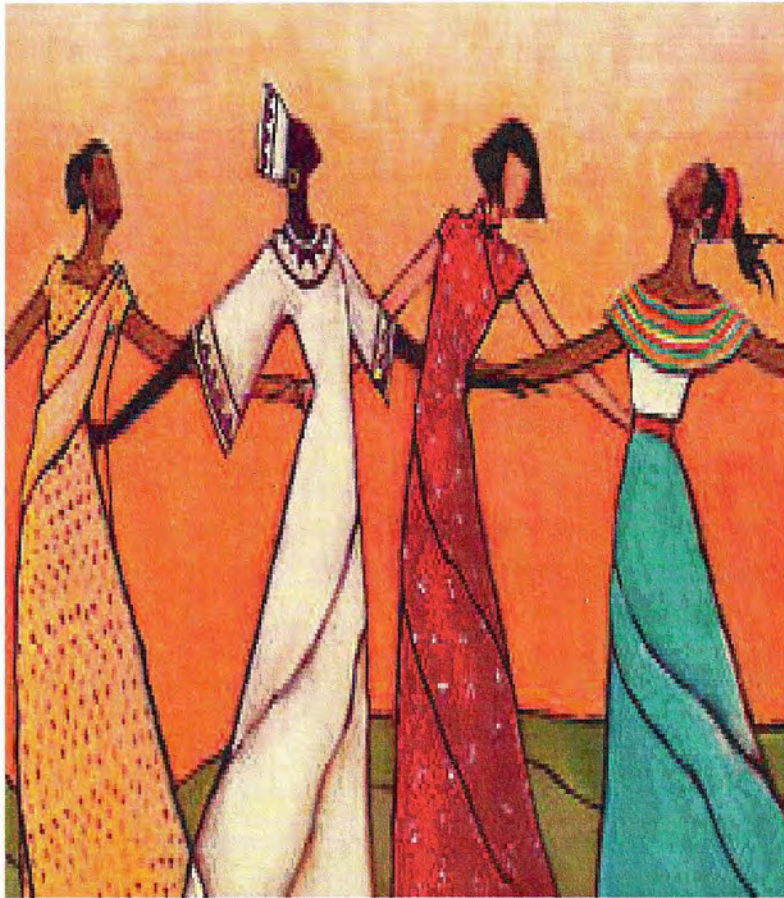


Sisterhood.....



It's
All
About
Real ...

Relationship

Dedication



To the Honorable Anthony T Stafford, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge, F & A.M., P.H.A., Florida, Belize, Central America and Its' Jurisdictions, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliated, words cannot express the sincere appreciation for your commitment to the building of positive and supportive relationships between all of the P.H.A. Masonic Houses, Appendant and Concordant bodies.

We have been encouraged and enlightened to have shared in your vision to develop a brochure of this nature delineating requirements and attributes that are essential for "Sisterhood" of these bodies.

May our sincere commitment to the completion of this task prove as fruitful as it has been revelatory to us!



Jacquelin (JacQué) P. Strappy, Chairperson
16th Grand Most Ancient Matron
Most Worshipful Union Grand Court, H.O.J.
Florida, Belize, C.A. and Its' Jurisdictions, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliated

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We are deeply indebted to the following Masonic Female Department Heads of Florida, Belize, Central America & its Jurisdictions, Inc., for their written and/or verbal input in the development of this pamphlet. We hope we have shed some light on the expected attributes desired for prospecting membership. Our goal is to address some issues and concerns that are commonly encountered in organizations as ours. Our main objective in that area was to give insight on skills of resolutions for such. Our primary aim is to address the importance of positive sisterly relationships that empower women, not only in these organizations but also in the community for the common good of society.

Thank You So Much!

Russell Alexander Earl, Sr., Grand Court, Ladies of The Circle of Perfection

Mayme R. Clark, Past Grand Royal Perfect Matron

Tara Y. Davis, Royal Grand Perfect Matron

Hattie C. Dandridge Grand Guild, Heroines of the Templar Crusades

Vivian James, Past Grand Princess Captain

Fay W. Moreland, Grand Princess Captain

Fred Alexander Grand State Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle

Idella R. Lyde, Past State Loyal Lady Ruler

Most Worshipful Union Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho

Jacquelin P. Strappy, Grand Most Ancient Matron

Jerusalem Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star

Patricia A. Stafford, Grand Worthy Matron



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Introduction



There has been much written about the joys and benefits of cultivating and developing supportive and productive relationships. Topics in the area of relationship improvement permeate talk shows and reality shows all over television networks and radio programs.

