

# Hot Sands

*The Official Newsletter of*



50 years of service to the mentally challenged

Our website: [www.algarva168.org](http://www.algarva168.org)

Our email: [algarva168@execulink.com](mailto:algarva168@execulink.com)

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Our Grand Commander Speaks:

As far as winter is considered, so far, so good. I'll take this mild weather. Of course, that's how it stands today, February 3rd. By the time this newsletter comes out, we could be under two feet of snow. You know the joke: don't like the weather in Canada? Wait twenty minutes.

Our caravan has been busy as always. Thank you to Rick Vanos and Frank Backx for organizing the card social, and all those that helped out. It was a good turn out and a good night.

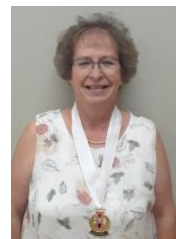
Here's what's coming next. A puzzling night which promises to be something different and fun, will be held Saturday, February 15. There are a quite a few teams organized so far and that's great to hear. It'll be good to get a new crowd out, folks who maybe haven't yet experienced what our Alhambra has to offer. Please contact Tony Willemse or Bernice Cadman if you wish to put a team together and sign up, or if you'd like more information.

The next big February event will be our Founder's Day mass at St. Christopher's in Forest, at 4:30, then dinner to follow (same place). Please RSVP to Connie Burns before February 21st, if you're interested in the dinner (\$20 per plate).

"On a sad note, please keep Louis Soetemans and his family in your prayers. Louis, father of SN Danny Soetemans and the father-in-law of PGC John Smits and PGC Frank Devet, passed away February 3rd. May he rest in peace."

Stay warm. Stay well.

Al Salaam,  
Lisa Finch  
Grand Commander



**Next meeting: Thursday, February 27th at 8:00pm.**

## THANK YOU'S

- Special Thanks to Rick Vanos and Frank Backx for organizing another successful card social.
- Thank you to everyone that comes out to our regular meetings. Our organization could not be successful without all of your held.

### Calendar of Events

#### February

Feb 15 **Puzzling night**  
**5:00pm - Registration**

Feb 27 **Regular Meeting, Alcazar**  
**8:00pm**

#### March

March 18 **Annual Hayride**

March 26 **Regular Meeting, Alcazar**  
**8:00pm**

**Dates and times are subject to change, so please check each month.**

### Memberships

Memberships continue to be collected for the 2019-2020 year. This year our membership is \$65. Please get your dues in ASAP. If you know someone that might be interested please encourage them to sit in at a meeting to see all the great things we do. We are continuing to grow. Thanks to the members that continue to invite people to join our organization.

**“My humanity is bound up in yours,  
for we can only be human together.”**  
—Desmond Tutu

### From the Chaplaincy:

During our Sunday celebrations, we are journeying through the life of Jesus from the perspective of Mathews Gospel. Jesus doesn't do it alone, he requests Disciples. We are also invited to “follow Christ” and to be his Disciples. Bishop Fabro has a desire for our London Dioceses; “Being a mission-oriented church that forms Disciples of Christ”. Through this season of “ordinary time” may we not only recognize Christ in the ordinary of everyday life, but truly and intentionally engage in discipleship as we respond to His invitation to “follow Him”.



Brother in Christ

Deacon John Lammers

519 490 3832

The diocese of London,

Being a mission-oriented church that forms Disciples of Jesus

### Up coming events

**Feb. 15** - Puzzle night. Contact Tony Willemse or Bernice Cadman for more information.

**March 18** – Annual Hayride. Contact Jack VanHastert for more information.

**April** – Card Social. Date to be determined.

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### For the Good of the Order:

Martin Kelders' name was drawn. He was not in attendance so he did not take home the winnings in the pot of \$80.00. You could be the next lucky winner but you must be at the meeting to collect. **GOOD LUCK!**

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**February-2020-NEWSLETTER**  
**FROM: DENISE BLAKELY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
**GENERAL FUND RAFFLE**

It is that time of year again and every member will be receiving two packs of raffle tickets in the mail within the next few weeks. They were mailed via "non-profit" mail on January 24, 2020. Please read the letter that is enclosed with the tickets as Supreme Chamberlain, Gilles Benard, has made a special offer to the member who sells the most tickets. We need all members to participate. Please do not discard them. We need your support. Your caravan will receive 5% back of the total tickets sold in your caravan. The tickets are \$5 each. Please sell to friends, family, co-workers and consider purchasing some yourself.

