



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

Grand Court of BC – Newsletter
January 2019

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Note from the Editor, HL Shari Gillies

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

HL Shari Gillies, kinicki1949may@gmail.com or call 778-834-8860



To the Court Secretaries – please help by providing full information for your events.

Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter – February 6, 2019

Bylaws approved by Supreme are available in the Members Only section of the web site – amaranthbc.ca

In a nut shell
Dates of Note:



COURT MEETINGS

Fri, Jan 4, 2019	Mizpah Court
Sat, Jan 5, 2019	Sequoia Court
Sat, Jan 12, 2019	Cypress Court
Tue, Jan 15, 2019	Dogwood Court
Wed, Jan 22, 2019	Tulip Court
Fri, Feb 1, 2019	Mizpah Court
Sat, Feb 2, 2019	Sequoia Court
Sat, Feb 9, 2019	Cypress Court
Tues, Feb 19, 2019	Dogwood Court



See the article at the end of the newsletter

MARCH MADNESS 2019

Grand Court of California
Thu, Feb 21 – Sat Feb 23 caamaranth.org

Grand Court of BC (more information below)
Thu, Feb 28 – Sat, Mar 2
amaranthbc.ca

(I look forward to hearing from you. HL Shari)

Grand Court of Oregon
Thu, Mar 7 – Sat, Mar 9 oramaranth.org

Grand Court of Washington
Thu, Mar 14 – Sat, Mar 16 amaranthwa.org

Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help and brave enough to ask for it.

SPECIAL EVENTS

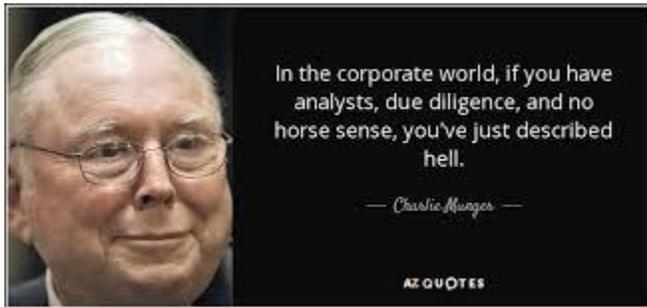
(Details, when available, can be found at the end of the newsletter)

SAVE / REMEMBER THE DATE

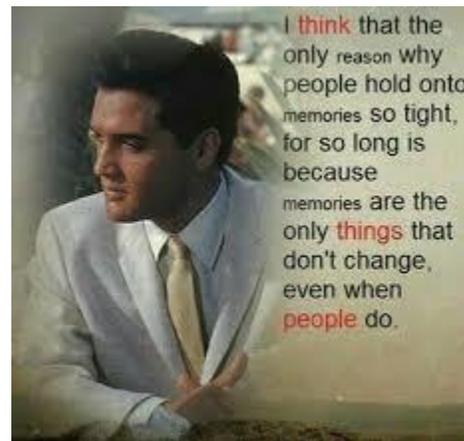
Wed, Jan 16 Grand Court 'Paint Nite'
Sat, Jan 19 Sequoia Trivia Night
Sat, Jan 26 Grand Court Robbie Burns Dinner
Fri, Feb 8 Sequoia Court Casino Night

Please contact SK John to join us for "Paint Nite", an opportunity to stretch your artistic skills and help Grand Court.

HORSE SENSE



Elvis & Friends QUOTES



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



As we welcome in 2019, we hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Now that all our official visits are behind us, we can concentrate our efforts on planning for Grand Court. Positions will be coming up for election at Grand Court; we hope you all consider putting your name forward and taking on a new challenge. We would love to see some new faces join our ranks of experienced Grand Court officers and committees. These roles can be very rewarding. Anyone who can assist in any way with Grand Court, please let us know. We appreciate every bit of help, no matter the job. We will need drivers for picking up at the airport, help with decorating, and even selling items.



The week before our Grand Court is California's Grand Court. This is the first time in a long time that it does not conflict with ours. The week after our Grand Court is Oregon, followed by Washington. If you have never been to another Grand Court, you should really consider

attending one of these. They are lots of fun. If you are attending BC Grand Court or thinking of attending another jurisdiction and you are looking for a roommate to cut costs, let us know and we can make a list for you of singles looking for roommates. We want to help make it possible for everyone to attend Grand Court.