Many studies have been done on the variances of same gender friendships of men with men as opposed to women with women. Sadly, the reports reveal that males have fewer problems making new or maintaining friendships with each other in comparison to females.

For many years I have heard it said; a woman's worst enemy is usually another woman. Whether it was in everyday life, employment, clubs, Sororities and even in ministry, women have been marked as those who envy, backbite, undermine and in general do not support each other. Of course there are several possible underlying causes which may go from one end of the spectrum as pride; inflated ego, to the other of -low self-esteem and insecurity. Why is this so? No one really knows but we cannot deny the statistical facts that have been reported in so many studies that imply that there are noted differences in females' ability to just "get along" with each other. Many reasons are given for this breakdown some speculative others founded on scientific data or research; a conclusion may be drawn that our gender appreciation and respect for others as well as for ourselves has tremendously diminished. Can we agree that whatever the cause, it is time for us as mature spiritual women to change our reputation.

It is the intent of this literature to shine a hint of light on some areas that may ensure our appreciation of each other's unique gifts and qualities; embracing each other's strengths to influence a common goal of good in a society that appears to be longing for a brighter day.

A committed group of "Sisters" who can cope with the let downs and communication breakdowns experienced through the many challenges of balancing our emotional, physical and socio- economic situations of this 21st Century journey called life.

Now as we embrace this opportunity to look closely into the face of our sisters and view the reflections of ourselves in their eyes; we will have the opportunity to see so much of ourselves in them. Allowing us the chance to embrace her pain, her struggle, and her disappointments and share an empathetic view of something so familiar to us from some of our own life experiences. I venture to say, we just may find ourselves sharing the love and sense of worth they need the same as we really desire for ourselves.

Stay focused, Stay Strong and most of all Stay Sistersforever.

Jacquelin (JacQué) Strappy, G.M.A.M.



"Sister's By Choice"

Sisterhood, sisterhood calling others to walk
And come together, where each one can talk.

About what's going on in different parts of the world,
Sharing tales with each other of when we were a girl.

Now speaking as a woman sometimes loud is good,
When we come together as a sisterhood should.

Inviting other sisters, each talking from the heart,
A sisterhood grows in strength, when each sister shares a part.

Of a special women circle creating a strong bond,
Bringing together many, where all become one.

By: Heroine Avril Jennings
Stafford/Hall Court 205, H.O.J.
St. John, U.S. V.I.

SISTERHOOD

"The True Meaning"

YourDictionary.com defines *Sisterhood* as the following: the state of being a sister or sisters; an association of women united in a common interest, work, creed, etc. a belief in or feeling of unity and cooperation among women: the quality of being sisterly; a society, especially a religious society, of women; a loyal association of women in a common cause.

All of these definitions are by far correct, however from a Loyal Lady's point of view we may consider the following to hold true as evidence of our impeccable reputation and unconditional love for the word "Sisterhood" using the following acronyms:

S	=	<i>Sincere</i>
I	=	<i>Inspirational</i>
S	=	<i>Supportive</i>
T	=	<i>Tolerant</i>
E	=	<i>Encouraging</i>
R	=	<i>Respectful</i>
H	=	<i>Humble</i>
O	=	<i>Obedient</i>
O	=	<i>Open-Minded</i>
D	=	<i>Dedicated</i>

In the sisterhood of the Golden Circle the meaning of the word reflects the inferences of the aforementioned terminology. The best method to understand the written word is through meaning and repetition. Let's expound on the term "*sisterhood*" and give credence to the oath of we each pledged to become the Loyal Ladies that we represent today.

It's quite difficult to explain sisterhood as a single entity because it includes so many different things at once. However, it is one of the most heartfelt and beautiful things in the world.

Sisterhood is being there to encourage one another through the good times and when we're struggling.

Sisterhood is giving a pat on the back, sharing a friendly hug, or pointing a sister in the right direction.

Sisterhood is about doing the little things that make our sisters feel good in their spirit.

Sisterhood knows that there will always be someone around who you can talk to in confidence, no matter what.

Sisterhood allows us to share dreams and achieve goals together. It is aspiring to reach greater heights and exceeding expectations together.

Sisterhood means being able to count on others and being counted on to make a difference.

Sisterhood is something that is sacred and treasured.

