished portion of our tabernacle and reminds us that a trustful faith is greater than knowledge. We walk by faith, not by sight. Song: "Faith is the Victory". All past Grand Marthas, and past and present Marthas were presented.

Worthy Grand Matron report:

Dedication to Sister Debbie Schier and Brother Tom Ross.

In Memoriam: Past Grand Matrons Sisters Roberta Limberg and June Van Matre. Past Grand Patron Brother Winfred Johnson.

Helen's Bible was a gift from John and Linda at her installation.

Fifty Year Members, a special one was Helen's cousin Sister Ava Tretsvan of Lemonweir, Mauston.

No consolidations, but Walworth Chapter, Delavan, surrendered their charter.

The Garden of Faith Grand Family traveled to Michigan for the Exchange night. WGM Helen and Associate Grand Matron Laurie were initiated into Michigan's society of blondes. (There was also quite the fashion show put on by Michigan).

Anniversaries: 100th – Merrilan Chapter, Shawano Chapter, Twilight Chapter (Sun Prairie), and Bristol Chapter. The only celebration held was at Bristol. Worthy Matron Joanne Meade and Worthy Patron Roger Meade hosted. Sister Eleanor Day put the history of the years into a wonderful poem.

The All-State Christmas Party was held at the Wintergreen Resort at the Dells. Sister Mary Olson made the first prize – a beautiful quilt, and Sharon Bollig handled the raffle. Many items were donated by members, and \$1,894.11 was raised for HIKE. Sister Dawn Dessereau won the quilt.

Adency Irons Picnic: The Garden of Faith Grand Family gathered with the Western Stars and other Sisters and Brothers at Tomah for a picnic and journey to the Tomah cemetery to decorate the grave and have a ceremony in honor of Wisconsin's first Worthy Grand Matron, Adency Irons (1891).

On May 24, 2006, the Garden of Faith Grand Family constituted and installed the members of Fond du Lac Chapter No. 289.

Four exemplifications were held at Melody Chapter, Middleton; Pike Chapter, Kenosha; Ruth Chapter, La Crosse; and Frederic Chapter, Frederic.

The travel pin was "Faithful Traveler Award".

Sister Claudia Kosman, Star of Bethlehem Chapter, Portage, was chair of the Worthy Grand Matrons' Award.

The Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron trip was by bus to Abraham Lincoln's Presidential Museum in Springfield, Illinois; Precious Moments tour of the Chapel; and Bass Pro Shop in Springfield, MO. Two nights in Branson, Missouri with shows included: Dixie Stampede, Yakov Smirnoff Christmas Show, Shoji Tabuchi Christmas Show, and Baldknobbers.

Elections:

Rosie Fiscus was elected as Associate Grand Conductress.

Wally Lindholm was elected as Grand Trustee

Memorial Service: Sister Patricia Lee, Queen of Sheba Chapter, Reedsburg, and Lemonwier Chapter, Mauston, wrote and narrated. "It is with honor and glory that we pause for a few minutes to celebrate the completed lives of our Sisters, Brothers, other family members and friends who have gone to their eternal home." (The words of "don't grieve for me for now I'm free" were read).

The names of former Officers, District Deputies, Grand Representatives, Worthy Matrons and Worth Patrons were read. The names of 280 members of subordinate chapters were placed in the "Book of Life".

One by one the links are severed from the golden chain of love. One by one our Order is forming in the Father's house above. Let our deeds be pure and noble, may our lives be not in vain, so that when the links are welded, complete again will be the chain.

Organist, Kay Scafe, FAGO. Soloist Roxanne Gnatzig, FAGO.

Song: "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Five Star Points dressed in white robes entered the chapter room and assumed their stations. Sister Esther placed the Book of Life on the Altar. The narrator explained the Book of Life and the lessons of Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa.

Wednesday afternoon:

Musical Prelude by Shirley Storkson, Starlite Chapter, Madison, Melody Chapter, Middleton.

Grand Chapter called to order by Patricia L. Rasmussen, PGM (and Helen's Granny), and Harold Carpenter, PGP.

