



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

Grand Court of BC – Newsletter
February 2021

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Grand Court BC 2021 Session
has been
SUSPENDED
Until March 3, 4, 5, 2022





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 – March 10.**

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



God's Plan for Aging.

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Grand Royal Matron, HL Shari Gillies



Happy Valentine's Day to all. It's not the same as last year when we didn't know about pandemics. I think there might be more bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolates and staying in to watch a good movie than going out for romantic dinners.

Put your hand up if you've already had your Covid-19 vaccine. My hands are still in my lap, twitching to get going. Waiting until all the 75 pluses get theirs for my



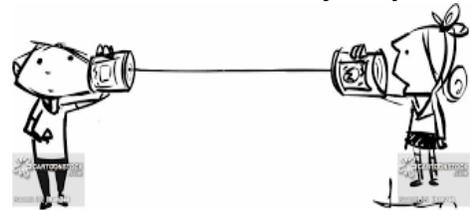
turn is excruciating. And we hope and pray this will slow things down so we can get back to business.

The Human brain is an amazing organ. It functions 24 hours a day from the day we are born and only stops when we are performing ritual



The Ritual is really the kingpin of our meetings. Without Ritual we could be any organization and I do miss it!! It makes us special. The next important thing for me is it's mostly women. Sorry guys, you are very important to me/us but one of the aspects of Amaranth is the betterment of women. We don't seem to emphasize that enough but it's a really important part of why I joined and continue my membership. And all of that culminates in the social part. If you're not having fun, what is the point??!

So, in order to carry on the Ritual, the betterment of women and the social parts we must keep contact with our members during this time of isolation, depression, fear. I'm not a great communicator as evidenced by how few calls I make. I've tried to justify that by this newsletter but it's not the same as giving or getting a phone call and hearing someone's voice even if it's just a short call because there wasn't anything new to say. It's that voice. Here in BC we have one member who has tried to keep in contact with many of our own members and with many outside of BC. HL Pat has done this with calls and emails to many members – some far away like Australia and many closer to home. This is my personal thank you to HL Pat for continuing to keep contact with the membership. She shames me.



"I said, how do you send a text with this thing?"

My idea of a good time is certainly NOT sitting at home waiting for a vaccine and normalcy to return. I'd much rather be out doing things; setting up the meeting room; welcoming our members with a genuine hug and not an 'air' hug; hearing the latest news from our members; getting ready for the next Theme dinner; planning the trip to the next Grand Court, wherever it may be. All that will have to wait, but I can still plan. So, as the time approaches for 'getting out and doing' watch for information for our first meetings, the next social event which will not be a fundraiser, and the next fundraiser which will be the Twenties Theme dinner. It looks like it will be a long wait but eventually we will have meetings again; we will exchange real hugs; we will get back our sense of belonging.



And not to forget Amaranth travel!! As March 2021 nears my mind travels back to many March Madness trips here on the West Coast. I will have to wait another year for that. 2022 looks really promising but it's still so far away.

I think I've said enough for now. Have a great Valentine's Day with your loved ones, near and far. Continue to take care of yourself. Please let me know how you are doing. I'd love to hear from you.

Amaranth love and hugs,
Shari

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

Grand Royal Patron, SK Bill Duncan

Honoured Ladies and Sir Knights, Joyce and I send greetings to all. They tell us that 2021 is the year of the vaccine. It looks like we will be in line sometime around June, so until then, it is Covid life as usual.

On a good note, my mother received her first dose of the vaccine just before the New Year, so her second dose should be coming any time now. Her Care Home has been lucky. There have been a couple of positive cases on a different floor of the building, but her unit which is strictly for people who need breathing assistance has been Covid free. We've been spending some of our time helping out an elderly relative with her yard work. As she lives alone, I think she needs the company more than the yard work, but we're happy to help out. We also received some sad news. My Sister-in-laws's mother passed away at 101 years young, not related to Covid.



Hang in there, the vaccine is on the way.
Honoured Lady Joyce Duncan
Sir Knight Bill Duncan, Grand Royal Patron

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you,
just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

Grand Associate Conductress, HL Karen Yoshioka

HL Karen is having computer troubles so has sent her greeting through me.

She is thinking of you and hopes everyone is well.

Grand Treasurer, HL Phyllis Fox

Who would have thought we could go for a whole year and not attend our meetings, visit other jurisdictions or even see our other friends. Talking on the phone, texting or even facetime is just not the same.

Shari is right we need our newsletter to let us all know we are doing OK and staying safe.



