



Spotlight

Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic
Retirement Center Newsletter
2445 South Quebec Street,
Denver, CO 80231-9924
303-756-9489



Spring 2010

Changes at the Retirement Community

The Retirement Center is almost to an end of its fiscal year. The management team has been doing an outstanding job in taking care of our residents and controlling budget costs.

The board, management, staff and all volunteers continue to work to make the Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Center a facility that will make all in our community proud. A recent example of this success: I recently had a conversation with a man who has a relative living in our home. He told me that in his profession, he sees many facilities like ours. He is impressed with our management and staff. He told me, "That on a scale of one to five, with five being the highest, he would rate this facility a five."

I was saddened by the resignation of Kelly McCormick from the board. He was a tireless supporter of the center and will be missed. WGM Charles Johnson has appointed Randy Penn to complete Kelly's term. Welcome Randy. Everyone looks forward to working with you.



*New Board of Trustee
member Randy Penn
(see profile on page 2)*

To our OES sisters and brothers, I ask that you consider placing your name in nomination for the Board of Trustees to be elected at the annual meeting in September. Please contact a board member with any question you may have. I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events over the next couple of months. Thank you for the support you have given to the center, and for the love and caring you have shown our residents.

Our Long-range Planning Committee is actively meeting and identifying the needs and future of our community. Current plans are in the works to update the common interior areas of our center with new paint, carpet and furnishings. Additionally, the kitchen will be updated with new work spaces, storage areas and dishwasher. New automatic door openers for handicap access will be installed.

– **Terry Hudson**, President, Board of Trustees

Great things anticipated at the Center

In the last several months, I have been welcomed with open arms into the family and community that make up the RRESMC. I would like to take this opportunity to share some information about myself. I was introduced to the Masonic family when I met my husband, Dick Karns, in 2004. Dick was serving as Potentate of El Jebel. As you can imagine, I hit the ground running. I was initiated into Eastern Star as a member of South Gate #104 in April of 2007.

See Karn Notes...page 2

Karn's Notes...from page 1

Because I like crowns (what young girl didn't dream of being a queen), I chose to serve as Esther my first year in OES. My second year I went in as Conductress and I am now Associate Matron. Dick has joined me as Associate Patron. I grew up in Fort Lupton and attended college at CU. I am a CPA and after three years in public accounting I went to work for a family-owned oil and gas company. I have been there for over 26 years. I decided to run for the Board of Trustees because I feel I can be of service and hope that my contributions will make a difference.

I picked an excellent time to join the board. The environment at the center is enthusiastic! The staff is terrific — I can't say enough about their abilities and commitment to excellence. The center has been consistently showing a profit, which gives us the opportunity to plan for future improvements and growth. I've been impressed by the support of the center by Grand Chapter, Grand Lodge, Chapters, Lodges and

other Masonic family members. We had a great turnout at the Masonic Family Appreciation Dinner in February with 82 attending.

There is always something going on at the center — karaoke, holiday parties, popcorn and movies, nail painting, church services, men's group and AARP driving classes.

The board would like to thank everyone for making the center what it is today and hope you continue to join us in the upcoming events scheduled for this spring, summer and fall. Some of these events include: a golf tournament on June 4, the fraternal family Masonic picnic on August 14 and the Potentate's casino night on September 11. We will be hosting the Communities and Service Association's annual convention in June, 2011.

I look forward to getting to know the residents better and being a part of the evolution and growth of the RRESMRC!

— **Karen A. Karns,**

Vice President, Board of Trustees

Randy Penn, the newest member of the Board of Trustees, is member of Schiller 41, Paul Revere 130 and Memorial 1 Lodges. He served as Master of Schiller in 1996 and brought the German Degree back into use. He is a Past District Lecturer and Director of the Work and current Secretary of Westminster Masonic Center. Penn currently serves the Denver Consistory as Junior Warden of the Rose Croix Chapter, chair of the Member Retention Committee and a regular contributor on the Finance, Public Relations and Speaker Bureau Committees. He was honored Knight Commander Court of Honor in 2005. Professionally, Randy is financial manager having worked in non-profit management, accounting and tax, securities sales, management and auditing and banking. He has an MBA and BA in Economics.

