



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

**Grand Court of BC – Newsletter**  
**December 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.

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**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 – December 28.**

**Two things to make your day better:**

**Don't not watch the news;**

**Stay off the bathroom scales.**

**(Dang it! Already done both)**

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



## **COURT MEETINGS**

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

### **Not everything is cancelled**

Sunshine is not cancelled  
Love is not cancelled  
Relationships are not cancelled  
Reading is not cancelled  
Naps are not cancelled  
Devotion is not cancelled  
Music is not cancelled  
Dancing is not cancelled  
Imagination is not cancelled  
Kindness is not cancelled  
Conversations are not cancelled  
HOPE is not cancelled

**Grand Royal Matron, HL Shari Gillies**



**Merry Christmas and hopes for a much better New Year**

Here we are with Christmas lights up everywhere, the store windows full of cheer in the hope that some of that cheer will rub off on the general populace. In the past many of us would have yelled 'It's far too early to be putting up Christmas trees and shopping!' BUT those lights and decorations are bringing happy thoughts to many.



I have never put up my tree this early but here I am at the very beginning of December with my tree up and decorated and having to watch that Roscoe, my inquisitive cat, doesn't decide there might be something up high in the branches for him to discover. My outside lights have been up for a couple of weeks thanks to the hard work of my brother Tim. He decided we needed to spread some cheer with early house trimming!!

I've mentioned my sister's store in a previous newsletter and again I have to thank her for helping me spend my money. It would be much cheaper for me to visit her at her home but not nearly so much fun as poking around at the beautiful things she has in her store and going home with my shopping bag full. Gotta be careful!! Recently I picked up a couple of new Christmas ornaments and just yesterday she helped me with a gift for our family gift exchange. I know that many retail businesses, big and small are hoping this Christmas season will help with what they have lost with reduced times open because this world wide pandemic but difficult times are still coming, I think.

Contact with family, friends and fellow members has dwindled drastically. If you haven't been able to actually do anything there really isn't much to talk or write about. So calls and emails get shorter and much less frequent.

Here is a poem for you. It's an adaptation by Ann Barber of " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Clement Moore to reflect the current world situation.

*'Twas the night of Corona when all through the world  
Not a creature was stirring as the nightmare unfurled  
The face masks were missing, the gloves and the gowns  
The nurses and doctors were all falling down  
The children and old folks were scratching their heads  
To wonder what mayhem this virus could spread  
Pa gathered his strength, Ma stuffed down her worries  
Pulled courage together to start their new journey  
When throughout the world there arose such a clatter  
Of singing, and loving, though hearts were in tatters  
We stood at our balconies, doorways, and windows  
To let out the love Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus  
The moon lit the green of the fresh budding Spring  
Giving Hope for Rebirth we yearned it would bring  
We opened our hearts and expanded our characters  
Knowing our children would be the inheritors  
When who to our wondering eyes did appear  
But the good Dr. Fauci dispelling our fear  
A lively old doctor so truthful and wise  
We knew in a moment he'd tell us no lies  
More rapid than eagles his interviews came  
Knew we needed to hear him so he could explain  
The virus, the distance, how not to transmit it  
The challenge we're up for, no doubt we can do it  
The world just got smaller but we're growing bigger  
Our hearts and our souls demonstrate we're no quitters  
Our Heroes are Healers, not killers of Life  
And many strong Women in the thick of the strife  
May All who draw breath see God in Each Other  
Embracing Our weakness As Sisters and Brothers  
Stronger Together*

All the best to you and yours for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!!

Amaranth hugs,

HL Shari

## Whatever you're doing today do it with the confidence of a 4 year old in a Batman t-shirt

### Grand Royal Patron, SK Bill Duncan

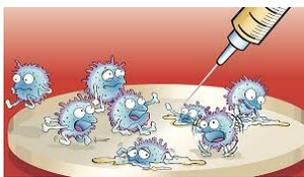
Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights;

Joyce and I are starting to get ready for Christmas. Our front yard is decorated with Christmas lights as usual, and soon we'll be tackling the Christmas tree. It will be a quiet Christmas for us this year, but we will be sure to stay in contact with family members over the holidays.



November has been a tough month for us all with Covid-19 case numbers increasing. The care home where my mother resides suspended visitations for a couple of weeks this past month due to a couple of positive Covid tests amongst the staff. Although visitations have now resumed, I have decided to wait until things become safer before I resume my visits. We are able to keep in touch via Skype, however.

Some of you may have seen the headline on the news: "An unmasked man entered a store..." I thought I'd never hear that one; things are definitely different this year.



We are finally nearing the end of 2020, and we hope that 2021 will be a better year with the promise of a Covid vaccine on the horizon. The authorities have told us that it may take a number of months to get the vaccine out to everyone, but hopefully by next fall, all will be vaccinated and we will be able to say goodbye to this pandemic.

We hope all are staying healthy and safe, and we wish everyone a very merry and happy Christmas season. Let hope and love warm your heart and may this Christmas season bring comfort and joy to you and your family;

All the best to you and yours,

Honoured Lady Joyce Duncan  
Sir Knight Bill Duncan, Grand Royal Patron

### Grand Conductress, HL Jessica LaForge



I hope everyone is safe and healthy during this time of unknowns.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and a better New Year.