Sisterhood is sharing our ideas and making a lasting impact on other people's lives.

Sisterhood is learning about people and life; learning how to give back to our communities and render our services selflessly to mankind.

Sisterhood is an ultimate experience of a lifetime that can impart positive outcomes in the lives of many people around the world.

As sisters if we embark upon the attributes previously mentioned the world we know could be such a better place. Sometimes we don't know the situation or problems that someone may be facing; but a kind word or gesture may be the turning point in that individual's life. We should never look down upon a sister except to pick her up.

Sisterhood certainly includes every aspect presented in the acronyms presented in this passage of information. It means to be *sincere* with your sisters and others. We as sisters should be an *inspiration* to each other. There's nothing greater than *supporting* each other no matter what the situation may reflect. Sisters should always be *tolerant* and mindful of one another personal battles. Sisters are supposed to *encourage* each other to create a utopia of love for mankind. Sisters must demonstrate *respect* and know when to *humble* themselves and express a sense of *obedience*. *Open-mindedness* can be the measuring tool of success or failure. Lastly, without *dedication* all we've accomplished as sisters together would be in vain. Remember that we all are here for a purpose as we assist one another on this journey and if we could keep the sense of *sisterhood* in the foreground of our lives our accomplishments would be endless.



*"We're not sisters by birth, but we knew from the start;
God put us together to be Sisters by heart."*

Idella R. Lyde, Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler



Examining the Strength of a Sister (Woman)

JacQué Strappy, Grand Most Ancient Matron

“Strength does not come from physical capacity; it comes from an indomitable will.”

Mahatma Gandhi

When a survey was done of www.somewomenworking2000.com the question was asked, what makes a woman strong? They were excited by their responses that they kept asking this question to women across the country and around the world. They had a lot to say on the topic. Their insights were inspiring, offering guidance and humor. Reading some of their responses really made me feel proud.

It was clear that a woman’s strength is not just one dimensional. Reason is, emotion and spirit move strong women forward when the odds seem against them. It is our hope that when you read through this booklet you will be supported to transcend obstacles in your life. Let’s celebrate together the many qualities that make us strong women and sisters.

What makes a sister strong?

She is authentic; decisive; Service – minded; has self-respect; focused; a risk taker; compassionate and Insightful. Being strong begins with listening to yourself and knowing what’s really going on inside your brain, your body and your emotions.

Women are brought up to be nurturing and to be caretakers of others. We get a sense that focusing too much on ourselves is unseemly or un-womanly. Even while thinking about this response, I wondered; do I sound self- centered?

I have spent the first 50 years of my life turned outward too much, always asking, “What do others think, need or want?” It didn’t matter whether it was my family, friends, co-workers or Christian brothers and sisters.

Now I realize that being centered is the foundation of being strong. I can do more for others the more when I am in touch with myself. If I am understanding of and compassionate toward my body and my feelings then I can be the same toward the people I care about.

It’s not easy to change one’s life focus, but I’m trying in this last decade of my life. It’s exciting, thrilling, and sometimes frustrating.

I have discovered that strong women are passionate, decisive, creative, innovative, organized, thoughtful, and knowledgeable and above all, recognize their weaknesses along with their strengths. After being bombarded with images and ideas of what a woman should be from the media and the suggestions of others, I have drawn the conclusion that a strong woman is one who can look at herself in a mirror and say I prefer this because it is 100% Me.

A strong sister must be able to make a decision. She can and does take advice. She can take a vote. But above all, she must be able to stand by her decision.

She will win respect, which is much more important than others approval. She might not be liked; she may be envied or thought unfeminine. But she takes responsibility and she never confuses being strong with being macho.

She's authentic, bold, courageous, heart-centered and high spirited. She does not do what is comfortable. She does what is necessary.

A strong sister understands that gifts such as logic, decisiveness, and strength are just as feminine as intuition and emotional connection. She values and uses all of her gifts.

Being strong means rejoicing in who you are complete with imperfections. She lets others have their opinions about her, but she knows the truth because she is authentically herself.

She follows her heart regardless of what popular culture says. That is what sets her apart and makes her strong.

A strong woman does the things that truly make her happy, rather than trying to do things that she thinks would make other people happy. She operates on the mantra of "Being true to yourself", because no one else knows how to do that for you.

She doesn't require constant approval from others and has the ability to handle any situation without falling apart.