**MY SPUR OF THE MOMENT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

I am holding my "Spur of the Moment Membership Drive" again this year. For every new member recruited in February through May 12, 2020, I am giving one free raffle ticket to the sponsor for our May-2020 raffle drawing. Even if you cannot hold the qualifying membership initiation for a while, bring them in as a brown tassel and they are considered a new member. **This also goes to all members sponsoring a Member-at-Large #298.** 😊

**MY FEBRUARY-2020 - MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE ORDER REQUEST**

I am asking when your caravan meets this February, please take time and pray for our membership drives. Pray that the Lord allows membership to more than double. It really could if each member brought in just one member. How awesome would it be if I could give each member a free raffle ticket! 😊 I know without a doubt that members pray for the Order and all our special friends. I would just love to make this membership drive like none other. Prayer works! God has a plan for the Order, and he wants us to be a part of it. Don't let another caravan disband. If we are not there for our special friends, who will be?

**MEMBERSHIP**

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Hebrews 6:10. Use the gift God gave you and recruit and mentor for the Order.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESSES-EMAIL CHANGE**

Please supply me your change of address immediately. When I receive the NCOA from the post office, it is usually over 100 names that I need to go through and not only change, but locate the caravan, the GC and SE, write them an e-mail, etc. I must do each name individually and does take me a couple of hours to complete. Thanks for your understanding. I am also asking you to keep your e-mail up to date as well.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships are due in no later than March 1, 2020. No exceptions. They will be sent to the Committee on March 2, 2020.

**COV MEETING**

I would like everyone to know the COV will be meeting in San Antonio, TX, July 24, 2020 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, 502 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78207. Meeting starts at 9 a.m. sharp in the Alameda Room.

**CONVENTION 2021-MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND START SAVING**

Mark your calendar and start planning. Our 59<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention will be in San Antonio, TX, July 25, 2021, July 26, 2021 and July 27, 2021. Don't forget you will want to register at the hotel no later than Saturday, July 24, 2021 and leave no earlier than Wednesday, July 28, 2021. We will let you know as time gets closer when you can start making reservations. I would love to have more families attend the convention in San Antonio like we did in Baltimore, MD. No matter how big or how small your caravan is, please plan to attend. We want you there.

**D&O INSURANCE FOR US CARAVANS ONLY**

Just one more reminder about Caravan D&O Insurance. The cost is \$400. If you are interested, please let me know. The insurance will begin upon the insurance company receiving your payment.

**RECRUITMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE ORDER. DO YOUR PART!**

**Next meeting: Thursday, February 27th at 8:00pm.**

# The Last Word

By *Bernice Cadman*

Black history month

February is known as Black History month. We should not wait until this month to be thankful for all they have done for us, but be thankful everyday.

Historically, African-American people have been known to be very spiritual. From the old negro spirituals sung during slavery, to using prayer as a catalyst for divine intervention during the civil rights movement, spirituality and spiritual practice have shaped the lives of many African Americans, from the troubled past to our hopeful present.

Harriet Tubman: "Unconditional Affirmation"

*I'm going to hold steady on You, an' You've got to see me through.*



This prayer was recited regularly by Harriet when she led runaway slaves to freedom in the North. The nineteenth century "Moses," herself having been enslaved, never lost a person along the Underground Railroad and attributed her success to her deep belief in God. She would say this prayer just as she began to engineer one of her daring escapes.

Throughout February please take time to celebrate and remember all the ways that black Canadians have contributed to Canada's history and culture. See what some of these amazing people have done for our country. Here is a list of people you may want to read about:

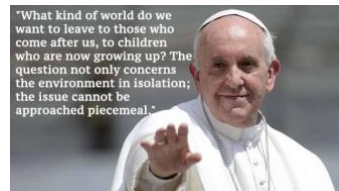
**Viola Irene Desmond** was a Canadian civil rights activist and businesswoman. In 1946 she challenged racial segregation at a cinema in Nova Scotia by refusing to leave a whites-only area of the Roseland Theatre.

**Jean Augustine** is a Grenadian-Canadian educational administrator, advocate for social justice, and politician. She was one of the first two Black Canadian women elected to the House of Commons.

**Mary Ann Shadd Cary** was an American-Canadian anti-slavery activist, journalist, publisher, teacher, and lawyer. She was the first Black woman publisher in North America and the first woman publisher in Canada.

There are many interesting stories of both men and women that have helped to form our country into the great place to live that, it is today.

Bernice Cadman  
Master of Communications



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