My daughter Kelli and I, did something I have wanted to do for years. We took one of the boats at Granville Island and did a tour. It was a beautiful day and the driver of the boat was an old friend of Kelli's so that added to the enjoyment for her. Catching up on old friends.

I have done a few walks around the grounds where I live but not the same.

I am also busy supervising the bridge building. Not moving very fast but I guess you cannot do it in a day. The way it looks right now, I may have to move over in bed. Looks like they are headed my way.



I thought my daughter Jackie was going to be finished work this week-end, her 65th birthday, but they have her staying until the end of August. Unless that changes again.

Chelsea, my great-granddaughter, joined Dogwood about three years ago. She was not a very regular attendant, partly due to work. Anyway, I may have mentioned this before, she had a little girl named Saige. Saige will be 1 yr. old in a couple of weeks and is so cute and just getting walking well underway.

Not much else in my life, just staying in and behaving. I know some of you will find that hard to believe but there you have it.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone and I hope you get to spend it with people you love.

Phyllis Fox

Grand Secretary, SK John McMurchie

Well, we are finally settled into our new place. Not completely unpacked yet but we will get there.

After we moved in we had a wall of cabinets added to the eating area to give us more storage. Who would have expected that after going from a 4000 square foot house to a 1950 square foot townhouse. This was my way of getting out of painting the entire house.

We are seeing more and more Grand Courts cancelling or moving their Grand Courts to next year. So far Washington has moved from March to May; not sure any of the British Columbia folks will even be able to cross the border even if they may want to.

We hope that you are all safe and well and that we can get back to meeting again later this year.

Donna-Lee and I are anxiously awaiting our new Grandchild due any day now.

As Grand Secretary I still have Amaranth and Masonic ball caps and vests for sale. \$15 for the hats and \$50 for the vests.

John & Donna-Lee McMurchie

Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring.
Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.

HL Pat Haywood, PGRM

A little history lesson for you about Amaranth

Did you know...

In the middle of the 19th century, a number of societies were started in America, in which females could become members. The two that we are most concerned with are the "Order of the Eastern Star" and the "Order of the Amaranth.

The Order of the Amaranth was officially organized June 14, 1873 in New York City as part of the Rite of Adoption Robert Macoy was the first Supreme Royal Patron and Rob Morris was the first Supreme Recorder of the Order under Robert Macoy. In the Rite of Adoption Ritual it was said: This Organization shall be known as the 'Rite of Adoption of the World' and shall consist of the degrees of the Eastern Star, the Queen of the South and the Amaranth.

Brother Robert Macoy obtained the material that Brother Taylor had written about the Amaranth, and revised and perfected it into ritualistic form so that it could be used as the ritual for the third degree. From 1873 until 1921, all members of the Amaranth were required to join the Order of the Eastern Star first, and to maintain this membership to be able to stay members of the Amaranth. In 1921, by mutual agreement, this requirement ceased. They are now completely separate organizations.

In 1895, Robert Macoy died. New officers arranged for the Supreme Council of the Order of the Amaranth to hold its first meeting of its officers and members in 1897. Since then, an Annual Meeting has been held each year. Under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council we have forty-three Grand Courts (each is Statewide), located in the United States, Canada, Australia, Philippines and Scotland. Also, Subordinate Courts (local) in Hawaii, New Zealand and England (there are a few individual states in the U.S. that do not have Grand Courts).

FUN FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.

The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 19th, and Pisces, which is until [March 20th](#).

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days

In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of [August](#).

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word "February" before in a press release!

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

HL Pat Haywood

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

Just for fun

1. It's okay to talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. "In Style" are the clothes that still fit. **My closet is full of clothes that don't fit. Guess I'm not in style.**
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop ticking you off.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work. **And there are so many of them. I see them driving on the highway eating cereal; reading something and it's not a map; putting on makeup and those are the drivers and not the passengers. I'll stop now; there are just too many examples...LOL**
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it." **If you write it down you must take it with you!**
6. "On time" is when you get there. **NO-NO-NO! On time is at least five minutes before you need to be there.**
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller? **My personal favourite.**
9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you. **Yeah, until you look in the mirror and wonder who that old person is.**

10. Growing old should have taken longer.
11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
12. You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

And one more:

"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house. **We were supposed to learn that as children!**

Extra Just for fun

Serious Lock Down advice

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my Pepsi, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.



I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, because he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!



The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up! But the fan was very optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!!

You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to "pull myself together!"

We will survive!!

Amaranth and Masonic Vests for order
\$50 per vest

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

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