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# Grand Court of Wisconsin Order of Amaranth Newsletter

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Volume 10, Issue 2

February, March and April 2016

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## **Message from Grand Royal Matron Barbara Foster**

Happy New Year! I hope each one of you had a wonderful Christmas. While our courts are not having meetings in January and February, is YOUR Court scheduling any fun, informal events? What a fun way to pass these cold winter days and informally introducing non-members to Amaranth. These two months are also time for you to prepare for the Grand Lecturer's visit to your Court. Review the work of your stations. Be prepared to work with our Grand Lecturer, HL Diana Kifer, if you need any clarification or help with the floor work of your station.

Happy New Year! I hope each one of you had a wonderful Christmas. While our courts are not having meetings in January and February, is YOUR Court scheduling any fun, informal events? What a fun way to pass these cold winter days and informally introducing non-members to Amaranth. These two months are also time for you to prepare for the Grand Lecturer's visit to your Court. Review the work of your stations. Be prepared to work with our Grand Lecturer, HL Diana Kifer, if you need any clarification or help with the floor work of your station.

We will kick off the start of our formal court activities on February 28th with our School of Instruction and Leadership. These will be in the morning. In the afternoon, after lunch, there will be a special meeting of Grand Court. Several proposed changes to our Grand Court By-laws have been submitted for your consideration. Please review them closely when you receive them.

As I write this, the wind chill is below zero and snow is in the forecast. Remember that friends are like snowflakes...each one is beautifully unique. I am blessed with your friendships. Stay warm!!!

Hedgehog hugs,  
Barb Foster, GRM

### DATE CHANGE:

The Antebellum Afternoon has been moved to Sunday afternoon, June 12th at the Brewhouse in Delafield. Details will be out soon!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THIS DATE!

Friday evening, August 16th through Sunday morning, August 28th for the Amaranth Multi-state gathering. We are the hosts this year; we are working on the details!

### WHERE IS VIOLET THE HEDGEHOG?

Violet was kidnapped in October and Mom has not seen her since or heard about her since the ransom note. She and my hedgie family are very sad. There is SNOW on the ground and it is BELOW zero! Violet has NO winter things. HOW IS SHE? Please help get her back!!!! Help with the ransom. Be generous and send ransom donations to Mary Schultz.

Love to all,  
a very sad Noel the Hedgehog

## Still Missing!



**Message from  
Grand Royal Patron  
Leland Burlison**

Happy New Year and I hope your holidays were warm and enjoyable.

The Order of the Amaranth seems to take a winter nap this time of year but an awakening is just around the corner. The school of instruction is scheduled for the end of February and we have several interesting subjects being presented. Watch for details. Membership seems to be the biggest challenge we have - please visit other Masonic organizations and ask for permission to make an Amaranthine presentation.

I look forward to visiting other Courts as my schedule permits. Meanwhile stay warm and I'll see you soon.

Fraternally,

Leland L Burlison, GRP

**Message from  
Grand Associate Matron  
Nancy Saggio**

So, how many members did you recruit since the last newspaper came out? Did you talk to anyone about our wonderful Order and all the good we do for diabetes? I have talked to three people about joining and at least one is very interested. It is not hard to do this, you just need to remember to bring it up in your conversation. Remember we, as an organization, have raised over 15 million dollars and are responsible for the invention of the Insulin Pump! That is a real interest getter! The other organization I belong to are all Initiating new members, why are we not doing the same? Each Court should be able to have at least one person join. We have a fun event coming to raise money for Diabetes, it is open to the public, bring someone along who might like to join. We need to have new blood to keep our Wisconsin Courts alive. Plan an event, make your promotion boards, I haven't seen any in the lodges I have visited. We have pamphlets available to put out, GET SOME!

Although we are dark until things start up again in March, the ground work can be started to work on membership. Plan a party, invite the other

Appendant bodies, have some fun with your own members. Go out for dinner, lunch, breakfast Have a game night, watch a movie with popcorn and drinks. Do something fun so your own members want to attend. Invite inactive members! We are an awesome organization and the members are great people, but we need to share this or we will soon not exist!

At the up coming Leadership, February 28th in Fond du Lac, we will again have a Waterford Crystal vase up for a drawing, thanks again to Carol Hoyt who has graciously donated these beautiful items. Make sure you get your tickets to win!

I am looking forward to traveling and setting up Advance Nights with the Courts. See you all soon. Keep warm!

Nancy Saggio  
GAM

**Message from  
Grand Conductress  
LuAnn Hansen**

Wishing every a happy New Year and hope that God blesses everyone during the coming year. Hope to see everyone at the school of instruction and leadership on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Message from  
Grand Associate Conductress  
Cheri Brus**

Hi everyone,

Hope you had a good Christmas and a safe and happy new year. Hope Santa Claus found his way to your house and brought you everything you asked for and or wanted. I know mine was fantastic. We took all in one and half months bid on a house, it was accepted and we moved out to Waterford. Love it out here. I know everyone is dark in January and February but I am hoping that you are saving your change so that Violet can get back home to her family. Will see you on the Amaranth trail. Keep warm and love to all of you.

