



**HL Donna-Lee McMurchie, Grand Royal Matron**  
**SK John McMurchie, Grand Royal Patron**

**Grand Court of BC – Newsletter**  
**September 2018**

Contact Information:

**HL Donna-Lee McMurchie, GRM**

16761 108A Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 5H6

604-953-0511

[dmcurchie@shaw.ca](mailto:dmcurchie@shaw.ca) [bcgrm2018@gmail.com](mailto:bcgrm2018@gmail.com)

**SK John McMurchie, GRP**

16761 108A Ave, Surrey, BC V4N 5H6

604-953-0511

[jmcmurchie@shaw.ca](mailto:jmcmurchie@shaw.ca)

SK Kevin FitzGerald, Grand Secretary

#305 – 7155 Hall Rd, Surrey, BC V3W 4X4

[amaranth.bc@shaw.ca](mailto:amaranth.bc@shaw.ca)

**Yes, we know...**  
**Summer is gone !!**

The meetings for September and October are listed below. Please support our Courts by visiting your sister Courts when you can...Dogwood Ct will need some extra help with initiation for their September meeting.



## Note from the Editor, HL Shari Gillies

Please feel free to call, email or text me with or for more information.

HL Shari Gillies, [gillies@shaw.ca](mailto:gillies@shaw.ca) or call 778-834-8860



**ALWAYS looking for articles, fundraising flyers, fun events notices, etc. Tell us about your travels, your successes, your meetings. We would love to hear from you.**

No one ever tells you that your dreams need feeding and watering, but they do. Every day that you show up, do the best you can, and leave the rest to time.

## In a nut shell Dates of Note:



## COURT MEETINGS

Fri, Sept 7, 2018	Mizpah Court	Fri, Oct 5, 2018	Mizpah Court
Sat, Sept 8, 2018	Cypress Court	Sat, Oct 6, 2018	Sequoia Court
<b>Mon, Sept 10, 2018</b>	Sequoia Court <b>date change</b>	Sat, Oct 13, 2018	Cypress Court <i>GRM Official Visit</i>
Tue, Sept 18, 2018	Dogwood Court	Tue, Oct 16, 2018	Sequoia Court
Wed, Sept 27, 2018	Tulip Court	Wed, Oct 24, 2018	Tulip Court
	Tue, Nov 20, 2018	Dogwood Court	<i>GRM Official Visit</i>
	Sat, Dec 15, 2018	Mizpah Court	<i>GRM Official Visit</i>

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### SAVE / REMEMBER THE DATE

Sat, Nov 3, 2018	Sequoia Court Annual Murder Mystery Dinner
Sat, Jan 26, 2019	Grand Court Robbie Burns Dinner
Fri, Feb 8, 2019	Sequoia Court Casino Night

Save the date for Sequoia Court's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Murder Mystery Dinner** on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, following an early meeting of our Court.

Details will follow shortly and tickets will be available soon.

Don't miss out on what is sure to be a spectacular event!



# NOTES FROM THE GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Royal Matron, HL Donna-Lee  
Grand Royal Patron, SK John



What a fantastic, eventful summer!

Having just completed the American Invasion, we would like to thank everyone who took part in the events and festivities; your enthusiasm is what keeps our SOB's coming to visit. We had a good turnout from our US visitors; in fact, visitors outnumbered our members by quite a bit.

The weekend was busy, as usual. We had a meet-and-greet on Friday, where we got together with old friends and met some new ones. Thank you to the members who contributed refreshments for the social.

Saturday, a group of us went to Capilano Suspension Bridge Park. Our small group of brave souls experienced the suspension bridge and tree top adventures, as well as the cliff walk. Everyone seemed to enjoy it, even those of us who are afraid of heights. Other groups checked out the nearby farmer's market and explored local fabric stores, bringing back a number of treasures. Following these outings, we were treated to a fantastic Talk Like a Pirate dinner, lovingly prepared by our resident chef. We would like to thank Shari and all the members who assisted her in preparing and setting up for the dinner. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Sunday, we wowed our SOB friends with the majesty of our country at Fly Over Canada and then toured the shops and eateries in Gastown. At night, we enjoyed a chug around the track on the miniature train at Confederation Park and chowed down on a succulent roast pig. A great big thank you to Rod, Jerry, and Bill for your hard work and long hours put in to getting "Wilbur" ready for our dinner. Again, Shari is owed our gratitude for the hard work put into making this dinner a success as well.

Thank you to the reps for all their work planning and organizing to make this a wonderful weekend. Everyone had something positive to say about the experience. We are looking forward to many more years of fun and bonding with our Amaranth friends from the US.

Our next travel event is Idaho Grand Court, the first weekend of October. We are looking forward to meeting up with more friends and visiting the Birds of Prey adventure. We are also looking into going to New Mexico Grand Court in November. Having never been there before, we are looking forward to the possibility of a new adventure and meeting new Amaranth friends.