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Fraternal participation is fun for all

Greetings! 2010 started off with my trip to the Grand Lodge in Pueblo. I had a table promoting the home with cookies and water in the lobby, which was popular during meeting breaks. I met fantastic people, not only from our magnificent state of Colorado, but delegates in attendance from Canada, Arizona, Idaho, Nebraska and Wyoming. I learned a lot at the Masons' annual affair. I am looking forward to OES Grand Chapter in September.

I have been able to recruit several youth groups here to the home to teach Wii to the residents. Bowling is very popular with seniors, and with thanks to girls from Bethel 43 and Dustyn Asuellas and various young men from DeMolay, residents are having a ball.

After donating nail polish of many colors, several girls painted the nails of women who would prefer to let someone else do it. Laughter and friendships were forged between the younger generation and residents during this Sunday event. It was three hours of non-stop laughter — a great time was had by all.

Dining room tables are being decorated by the Home Cheer Committee: Millicent Ramsay, Carol

Ann Chapman, Sally Uhrlaub and Jan Asuellas.

Mary Day, from the Alpha Club, decorated each resident's door with a giant Valentine heart in February. Unity Chapter hosted their Annual Fried Chicken Dinner where residents from the Star Vista Village joined home residents to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken with all the fixings! After everyone was stuffed they were serenaded by the Rainbow girls.

The Fraternal Relations Committee hosted the Masonic Family Appreciation dinner celebration on Feb. 17. Volunteers, benefactors and all grand line officers from the fraternal family were treated to a prime rib dinner prepared by the center's kitchen staff. Rita Bucholtz, Worthy Grand Matron, Leonard Beasley, Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Colorado Order of The Eastern Star and Charles Johnson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM, honored the event by attending. Additionally, representatives from El Jebel Shrine, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Daughters of the Nile, International Order of Jobs Daughters, International Order of Rainbow for Girls and Columbine Order of Eastern Star Prince Hall shared the evening. The center honored
See Fraternal Relations...page 7

A "Good Old Boys' Club, for Men Only"

There is a new group for the special men at the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community, the Men's Club. The group meets once a month in the afternoon to get to know each other, tell tall tales about their lives, share war stories and spend time bonding with one another.

The program goal is to develop relationships that will brighten their days. The group is open to any male resident of the retirement center and their male family friends. The group is led by Executive Director Larry Lillo and the rest of the men at the home who are interested in spending time together. The home supplies the beer (both al-

coholic and non-alcoholic), peanuts, pretzels and chips. The guys spend an hour talking, having snacks and drinking beer.

Currently there are 8-10 (out of 13) residents who participate. Eventually, it is hoped that all male residents in the community will be interested. As

the weather warms, the group hopes to take in a baseball game, go fishing, visit an auto museum and take special trips up the mountain to Central City/Blackhawk for gambling.

If you are interested in this special group, please contact Pati Sawyer-Boex, 303-753-2160, or Judith Grant, 303-753-2177 for information.



The Denver Zoo brought animals like this snake to touch.

Our Retirement Community Wants You!

Spring is right around the corner. It is a perfect time to re-evaluate your current living arrangements to ensure that you are meeting all of your immediate needs. Here are some of the factors seniors consider when evaluating their homes:

- Can I still navigate the steps safely?
- Is the house in good repair both inside and out?
- Are my home and bathrooms senior friendly?



- Can I still handle the lawn and snow removal?
- What systems are in place if I have an emergency (i.e. lifeline)?

As the years in retirement grow, the above questions definitely come into play when seniors and their families are considering the next chapter in their lives.

Many times seniors are also faced with a home that has 50+ years of “stuff” that has accumulated. This can be an overwhelming project to tackle. Where do you start? This community can help you locate a company that specializes in assisting seniors with downsizing.

In addition, home maintenance becomes too



much of a burden leaving the senior with many items that need repair, but are being put on the back burner because of costs, disruptions to the home, and that it's just too much trouble. This is the perfect scenario for leasing one of these safe and maintenance-free Patio Homes.

Another great feature of the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community Patio Homes is that it is a very affordable community that does not charge an entrance fee like so many of the other retirement communities. Likewise, rents are senior friendly!

We also are very proud that nearly half of the residents have affiliation with OES or the Masons, so you would be in very good company!



We will have many days of great weather this Spring — why not set aside an hour or so to come and check out our wonderful community. It just might be

the answer you are looking for! Call me today, 303 753-2179.