Grand Court needs everyone's support this year. We are having a Paint Nite on Wednesday, January 16th, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the North Surrey Masonic Hall at 14042 Grosvenor Street. The cost is \$47.25. Beer and wine will be available to purchase, and light refreshments will be provided. This is a new fundraiser and guaranteed to be a lot of fun. Please consider attending and inviting your friends, family, coworkers, neighbours, and anyone else you know looking for a night of fun. The cost includes everything you need to create an artistic masterpiece which you get to take home and enjoy.



An equally important focus is on growing our organization. We have been invited to give a short presentation at the Grand Master's official visit on Tuesday, February 26th at the White Rock Hall. Let's make a strong and lasting impression by coming out in force. As it is an official visit, the Masons should all wear their Masonic regalia (aprons etc.). There will be a dinner before the meeting and possibly a lady's program. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

We have been hearing from some of our members that there are families within our organization who are going through a lot right now. Please join us in extending our love and support to any members struggling at this time. We are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

We will see you all on the Amaranth trail. Please show your support for other Courts by attending their meetings and upcoming fundraisers.

With Amaranth love and wishes for a happy new year,

HL Donna-Lee & SK John

With Heartfelt Concern
HL Kathy Stutt, DSRM

To ALL the Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights of BC Amaranth

I hope with this letter I can express my deep concern for Amaranth in BC.

It is hard for me to explain, without emotion, just why I find this so upsetting and frustrating.

Things have changed; prices have gone up; supplies cost more.

When dues and fees were set many, many years ago it was reflected in the wages of the time and the cost of things. Well, earnings have gone up, but so have prices and yet our dues are still a pittance and do not reflect the change of the times.

It used to cost \$10.00 to fill my tank with gas!! Now it costs me \$50.00 to fill that same tank with gas. Did I stop driving my car---NO. Groceries have spiraled in cost, but we still need to eat.

When I was younger (yes I was once) families rarely went out for lunch or dinner. It was a rare treat to "Eat Out". Today we don't think twice about stopping at McDonalds, or Wendys' or Starbucks when we feel the need.

I guess what I am trying to say here is that Amaranth has NOT kept up with a gradual increase in dues because we "thought" everything was fine and we would just raise some more money. Well everything isn't fine.

We all know how difficult it is to raise funds and I honestly think we all know we have gotten off pretty lightly for many years without an increase in dues.

Should the increase have been done on a gradual basis? Absolutely! But it wasn't.

So now we have NO option, we need to support OUR Grand Jurisdiction, and the only way we can do this is to pull up our socks, put on our big girl/boy pants and support our Grand Court to keep BC Amaranth Alive.

I implore you all to think long and hard as to what Amaranth means to you, and if you want to keep it alive.

With respect,

Honoured Lady Kathy Stutt, DSRM

Of Interest from Amaranth Down Under
HL Pat Haywood, PGRM



Royal Victoria Court No. 1 supports Clown Doctors who spread their joy in hospitals, for burn victims, oncology, emergency or outpatients to help children to be less stressful.



Endeavour Court has a new member and in August celebrated their 22nd birthday with a high tea following their meeting. They had an Elvis themed evening that night and HL Heather Weston who I was GFC with 10 years ago wore an "Elvis" hat for the occasion.

One of the local grocery stores “Bunnings” allows the members to come in and do a sausage sizzle fundraiser and make themselves known as to “what we do and who we are”.

The GRM’s charity this year is Autoimmune Resource & Research Centre.

Each week the members will be sharing a segment called “Why I Belong”. One of their SKs joined in 1976 and says he joined because “it’s part of my life”.

Santa Lunch

HL Shari Gillies, PGRM

Santa and Mrs. Claus visited Cypress Court members and friends for lunch at HL Susan's complex amenity room on Sunday, Dec 16. They arrived with small gifts for everyone even folks who were unable to attend.

Mrs. Claus brought beef barley soup and sandwiches and I brought cock-a-leekie soup (chicken and leeks). HL Susan and HL Ericka donated some of their previous day's baking for dessert. It was a great meal!!

Joining us were our GRM and GRP, HL Donna-Lee and John; HL Jessica with kids in tow, HL Susan and Chris with their home stay student Ali, and HL Erika and Gerry.

