Rainbow Connection

January 2007

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Greetings from the East

To all the members of Rainbow Chapter No. 276 it has been a long time since the chapter has sent out a newsletter and I sincerely hope you will find this one of interest to you. Please give us some feed back if you enjoy receiving these newsletters. Brother Charlie and I are once again in the East as your Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. Our chapter is struggling, as are a number of other chapters in and around the Cities. Brother Glen Carlson has agreed, if elected, to be Worthy Patron next year and I have agreed to remain in the East for at least one more year, if elected. Our goal is to obtain new members and to reactivate current members. This year we increased our membership by three, two new members and one dual member from Oriental Chapter. If you know of others who may be interested in joining us, please let Rita Glazebrook, our Secretary, or me know. If you are currently inactive and would like to come to a meeting and not sure of where we meet or are unsure about attending after a long absence, just give me a call (651-735-0359) and we can work out a plan together. We do not want to consolidate, and the only way we can achieve that goal is to continue adding new or inactive members to our rooster.

As you may recall, our chapter voted to move its meetings to Accacia Masonic Lodge in old Cottage Grove, at the corner of 70th Street and Lamar Avenue. Please consider attending one of our meetings and visit your new home. We are settling in nicely and have started a good working relationship with the Masons. Accacia Lodge has never been associated with an Eastern Star Chapter before, so it is interesting attempting to establish a relationship with them. Last summer the Lodge held a picnic in the back yard with nearly 170 members and friends in attendance. Several of our members represented Rainbow and we all had a great time. We prepared and served a dinner prior to their December meeting and served a light breakfast and lunch for their installation the following week. It is our hope to cultivate a working relationship with the lodge, much like the one we established with Hazel Park when we shared their building. During our settling in period, we have not participated in many Grand Chapter activities such as Official Visits, but Brother Glen and I hope to change that next year with an OV and a friendship night for the surrounding chapters to invite them to visit our new home.

In the fall, we voted to participate in a "Tools for Schools" program, supporting three different elementary schools, which you can read about in another section of this newsletter.

At our December meeting we

collected hats, scarves and mittens for Ames School – the one we supported in our old location on White Bear Avenue. We collected quite a few and will be bringing them to the school in the next few weeks.

In late October many of our members participated in General Grand Chapter held in Minneapolis where Sister Pat Rasmusson, Elk River, presided over the session. Our Brother Glen was Pat's personal secretary and worked many hours for her. He was also responsible for reservations from the 4,000+ members who attended. Sister Rita Glazebrook served as Chairman of the Ritual committee. One of her duties was to send out a questionnaire to determine if the membership wanted the Ritual to be updated. She received over 100,000 replies world-wide with a majority of the respondents saying "no" to changes in the Ritual. Her mailman was overheard asking her, "just who the h___ are you lady!" I'm sure Rita had a great time tabulating the results, too.

Our good news is that our chapter committees are active once again. Ann Kellerman has been representing us at the Masonic and Patriotic Unit and Kay Bolduan has represented Rainbow on the Masonic Cancer Auxiliary and is our Ambassador to the Partners for Life campaign.

Due to the low active membership, the chapter has not had any money making activities. However, if we plan to survive we will need to do so in the near future. Brother Ralph McHattie, who is a member of Queen Esther Chapter and a member of our Lodge, visits regularly and suggested a project that we are looking into; Breakfast at Applebee's. If this pans out, we will let you know.

Star Love,
Joyce and Charles McCurdy

University of Minnesota
Masonic Cancer Center

Partners for Life Campaign
by
Joyce McCurdy, Co-Chairman

Many of you have received information on a capital campaign to help support two floors for a new cancer hospital at the University of Minnesota. For those of you who have not, I would like to take a few lines to give you information.

Fifty years ago, the Masons met with the University of Minnesota and asked what they could do to support cancer research in and around the Minnesota area. It was decided they would raise 5 million dollars for naming rights to the cancer hospital at the U.

Today, the hospital is outdated and space is at a premium. They are currently converting closets to offices and exam rooms.

What is needed is a new state-of-the-art building and enough funds to allow scientists and doctors to work together to find new and

Partners for Life
The Campaign for the Masonic Oncology Pavilion

District Fundraiser
New Masonic Cancer Pavillion

better answers to research and cancer therapies.

The Minnesota Cancer Center, Inc. joined once again with the U and all Masonic bodies to support a $10 million dollar campaign to support building a new cancer hospital and research center. The Order of the Eastern Star has voted to support this five-year campaign. For your convenience we are enclosing a pledge card form in this newsletter, should you wish to pledge or send in a donation.
Also, Masonic Charities has agreed to match all donations up to $5M dollars. If you would like to have additional information on the campaign or are interested in planned giving, please do not hesitate to contact me or the campaign headquarters listed on the pledge card.

The state has been divided into five districts to help support the Partners for Life campaign. As part of the East Metro Area, Rainbow will be supporting an "all you can eat" waffle breakfast with sausage and a beverage. We are enclosing tickets and hope each of you will purchase at least one, or make a donation if you cannot attend. If you have questions, need directions, or want additional tickets contact Kay at 651-738-8130.

Waffle Breakfast
Grand Lodge
Plato Blvd
March 3, 2007
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Adults $7.00
Children (under 6) $3.00

Make checks payable to:
Carmel Chapter #127
Waffle Breakfast
Mail to:
Kay Bolduan
2550 Stillwater Rd E
St. Paul, MN 55119

General Chapter Legislation

At General Grand Chapter, twelve resolutions were passed, thirty-four resolutions were defeated and another seven were withdrawn. Of the 12 resolutions passed, only three will affect our Grand Chapter. They are: Defines a Lodge of Master Masons, change the name of the International Temple to the International Headquarters and Grand Honors will now be given to 50 year or longer members at the time they receive their 50 year pin. These will be added to the Minnesota Code Book at our Grand Chapter session in May.