– **Diane Martini**
Director of Marketing





Golf Tournament
Friday, June 4, 2010
 Park Hill Golf Club
 4141 E 35th
 Denver CO 80237
 Sponsored by



Player 1 or Company Name _____

Player 2 or Company Address _____

Player 3 or Company City, State & Zip _____

Player 4 _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:
 _____ Number of Players (\$80 per person)
 _____ Total Amount Due

Please make check payable to:
 Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community
Send cash or check to:
 Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community
 Attention: Pati Sawyer Boex
 2445 South Quebec Street
 Denver, CO 80231

Registration is due by **May 19, 2010.**

Questions Please Call:
 Pati Sawyer Boex, Director of Fraternal Relations
 Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community
 303-753-2160 or patis@esmrc.com

\$80 Per Person Includes:
 Golf, Breakfast Burrito, Lunch,
 Kart, 1 Drink, Driving Range

Contact Pati Sawyer Boex
 Fraternal Relations Director
 303-753-2160 or
 patis@esmrc.com

6:30am
 Breakfast Burrito's

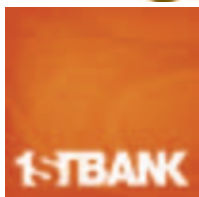
7:30
 Modified Shot Gun Start
 Scramble Tournament

12:30 approximate for
 Cook Out Lunch

Mulligan's & Strings will
 be available day of,
 cash only



Sponsors include:



Sponsors include:

- Primetime for Seniors
- El Jebel Duffers
- Garden of Friendship Grand Family, OES
 WGM Rita Bucholtz
 WGP Leonard Beasley
- Colorado Ski and Golf
- Denver Chapter No 2 Ram
- Jim and Nicks BBQ
- Bladium Sports Club
- Walmart
- Denver Colorado Commandery No. 1 KT

Winter Activities Bring Joy and Fun to Residents

January, 2010 was launched on Dec. 31 with a “Noon Year’s Eve” to celebrate the season. Larry O’Connor provided the music. New Year’s Day featured the Rose Bowl parade and football game along with traditional snacks.

Lunch out during this month was at Red Robin for residents of the home and Outback Steakhouse for Star Vista Village residents. A special visit from the Denver Zoo was a treat. Home residents enjoyed learning about, and sometimes petting, a variety of critters. The Botanic Gardens brought lots of plants to touch and smell. They also provided pots and dried flowers for residents to design their own arrangements. (See photos below.)

Entertainers who visited in January included Preethi Burkholder on piano, singers Marilyn and Chuck, the Silverado Chorale and the Chamber Music Society. Regular monthly activities included scenic rides, Wine and Cheese Hour, cookie decorating with Josie, shopping on Friday, water colors, trivia, spelling and news, music, dancing, karaoke and trips to Starbucks and Dairy Queen.

Star Vista Village residents took a road trip to another community to hear an Active Minds lecture on the C.I.A. and attended musical performances at the home. They also enjoyed their monthly breakfast and dinner at the Pick-a-Dilly clubhouse.

February activities included both home and Star Vista Village residents at the Active Minds presen-

tation on the history of “chocolate,” which included coffee and tasting chocolates after the talk. Both groups participated in the Resident Art Show that was held in the Chapel Lounge to showcase the beautiful art and craft work of residents. The home played host to an AARP driving class in the Pick-a-Dilly that was attended by several residents and visitors.

Residents went on a Ground Hog Hunt — winners picked up the most paper ground hogs scattered throughout the public rooms of the home. A special Valentine party was held at the home while Macaroni Grill was the featured restaurant for their lunch out. Burno’s Italian Restaurant had several Star Vista Village residents for a lunch bunch.

New in February was a Protestant Communion on the second Tuesday of each month by the Reverend Brian Henderson of Calvary Baptist Church.

March blew in with some special activities for the Home including: a slide presentation on Greek Mythology and the Constellations by Robert Bruner; a trip to the Hammonds Candies factory followed by lunch at McDonalds; a Shamrock Scavenger Hunt and St. Patrick’s Day party on March 17; Aurora Trishka who entertained on the piano; and Lois McCloskey who played guitar and sang. Lunch out for both the home and Star Vista Village residents was at the Delectable Egg.

Mardi Gras came to the Home on March 16 with a visit from children at La Petit Academy. A parade, hats, beads and donuts added to the fun. The Wii video game has been added to both the home and the Pick-a-Dilly. It is featured at weekend activities along with the regular schedule of daily events.