A strong woman is in charge of her body and her mind she depends on no one but herself. She is committed to cultivating a rich, holistic life of integrity and growth. Also she would never fake anything understanding that any pretense would ruin her authenticity and truth to herself.

To the outside world, strength is power – to influence others or beat your opposition. But then there's inner strength, resilience and moral fiber – all of which help us to stand up for what we believe in. This inner strength isn't about muscle power; it's more about having the guts to carry on no matter what.

Cultivate your inner strength by doing something that will stretch you. Don't let others push you around, stand firm during those difficult conversations.

Remember that a sign of strength is taking responsibility for your actions.

Don't be too proud to ask for help when you need it. It will only serve to make you stronger.

These are the things that make a Sister Strong. Continue to develop and walk in your strength!

Hindrances of Positive Sister to Sister Relationships

JacQué Strappy, G. M. A. M.

"No Place for Jealousy Here"



Jealousy is an instinctive emotion that arises most commonly in women who do not feel sufficiently worthy to retain affection and respect purely on their own merits. It is often a lack of self-esteem that causes women to attempt to constrain the behavior of their friends and lovers, when in fact those constraints and the emotions that they represent are far more likely to damage the relationships they are intending to protect.

Do you ever struggle to retain feelings of self-worth when you compare yourself to other women? Do feelings of jealousy stir if you have a partner who looks at another woman? If so, then you're not alone. **Thousands, if not millions, of women are feeling jealous, insecure, inadequate, and vulnerable** in today's society and they are reaching out for help.

If you are reading this booklet, no doubt you are considering becoming a member or you are currently a member of one of the appended or adopted female bodies to the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of P.H.A. Free Masonry; An organization that is known for its love of brotherhood and benevolence to mankind.

In our organization **"There is no place for Jealousy!"** Self-comparison is one of the most common felt, not to mention dangerous, emotions. When you worry and question yourself as to whether or not you measure up, you immediately set up self-destructing roadblocks to a positive self-esteem and unhappiness.

This organization celebrates the recognition of each individual's unique gifts and talents, realizing that no one can do what you were created to do but you. Your self-esteem is a main driving factor in how you deal with life's challenges and also how you relate to others.

For one to smile on his/her self-worth and know the value of their uniqueness is to glow with a positive self-esteem. The results of a positive self-esteem, is the freedom to be truly happy.

Now you choose:

Positive self-esteem = positive self-worth and uniqueness = happiness

OR

Negative self-esteem = negative self-worth and uniqueness = sadness

It does not seem like a hard choice to me. So, the next time your mind wanders off into a comparison mode, be very quick to turn it off and turn on a positive thought. You can **NEVER, EVER** go wrong with thinking positive.

**"Envy is a symptom of lack of appreciation of our own uniqueness and self-worth.
Each of us has something to give that no one else has."**

"How to Overcome Jealousy"

Tara Y. Davis, Royal Grand Perfect Matron

"Face your deficiencies and acknowledge them; but do not let them master you."

Helen Keller



Let's define Jealousy. Jealousy is a combination of fear and anger: fear of losing something and anger that someone is moving in on something that you feel belongs only to you.

Many people feel jealous from time to time? To make life easier, we develop repeated behavior, or habits. Many habits are positive and productive, but others are destructive and get out of control. Jealousy is one of those behaviors. When a behavior that we think satisfies our needs turns into a habit which we don't know how to control or stop, we have become an addict. In our Female Auxiliaries, we have become addicted to being jealous of one another.

How Do Problems with Jealousy in our Organizations Come About?

Problems with Jealousy come about when members hold back their true feelings or when they fail to realize the importance of open communication. We often get caught up in on our personal feelings and agendas. Usually members who are disgruntled are unsatisfied with decisions, or are impatient with the growth of the organization. They will usually gossip, misrepresent the truth and disrespect the leadership.

How Do I handle Jealous Members within our Organizations?

As Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we first have to make sure that we are in the right frame of mind and have the right attitude to even discuss a situation with a jealous member. We then must identify the problem by asking ourselves, "What is making this member Jealous?" or "Why does this member feel anger or threatened?" Once we have an understanding of why a member is feeling jealous, we can begin to take positive steps toward developing creative solutions without the negative emotions that accompanies jealousy. Members will feel protected when they have structure and mutual respect. Effective communication helps bring this about especially when leaders share their vision. We must make every effort to ensure that your message is received and understood and to provide the members with a way to submit feedback. Effective communication is a dialog.