Life Member Tribute, written and narrated by Sister Arlene Wood with soloist Marcia Earl, FAGO. (Presented by the Star Cruisers Club of Northeast Wisconsin). A program entitled "Yesteryear" about some of the highlights of the year 1957 (50 years ago). The Frisbee and the electric typewriter were introduced; Lambeau Field in Green Bay opened, the Milwaukee Braves beat the Yankees in the World Series, "The Bridge Over the River Kwai" was the best movie. An interesting note – 50 years ago long dresses were worn by all ladies for the entire session. A total of 2,351 years of Eastern Star service was represented by the 43 Sisters and Brothers who were introduced.

Chaplain's Ceremony, written by June Bjorklund, PGM, LaBelle Chapter, Mukwonago and Electa Chapter, Milwaukee, and Narrated by Marv Engelke, Grand Chaplain, and WP of Alpha Chapter, Argyle.

Past Grand Chaplains and past and present chaplains were escorted on to the Grand Chapter floor. The narration was about the importance of prayer led by our Chaplain and about our Star Point heroines and their prayers. The "Lord's Prayer" was sung by Marcia Earl. The Chaplains were escorted to the East and welcomed by Helen and John.

Wednesday Evening

Musical Prelude, Karen LaCourt, FEGO

Grand Chapter called to order by Karen Stauffer, PGM (and John's fraternal "Mom") and Harley Bennett, PGP (and Helen's fraternal "Dad").

ESTARL Program:

Call to worship: Ruthann Christensen.

Hymn "This is My Father's World".

Celebration program: Ruthann Christensen and Marvin Engelke.

Prayer – Gail Piper.

1st Scripture reading – 1 Samuel 3:1-10. 2nd Scripture reading: Jeremiah 1:410.

A skit was performed by Janet Templeman, Marvin Engelke and Ruthann Christensen.

Offering, and Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision".

Worthy Grand Patron Report:

Just "plain old John" a man who loved the Order, its teachings and the many wonderful members of this state.

I was pleased to be your delegate at General Grand Chapter and to have the honor of carrying our state flag in the Cavalcade of Flags Ceremony. A special thank you to PGM Sister Phyllis Eklov for arranging the bus trip. We had a very large delegation from Wisconsin and when it was time to start our Harley's we made a very large roar.

I attended Minnesota's Grand Chapter and the Wisconsin-Michigan exchange, and many Masonic state functions. I constituted the new chapter in Fond du Lac and was honored to install officers in subordinate chapters, and attend many Official meetings, special meetings, and area club meetings. The greatest of all was when I was able to initiate several new members into our Order.

Thanks to PGP Brother Harold Carpenter, Parliamentarian, Sisters and Brothers of Vega Chapter, and a special thank you to Sister Debbie who is in God's care.

Thursday morning:

Musical Prelude: Marcia Earl, FAGO

Grand Chapter opened by Barbara Bollinger, PGM and Marlowe Nelson, PGP.

Special Grand Chapter Committees:

Hospitality Committee, Laramie Reissner, Chair
Arrangements Committee, Barbara Ross and Jim Moore, Co-Chair

Grand Escorts held a graduation ceremony for the “Evelyn Menke University School of Escort Superiority” complete with graduation caps and diplomas. The “Star Escort Award” for the very best escort in all the land was presented to Evelyn herself because she thought she was the best escort.

Grand Officer’s Farewell: Being part of the Garden of Faith Grand Family was really grand even though sometimes things didn’t go as you planned. We had frogs and whales to keep us company on our way. We worked hard but managed to find time to play. Your family now would like to tell you that if they had to do it all over again they would do it with you!!! The Grand Officers marched in wearing white t-shirts imprinted with a bright green whale and the slogan “A Whale of a Good Time” and frog hats on their heads. They sang a song to the tune of “If I Had to Do It All Over Again.”

Grand Pages, Grand Ushers, Grand Collectors and Tellers. Response by Rhonda Roalkvan, Lemonweir, Mauston.

Guards and Assistant Grand Sentinels; Nurse Margaret Jennerman; and Area Clubs.

Badge Ceremony: Sisters Patricia Koch-Wulff and Dawn Jones (Helen’s sister Star Points from Precious Memories). Soloist Noreen Christensen, Former Grand Chaplain, Precious Memories.

Worthy Grand Patron, your jewel is the emblem of supervision. You lead in a manner so true for you have exemplified the teachings in all you set out to do. Worthy Grand Matron your jewel is the gavel within the star. As you lead all by truth and light, we have shared with this year Faith, love and service of right.

Thursday afternoon:

Installation of Grand Officers of the Led By His Light Grand Family.