–Judith Grant,
Activities
Director



Fraternal Relations...from page 3

Idella Cummings, Sally Uhrlaub and Mary Lou Martin for their years of volunteer service, which totals almost 100 years if all three are added together. They call Bingo, visit with the residents, offering words of encouragement and good old fashioned hugs! Steve Shroeder was thanked for leading Bible study and Sunday worship service at the community.



The next day Jean Mc Daniel and Russell Cummings accompanied by members of the Grand family and members from the “Young at Heart Year 1978-1979” dedicated a gourmet popcorn wagon to the residents of the home. Everyone sang songs and enjoyed hot fresh popcorn. The residents are enjoying delicious popcorn daily!

As part of Fraternal Relations, I have been working with different Chapters, Lodges and individuals to adopt our residents. This program is for all residents because some have outlived their family members or do not have any family nearby. It is a way to have someone outside the home remember them. It is as simple as sending a card once a month or, if you live nearby, stopping by and saying hello. I still have a few residents who have not been adopted so if interested, please give me a call or email (see below).

“The Helping Hands fund” is designed to help any resident at any given time to meet their daily living needs when they do not have the money. For example, an 81-year-old resident, who is diabetic, can-

not cut his own toenails and must see a foot doctor for help. The money in this fund will get him the foot care he needs.

There are upcoming events that all are invited to attend. I sincerely hope that you can come or be a part of in some way.

Shred-a-Thon: May 22, with the International Order of the Rainbow Girls, Littleton Assembly #5, 10 am–noon. You can bring up to three boxes of documents to be shredded. Donations will be accepted for the Rainbow Girls scholarship fund.

Golf Tournament: June 4, at Park Hill Golf Club; registration is open and affordable. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Fraternal Family Picnic: August 14, 10 am–1 pm on the grounds of the ESMRC, 2445 S. Quebec St, Denver. This picnic is free and there will be multi-generational activities for everyone to enjoy. Music by John Phillip Sousa Band.

Casino Night: Sept. 11, 7–10 pm at the El Jebel Shrine, co-hosted by the Potentate. Enjoy an evening of dancing or renew your wedding vows with Elvis and, of course — gambling! Tickets are \$30 and include \$5,000 in funny money, one drink coupon and one prize ticket. Would you like to volunteer as a dealer for poker/blackjack or can you or your Lodge/Chapter donate a prize? Contact me — see information below.

Alive at 55 Senior Driving Class: Oct. 22 and 23, at the Pic-a-dilly Club House, sponsored by AARP. This 8-hour class has two sessions over two days. Remember safe driving tips and perhaps save money on your car insurance. This class filled up in February. It is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members, and is open to everyone.

If you have any questions, want to volunteer or buy a ticket, please feel free to contact me.

– **Pati Sawyer Boex**, Fraternal Relations Director
patis@esmrc.com, 303-753-2160

Community Shred-a thon: You could be a victim of identity theft and not even know it! The International Order of the Rainbow Girls Littleton Assembly #5 and the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community is trying to prevent you from becoming a victim through a free Document-Shredding Event. Saturday, May 22, 10 am–noon, 2445 South Quebec St. Denver

BRING - Old checks, bills, bank statements, credit card offers, medical records, tax forms, pay stubs, etc.

DO NOT BRING - Newspapers, phone books, magazines, plastic, cardboard or catalogues.

Three COPY BOXES OR BAGS PER SMALL BUSINESS OR HOUSEHOLD

Donations accepted for the International Order of the Rainbow Girls Scholarship Fund.

Art Show



Valentine's Day



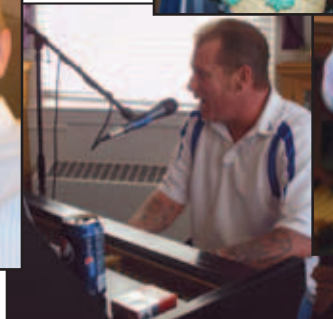
Mardi Gras



April Fool's Day



Easter Party



Trips, Events and More!



