
Grand Court of Wisconsin Order of Amaranth Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 3

September 2020



Message from GRM Betty Miller

What an interesting year this has been. It has been time to reflect on life and what is important. It has been a pause in the life of my Masonic organizations. I have missed the opportunity to interact with each of you. This time apart has shown how important communication can be. Fortunately I have a senior community that is like a family in a huge house.

After the stay at home was lifted, I gathered up many many boxes where I had stored items. I took them to the fellowship hall of my church and with the help of granddaughter we sorted, tossed, saved or gave away many many boxes or bags full of stuff. The good items were returned to my apartment and put it away in an orderly fashion. Without Covid-19, this would not have happened. To celebrate my granddaughter and I took a 4 day trip around WI to visit zoos and some local attractions. We found WI was friendly and safe in keeping with guidelines for safe travel, accommodations and eating. You might consider looking for local attractions and take a short trip to change your local scenery.

I have enjoyed the zoom meetings of Friendship Court and interaction with Madison Court. If at all

possible you should to join one of these groups. It is looking more and more possible we may be able to have some more interaction than in the past.

Love to hear what each of you have been able to do to keep your sanity during these trying times.

Our Supreme website has new dates and current activities are happening. Check these out and start planning for 2021.

Keep mushing along. My AK dogs are now in training for another year.

H.L.Betty Anne Miller, GRM

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY JANICE NIELSEN

Message from Cheri Brus, PGRM

Hi everyone:

Just a reminder I will be in need of things for the ways and means table. Either homemade or slightly used. Remember what is not sold will have to go back home with you. I don't have storage space and I don't know who the next person is.

My year so far has not been very good to me. I had hand surgery in May once the covid restrictions

were lifted a little. Had therapy for approximately 8 weeks. While doing that therapy I had sciatic nerve hit me, more therapy. We found out during that time I had a dropped foot thanks to the flair up. I am now using a walker or cane, depends on how I am feeling. Working with my podiatrist for a solution. Other than that I am doing fine, even with the lock down.

I am hoping that we will be able to see everyone soon. Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer/fall.

Cheri Brus

**Message from
Lila Kimball, GAM**

We are all looking forward to having our meetings back.

i have enjoyed the zoom meetings I logged onto, they are nice to see everyone.

PSRM Barbara Lee Overton will always "Be Sweet in Our Memory"

**Message from
Dale Holmen, GAP**

It is so amazing to think it has been six months that we have been dealing with this pandemic and been unable to meet with friends. For me it seems like a lifetime since I have been with any sizable group of people that are not family. I do love my family but I am ready to interact with others for sure.

I guess it is not as bad for me as I like to think. I hear and have seen others that do not get to see or visit anyone and are so lonely in their homes. We do need to check in on our members and friends to make sure

that they are ok on all levels of life. Loneliness can take a toll on all of us for sure.

I have attended Zoom meetings from most of our Courts and know that more opportunities will be presented down the line. If you have to opportunity to try this type of visit do so, it is not the best but it is nice to at least see some familiar faces. For a no computer person I am getting use to the computer meeting with the different groups that I belong to. It is fun to see what kind of background people use; yes some people can change their background screen. Some people attend from cars or around the country. One group is now planning on using this form of meeting going forward a couple of times a year to save on travel cost for the board members.

Grand Courts are being postponed all over the country and officer lines are staying the same for another year like making us all feel like the year of 2020 never happened or maybe it is our way of going back to the future. In Wisconsin that is what we are doing also so we are asking that everyone keep their same committee and officer positions until our next Grand Court in 2021. You are important to us all and we know that you will be acuminating as usual.

I do like to travel for sure and was set up this year to attend the Grand Court of Pennsylvania as well as Supreme in Portland Oregon which never happened. I did travel to Oregon because of my plane ticket but stayed with family for a nice visit. Will try again next year for sure. I was making plane for Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. As of this writing Minnesota is still an option so there might be might be some light at the end of the tunnel for us. (Editor Note: Minnesota Grand Court has been suspended until 2021)

Now we are entering the fall of the year and that brings many robot phone calls for political persons that we all hope will end faster than they ever do. Not being political I do hope everyone exercises their right to vote and does so. If one does not vote one does not have a right to complain.

