The Secret to Life is Living It
One Day at a time

Our lives are made up of a million moments, spent in a million different ways. Some are spent searching for love, peace, and harmony. Others are spent surviving day to day. But there is no greater moment than when we find that life, with all its joys and sorrows, is meant to be lived one day at a time.

It’s in this knowledge that we discover the most wonderful truth of all. Whether we live in a forty-room mansion, surrounded by servants and wealth, or find it a struggle to manage the rent month to month, we have it within our power to be fully satisfied and live a life with true meaning.

One day at a time ---- we have that ability, through cherishing each moment and rejoicing in each dream. We can experience each day anew, and with this fresh start we have what it takes to make all of our dreams come true. Each day is new, and living one day at a time enables us to truly enjoy life and live it to the fullest.

....... Regina Hill

Grand Worthy Matron
2012 Annual Address

Sister Patricia A. Stafford
Jerusalem Grand Chapter
Order of the Eastern Star, PHA
Jurisdiction of Florida

April 13 - 16, 2012
2012 Annual Address
Theme: Building a ‘House’ on the Foundations Of our Heroines

To The Honorable Anthony T. Stafford, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Worthy Patron Rev. Dr. Elvin J. Parker III, Grand Associate Matron Dr. Tracy A. Thomas, Grand Associate Patron Dwight Reynolds, Grand Conductress Yvonne Minus, Grand Associate Matron Lillian L. Carter, Grand Treasurer Joyce Trobridge, Grand Secretary TinaMarie N. Campbell, Past Grand Worthy Matron Alma Cornish, Past Grand Worthy Patron Leander Harvey, Past Grand Worthy Matron Thelma Maxie, Jurisdiction of Rhode Island, Honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron Charlie P. Albury, District Deputy Grand Worthy Matrons, all Appointed Grand Chapter Officers, Worthy Matrons, Worthy Patrons, all Subordinate Chapter officers and members, to all Heads of Concordant Bodies for the Jurisdiction of Florida, and my Special Guests from Foreign Jurisdictions.. Greetings!

“I will life mine eyes unto the hills, from whence Cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121: 1-2

I am so blessed to be able to stand before you on this our 4th Grand Communication, because it was God’s Grace that He has given me what I DON’T deserve and His Mercy for NOT giving me what I truly deserve.

It has been another whirlwind year as I have traveled throughout the jurisdiction from Crestview to Key West and many cities in between.

I thank the Lord for giving me the strength to endure and the love in my heart to enjoy every mile.
State of the Nation

Four years ago the nation was filled with excitement and a renewed spirit as we had just elected our first black president. Black Pride had been resurrected as our place in history had moved up a notch. We didn’t have to only talk about Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King Jr. any longer. But let us not forget that if it wasn’t for Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King taking a stand, there would not have been a Barack Obama in the White House. But how quickly did that excitement fade and we fell back into complicity. Many people are out if work and gas prices have skyrocketed. But we didn’t get in this situation over night and we’re not going to get out of it overnight….but we must acknowledge that things are turning around. So remain prayerful for our President and our nation and get out and vote in November. Let’s not make President Obama’s four years be an accident.

State of the Order

Jerusalem Grand Chapter is doing well! There is a sense of peace and harmony throughout and Grand Master Stafford is pleased. There are a few chapters in each zone that haven’t grasped what the Order of the Eastern Star is all about. It has been said countless times that we are not a sorority, nor are we a party house. You can however have a respectable dance where you dress and act like a lady and still have fun.

Our Social Networking is getting better. But I want to remind you that before you hit that send button on an email or post an inappropriate photo on Facebook think about what you’re saying or posting because you can’t take it back. Some pictures have been asked to be taken off and Worthy Matrons make sure you know what members are emailing on your behalf or on behalf of the chapter.

Charters were revoked from eight chapters this year, in Marianna, Clearwater, Sanford, Greenville, Mims, Petty and St. Petersburg. The good news seven new chapters were formed in Tallahassee, Kissimmee, Wauchula, St. Augustine, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami and Belize, Central America.