Candy Store



Chicken Dinner



St. Patrick's Day



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Celebration



Potentate's Casino Night — Fundraiser for the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community

Saturday, Sept. 11, 7–10 pm

Black Jack • Craps • Roulette • Prizes • Cash Bar • Live Music for Dancing

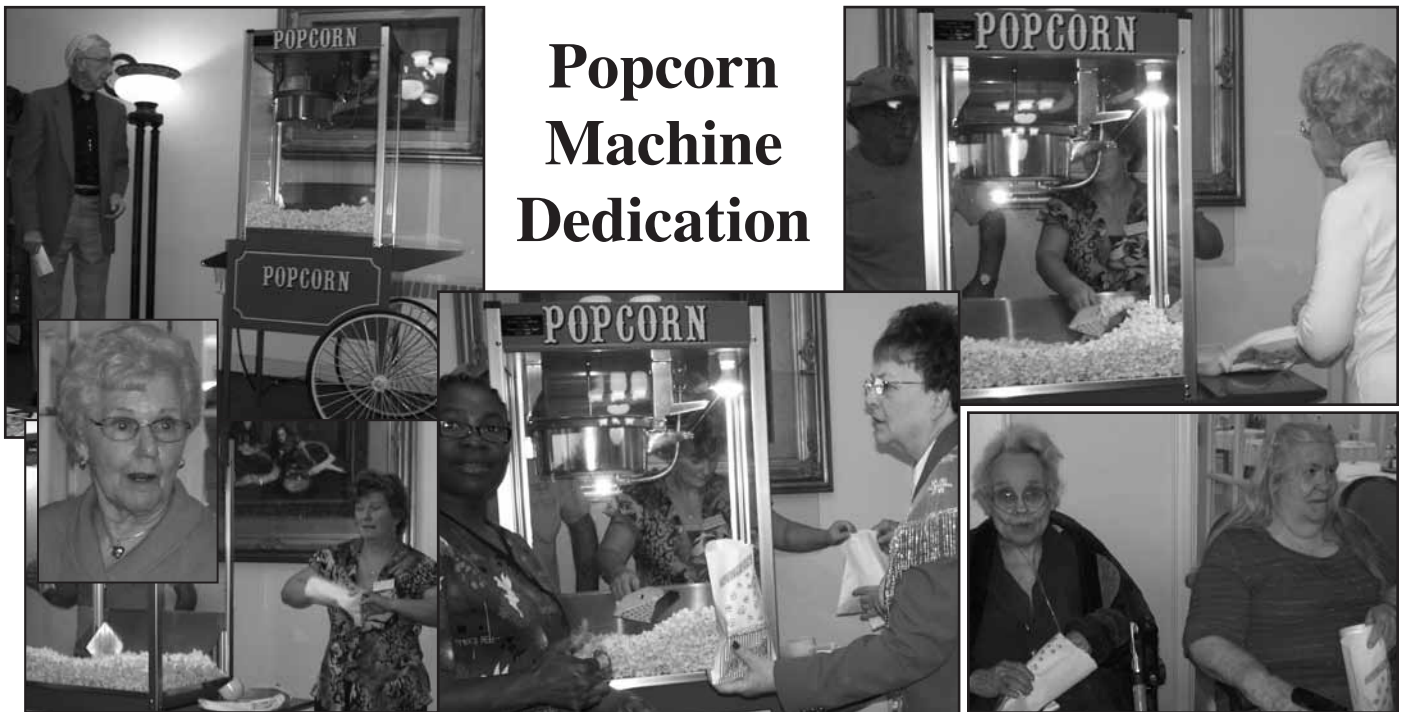
Renew Your Vows with Elvis

\$30 Ticket includes \$5,000 in fun money, 1 free drink coupon and 1 prize ticket.

For information on how you can volunteer to be a Black Jack dealer,
or to purchase your tickets, call Pati Sawyer Boex,
Fraternal Relations Director, 303-753-2160.

El Jebel Shrine
4625 W. 50th Ave
Denver, CO 80212

Purchase tickets by Sept. 1 and get \$1,000 in bonus fun money!
Please pay via check or cash. Make checks payable to ESMRC.



Popcorn Machine Dedication

In Kind Donations Needed:

- Art supplies – Water color paper, water color paint and colored pencils.
- **Special Need** – Small sizes of deodorant, liquid shower soap, toothpaste, shampoo, cream rinse and other grooming items.
- Flushable Personal Cleansing Clothes

Volunteer Opportunities:

Can you spare an hour or two a month? There are interesting and satisfying ways you can contribute to the home. We will provide a brief orientation to help you have the best possible experience when working with our senior population. You may choose one on one visits or group activities during the week or on weekends. For example, a men's club meets once a

month and they would enjoy guests at this activity.