Remember to check on all your friends and hope to see you on some zoom meeting down the road.

SK Dale Holmen
Grand Associate Patron

**Message from
Madison Court No. 7
Gail Piper, RM
Dale Holmen, RP**

I'm sure everyone knows of H.L. Barbara Lee Overton's passing in late July. While her memorial service was held August 29th, it's not too late to give a gift in H.L. Barbara Lee's memory. It's been requested memorial gifts be given to the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation and sent directly to H.L. Sally Acuff at 1217 Burning Wood Way, Madison WI 53704-1053.

While not having in person meetings during this Covid-19 pandemic, Madison Court members and guests have been meeting via Zoom for "virtual social hours" on the days our meetings would have been held. In that we usually have a social hour just prior to our meeting it seemed an appropriate way to stay in touch with others during this strange time of isolation and distancing. Our next virtual social hour will be on Saturday, Sept 5th at 10am. I will be sending out a zoom invitation via email to Madison Court members and others who have told me to invite them. Anyone who is interested in participating is more than welcome and should

contact me at gailpiper6@aol.com or call me at 608-516-2098.

S.K. Bruce Kenney shared at one of our virtual social hours that he held a garage sale to raise money for the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation and with just putting notes out to pay what they wanted he raised about \$800! So, I guess that's proof we CAN do things during this pandemic. We just have to be creative. More news about S.K. Bruce: He won the first prize (a nice amount of money) in the NFL Alumni-Madison Chapter fund raising raffle last month. The raffle proceeds help the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison. Congratulations to S.K. Bruce!

Here's some news for you: The Madison Masonic Center is now The Wisconsin Masonic Center as it now belongs to Grand Lodge. Improvements are happening – some interior painting has been done, the crumbling front outdoor steps have been completely replaced, and the electrical wiring and boxes are all now updated. I'm sure more improvements will be coming but in that I've not set foot in the building for months it's hard to share anything more except that I've heard all this has happened! It's such a beautiful building. I'm happy it's being fixed up and will continue to be an impressive Masonic presence in the center of the Capital.

Stay well and safe. Please let me know if you would like to join our virtual social hours.

**Message from
Friendship Court No. 14
Nancy Saggio, RM
Jamison Kifer, RP**

Saturday, September 12 at 6:00 pm, Friendship Court is going to try an outdoor meeting at the Fond du Lac Masonic Center. Bring your own dinner. Bring your own chair. Bring a smile and stay 6 feet away. Can't wait to actually "see" real people.

Nancy Saggio, RM and Jamison Kifer, RP

**Message from
The Diabetes Committee
H.L. Mary Schultz and
H.L. Diana Kifer**

Did you get your doghouse put together?

Please remember on occasion to put your spare change in the dog house for diabetes.

Maybe in a couple of weeks or so, we can do our Paint a Board project for diabetes.



**Message from
Sunshine Committee
Mary Schultz, Chairman**

Honored Ladies and Sir Knights: Please contact me when you know of someone in our Wisconsin Grand Court family or other jurisdictions that may be in need of sunshine. I can be contacted at 414-526-2715 or greeneyesgerman@wi.rr.com.

I hope everyone has been enjoying the sunshine notes I have sent by snail mail and by email.

Newsletter

Do you have an email address? Does the Grand Court know that you have an email address? If not, please let your court know. A suggestion at our last Grand Court session is to ask those members who receive the newsletter via the United States Postal Service to give a donation of \$10.00 to help defray the costs of this newsletter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Supreme Council Order of the Amaranth

Red Lion on the River Hotel
Portland, Oregon
July 4-8th, 2021

**Grand Court of Wisconsin
Order of the Amaranth**

Clarion Hotel & Suites and
Wintergreen Conference Center
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
October 14, 15, 16, 2021

Humor Corner

From Suann Gascoigne

Racine Laurel Court

What's the difference between Dubai and Abu Dhabi?