Take care and stay safe,

HL Jessica



**Worrying is like a rocking chair:  
it gives you something to do, but never gets you anywhere.  
Erma Bombeck**

## **Grand Associate Conductress, HL Karen Yoshioka**

I finally resurrected my computer but am having trouble with it already. I already lost what I had started.

Anyway, hello everybody. I hope everyone is keeping well and staying safe. It's good that we haven't heard any reports of our members having covid. I have been mostly working and we, along with the other health departments are doing covid tracing. I personally am not doing that. I am covering the fall out of not having staff to do the other programs. So it is pretty stressful there.

But going back to less stressful months I will tell you about my August trip to Kelowna.

Remember when we were allowed to travel in our own province... well I went to visit an old friend from school in Winnipeg, who now lives in Kelowna. What do you do in Kelowna?? Winery tours!! So on my actual wedding anniversary we went to a winery called Camelot. It was done up with a throne and two crowns outside and a coat of shining armour inside. Through the narrative the hostess said "his" name was Dennis. Can you believe it!!! So I had my picture with my Knight in shining armour, Just the armour tho'...lol.



Anyway I send my good wishes for a very Merry Christmas, and hope for a better New Year.

HL Karen

## **Grand Secretary, SK John McMurchie, PGRP And HL Donna-Lee McMurchie, PGRM**

SK John and HL Donna-Lee are busy packing and unpacking!! And hoping to be somewhat organized by Christmas.

## **Grand Treasurer, HL Phyllis Fox, PGRM**

Believe it or not, I am so looking forward to Christmas. We will not have any of our family around us BUT there will be a certain amount of calm. Let me explain...

We had a flooding in my daughter's bathroom which spread into her bedroom and closet. Her closet is quite big and is accessible from the outside hall. Anyway when the people involved in working on this mess arrived, we found out we had to go through 4 days of pumps going day and night to try to dry up under the flooring. Then they ended up ripping up the bedroom and closet floors anyway and all my daughter's things had to go to storage. During this time more drying was required but only 24 hours. However she did not want to have to move anywhere for a month so we ended up with the dining room furniture in storage and her bed in its place, also the freezer which had been in her closet. We had a very close family for 2 weeks. So you can see why a little quiet might be nice.



I am busy right now reading my son's latest book. I had to put it down a couple of times as he explained some of the health problems he had, all of which at the time on the phone he greatly glazed over. Do any of our children tell us the whole story of injuries, especially if you cannot see them yourself?

I know this will not be the Christmas many of us were looking forward to but I keep saying if we all stay calm and do as we are asked maybe next year we will have more to celebrate.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A HAPPY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Phyllis Fox

**HL Pat Haywood, PGRM**



To all my friends at Christmas, I hope you're keeping well  
With all this Covid still with us, there's not a lot to tell  
So here's my Christmas letter, it's hard to know what to say  
Just like many others, it's the same thing day after day after day  
No meetings to go to, no one to see  
For awhile I wondered "what's going to happen to me"  
I started writing poems, often about others  
Wondering how they're doing and how are their sisters and brothers  
Mostly I just stayed home and watched tv  
Or went for a walk to see the flowers and trees  
I went to Australia in Sept. of last year  
To see family and friends those who I hold dear  
So celebrate Christmas the best that you can  
Maybe next year this will be God's plan  
Not to see so much Covid, that would be grand  
And then we can start doing  
All the things that we'd planned



A blonde and a brunette are in a car and the brunette mentions that Christmas falls on a Friday this year. The blonde says I hope it's not the 13<sup>th</sup>

## Just for fun

The Old Lady and the Bra  
Ms. BETTY JENKINS:



I was very skinny, and I didn't have any curves. I guess my mother got kind of worried because she didn't think I had enough boyfriends. So she bought me a bra that you blow up. I was real excited. So I blew and blew and blew to about a 32. I was quite happy with the looks. I got a few wolf whistles. Of course, at that age, you're very self-conscious.



That year I took a trip to South America. I proceeded to fly to Santiago. Soon, we were into the Andes Mountains, and it turned out that it was a non-pressurized plane, and I felt very uncomfortable. Things were getting very tight. This bra had started to increase in size.

As the thing got bigger, I tried to stand up, and I couldn't see my feet. The directions said it would go to 48 if I wanted to. I thought, what will happen if it goes beyond 48? And I found out what happened. It blew out. It was a loud, resounding sound and the co-pilot came into the cabin with a gun, wondering what had happened. The men all pointed to me. Well, it's difficult to explain to people in English that part of your anatomy just blew up, but to try and do it in Spanish, it's beyond hopeless. So they made a landing. I was taken off the plane and turned over to two women police, and they told me to strip, hunting for what they thought was the bomb. When I stripped down, I showed them the hole in the bra. And they chuckled. And I thought, oh, my, they've got the point. And I was allowed back on the plane. A month later, I got a bill from the airline for \$400 for an unscheduled stop.



Betty's mother, who passed away in 1967, enjoyed the story so much that she kept the broken bra. While the bra has been lost to time, Jenkins, 94, says that the attention she received wasn't the kind she was hoping for.

Amaranth and Masonic Vests for order  
\$50 per vest

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

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