If you have a hobby, can you do a “show and tell” as a special treat for residents? Maybe its photography, a travel video or slide show. Do you enjoy doing crafts? You could show your items to the residents.

If you have a musical talent, let's talk! Home residents love to be entertained with piano, guitar, banjo, accordion or other instrument. An hour on a Saturday would be truly appreciated. If you prefer to come during the week, choose an hour before the noon meal or at 3 p.m. Both are excellent times. We will work with you to find the best time that works for you.

Call Activities Director Judith Grant, 303-753-2177, for information about donations or volunteer opportunities. We will work out times and dates for your convenience.

Sugar Cookies: Cooking with Josie

One of the members of our kitchen team, Josie Tenorio, has developed a popular activity for residents, both men and women. They help her decorate cookies for the rest of the residents to enjoy. Her secret recipe for sugar cookies came from one of the Eastern Star chapters cookbooks. It is included here to share with all readers. The shapes and frosting themes change depending on the holiday or season. Family members have even joined the cookie bakers as a great way to visit with their family member.

1 Cup Shortening	2 Cups Flour
½ Cup Brown Sugar	1 Tsp. Soda
½ Cup White Sugar	½ Tsp Salt
1 egg	Sugar



Cream shortening with white and brown sugars. Add egg and vanilla. Mix well. Combine dry ingredients and add nuts if desired. Add the dry ingredients to the shortening, about a cup at a time. Mix well. Roll dough into balls. Then roll the balls in more sugar. Flatten with the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar. Bake at 350 degrees until barely brown, about 10–12 minutes.



Prepared frosting, in different colors (food coloring) can then be added to the cookies in whatever design you want.



Above and right: Making Pizza is almost as much fun as cookies!



Fraternal Family

PICNIC



Saturday August 14
10:00am—1:00pm
at the

Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community

Multigenerational Activities

Performance by the John Phillip Sousa Band

Complimentary BBQ

Bounce House, Cotton Candy, Dunk Tank,
Games, Sno Cones, Clowns

*If you would like to have a table to sell Fraternal Family Items
please contact me, call Pati Sawyer Boex
For questions 303-753-2160 or patis@esmrc.com*



Masonic Communities and Services Association Annual Conference

Coming to Denver, Colorado in 2011

Hosted by **YOUR** Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Community
100's of leaders in Masonic Communities across the country will be attending

Volunteers and Support will be needed and more information will be posted on the RRESMC web site as it comes or contact your Board of Trustees for more information.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Rick Haskell 720.488.6225 or rick@pathwaysls.net

Spotlight on Residents

Lois Stewart

Star Vista Village resident Lois Stewart, a former Rainbow Girl, visited with Rainbow members when they volunteered at the home in February. She presented each girl with a copy of her book of verse, *Look for the Rainbow*, published in 1984, along with the music to a song “I Found the Rainbow” that she and a collaborator wrote in the 1990s. One of the dedications in the book is to the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Lois, who has lived in the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community since 2004, continued her Masonic affiliation when she became an active member of Pueblo No. 7 Order of Eastern Star. She is a Past Matron of that chapter. She also served the Grand Chapter of Colorado as a district instructor and Grand Chaplain. She was the official recorder for the proceedings of the Grand Chapter for eight consecutive years.

A native of Colorado, Lois was born in Fowler. She attended school there and in Pueblo, graduating from La Junta High School and Brown Business College in La Junta. She married Guy Stewart in 1944 and has two daughters, Della and Donna. She retired from the Colorado Division of Employment and Training when she needed to care for her husband who’s ill health required it. The couple moved to Canon City in 1982. Guy passed away in 1999.

Her job with the state had her writing numerous work-related articles and training manuals, encouraging her to become a freelance writer. She has been successful in the greeting card market and has had several cards published by Leanin’ Tree and Cur-

rents, Inc., both of Colorado. She continues as a member of the National League of American Pen Women and attends meetings in Colorado Springs when possible. Lois has written a book for children yet to be published. She has plans to teach a calligraphy class.