People from Dubai don't like the Flintstones but the people from Abu Dhabi Do... :-)

From Ellen Meyers

Racine Laurel Court

'What happened to the duck who flew upside down?' 'He quacked up'.

'What do you call a box with twelve ducks in it?' 'A box of quackers!'

'Why is the number 6 afraid of the number 7?' 'Because 7 eight 9.'

From Gail Piper

Madison Court

Have you ever been guilty of looking at someone your own age and thinking, "Surely I can't look that old?" You'll love this one!

My name is Alice, and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma which showed his full name.

I suddenly remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name who had been in my high school class some 40-odd years ago. Could this be the same guy that I had a secret crush on way back then?

Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired

an with the deeply line face was way too old to have been my classmate.

After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park High School.

"Yes, Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang." He beamed with pride.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1959. Why do you ask?"

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. Then that ugly, old, bald wrinkled, fat, gray, decrepit son-of-a-gun asked, "What did you teach?"

From Bob Miksch

Racine Laurel Court

An 80 year old man went to the doctor for a check-up and the doctor was amazed at what good shape the guy was in. The doctor asked, "To what do you attribute your good health?"

The old timer said, "I'm a biker and that's why I'm in such good shape. I'm up well before daylight on Sundays and out sliding around corners, "shootin" sand washes and riding up and down the steepest, wildest mountains I can find at the crack of dawn." The doctor said, "Well, I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your dad when he died?" The old biker said, "Who said my dad's dead?"

The doctor said, "You mean you're 80 years old and your dad's still alive? How old is he?"

The old biker said, "He's 99 years old and, in fact, he went riding with me this Sunday, and that's why he's still alive... he's a biker too."

The doctor said, "Well, that's great, but I'm sure there's more to it. How about your dad's dad? How old was he when he died?"

The old biker said, "Who said my grandpa's dead?"

The doctor said, "You mean you're 80 years old and your grandfather's still living! How old is he?"

The old biker replied, "He's 117 years old."

The doctor was getting frustrated at this point and said, "I guess he went riding with you this Sunday too?"

The old timer said, "No... Grandpa couldn't go this week because he got married."

The Doctor said in amazement, "Got married!! Good Lord!!! Why would a 117-year-old guy want to get married?"

To this old biker smiled and answered, "Who said he wanted to?"

TRIVIA - Do you know who this is?



1985 RM Dyed & curled 80's hair



Now

BABY NEWS

Michelle Varelas
Racine Laurel Court

Baby Varelas joined us much earlier than we could have ever expected. Born on 4/20/20 at 3lbs 10oz and 17in long. Now 4 month later Ahlana has been growing and developing everyday and 10lbs 4.7oz and 22.5in long. She is full personality and loves to smile. We couldn't be happier. (Grandpa is Robert Miksch)



Amanda Grunewald
Racine Laurel Court

Julian Michael Grunewald was born on May 7th, 2020 at 9:33 in the morning. He put mom through 36 hours of labor with 24 of that being active labor. He was showing his stubbornness and his tendency to want his way already. He has been the light of our lives since this pandemic started and we have loved having him with us. I went back to work on July 29th and haven't slowed down much since with working a lot of overtime already. Mike has been amazing with him and stays home with him while I'm working. We hope to be able to share him with you soon. He has been able to go out and meet his grandparents and great grandpa. Unfortunately, he never got to meet his great grandmothers as they passed away a few months before he was born. He hasn't met his Uncle Nick yet, but we will be remedying that soon. Julian has a cousin who is a week and half younger than him that we haven't had the chance to meet yet either, but once we can all see each other again we will be together. (Grandmother LuAnn Hansen, Great Grandfather Ernest Anderson)