My Responsibility as a Member

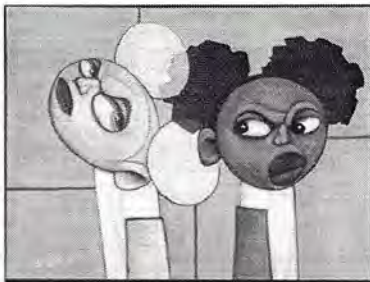
As members of the organization we must not only perform the organizational business, but also reason with one another and try to see the other side of each other. We as members must stop comparing ourselves to others. Comparing what you have to what others have is a good way to make yourself miserable. A more useful way to compare is to just compare you to yourself. Raise your sense of self-worth and self-confidence by acknowledging your accomplishments, inner qualities and other good things about you. If you have more confidence in yourself you will be less likely to allow jealousy to have power over you.

Love One Another

We just don't have time for Jealousy. I challenge my fellow sisters and brothers to measure their attitudes about their organization and determine areas we can improve and avoid being jealous of one another. I believe we must become spiritual and more supportive. God works things out for the Good of them who loves him but we must first love one another. Be encouraged because I am encouraged and together our faith will be built on nothing less than Jesus Christ and his holiness.

"Do not fret because of evildoers; don't envy the wicked; For the evil have no future; their light will be snuffed out. Why envy sinners all they can inherit is judgment. Desire what the Lord has in store for you."

Proverbs 24:19-20



"Handling the Destructive Demons of.... Pride, Disrespect, Holding Grudges"

Patricia A. Stafford, G.W.M. / JacQué Strappy G.M.A.M

"There are many nemeses that attempt to spoil the growth and productivity of any organization. In this section the Grand Worthy Matron will address three of them. But remember that if we have had the insight to recognize them we have also found out the anecdote to destroy them."

~ Jacquelin P. Strappy

1. **Pride:** a high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether as cherished in the mind or as displayed in bearing, conduct, etc. Behavior usually based on one's independent self-reflection of their personal status or accomplishments, often accompanied by self-praise. Wikipedia

Anecdote: Humility (Patricia A. Stafford)

I once read that to become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them.

We must realize that our mission in life should be to serve rather than to be served. Once we learn how to follow, we will learn how to lead. No one has the right answer 100% of the time and often you will have to eat humble pie, but that does not diminish who you are and whose you are.

What makes humility so desirable is the marvelous thing it does to us; it creates in us a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with God.

"God opposes the proud but favors the humble. So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God and at the right time He will lift you up in honor." 1 Peter 5:5-6 (NLT)

2. **Disrespect:** Not showing respect or honor to which it is due.



Disrespect is the primary root of disobedience. Looking through Scripture, Adam and Eve sinned because they did not respect God's command. Cain killed Abel because he did not respect his brother's life. Lying, stealing, vandalism, strife and disobedience stem from an attitude of disrespect toward someone or something.

Anecdote: Respect for those in authority (Patricia A. Stafford)

Respect has great importance in everyday life. As children we are taught to respect our parents, teachers, and elders, school rules and traffic laws, family and cultural traditions, other people's feelings and rights, our country's flag and leaders, the truth and people's differing opinions. And we come to value respect for such things. We may also learn that how our lives go depend every bit as much on whether we respect ourselves. The value of self-respect may be something we can take for granted, or we may discover how very important it is when our self-respect is threatened, or we lose it and have to work to regain it, or we have to struggle to develop or maintain it in a hostile environment. Some people find that finally being able to respect them is what matters most.

No leader is going to be liked by all the people all the time. But you should always respect the position whether or not you like the leader.

"For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority – whether the king as head of state or the official he has appointed."
Peter 2:13-14 (NLT)

3. Holding grudges/ Un-Forgiveness-

Definitions: **Un-forgiveness-not willing to forgive**
 Grudge: resentment for act or deed

Everyone gets hurt or disappointed at some point. Some people are able to shake things off and move on. Others hold on to resentment for years. **One reason that holding grudges is a bad idea is that cutting off all communication with an individual causes them to be unable to seek forgiveness from you.**

When you are holding a grudge, the hate that you are experiencing simmers inside of you and can suck the joy out of your life. It's quite hard to be happy when all that is on your mind is the wrong that someone has done to you, and the baggage that a grudge creates can hold you down for years.