September 20, 2011
Dear Grand Worthy Matron Stafford,

I am honored to address you and your members. It is the kind gener-osity of people like you and your organization that keeps us strong and growing. You are helping us create brighter futures for our students and your involvement is greatly appreciated. I am requesting your help to take the limits off our efforts. Thank you for adopting our school. We appreciate your support for our students’ needs.

Blessings in a Backpack is a non profit organization that provides schools with food to send home with students over the weekend. Last year 100 students at Eccleston out of a student population of 500 were served. These 100 students came from lists of the neediest families as suggested by the children’s teachers. One hundred percent of the students at Eccleston Elementary are on free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Contact was made with the parents to determine if they wished to have their children in the food program.

Simple, washable backpacks were purchased for each child. Then the backpacks were filled and sent home with the children each Friday and returned empty for refilling each Monday. Last year approximately seven food items were placed in each backpack. Sample food items were instant oatmeal packages, raisins, Ramen noodles or other soup, juice boxes, tuna fish, Mac n cheese, a can of vegetables, crackers, apple sauce, Vienna sausages, pudding etc. Every attempt was made to balance the weekend food supply nutritionally within cost limits and to vary weekly menus. No milk or fresh fruits or vegetables could be included in the backpack because of spoilage concerns.

Through bulk buying of food at local grocery stores, the average cost of the 7 items sent home each weekend was $2.12. Thus, last year’s budget was $212.00 each week which served 100 children. There is a definite need to expand this program to serve more children and to cope with rising food prices. We estimate the cost to be $250.00/per wk /per100 children this year.

Bless all of you who are willing to help Eccleston serve more children. We do not want any child to go hungry over the weekend. Together we can help all our needy children at Eccleston Elementary School.

Sincerely yours,

Betty D. Chandler

Betty D. Chandler
Chapters you’re not doing a good job of retaining your members. Although we brought in 452 new members, we lost 474 ending the year with 2,579 members. I realize we lost the curiosity seekers and the ones who realized this Order was not for them, but all 474 members don’t fit in these categories. So chapters you are challenged with reaching out to the members you have lost and finding out why they left. One problem I have seen is that you’re not honest about the finances needed. You tell the potential members they can join for $50.00 but what you neglect to tell them is they have to purchase a ritual, a fez, gloves, a badge, mantilla and member’s sash. So in the first three months they need an additional $150 - $200 for these items, plus your local chapter dues. Don’t bring in members who can’t afford to be members just to keep your membership numbers at a level to prevent your charter from being pulled.

Jerusalem is in its 4th year of existence and there are members who have been here from day one and they still don’t have their full regalia. Starting May 1, 2012 every member on your roll has 90 days to purchase their fez, gloves, badge, mantilla and member’s sash. This is also applicable to every new member who is initiated. They have 90 days to purchase their regalia.

ESU has been a tremendous success! Our first class, Administrative Tools for the East” was held in each zone. Congratulations to Jerusalem Grand Chapter Grand Lecturer, Bro. Chris Frierson and Assistant Grand Lecturers, Sis. Petrice Hall, Bro. Theodis Baker and Sis. Margaret Blake for a superb job! The next class will focus on OES Basics and will be held in different areas within each zone. The dates and locations will be announced soon. Worthy Matrons remember you can’t lead where you don’t go and you can’t teach what you don’t know.

ESU is a self-supporting entity of Jerusalem Grand Chapter and the registration fee covers your lunch, printing cost of the material and other expenses. No profit is made from these classes.

October JGC OES Grand Workshop - over 600 in attendance.
November – Zone 2 Visitation – Titusville
December – Zone 3 Visitation – Miami
December – Traveled to Belize to organize a new OES Chapter. Martha Chapter UD
January – ESU Lecturers training – Jacksonville
January – Performed the installation of officers for all chapters in Jacksonville
January – Attended York Rite Bodies Workshop – Jacksonville
January – Hosted SE Region Conference of Grand Worthy Matrons and Grand Worthy Patrons
January – Star Light Councils Youth Leaders Retreat – Melbourne
February – Attended Appreciation Banquet for Deputy of the Desert Billy McLamb
February – Tools for the East Workshop Zone 1 – Tallahassee
February – Tools for the East Workshop – Zone 2 – Orlando
March – Attended Phyllis Society National Convention – Jackson, MS
March – Tools for the East Workshop – Zone 3 – Miami
March – Participated in the NAACP sponsored march in support Treyvon Martin. Remarks were shown on CNN
Visited several Subordinate Chapters and Councils during the year
Some of the membership don’t understand the role of our Grand Lecturers. Their job is not to tell you what color your underwear should be nor what to wear at funerals. This how wrong information gets out.