Cheri Brus, Grand Associate Conductress

**Message from  
Milwaukee Court No. 2  
Lila Kimball, RM  
Michael Brus, RP**

Milwaukee Court is getting ready for the new year after being dark January and February, it will be so nice to see everyone again. I still have 2 Chemo's left then some Radiation don't know how long. But hope I can make several of the meetings.

**Message from  
Racine Laurel Court No. 6  
LuAnn Hansen, RM  
Robert Miksch, RP**

Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> will be a 6:30 pm meeting with an open meeting to follow at 7:30 pm. Come and help and bring someone who might be interested in joining Amaranth.

Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Spaghetti Dinner from 4-7 pm. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children 5-12. The money raised will go to Racine Laurel Court Ways and Means, Grand Court Ways and Means and Diabetes Research. Please plan on joining us for the fundraiser. Contact H.L. LuAnn Hansen for reservations. This is open to the public so brings friends.

**Message from  
Madison Court No. 7  
Gail Piper, RM  
Jack Heady, RP**

Madison Court does not in January and February, but we will return to our normal meetings on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. In the meanwhile we look forward to seeing many of you at the Leadership Training and School of Instruction in late February.

Looking back we would like to report that on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> Madison Court hosted a "Masonic Family Reunion" at the Madison Masonic Center where representatives of 13 Masonic Orders each gave a presentation about who they are and what they do. We had 60 people in attendance and would have had more if the weather had cooperated. (It was very rainy and wet that night!) Thanks to S.K. Dale Holmen and H.L. Barbara Overton for their work in getting this arranged, and to H.L. Pamela Dorton and Madison Court members for their assistance with the refreshments. This type of event is

being discussed by the Masonic Unity Group as something they would like to see happen annually, if possible.

We have a new batch of Seroogies Chocolate bars that we are selling for ways and means. When you visit our Court let us know if you are interested in purchasing some of these delicious candy bars made in Wisconsin.

Upcoming meeting dates are: Saturday, March 5, 10am; Saturday, April 2 at 10am, and Tuesday, June 21 at 7:30pm. (June is our Grand Royal Matron Visit.) We would love to have you join us! You can always call H.L. Gail Piper at 608-242-9282 to confirm dates and times.

**Message from  
Friendship Court #14  
Nancy Saggio, RM  
LeRoy Kifer, RP**

We will be meeting on March 12, 2016. We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Potato Day and make your own baked potato bar. Since Easter is also in the month of March, we will have an Easter Observance also. Please join us in some fun. Dinner at 6:00, meeting at 7:00 pm. please let me know so enough potatoes are baked! April meeting may need to be changed as my granddaughter is getting married on the 9th. Will let everyone know what will transpire on that one. May is our Memorial and I am asking for help right now. Please put that date on YOUR calendar to come help us with this beautiful ceremony.

Our Lodge, #26, has OK'ed the use of our building for election voting and the bodies in the building are planning to have promotional materials for all groups available. We can't actively recruit, but we can certainly answer questions about all of the bodies meeting in the building. We are delighted with this chance and will make sure we are visible and smiling.

See you as you travel to each others courts,

Nancy Saggio  
Royal Matron

LeRoy Kifer  
Royal Patron, elect

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT GRAND COURT NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 15 FOR ALL EVENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2016.**

## World's Largest Cookie Sale 2015

To the Honored Ladies and Sir Knights these words are not enough, but THANK YOU.

Thank you to those who bake cookies, packed cookies and sold cookies for the World's Largest Cookie Sale. This is Grand Court of Wisconsin Largest Fund Raiser for the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation and without your support and dedication it would not have been a success again this year. Some tried many of the new cookies recipes from the new WE Energies Cookie Book 2015 and many made old family cookie recipes, all were well received. This year we made \$601.00. Again THANK YOU.

H. L. Diana L. Kifer

### **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](mailto:greeneyesgerman@wi.rr.com). Thank you.

### **Sunday, June 12, 2016 Antebellum Event Delafield Brewhaus**

The Antebellum Period in American history is generally considered to be the period before the civil war and after the War of 1812, although some historians expand it to all the years from the adoption of the Constitution in 1789 to the beginning of the Civil War.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 12 at the Delafield Brewhaus to learn more of the Antebellum Period. This event brings us into another era of our American history.

Come and join us, details to follow.

## Masonic Family Reunion

Madison Court #7, hosted a Masonic Family Reunion at the Madison Masonic Center on Oct. 23, 2015. Front row (from left): Gail Piper, Royal Matron, Madison Court Order of the Amaranth; Sue Buehler, Queen, Antioch Temple Daughters of the Nile; Betty Ann Miller, Worthy Supreme Commander, Order of True Kindred; Jordan Sayre, Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Wis. Job's Daughters; Judy Emerson, Worthy High Priestess, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem; Diane Moore, Worthy Matron, Starlight Chapter Order of the Eastern Star; Marie Desens, Worthy President, Social Order of the Beauceant; and Katie Shore, Past Worthy Advisor, Int'l Order of Rainbow for Girls. Back row: Shawn Noble, IL Deputy Grand Master Grand Council RSM; Matt Hughey, Commander in Chief, Madison Consistory SPRS Scottish Rite; Bryce Fransway, State Master Councilor, Wisconsin DeMolay; Parker Dow, Grand Senior Warden Grand Commandery; Montie Stieber, Potentate Zor Shrine; Paul Tourville, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Lodge F&AM of Wis.; Barbara Foster, Grand Royal Matron, Order of the Amaranth; and Barbara Lee Overton, Past Supreme Royal Matron, Order of the Amaranth, Emcee.