Anecdote: Forgive and "Let it Go" (Patricia A. Stafford)

Life is too short to hold grudges. Besides they get in the way of perfect happiness. Let go of things you cannot change and apologize when the situation calls for one. Love deeply and forgive quickly. Give everything and have no regrets. Life is not always fair so you have to take the bad with the good, and move on. Always forgive. Learn from your mistakes but never regret. People change and things go wrong. But always remember life goes on."

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
Ephesians 4:31-32 (ESV)

"Threats to the Bond of Unity of Sisterhood"

Poor Communication, Gossip, Unresolved Conflicts and
Sanctioned Incompetence

Fay W. Moreland, Grand Princess Captain

"Sisterhood"

"Sisters are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly."

Unknown

"And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she helps me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:39-42

We don't get to choose our family, but we can choose our friends, some say we Masonic sisters are the siblings God forgot to give us. Sisterhood is real and like other relationships it requires hard work to achieve. Our lifelong journey of Sisterhood uses guide posts of trust, respect, honesty, appreciation and love. It's a warm smile felt through a phone call in your moments of despair; a reassuring hug when you feel the weight of the world on your shoulders. It's knowing that there will always be someone there for you. It's all that a good and lasting friendship is, only better and is treasured. It means always being able to count on others and prove you too can be counted on.

From the outside looking in, it is difficult to explain the unbreakable bonds of Sisterhood we share and once you are inside it is easier understood how the Female Masonic organizations in our jurisdiction reflects the rewards of earning respect from others by first respecting yourself. We give without any expectations of receiving in return. It is more than wearing extravagant regalia, displaying sacred emblems or reciting ritualistic phrases. Sisterhood is our daily way of life and it won't solve all your problems. Trust is the foundation of our organization and once established it maintains integrity. Among other things, this means keeping promises or oaths and always being truthful, regardless of how difficult it might be.

There are many others, but these four (4) things threaten the very fabric of our foundation of Sisterhood which is woven by "UNITY":

1. **Poor communication:** Often there may be times when the right hand doesn't seem to know what the left hand is doing; it may cause members to become detached and insecure. A guaranteed way to lose trust from our members is to act and speak inconsistently. Nothing confuses people faster than inconsistency and if the confusion is due to contradiction, trust is sure to fall victim. Withholding information or allowing the communication channels to shut down - both top-down and bottom-up allow rumors to start and the misinformation is believed to be real. An unwillingness to consider other ideas and points of view, and/or to



create an atmosphere of "It's my way or the highway" will certainly cut-off communication and eventually shatter trust.

2. Good communications breeds trust, so when members feel everyone is informed, they pull together to accomplish a shared vision. This is the essence of trust that elevates "Sisterhood" in our organizations.
3. **Gossip** is discussing *anything* with a person or persons who can't solve the problem. It is very degrading and destructive. It is good to allow members to express themselves, but it should be with someone who can do something about it.
4. **Unresolved disagreements** undermine peace and harmony. This will destroy **UNITY**. Most times this is the result of a leader avoiding confrontation; or they are in denial. Either way, everyone loses as the camaraderie unravels. When several people are working together, it is inevitable to experience locked horns from time to time. In our organization, our leaders are trained to react quickly and decisively, immediately pulling the splinter out, disinfecting the wound, and allowing time to heal with only a faint scar as a reminder.
5. **Sanctioned incompetence**: Enabling the continuance of a destructive attitude demoralizes others when no one addresses it. When this occurs, they see a leader who will not take action after realizing this person either cannot, or will not do their job. This will leave the other members de-motivated, especially when one is only out for herself, and in our Sisterhood environment, they quickly lose the respect and trust of others.

Before you make the final decision to join our organizations, please ask yourself the questions posed in this poem because our standards are high, our expectations are unwavering but our rewards are commendable and prestigious:

Will You "Just" Belong?

