



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

Grand Court of BC – Newsletter
June 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 would love to hear from you and would gladly add any message you have to this newsletter
Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter – August 15

The older I get the earlier it gets late!!



It's with great sadness we report the passing of SK Daniel Wright on May 3, 2020. SK Dan was a long time member of Sequoia Court #15 and served as Grand Royal Patron at the side of his wife, HL Frances Wright, 2014-2015 and Royal Patron of Sequoia Court a number of times. He was active in his Court and Grand Court taking on positions in the Court room, for Grand Court and sitting on Committees both Court and Grand Court. His vast knowledge of the Supreme Constitution and Ritual was acknowledged by his fellow members.

He will be missed by his family, friends and Amaranth members.

Sweet in our Memory

**In a nut shell
Dates of Note:**



**It's ok to cry,
it's ok to breakdown,
it's ok to feel scared...
but please never give up.
You can do this.**

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 will be looking at possible dates and locations for next year!!

Grand Royal Matron, HL Shari Gillies



I am so looking forward to eventually getting together with everyone!!! I have been out for groceries and a bit of ‘other’ shopping, I’ve gotten together with my kids, other family members and a few friends, exchanged texts, messages and emails but life is not the same. I miss you!!!



I made a few masks for family and friends. My daughter, Natalie, is working from home but goes into the office from time to time for meetings. Some of the folks at her work place liked her mask so she asked if I could make more. I’ve done that. Made some doll clothes for my youngest granddaughter, Isabelle and continue to crochet.



I swapped my sewing room and the spare bedroom. So no more running up and down the stairs a million times or not sewing at all. It's much nicer having it closer; well it means I can't ignore it any more...LOL The hitch in the whole move has been the shelving. The original shelving was a mish mash of odds and ends of shelving. So I

checked out IKEA and decided what I wanted. I checked out the availability of the bits to complete my project, found there were some items 'not in stock', ordered the ones that were, waited a couple of days and checked out the 'not in stock' items. There they were, the last pieces to my project. I ordered them! Two days later I received my second order...that was April 26. I'm still waiting for the first order. I have boxes and bags of fabric, sewing patterns, and other sewing paraphernalia everywhere. Thankfully my sewing machine and serger are set up and I'm ok BUT ... the boxes and bags seem to be spreading....

Mothers' Day was lovely with Natalie and family here for Chinese food and we zoomed the Alberta girls. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed dinner on the patio. Natalie did dinner for my birthday and gave me an IOU for lunch and an outing when the time is right!!! I'm really looking forward to that.

I haven't had any trouble spending money...had my house power washed and I've arranged for an old friend to come paint the trim when the weather improves. And there's more spending to come for a new fence on one side. OH the joys of owning a house!!

I know we will all be able to get together eventually and exchange real hugs, not the social distancing kind.



Take care, stay safe, Amaranth Love, HL Shari

PS the second IKEA order arrived on June 2 and is completely setup and loaded!! LOL

**Somebody just threw a bottle of omega 3 capsules at me.
I only have super fish oil injuries but I'm lucky I wasn't killed!**

Grand Royal Patron, SK Bill Duncan

Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights;

The past few months have been a very strange time for all of us at Amaranth. Although social distancing has kept us apart, we hope that many are still finding ways to keep in touch.

As you know, businesses have begun to open up again, and starting this week schools will be reopening on a part time basis. It is important that we remember to stay safe as we return to work and begin to venture out into the shops and stores.

We hope that all are keeping well and we wish you all a very pleasant and safe summer.



Honoured Lady Joyce,
Sir Knight Bill, Grand Royal Patron

Find a spot outside where you will have solitude. Close your eyes and inhale deeply. When you exhale think “I am thankful for this air, these scents and sounds and the gentle breeze against my face.”

HL Karen Yoshioka, GAC

Hi everyone.

Hope all is well. I still haven't seen any members in person since the end of March but I have worked two days in April and a few in May. It feels more normal being at work even if it isn't normal either.



My best news is that I got my cats back. One of Kyla's roommates came over on the ferry and we met up and my cats and I are finally reunited.

Other than that I don't have any news. Hope we will get an opportunity to get together soon.

Amaranth love, HL Karen

Mizpah Court #2, HL Xanadu Hauser

HL Xanadu received the following message from a fellow member:

“HL Karen Smith, moved to Ontario a few years ago. She has recently been in contact to let us know that she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and has about 3 months left. She has asked that I pass along her address and phone number as it would brighten her days to hear from our BC members.”

Karen Smith
480 Lynwell Rd
St. Catherines, ONT
L2M 2R1
1-250-697-3059

A subsequent email reported Karen had passed on June 3, 2020. Cards to family can be sent to the above address.

Sweet in our memory

HL Pat Haywood, PGRM

June is a very special month for me as it was on June 9, 1973 when I was initiated into Evergreen Court #7.