In the spirit of fraternity and expanding our membership, we encourage all members to get out and visit other Courts as well as our youth groups. These are potentially our next members, so if we show support in force they will remember us when they approach adulthood. Bethel #22 is doing an initiation on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Trinity church in New Westminster (their temporary home until the new Lodge hall is finished). Let's show our support at events like this one and make our presence known to these (hopefully) future members. We will need to go back and visit again soon as they expect 508 Agnes Street Masonic Hall to be ready for the Grand Master's Official visit May 31<sup>st</sup>. Speaking of Grand Lodge, we would like to congratulate Sir Knight Rod Hansen on his appointment to Grand Sword Bearer. Best wishes on a successful and memorable year!



September 15<sup>th</sup> is our next Executive meeting. We are always looking for ideas to grow our membership and new ways to raise money (bonus points for ideas that access outside money), so

please come prepared with ideas and suggestions. These meetings are open to the Royal Matrons and Royal Patrons of the subordinate courts. If you are unable to attend, please forward your report to SK Kevin FitzGerald or HL Donna-Lee so we know what is happening in your Court.

On a personal note, this month we will be celebrating Donna-Lee's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 8<sup>th</sup> as well as our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 16<sup>th</sup> (I know, hard to believe she's put up with me for that long...). This is a milestone year for us in so many ways and we are so happy to be sharing it with all of you.

**Grand Associate Matron, HL Kathryn Whitwell**  
**Grand Associate Patron, SK Robert Whitwell**

Grand Court of Alaska

Well, it's been a great summer and hope everybody is ready to get back to "work".



SK Robert and I attended the Grand Court of Alaska along with our GRM, HL Donna-Lee and GRP, SK John, HL Shari Gillies and HL Phyllis Fox. We arrived in time for the "famous" BBQ, held at HL Leann's home every year – it was amazing and the food was plentiful and delicious! We met so many new people and old friends and had so much fun.

On the Thursday evening we had nearly all of the Masonic families in attendance – it was lovely to meet and talking with so many of them.

The business portion of the GC was quite well done, no major problems so the meetings ran smoothly.

Fortunately it was a pleasant temperature in the Lodge, not the extreme temperatures we had last year. It was really lovely to see so many other Grand Courts from all over the United States and of course BC - (16 jurisdictions).

It was an honour and a thrill to see the Supreme Royal Matron, HL June and Supreme Royal Patron, SK "Grumpy" in attendance – always a pleasure.

HL Elizabeth and SK Monty's children, Katy and Wolfgang, were great little helpers all weekend – thanks for a great job and for supporting mom and dad!

We attended all the events, minus the gold panning, as we had done that last year. The highlight, as usual, was the salmon BBQ where the food never stops! BBQ'd salmon, fried cod pieces, prime rib, crab, salad bar, desserts and beverages - so good! After we feasted we attended the show at the old saloon - HL Billie, GAM from Idaho and HL Donna, GAM from Washington were this year's best hecklers...we laughed so hard our jaws and stomachs hurt by the end!



The culmination of the week ended with the installation of HL Elizabeth and SK Monty Schefers as Grand Royal Matron and Grand Royal Patron of the Grand Court of Alaska. The installation was lovely and many of us were privileged to participate in it. SK Jerry Pinion, PSRP, installed his daughter Elizabeth and her mom, HL Ginger Pinion, PGRM crowned her – it was a sight to see and very heart warming.



Congratulations to all – I believe with Liz and Monty at the helm it'll be smooth sailing! The fun theme was mermaids and pirates (Aarrg!) and Liz looked stunning in her mermaid style dress and Monty looked very handsome and “Captainish” with his shoulder boards!

## COURT NEWS

**Mizpah Court #2**  
HL Betty Fennell, PGRM



Once again things at Mizpah Court have been busy; we have been selling our goodies at the Sannich Market.

We are blessed with many talented members. This year our knitting wizard has created small animals which go like hotcakes. They are just the right size for a child's hand and therefore are very popular. Along with that we have sold many other knitted goods including wool socks which runners really like for their cushioning effect.

The jams and jellies continue to be a big hit too and our pies and other baked goods sell out quickly.

Of course we still have tickets for sale for the raffle with the proceeds going to BC Children's Hospital Diabetic Research—prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - a beautiful picture painted by one of our members; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - a beautiful knitted cushion; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – a knitted monster. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and will be available until our December meeting – Grand Royal Matron's Official Visit – when we will have the prize draws



So, as you can tell, life is good on the Island. Take care from the Island. Look forward to seeing members in September.

## Grand Court of Alaska

HL Shari Gillies



If you have never attended the Grand Court of Alaska it's certainly time you did. What a great time we had with the Alaskans and their guests from all over the place...sixteen jurisdictions were represented. Our BC group included HL Phyllis, GRM HL Donna-Lee, GRP SK John, GAM HL Kathryn, and GAP SK Robert and, of course me.

I could probably cut and paste most of my article from the October 2017 newsletter to tell you of all the fun things happening but I would just be repeating myself. Suffice it to say the picnic at the Folsom's, gold panning and the Friday banquet were the usual fabulous time.