Will you be an active member, the kind that would be missed....Or will you become contented that your name is on the list? Will you attend the meetings and mingle with the flockOr will you stay at home and criticize and knock? Are you willing to ever go and visit a member that is sickOr leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique? There's quite a program scheduled that I'm sure you've heard about; and we need you to join us and help with hand and heart Don't become just a member, promise to dig in and do your part ... so think this over member, you know right from wrong. Are you committed to being an active member, or do you just want to belong? - Unknown

"Sisterhood is the essence of all the wisdom of the ages, distilled into a single word. You cannot see sisterhood, neither can you hear it nor taste it. But you can feel it a hundred times a day. It is a pat on the back, a smile of encouragement. It's someone to share with, to celebrate your achievements. Sisterhood's a beautiful thing; individually unique. Together complete"

~ Anonymous

Essentials for Positive Sister to Sister Relationships

JacQué Strappy, G.M.A.M



A. The M Factor (Positive Mentors, Morals, & Maturity-Spiritual)

Mentors

Empowered sisters seek good and godly counsel and in doing such set a platform for positive and productive relationships. It is essential to seek and accept mentoring from other women. We must first understand what mentoring is and is not. Mentoring is:

1. Assisting not fixing
2. Guiding not telling
3. Walking alongside not lording over
4. Looking forward not back
5. Learning to depend on God through someone else
6. Capitalizing on our God given strengths, not focusing on our weaknesses

The Godly woman or woman of integrity that you choose as a mentor must have a genuine heart for both mentoring and you. One way to recognize her will be her willingness to sacrifice time and energy and commit to do it for the long haul and not give up on you or your situation easily. You will know her true character by her integrity and ability to keep the content of your time confidentially. These attributes will be exemplified by her wisdom and patience visibly expressed through her spiritual and emotional maturity.

A Godly mentor will not be afraid to teach from her mistakes as well as successes. She will help you see God at work in your life and help you move beyond the past and grow in a healthy way.

Morals: (Ethical) behavior

To be 'ethical' you must consider seizing every opportunity and see the potential to do good everywhere. Ethical behavior is characterized by honesty, fairness and equity in interpersonal and professional relationships. Ethical behavior respects the dignity, diversity and rights of individuals and never takes advantage of a situation

An ethical person lives by standards. Namely, you would obey the laws and further than that you would be honest and upright in all your dealings.

Ethics comes from the Greek word *ethos* - moral character or custom. **Morality** comes from the Latin word *moralis* - custom or manner. The words both deal with the customs or the manner in which people do things.

Their modern meanings relate to the way people act - either good or bad.

We stand firm on the capability of our members to represent themselves with good moral character at all times. Masonry has always been noted to be a gentlemen's organization of fraternal brothers, with a mantra to make good men better men; a fraternal brotherhood that supports and respects each other. Therefore in no wise shall less be expected of the ladies of our Sisterhood.

Maturity (Spiritual)



The Masonic Family is not a Church but it is based on Heroes' and Heroines from the sacred text and Biblical principles. We could not leave out the necessity for Spiritual Maturity the foundation on which true brotherhood and sisterhood is built. Spiritual maturity is not a matter of age, appearance or achievement. Spiritual maturity is a matter of CHARACTER.

Character makes a difference. It's character that counts. D. L. Moody said, "Character is what you are in the dark." Recognition is what people say about you. Character is what God knows about you. God says it's your character that determines who you are. Here are five marks of what it means to grow to spiritual maturity.

1. A spiritual mature person is positive under PRESSURE.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

All of us have problems in this life – all of us have trials – all of us have situations that are not good. How do you handle them? Do you act positive under pressure? Remember the Bible says: "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials."

Life is full of problems and a big part of life is – problem solving. The question to ask is, "Do I have the right attitude as I approach the problems of life?" Remember the Bible tells you to, "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials."

2. A spiritual mature person is sensitive to the needs of other PEOPLE.

"Whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" 1 John 3:17 (NASV)

A spiritually mature person is sensitive to the needs of those who are around them. A spiritually mature person doesn't just look out for their own needs – they are also aware of the needs of others. They understand that there are many around them that are hurting and have needs. They realized that they are blessed to be a blessing to others.

God tells us that spiritual maturity is about love and being concerned about other people. This is a sign of spiritual maturity. Don't show favoritism, don't be a snob, don't be rude, don't look down on other people, don't judge by appearances, don't insult people, and don't exploit people. You see the second test of spirituality maturity is how I treat other people.

3. A spiritual mature person is a PEACEMAKER not a troublemaker.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9 (NASV)

The questions to ask are: 'Am I a peacemaker or am I a troublemaker? Do I like to argue? Do I like to debate? Do I like to stir the pot? Do I hurt other people's feelings? Am I a peacemaker or am I a troublemaker?' The mark of a spiritually mature person is the lack of conflict in their life.

4. A spiritual mature person is PATIENT.

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:7-8 (ESV)

Patience is another mark of spiritual maturity. The word 'patient' is used three times in these two verses – that tells me that being patient is important. Being patient is a quality of character.