Killed: Brian McDounough
Wounded: Sgt. John Kriesel

President Bush presents Sgt. John Kriesel with Purple Heart

Iraq War Touches Rainbow

It is with regret that I inform you that the war in Iraq has directly touched the lives of our members. Sgt. John Kriesel, husband of our Katie Kriesel and son-in-law of Rita and Harold Glazebrook, was severely wounded in a horrific IED explosion (a 200 pound bomb, the largest) in Iraq on December 2. Two of his friends were killed. One of the friends, Brian McDounough is a relative of our newest dual member, Mary Loritz.

The following is an excerpt from a memo Rita sent out regarding John's injuries:

"Head-injuries less severe than originally reported; concussion only with no traumatic brain injury, conscious within a week and fully functioning, the body has changed but not the spirit or sense of humor--it's still the John we know and love. Chest/breathing--breathing on own, lungs re-inflated and blood clots in lung resolved. Abdomen--internal bleeding stopped, all organs functioning normally except bladder but that is expected to resolve in time, colostomy will be reversed in 6-12months. Arms--multiple fractures fixed and splints on both arms for several more weeks, makes it difficult to be independent with eating, etc., some numbness/nerve damage in wrist/fingers that may resolve over time. Legs--infections have resolved, "shrinker socks" in use on both stumps to reduce swelling and prepare for fitting the prostheses on the left above the knee and the right below the knee. Back /pelvis--injuries worse than originally reported; 7 fractures fixed but will likely result in 50% long term loss of mobility making the wheelchair his primarily means of movement for life, on bed rest for the next 10 weeks with limited turns to the side, a pressure sore has now developed and requires attention. Various and numerous shrapnel wounds--all repaired, healing and no skin grafts needed as earlier predicted. Surgeries—almost daily to date and hopefully, the last occurred on December 18. Katie remains at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with John. Her co-workers have donated 6 months of paid vacation time so she intends to stay as long as possible through this acute period and into the rehabilitation phase. The boys (Elijah 5 and Broden 4) will remain with Rita & Harold indefinitely until the family is reunited. We took them to visit their parents December 20-28...quite the adventure including a visit from President Bush to present John with a Purple Heart and urgent care to treat ear infections for both children. We will make our next visit January 28-February 3 as it is difficult for everyone to be separated for so long. John's expected stay at WRAMC is +/- 18 months so I expect us to make several more trips. Anyone wanting to send a greeting of encouragement directly can do so to:

John and Katie Kriesel
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Ward 57, Room 5735
Washington, DC 20307-5001

The challenges ahead are many - healing, learning to walk with two prostheses or accepting riding in your

wheelchair, the need for a different house, a different career (finishing school to be an EMT is no longer an option), a van with wheelchair lift and hand controls, and more that we haven't even thought of yet. But John's motto is "life is good" and he is right! He is alive, he is still our John and that's what really matters." There has been a fund established to help John and Katie cope with the mounting bills and to pay for much needed items, such as a wheelchair accessible van and house and other day to day living expenses that the government does not fully provide. The chapter is in the process of setting up access to the major fund established at Katie's work location so you can donate directly to the fund or through Eastern Star.
The fund currently established is:

John Kriesel Benefit Fund
C/O Nancy Matthews
Eagle Global Logistics
3169 Dodd Road
Eagan, MN 55121

We will send out more information as it becomes available."

Rita, Harold and Katie would like to thank each of you for supporting them in this unexpected and challenging journey.

Tools for Schools Fundraiser
$1,200.00

Tools for Schools

Rainbow Chapter and Accacia Lodge partnered to create the Tools for Schools Project to provide assistance to three elementary schools located in St. Paul and Cottage Grove. Donations, Chapter funds and Lodge fundraising events were used to support this commitment to the community. In addition, a matching funds grant was received from Minnesota Masonic Charities making it possible to double the amount of financial support provided, a total of $1200.00!

Harold and Rita Glazebrook delivered $400.00 checks to each school in early October. Ames Elementary School in St. Paul planned to use their gift to support the clothes closet that provides shoes, uniforms and coats for children in need and give a digital alarm clock to all kindergarten students to use with classroom instruction on learning to tell time. This will help students know when it is time to go to school, if no adult is available to assist them. Woodbury Elementary School intended to use the funds to supplement art instruction and purchase additional art supplies for kindergarten through third grade students. Cottage Grove Elementary School will use the support to provide musical supplies for handicapped children including CD players, music and rhythm instruments.

Each school expressed deep gratitude for the support received. The Chapter and Lodge intend to continue this project and, hopefully, expand the financial level of support in the future. Donations can be sent to Rainbow's Secretary, Rita Glazebrook

Rainbow Chapter #276
Joyce McCurdy, Worthy Matron
2190 Howard Ct
St. Paul, MN 55119-4060

Phone:
(651) 735-0359

2007 Dues Card Available

Dues notices for 2007 have been sent to all members. As our membership dwindles (we currently have 77 members in our Chapter) dues are an important source of income for Rainbow Chapter. Of the $27.50 dues payment, $7.50 is the per capita payment to Minnesota Grand Chapter and $20.00 remains with our Chapter to fund operating expenses and charitable activities.

Please remember dues are payable January 1 annually and should be sent to our Secretary, Rita Glazebrook, 8941 Jasmine Lane South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016.

If you have any questions about dues or your membership status, call Rita at 651-459-2330.