



HL Shari Gillies, Grand Royal Matron
SK Bill Duncan, Grand Royal Patron

Grand Court of BC – Newsletter
May 2020

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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

I'm pretty sure no one is participating in any non-social distancing activity. Please let us know how you are coping and I will pass it on.

Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter – June 1

Show gratitude today by seeing the miracle present when your thoughts shift to soulshine.

In a nut shell
Dates of Note:



**As I'm sure you have already heard....
Supreme Council has been postponed until July 4 – 8, 2021.
If you wish a copy of the letter, I will email same to you. Please
request by return email.**

COURT MEETINGS

That wretched COVID-19 Virus is still keeping us cooped up...so still no meetings.

SAVE / REMEMBER THE DATE

Sat, May 9, 2020 Theme Dinner – “We’re Back in the Twenties” A Roaring Twenties revival!

Postponed

We are looking at possible dates and locations in the Fall—or maybe next year!!

Nov 29, 2020 to Dec 15, 2020 --- Panama Cruise to benefit Diabetes... Contact SK Larry White

I'd rather wait a few weeks to go see a barber (stylist)
than have a mortician do my hair.

Grand Royal Matron, HL Shari Gillies



How the heck is everyone???



So far, other than a little cabin fever and boredom, I'm doing fine. I'm getting a few things done around the house that I hadn't even thought of doing plus all the things I had deliberately put aside. Those are the peskiest ones. I had put them aside for a good reason, I think. (Can't think of any right now) But some I can easily still put aside, even now...housekeeping for one. Add that one to the boring list.



The weather here has been very Spring like...rain, then sunshine, rain again. Hard to know how to dress if I'm inclined to go out. There hasn't been much of that...a few walks, some groceries, nothing really FUN! I need a few people around me for fun! Going to the mailbox or bringing in the garbage cans don't really count as fun outings!!

My jigsaw puzzle is coming along. It's a difficult one with not much definition in colour changes. But I'm persevering. I have 7 more to do!! My brother Tim comes up to say hello every day after work and checks out the puzzle. He hasn't actually helped but he has taken enough notice to say 'You've added to the sky' or 'I don't see any new pieces added'. Jerk!! LOL!!!

We ZOOMed for Easter dinner—somehow it wasn't the same...hahaha! But it was nice to see all the family sitting down for a meal.

May has 2 important dates for me---Mother's Day and my birthday. What a great month to be born in although I'm pretty sure, at the time, my Mom didn't give that a thought at all! Unless something magical happens I expect to be ZOOMing both days.

Being alone for most of day gives one time for reflection...not always comfortable but a necessary part of life. I have thought long and hard about what belonging to Amaranth means to me. It's not the meetings...although I enjoy the ritual and the camaraderie that comes from helping in a meeting, they are certainly not the prime reason I'm a member. It's not the fund raising either. I enjoy the work of a theme dinner—the planning, the cooking, etc but that's not my top reason for my membership. I enjoy contributing financially to whatever cause we have but that's not the reason I do it!!

It all comes down to the people. There is a special bond amongst our membership and it has nothing to do with performing our ritual or raising money. That bond is friendship. Thank you all for being my friend.

Stay safe, remember social-distancing, my Amaranth friends, HL Shari Gillies

I am thankful for the truly beautiful, ridiculous, fabulous, bizarre moments that are life!

Grand Royal Patron, SK Bill Duncan

Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights, we hope all are well and that you are enjoying your social distancing. We found it hard at first, but eventually the routine set in and between old TV shows, puzzles, computer games and yard work, we keep ourselves pretty busy. We have been thankful for the good weather, and Joyce and I go for a walk most evenings.



I am proud to say that except for the guy at the end of the block with the artificial grass, I have possibly the best looking lawn on the block. I have to thank the neighbour who lives around the corner for lending me his electric moss rake – made a big difference to the health and look of my grass.

We go out once a week to pick up some groceries – Joyce made me a mask, so I look like a bandit. We had to laugh when we went into the bank - there's a sign on the door that says no hats or sunglasses allowed, but it doesn't say anything about masks.



Again, we hope all are well, and that we will be able to get back to normal soon.

We'll close with a bit of social distancing humour:

-I'm so excited – it's time to take out the garbage; what should I wear?

-If the weather is good tomorrow I'm planning a trip to Puerto Backyard; I'm getting tired of Los Living room.

-This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog.....we laughed a lot.

We wish you all the best and hope you stay safe,

Honoured Lady Joyce Duncan

Sir Knight Bill Duncan, Grand Royal Patron

**Look in the mirror and name 5 things about your body that you love
Now look again and name 2 that you don't
Find a way to say something positive about them**

Repeat 3 times!!!

SK John McMurchie, Grand Secretary

As we are about to enter the 7th week of self-isolation, I am sure that everyone misses human contact as much as we do. We are luckier than some, we have Stacey, Rayan and our grandson Marcus living with us, so we get grandbaby time every day.

We could set up the occasional zoom meeting to visit with others and deal with important decisions both at the Grand Court and Subordinate Court levels.

Hopefully, this will not carry on too long. Most Grand Courts have either cancelled this years' Grand Court or rebooked it for later in the year.

All our Courts have been in darkness since March and we probably will not be meeting until after the summer.

As Grand Secretary, please check on the website and make sure your contact information is correct so I can update the new directory.

Looking forward to when we can all meet face to face again.

SK John McMurchie, Grand Secretary

HL Jessica LaForge, GC

Hello everyone hope everyone is well. My family has been turned upside down...