What was far more important was renewing friendships, spending time with the folks we only see once a year, making new friends because there are always a few newbies to meet and greet and having that glass of wine with whoever drops by.

Of course we all hope to see some wildlife but most of the wildlife we see is at the meetings and the room parties after the meetings...or meeting in the party room!!

HL Ruth, GRM and SK Richard, GRP welcomed all and kept the meetings rolling and on time. No turtle slowdowns...



It was also wonderful to spend social time with HL June Haas, SRM and SK Ron St. Jacque, SRP.

Next year we will be in Anchorage to support HL Liz and SK Monty for their session. The Mermaids and Pirates would be very happy to see you there.

## **The Americans are Coming!!** **HL Shari Gillies**

Thanks to all who attended either or both of the dinners during the American Invasion on the Labour Day weekend.

It was my pleasure to prepare the food for the "Talk Like a Pirate" dinner on Saturday and the side dishes for the "Pig Roast" on Sunday. I hope you all enjoyed your meals. My all day helpers included HL Tylere, HL Joy and HL Karen who sliced and chopped and ran around picking up the 'forgotten' items including lunch.



I always enjoy the camaraderie that comes with seeing our groups join together and, of course, the bond that serving food promotes.

The prospect of cleanup can be daunting. However the use of paper plates, plastic glasses and cutlery, while not really eco-friendly are certainly much easier to clean up than washing without a dishwasher!! No matter if the dishwashing is done by throwing out, hand washing or use of a dishwasher, many hands made the job much less of a chore and more of an extension of the camaraderie we enjoyed during the entire weekend. A huge thank you to all who stayed behind to make sure everything was put back in its place, the garbage disappeared and all my 'stuff' was packed back in my car with enough room for Tylere and me to get back to the hotel...LOL



**Amaranth World News**  
**New South Wales**  
HL Pat Haywood

Grand Royal Matron HL Katie Wallace and  
Grand Royal Patron SK Donald Cobcroft  
On visit of SRM and SRP Sept 15<sup>th</sup> in New South Wales

The Faith, Hope & Love Special Session is to be held in the beautiful  
Hawkesbury River Region at Windsor New South Wales over the  
weekend of the 15th September 2018.

Just prior to their Grand Court in March of 2018 a cheque for \$6,500 was  
presented to Diabetes NSW for research.



**Fundscrip – the NEW Shop and Support!!!**

**A Note from Shari**



We have noticed not many of you are choosing this lucrative plan. It's so easy to use. You can use the program coordinator or you can go to the website yourself...I chose to go straight to the FundScrip website ([www.fundscrip.com](http://www.fundscrip.com)) and created my own account with Amaranth being the chosen recipient of the rebates. That was a couple of months ago. Almost immediately I started receiving emails from FundScrip alerting me to changes in a retail participant's rebate percentage, adding participants, etc. I must confess that after some time and many emails I feel that I am well versed in how to navigate the website without the aid of so many emails and I have 'unsubscribed'!

Since then I finally made my first purchase -- a Shell Gas card -- \$50, 2 Cineplex cards -- \$25 each, and a White Spot card -- \$25. The rebate is \$4.25. Doesn't seem like much on the surface but if we all start using this **AND** recommending to our families and friends think of what we can do!!! I received my gift cards within a week and an email from FundScrip to confirm that I had received them.

A couple of things to note – there is a difference between 'plastic' and 'egift' purchases. You cannot mix them—if you are buying plastic don't bother trying to buy egift in the same order. It will tell you it cannot be done. You'll need to place 2 different orders.

Another note – it's best to send an e-transfer to pay your bill...if you pay by charge card Amaranth loses 1.99%. Many of the retailers only offer 2% so Amaranth makes nothing.

The number and variety of retailers involved is very extensive; everything from soup to nuts. I'm sure you will find what you need.

So get on that website, pick your retailers and make your purchases. There is nothing to lose and much to gain for our Order.

Thanks, Shari

Join those who  
already proudly wear  
an Amaranth and/or  
Masonic Ball Cap -  
\$15.00 each



These hats are black only  
(as shown) with a full back.



Call or email your order to  
HL Donna-Lee  
or  
SK John

Contact John or Donna-Lee McMurchie  
604-953-0511 or [bcgrm2018@gmail.com](mailto:bcgrm2018@gmail.com)

# Just for Fun Just for Fun Just for Fun Just for Fun

## **A woman wrote to tech support, and their reply is a stroke of genius.**

(Thank you Leann)

This young woman is no different from the rest of us; both family happiness and heartbreak are familiar to her. She is simply looking for an answer to her questions. How do you maintain a relationship? How do you bring back the excitement of the first date? She wrote a letter to the tech support to find her answers. She sent the letter as a joke and only remembered about it when she suddenly received an email notification with a response.

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as: Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: NBA 5.0, NFL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system.

Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed, Desperate

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2 and do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Farting and Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.)

In addition, please, do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend: Cooking 3.0 and Hot Lingerie 7.7.

Good Luck!