The Lecturers teach ritualistic information. Make sure you follow the proper protocol when you have questions. Lecturers can visit a chapter at any time, unannounced, to review the ritualistic operations of the chapter. Deputies should be concerned with the administrative operations of the chapter….making sure the chapters get their reports in on time and all mandates coming from the Grand Chapter are followed, in addition to election and other visits to give wholesome information. Deputies MUST be able to answer questions about directives. Too many times Worthy Matrons will ask the Deputy a question and she can not answer it. Deputies you have to take your position serious to prevent your commission from being pulled. Contact your Zone Coordinator if you have questions.

ESU is expanding and we’re looking for qualified Area Instructors. If you think you have the right stuff, complete the application that is in your program booklet. Any member who has been a part of the Order for at least three years can apply.

Grand Workshop

The attendance at Jerusalem Grand Chapter Workshop held October 14 - 15, 2011 exceeded all expectations. The skits were excellent and the over 600 members that were present exemplified the virtues of our five heroines. Peace and harmony was in the air and even the members that were stuck in the elevator laughed as they were finally able to get off.

We’re working on another exciting workshop, October 19 - 20, 2012 in Orlando. Mark these dates on your calendar and start thinking about your nominees for Chapter, Deputy, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of the Year as well as nominees for Rising and Shinning Stars.

Grand Worthy Matron Stewardship 2011 and 2012

- March – Hosted the Phyllis Society Annual Meeting - Tampa
- April - Jerusalem Grand Chapter 3rd Grand Communication was an overwhelming success. The Jerusalem Chapter Officers performed the ritualistic opening from memory.
- May – Hosted the Conference of Grand Worthy Matrons and Grand Worthy Patrons - Jacksonville
- June – Attended Louisiana’s Grand Chapter Annual Session – Baton Rouge.
- June – Attended Georgia’s Grand Chapter Annual Session - Savannah
- June – Star Light Grand Session – Jacksonville
- July – Attended General Grand Conference of HOJ – Baton Rouge
- July – Attended South Carolina’s Grand Chapter Annual Session – Columbia
- July - Attended Star Lights Grand Youth Session - Jacksonville
- July - Attended Grand Master’s Department head Meeting - West Palm Beach
- July – Attended Golden Circle State Workshop – Ft. Lauderdale
- July – Attended Tennessee’s Grand Chapter Annual Session – Nashville
- August – Hosted Social meeting with MWUGL Line Officers - Orlando
- August – Attended Bro. Lee and Sis. Lillian Carter Appreciation - Miami
- August – Zone 1 Visitation – Tallahassee
- September – Attended HOJ State Workshop – Melbourne
- September – Special Guest of NAACP State President Nweze during their 68th State Convention. Brought greetings during their opening program and was the Guest Speaker for their WIN Breakfast.
Life Membership

Jerusalem Grand Chapter is opening up the Life Membership opportunity starting today thru October 1, 2012 for a cost of $1,000. The details are outlined in your booklet.

Current life members, we appreciate your commitment to the Order as your financial contributions played a big part in helping Jerusalem get on its feet. The beautiful medallion you received is great however you might not want to wear it to every function. We want you to be able to show off your status so Jerusalem Grand Chapter has ordered beautiful name tags for each of you and the same will be ordered for future Life Members.

Deadlines

Chapters and members you are ignoring deadlines and taking mandatory attendance for granted. Deadlines are set for planning purposes and have to be adhered to. What type of example are you setting for your members when you do not attend a class that is mandatory or you’re late with getting every report off. Therefore, chapters will be fined between $100.00 to $250.00 for missing deadlines and not attending mandatory classes. The amount depends on the severity of the infraction. It is not fair to chapters that are always on time and comply with other mandates coming from the Grand East.