No school or football makes for cranky kids.

But at least I still have my job and working during this pandemic. I am thankful that I can still say yes I am working... It can be intense sometimes but my Amaranth and Jobies life have given me the tools to continue working through this chaos...

I hope we can meet soon as I miss you all very much, HL Jessica

HL Karen Yosioka, GAC

I meant to send something but don't know what day it is most of the time.

I have never had this much free time. I have developed a new relationship with Netflix and Hallmark movies, the phone and Facebook.

Every day I check to see what else is cancelled.

I look forward to talking to people again, in the same room. I also look forward to getting my cats back when essential travel on the ferry is lifted. They have been with Kyla (in Victoria), since Oregon Grand Court.

Hope everyone is doing well and maybe see you soon. HL Karen

HL Kathy Stutt, JPGRM
SK Don Stutt, JPGRP

Hello everyone!

Don and I hope that all of our Amaranth Family is sitting out this “thing” without too much trouble.

Our lives will truly be very different from this point on! Who knows when we will be given the OK to gather in groups? I think we all need to start thinking as to how we will proceed once that curve has been flattened.

Our family, to this point has been spared the suffering this horrid virus is inflicting on many. We hope ALL our members have been as fortunate. That doesn't mean we can stop being vigilant, we need to keep our distance and we need to think of those who might be very susceptible to this virus. I myself have a compromised immune system and am diligently washing my hands, staying home, and hoping that if I get this bug, it will not be a severe case. With that in mind, I will NOT be attending any functions until we have been given the “All Clear” from the medical experts.

Summer will also be very different for many of us! Don and I had hoped to host a couple of Lodge BBQs, Amaranth get-togethers, family and friends gatherings as well. Unfortunately these functions are not going to happen. Holidays have been put on hold and seeing good friends also. Please think of others when the restrictions are lifted. We ALL need to be diligent so that this epidemic can be brought under control.

Don and I wish ALL our members the very best, stay well, keep busy and think how we can proceed once the restrictions have been lifted.

HL Kathy Stutt, JPGRM
SK Don Stutt, JPGRP

**Don't start your day with broken pieces of yesterday.
Every day is a fresh start.
Each day is a new beginning.
Every morning we wake up is the first day of our new life.**

HL Pat Haywood, PGRM

I Remember it Well!

I have made several trips to the Grand Court of New South Wales and each one has been special.

I first had the honour of being a Grand Representative in 1987 and was appointed by HL Vivian Hooper, GRM in BC. That year SK Dave Cook of BC was SRP and HL Joan Foran of NSW was SRM. I first met Joan at Laburnum Court, BC. As my mother was a member in BC and had lived in NSW as my sister and brother-in-law and 2 boys were there, she met Joan and Ray Foran in the early eighties. In 1987 a group of 175 plus headed downunder for the special session, with stops along the way including Hawaii. I met the group in Sydney as I had planned a visit with my sister also to take part in the tour. My first stop was in Brisbane where the Grand Court of Queensland had their special session.



On the way down to Sydney a stop was made in Coff's Harbour for two days, then a meeting in Gosford before arriving in Sydney for the special session which was held in the downtown area. I learned from SK Don Cobcroft of NSW that he was initiated at that time. I was honoured to give the tribute to our Canadian Flag.

I was GRM in 1994 and met several Aussies in California at Supreme Session and renewed friendships.



On other visits I attended HL Joan's subordinate Court and also stayed with her in her home in Bankstown. My next visit was when HL Lillian Worton was SRM. There were 3 from Canada and 3 from the USA at that session. Three years later I attended their Grand Court.

Several years ago I was the GFC for BC and the GFC in NWS was HL Heather Weston. We kept in touch over that year and have done so ever since. I finally met her at the visit when HL Lillian was there.

My most recent visit was in September 2019 when HL Dorothy Kippie, SRM, was making her Official Visit. All in NSW were sworn to secrecy, as I wanted to surprise HL Dorothy. This trip had been planned early in 2019 as soon as I knew when she was going to be there. This trip also has to be one of my highlights when the US visitors arrived at the restaurant at the Bankstown Sports Centre and we all got together on the Friday evening. Lots of laughs and "Where did you come from?".

I hope that I can one day get back to their jurisdiction. By being a member of the Amaranth I have met these wonderful members and truly enjoy my time I spend with them. I recently learned that HL Heather Weston wanted to the GR to BC so we could correspond as Grand Representatives, but, unfortunately we do not have one this year.

Just think of all the friends we all can and have made by belonging to this wonderful order.

HL Pat Haywood, DSRM

Your homework for the month...

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another... That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's

math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher...

'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list... It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.' Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.'

'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary'

Then, Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

Hugs

There's nothing like the feeling of someone dear to you
Giving warm and tender hugs no substitute will do.

A hug of greeting quick and firm is also just as good
The little squeeze of pleasure feeling everybody should

A hug can be consoling to someone down and sad
A simple hug with no words spoke will make the person glad

A child will hug his parents, a person hugs his pet
Two marrieds hug each other and friends when they have met

A hug is usually held between two people, that is true
But hugs are things that should be shared even by more than two

The feeling of two loving arms wrapped cozily around
There is not any better sense that ever could be found

Looking forward to when we can again hug freely!!

Amaranth and Masonic Vests for order
\$50 per vest

Please contact SK John McMurchie to
order or for additional information.

jmcmurchie@shaw.ca