Although our group was small we all had a great time. Everyone had their picture taken with Santa and Merry Christmases were wished to all.

It was a great start to the Christmas season. Many thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus and all who attended.



63rd Annual Session
Grand Court of British Columbia 2019
February 28 – March 2

Quality Hotel Abbotsford
36035 North Parallel Road
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2C6

Front desk -- 1-604-870-1050.
Toll free -- 1-888-411-1070

Located at exit 95 Whatcom Road TransCanada Highway
Just minutes from the Abbotsford International Airport

South of the Border guests -- if you are driving –
use the Sumas/Abbotsford-Huntington border crossing

All rooms have a mini fridge
If more than 2 in a room – add \$5 for each additional guest per room.
Pet Friendly rooms add \$15.00 per day

Our block of rooms at the rates listed below will be available until January 29, 2019.

2 queen size beds or one king \$99

Jr. Suite with King \$149,

Executive Jr. Suite with King and pullout coach \$199.

Pet friendly rooms add \$15.00 per day.

Banquet “Rock and Roll with Elvis” buffet - \$45.00

Entertainment – Elvis impersonator. If you wish to see this fabulous entertainer
but do not wish to join us for dinner the doors will open at 7:45 with a cover charge of \$10.

You are encouraged to join us in your poodle skirts, jeans, leather jackets, --you name it –
come dressed for a fifties party!!

Luncheon -- soup and make your own sandwiches - \$28

For more information visit our website –

www.amaranthbc.ca



SEQUOIA COURT #15



Did you know?

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY JANUARY 19 2019

730PM—\$15.00 PER PERSON

WHITE ROCK MASONIC HALL

15302 PACIFIC AVE WHITE ROCK

Come join us for some fun

And friendship. Beer , Wine,

Soft Drinks Available to purchase.

For More Information or tickets

Email seq15sec@telus.net or call

Kevin FitzGerald 778-886-7318

Stacey Kumar 604-837-1165



SEQUOIA COURT NOW ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING CREDIT CARDS FOR A

3% SERVICE FEE



The Grand Court of BC
Order of the Amaranth
invites you to our theme event.

Mamma Mia Revisited

A Greek Themed Dinner Event

Saturday, June 15, 2019

6:00 pm Getting to know you

7:00 pm Dinner

**Maple Ridge Masonic Hall
22272 116 Ave, Maple Ridge**

\$35 per person

The food will be Greek; the attire will be ABBA or beach or whatever is comfortable.

Enjoy a buffet dinner of a variety of Greek dishes. Entertainment to be announced -- be prepared to join in!!

RSVP: by Friday, June 7, 2019

Shari Gillies—778-834-8860 or kinicki1949may@gmail.com or gillies@shaw.ca

Kathy Stutt—604-948-2013

Etransfers to amaranth.bc@shaw.ca; Credit cards also accepted (VISA, Mastercard, Discover, Amex). Cheques to be made out to Grand Court of BC.



Fundscrip – the NEW Shop and Support!!!

A Note from Shari

This is so easy to use. You can use the program coordinator or you can go to the website yourself. If you prefer to work with our coordinator, HL Susan, she is ready to take your orders. She usually has order forms with her and places orders every other month on the second Sunday. Orders arrive the following Thursday or Friday.

In September I chose to go straight to the FundScrip website (www.fundscrip.com) and created my own account with Amaranth being the chosen recipient of the rebates. 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 immediately 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, either, contact HL Susan to place your order or get on the website, pick your retailers and make your purchases. There is nothing to lose and much to gain for our Order.

Happy Shopping, Shari

STILL AVAILABLE

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

It's the time for celebrating the life of Robbie Burns. Here is his winter poem.

Up Early in the Morning

Cauld blaws the wind frae east to west,
The drift is driving sairly;
Sae loud and shrill's I hear the blast,
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me,
Up in the morning early;
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,
I'm sure its winter fairly.

The birds sit chittering in the thorn,
A' day they fare but sparely;
And lang's the night frae e'en to morn,
I'm sure it's winter fairly.

Up in the morning's no for me,
Up in the morning early;
When a' the hills are cover'd wi' snaw,
I'm sure its winter fairly.