Charity

Jerusalem Grand Chapter has been blessed and believes in giving back, not only to worthy while causes but to our members. But you have to show us what you’re doing. The scrapbook contest is a great opportunity to show off your charitable projects and win cash prizes. Cash prizes are also awarded during the Grand Workshop.

Recommendations

1. That Article XIV of Jerusalem Grand Chapter ByLaws, District Councils be deleted and entirely rewritten as District Degree Teams and District Burial Teams.
2. That an Economic Empowerment Committee be formed consisting of Past Grand Worthy Matron Alma Cornish, Past Grand Worthy Patron Leander Harvey, Honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron Charlie P. Albury and Past Grand Worthy Matron Thelma Maxie. Their charter will be to make recommendations to the Grand Chapter Executive Board as how we can best invest excess funds above what is needed for operating the Grand Chapter, for a better financial return for Jerusalem Grand Chapter.
3. Chapters be allowed to request a Dispensation at no charge to work in the OES Degree the rest of the year to improve proficiency in the Degree.

Conclusion

I thank God first and then Grand Master Anthony T. Stafford for giving me this opportunity to serve as Grand Worthy Matron for the Jurisdiction of Florida. Each of the members have touched my life and I pray that I have touched someone, inspired someone and directed someone to strive to be the best in whatever you desire to do or to be. Always put Christ first in all things and allow Him to lead and guide you, either as a leader or as a follower......then, and only then will you truly progress, for where God dwells, anything is possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Stafford
2nd Grand Worthy Matron
Jerusalem Grand Chapter made a donation of several backpacks, thanks to the District Deputies and a financial donation in the amount of $1,000.00 to Eccleston Elementary School in Orlando. Our donation will enable them to provide meals over the weekend for a month to under privileged children. We gave away two, one time scholarship for $2,000.00 each to two graduating students and donated $500.00 to the Jurisdiction of Alabama when they were devastated by tornadoes last year. Jerusalem Grand Chapter contributed $1,000.00 toward the $10,000.00 the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge will be giving away to the American Cancer Society tonight during the Black & White Charity Ball. We made several other donations altogether totaling over $9,000. But this is a drop in the bucket compared to what we can do. Next year I want Jerusalem Grand Chapter to double that amount as our queen contest funds are earmarked for charity. I thank all the chapters for the many acts of kindness you show in your various communities. Keep up the good work!

Star Lights Youth Councils

The Star Lights, Heroines of Jericho Youth Palace and the Knights of Pythagoras are again planning a joint Grand Youth Session, June 8 - 9, 2012 in Jacksonville. I thank the Supervisors for giving of their time to help our youth grow into productive men and women in society. There will however be some changes in Supervisors as many Councils have become stagnant and the Supervisors have their own agenda. So when you are removed it is for the good of our children.

Necrology

We thank God for allowing us the opportunity to know and love our 16 members that answered the call of our Heavenly Father. To the families we pray that you look to God for comfort and know that we’re all here on this earth for just a short while

During my tenure as Grand Worthy Matron Jerusalem Grand Chapter has:
- Made updates to the Constitution and Bylaw
- Written an Administrative Council Manual
- Written a Deputies Manual
- Written a condensed burial ceremony for JGC
- Developed a Secretary Manual that is to be used by all Subordinate Chapters
- Provided the membership with the option to register for the Grand Workshop via JGC Website using their credit card or pay pal account
- Members can purchase Traveling Cards – to date over 600 have been ordered… via JGC Website using their credit card or pay pal account.

Appreciation

I want to thank all of the Grand Line Officers for your support and cooperation because the success of Jerusalem would not be possible without you, Past Grand Worthy Patron Leander Harvey for all your help, to the District Deputies, Subordinate Chapter Officers and members thank you for the warm reception I received everywhere I went. You made me feel so special as I was showered with gifts of love. You totally surprised me on my birthday as my email was flooded with well wishes and cards. I read every one, but could not personally answer them all. So I am saying now, THANK YOU.

This past year has proven that we can come together in Peace, Love and Harmony.

A Special Thanks go out to Grand Master Anthony T. Stafford and Grand Lecturer Chris Frierson for your advice and guidance. Your sincere love for Jerusalem Grand Chapter and your straight to the point conversations with me were instrumental in helping me do a lot of the things I had to do to make Jerusalem a success.