Lois Stewart (left) presents her book, Looking for the Rainbow and sheet music for “I Found the Rainbow” to Angela Wempe, GWA of Colorado, on Feb. 13. (Photo by Jim Jarvis)

William Bodan

Assisted Living resident William Bodan moved to the home in April, 2009, and quickly became part of the social life of the home. Willie is a native of Denver, born in Porter Hospital. He attended local schools, graduating from George Washington High School. He graduated from Harvard College. During his school years in Boston he worked in a law office and became close friends with the owner and his family.



Following graduation he returned to Denver and worked for many years as a paralegal in his father’s law office. His experience in law offices carries on in his attention to detail as he coordinates business files and assists in social activities at the home.

Willie is the official greeter of the home and recently served as a greeter at the Fraternal Family Appreciation Evening held in February. He assists with seasonal decorations and special social events for home residents. He enjoys watching television and participating in activity programs like Karaoke on the weekends. On Thursday afternoons he holds a “Swing Time” activity that encourages residents to dance and listen to music.

Willie enjoys being part of the “family” here and has been a positive addition to the ESMRC.

Thanks to these 2010 donors —

Thank you for all donations from January–March, 2010.

January

Grand Lodge
Trinidad Chapter No. 1
Rebecca S. Mason
Centennial Chapter No. 58
Charles R. Ferris
Cozette I. Manders-Albright
Carol & John Peck

February

Donald & Marian Miller
Emanuel Planas
Lawrence L. Lowery
Bonnie Reed
H.L. Bacon
Helen Southhall
James Rexroad Jr.

Gerald Groth
Dahlgren Andrews
Edith D Macdonald
Walter L. Ramer
Rodney & Linda Huskey
Hugh Cumming
Gladys Heater
Margaret Ringhofer
Alice M. Dempsey
Pueblo Chapter No. 7
Estate of Harold L. Johnson
Manzanita No. 15

March

Earle Quinnell Jr
Cruz or Zelda Klein,
Collins Chapter No. 26

Heritage Chapter No. 154
Oriental Chapter No. 98
Centennial Chapter No. 8
Past Grands Club

Helping Hands Fund

Karen Karnes
Teresa Hudson
Loyalty Chapter No. 145
Fountain Valley Chapter No. 155
Dawn Chapter No. 125
Collins Chapter No. 26
Lakewood Chapter No. 139
Garden City No. 3

In-Kind Donations —

We have been blessed with the outpouring of in-kind donations. We have received everything from computers, towels, fresh fruit, large print books, to yarn and VHS movies as well as toiletries. THANK YOU to everyone who donated. You are making a difference in the day-to-day lives of our residents. Often donations were just left without a name. Because we would like to thank you, please acknowledge your gift. You know who you are — we wish we did.

ers, towels, fresh fruit, large print books, to yarn and VHS movies as well as toiletries. THANK YOU to everyone who donated. You are making a difference in the day-to-day lives of our residents. Often donations were just left without a name. Because we would like to thank you, please acknowledge your gift. You know who you are — we wish we did.

Popcorn wagon: Jean McDaniels and “Young at Heart” members 1978-1979	Scribes & Keys Maryellen Thoren Hope No. 122 Stephanie Fossinger	Idella & Russel Cum- mings Lowell Ernest Patricia Andrea Mt. Zion No. 133 Garnet No. 39 Lorraine No 52 Brighton	Highland Starlight & Garden of Friendship Sharon Keefe Heritage No. 154 Dorothy Davies Eleanor Norton Roger Fuehrer Ruth Glunt Donna Haas Kathy Sullivan
Loyalty Chapter No. 145 Clarence Gish Elaine Birely Nancy Oszaja Elizabeth Duncan Janet Blankenship Mary Day Alpha Club	Dorothy Davis Margaret Benton Brantley Royale Phyllis Graff Kathy Harris Gerry & Dick Peeples Loyalty Chapter No. 145	Tasha Sullivan Shirley Woodward Leonard Beasley Lee & Maxine Blooding Fidelity No. 144	

Make a Difference!

One of the first things that Masons learn is that before we enter upon any great or important undertaking we should first invoke the blessing of Deity. When King Solomon had finished the temple, he offered a sacrifice to God and he prayed. That night God appeared to him and said “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV). I believe we should pray like it is up to God, because it is and we should work like it is up to us, because it is.