## **From the Desk of the Grand Lecturer Pro-tem**

Have a couple of months with no Amaranth Meetings?  
Have some cold winter night just to stay in and relax?  
Need a good book to read? What to learn new facts?  
How about opening up your Ritual!  
In between the speaking parts are lots of interesting facts  
can be found.

As Grand Lecturer Pro-tem I will be beginning my visits  
soon. We will be going over the Memorial Ceremony, the  
escort of the Grand Royal Matron, and any question you  
may have.

Schedule for Grand Lecturer Visits:  
Milwaukee Court #2, Milwaukee April 4  
Racine Laurel Court #6, Racine April 8  
Madison Court #7, Madison March 5  
Hope Court #11, Janesville/Beloit April 2  
Friendship Court #14, Fond du Lac April 9

I do not have all the answers but together we can find  
them. We as Honored Ladies and Sir Knights are a TEAM.  
We have an obligation to our best work for our Order  
I believe that together we can do this so our ritual work  
will be the best.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again after our winter  
break.

In Amaranth Love and Service,  
H. L. Diana L. Kifer

## **Joke**

Catholic schools students are taught that lying is a sin.  
However, instructors are also advised that using a bit of  
imagination is OK to express the truth differently without  
lying. Below is a perfect example of this teaching:

Getting a Hairdryer Through Customs:

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked  
the priest beside her, 'Father, may I ask a favor?'  
'Of course child. What can I do for you?'

'Well, I bought my mother an expensive hair dryer for her  
birthday. It is unopened but well over the customs limits  
and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you  
could carry it through customs for me? Could you possibly  
hide it under your robes for me?'

'I would love to help you my dear but, I must warn you, I will  
not tell a lie.'

'With your honest face, Father, I'm sure that no one will  
question you.'

When they got to customs, she let the priest go first. The  
official asked, 'Father, do you have anything to declare?'

'From the top of my head down to my waist I have nothing  
to declare.'

The official thought this answer a little strange, so he asked,  
'And what do you have to declare from your waist to the  
floor?'

'I have a marvelous instrument that has been designed for  
use on women, but which, to date, remains unused.'

Roaring with laughter, the official said, 'Go ahead, Father.  
Next please!'

**School of Instruction and  
Leadership Training  
Sunday, February 28, 2016  
Fond du Lac Masonic Center  
8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

**Ante Bellum Afternoon  
To benefit Diabetes  
Sunday, June 12, 2016**

**Grand Royal Matron's Official Visits  
(Accompanied by the Grand Royal Patron)**

Milwaukee Court #2	June 6, 2016
Racine Laurel Court #6	June 10, 2016
Madison Court #7	June 21, 2016
Janesville Court #11	June 4, 2016
Friendship Court #14	June 11, 2016

**Supreme Council  
Order of the Amaranth Inc.  
Session  
June 26-29, 2016  
Norfolk, VA**

**Grand Royal Matron and  
Grand Royal Patron Reception Lunch  
Sunday, August 13, 2016  
Location to be determined**

**Multi-state weekend hosted by  
Wisconsin  
August 26-28, 2016  
Details to follow**

**Pre-session Fun and Fellowship Night  
October 12, 2016**

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

October 13, 14 and 15, 2016  
Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center  
PO Box 296, 60 Gasser Road  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965-0296  
1-800-648-4765  
Email: [www.wintergreen-resort.com](http://www.wintergreen-resort.com)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR  
LEADERSHIP/SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION ON  
FEBRUARY 28, 2016**

8:30-9:00 Gathering  
9:00-10:00 Session I  
10:15-11:15 Session II  
11:15-12:30 LUNCH (\$5.00) and Session III  
1:00-4:00 Special session of Grand Court

Please remember that all sessions are formal: long dresses/skirts and gloves for Honored Ladies and suits/tuxes for Sir Knights.

GRAND OFFICERS please review the opening/closing for Grand Court. There is floor work and opening charges to be familiar with!!! IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO THAT A PRO TEM CAN BE FOUND FOR YOU. This session is open to ALL members not just the voting members of Grand Court.

**Letters from Violet**

Dear Amaranth Members:

Since my last message to all of you, things have gone from bad to worse. My kidnappers have moved me out to the doghouse and have limited me to just bread and water. No oreo cookies whatsoever. I overheard the kidnappers talking that there has been very little ransom money collected. I am so sad and really miss my hedgehog family.

Please look in the bottom of your purses, in your couch, in the washer or in your car for that loose pocket change and consider donating it to the ransom fund so I can come home. Donations can be given to H.L. Mary Schultz.