It's hard to believe that 47 years have gone by since then and I am still very active. My very first meeting was at Cypress Court when they met on Royal Ave at the corner of 6th in New Westminster. At that time there were many more Courts than there are today. I remember Silver Birch, Maple, Evergreen, Acacia, Laburnum, Arbutus, Dogwood, Cypress, Redwood, Mizpah and Coronation in those earlier days. It wasn't long until I started up the line and was Royal Matron in Evergreen in 1978 with HL Esther Niles as GRM and SK Bill Rae as GRP. His wife Janet was a PGRM. Some of the Royal Matrons I remember included Jo-Anne Rae of Dogwood, Anne MacDougall of Cypress, Bea Drab of Acacia, Iris Harris of Arbutus



and, I think, Win Kerkland of Redwood. It's been a while for sure. I had the pleasure of being a courtesy candidate in Coronation Court when Betty Turner was initiated. We both served as Worthy Matron in 1973 in our respective Eastern Star Chapters.



As our GRM Ester did not drive, she would head out of the hall on 8th Ave up to Broadway and Granville to get the bus home. After installations and initiations and at other times we would head to someone's house for a party. These included the MacDougalls in New Westminster, Harris' in North Vancouver, the Yexas, Lynne Jones and the Pulhams in Vancouver. Many fun times were held at Helen and Don's garden with Fancy Hat parties on a weekend or after a church service, as well as mini bazaars. We also went to Bob and Marion Brown's for bazaars and teas.

One New Year's Eve a few of the Evergreen members got together at PGRM Ida Pulham's as we would have all been on our own. Oh those for those days again.



I remember one Grand Court in Victoria we were waiting to get into the banquet on the Friday night and we were led in by our PGRM to get right to the front of the room.

At meetings the Royal Matrons and Royal Patrons would sit across from each other as we did at Grand Court. There were many more RMs and RPs back then.

I travelled to Grand Courts in Washington and Oregon many times in the 80s and early 90s when I was going through the Grand Line. I had the honour of being the Grand Representative to Washington when HL Helen Yerxa was GRM. I went as far down as the Court that met in Vancouver, Washington where no Grand Representative had visited. I did this twice, and also to my counterparts' courts.

Unfortunately Evergreen had to close down and most of us went over to Dogwood.

Times certainly have changed for all our organizations over the years and we can only hope things will get better. For me, I have so many memories that I'll never forget.

Amaranth love and friendship, HL Pat Haywood

Stolen From Facebook

(Many thanks to SK Don S for posting this story!)

"Last year, a teacher brought balloons to school and asked his students to blow them all up and had then had them all write their names on one of the balloons.



Once they wrote their names on the balloons. They tossed them in the hallway while the teacher mixed them from one end of the hall to the other.

The teacher then gave them five minutes to find their balloon with their name on it. The students ran around looking frantically but as time ran out, nobody had found their own balloon.

Then the teacher told them to take the balloon closest to them and give it to the person who's name was on it.

In less than two minutes everyone had their own balloon.

Finally, the teacher said "Balloons are like happiness. No one will find it looking for their only. Instead, if everyone cares about each other they will find theirs as quickly as possible."

We are all in this together! Let's take care of each other!."

Just for Fun! Just for Fun! Just for Fun!

From 'Chicken Soup for the Soul'

(Thanks to HL Pat who never fails to send me something interesting!)

Tuna Delight

But some secrets are too delicious not to share – Suzanne Collins, Mockingjay

Early in our marriage, we had what we call our 'poor years'. First, we were paying off our college debts and the mortgage on the little farm we bought. Then came the kids, and we were always saving up for new shoes, a station wagon, school supplies and winter coats.

We had a lot of spaghetti and mystery stew during those years. Our four kids were hearty, active outdoorsy and busy kids with appetites to match. Luckily, I had taught our oldest child the fine art of making sandwiches, so he could make an afternoon snack for himself and the other kids when he got home from school.



Our son was proud of his new skill at preparing lunch. One Saturday afternoon, when all of us were coming in from working in our massive garden, he volunteered to start 'fixin' while I helped the younger ones wash up. Most of us were content with PB&J sandwiches, but Dad wanted his favourite tuna salad.

I wasn't sure we had any canned tuna in our cupboard, but our son said he had found two cans on the bottom, plenty enough for sandwiches for his dad. I offered to help him but he wanted to make them all himself.



While we readied for the meal, cleared away ongoing homework and set the table our son put together a meal worthy of a mass of farm hands: a mountain of PB&J sandwiches for me and the kids and a plate of tuna-salad sandwiches for Dad. He even found a bag of chips to accompany the meal, as well as a gallon of sun tea.

We ate like the starving farmhands we were. Dad complimented our son on the perfection of the tuna sandwiches and finished every one. Later, while we cleared away the mess and prepared for our afternoon naptime for the baby, laundry for me, and a garage project for Dad, he stopped to compliment our son again.

"Best ever." he added, bending low. "Even better than Mom makes." He also bragged about the amazing sandwiches to his brother the next day.

During a rare quiet moment that afternoon, I went to the kitchen for a glass of sun tea and a handful of the few remaining potato chips. The bag was down to broken fragments so when I finished them off I stuffed the empty bag into the trash bin.



That's when I found two empty cans of 9 Lives tuna-flavoured cat food in the trash. I nearly choked on my tea as I sat and laughed out loud.

I've never told a soul that delicious secret until this very moment. – NancyLee Davis

Amaranth and Masonic Vests for order
\$50 per vest

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

jmcmurchie@shaw.ca