Many times God says, "Not yet." That does not mean no – it means - not yet. We need to wait. We need to be patient. Look at what the Psalmist tells us in Psalm twenty seven:

"Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:14 (NASV)

5. A spiritual mature person is PRAYERFUL.

"Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17 (NASV)

When things are going good – pray. When things are going bad – pray. In all things - pray.

"The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with." James 5:16 (MSG)

Prayer is talking to God. It is bringing Him your requests. It is praising Him. It is petitioning Him. When we pray we acknowledge that He has control in our lives.

You see those who are spiritually mature – understand the power of God. There are things in your life right now that you think – no one can fix. Guess what – God can. How do you handle your problems? Are you positive under pressure? Are you sensitive to the needs of others around you? Are you a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Are you patient and are you prayerful? These are all marks of a spiritually mature Christian – commit yourself today – to growth as a Christian.



Sister Prayer

Dear God, This is my girl, my friend, my sister, whom I love and this is my prayer for her. Help her live her life to the fullest. Please promote her and cause her to excel above her expectations. Help her to shine in the darkest places where it is impossible to love. Protect her at all times, lift her up when she needs you the most and let her know when she walks with you, she will always be safe. I Love You Girl!

B. "The Women We Seek "

Mayme R. Clark, P.R.G.P.M.

We seek women who believe in God, demonstrate friendship, are charitable, seek knowledge, and have a willingness to serve. We strive to emulate the qualities that are indicative of our heroines. Our work includes continuing their legacies.

To further emphasize the influence of our heroines, I introduce to you Huldah who was a prophetess during the reign of King Josiah and the wife the prophet Shallum. A prophetess is a woman whom God uses as his messenger.

Hilkiah, the Priest found a book in the temple and brought it to the king's scribe. After the scribe read the book to the king, he sent his three friends to Huldah to inquire of the Lord concerning the words of the book.

She was not summoned to the palace. She was not anywhere advertising her gift. In order to receive the benefits of Huldah's gift, they had to seek her out. When they found her, Huldah exhibited friendship and a willingness to serve. She extended her hospitality, opened her home, cooked and fed them before answering any questions and delivering the prophecy.

Huldah's prophecy caused Josiah to bring the people back to God. Her faith, her gift, willingness to serve and her friendly attitude saved a nation. The people had strayed away and were worshiping idols. Jerusalem made a covenant vowing to keep God's commandments and He promised not punish the people during Josiah's reign.

We also work toward making a difference. We may not have the gift of prophecy, but we have one or more gifts God can use. We are in search of women willing to use their gifts for a better organization. We seek women whose Christian attitude demonstrates their belief in God. We welcome women who will unselfishly share their attributes to help the organization impact the community, the state, the country and eventually reach out and touch the world.





C. The Power of Unity and Celebration

JacQué Strappy, G.M.A.M

Celebrating Our Womanhood

We must remember that we are the manifested heart of God and our relationship with one another set the standard of treatment for others to follow. If women refused to talk about one another, and sabotage one another, and destroy one another with our looks, words and attitude we may see others treating us the way we should. People reflect what they see.

Tearing someone else down does not build us up in the sight of others. It just reveals how low we will go to get attention.

As women begin to rise up and cover one another with love and respect, I believe a different day will dawn for us. I dare say that others' respect for us will rise to a new level.

God requires that we love one another. Now some will try to be literal and say, "Well I don't hate her, I just don't like her". But if you don't like her there is no way you could be thinking good thoughts or pray blessings for her.

I'm talking about free enough to celebrate another woman's triumphs and weep for her tragedies. That is the kind of "Sister - Love" God wants us to have for one another. And it is that kind of love that will break down the stereotypes that have developed over the years.

This is my prayer for women, that they will find the beauty in one another and reconcile their differences. Then we will be able to erase popular misconceptions about women and win others by our blameless example. **God Bless!**

"The Woman I Call Sister"

"The Woman I Call Sister"
Is someone who is there,
"The Woman I Call Sister"
Is someone who always cares.

"The Woman I Call Sister"
Can make me smile when times are blue,
"The Woman I Call Sister"
Is someone very true.

"The Woman I Call Sister"
By choice is my best friend,
"The Woman I Call Sister"
Will be there till the end.

"The Woman I Call Sister"
Is a blessing from God above,
"The Woman I Call Sister"
Is the sister that I'll always love.