I have been a Mason for almost 35 years. Past Master, Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shrine — these were the Masonic paths I walked. In wondering what would become of the Masonic orders if membership continues to diminish, I re-read Greenleaf’s poem “The Lodge Room Over Simpkins’ Store” and pondered what would he do? What would great Masons of the past do? Men like Paul Revere, George Washington, John Hancock, and Greenleaf would have prayed to Almighty God for guidance. Then they would have worked to make a difference. I wrote what I believe he would write, if he were here today. Read these poems, pray and then come and join me as we try to make a difference! Fraternally yours, **Rev. Steve Schroeder**

303-809-7789 cell; steve@cofirst.com



The Lodge Room Over Simpkins' Store

The plainest lodge room in the land was over Simpkins' Store,
 Where Friendship Lodge had met each month for fifty years or more.
 When o'er the earth the moon full-orbed had cast her brightest beams,
 The Brethren came from miles around on horseback and in teams,
 And O! what hearty grasp of hand, what welcome met them there,
 As mingled with the waiting groups they slowly mount the stair,
 Exchanging fragmentary news or prophecies of crop,
 Until they reach the Tyler's room and current topics drop,
 To turn their thoughts to nobler themes they cherish and adore,
 And which were heard on meeting night up over Simpkins' Store.

To city eyes, a cheerless room, long usage had defaced,
 The tell-tale lines of lath and beam on wall and ceiling traced.
 The light from oil-fed lamps was dim and yellow in its hue,
 The carpet once could pattern boast, though now 'twas lost to view.
 The altar and the pedestals that marked the stations three,
 The gate-post pillars topped with balls, the rude carved Letter G,
 Were village joiners clumsy work, with many things beside,
 Where beauty's lines were all effaced and ornament denied.
 There could be left no lingering doubt, if doubt there was before,
 The plainest lodge room in the land was over Simpkins' store.

While musing thus on outward form the meeting time drew near,
 And we had a glimpse of inner life through watchful eye and ear.
 When Lodge convened at gavel's sound with officers in place,
 We looked for strange, conglomerate work, but could no errors trace.
 The more we saw, the more we heard, the greater our amaze,
 To find those country brethren there so skilled in Mason's ways.
 But greater marvels were to come before the night was through,
 Where unity was not mere name, but fell on heart like dew.
 Where tenets had the mind imbued, and truths rich fruitage bore,
 In plainest Lodge room in the land, up over Simpkins' store.

To hear the record of their acts was music to the ear,
 We sing of deeds unwritten which on angel's scroll appear.
 A widow's case - Four helpless ones - lodge funds were running low.
 A dozen brethren sprang to feet and offers were not slow.
 Food, raiment, things of needful sort, while one gave load of wood,
 Another, shoes for little ones, for each gave what he could.
 Then spoke the last: "I haven't things like these to give - but then,
 Some ready money may help out: - and he laid down a Ten.
 Were brother cast on darkest square upon life's checkered floor,
 A beacon light to reach the white - was over Simpkins' store.

Like scoffer who remained to pray, impressed by sight and sound,
 The faded carpet 'neath our feet was now like holy ground.
 The walls that had such a dingy look were turned celestial blue,
 The ceiling changed to canopy where stars were shining through.
 Bright tongues of flame from altar leaped, the G was vivid blaze,
 All common things seemed glorified by heaven's reflected rays.
 O! wondrous transformation wrought through ministry of love -
 Behold the Lodge Room Beautiful! — fair type of that above,
 The vision fades - the lesson lives! and taught as ne'er before,
 In plainest Lodge room in the land - up over Simpkins' store.

— Written November 19, 1898, by Lawrence N. Greenleaf, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, 1880; Deputy of the Supreme Council for Colorado; Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; Southern Jurisdiction 1878-1917

The Lodge Room Over Simpkins' Store Continued

110 years have passed since Greenleaf penned his phrase,
 Mason's live, good work still done, for that we give God praise.
 For us a chance to perceive and see with reflective eye,
 Future things, by the guiding light of all the years gone by.
 In days to come, will Masons flourish or will the order die,
 Masonic fate is in God's hands, Lord help us as we try.
 To do our part, to do His will our cause is just and true,
 We'll give our all and pray His grace will see us thru and thru.
 To teach all men to live the life He called us to adore,
 And by His hand this is our plan up over Simpkins store.

With helpful hand our faithful clan still meets in lodge room plain,
 Friendship, morality and brotherly love, our tenets still remain.
 Though there are not as many masons now as in years gone by,
 It's time for us who love the craft to stop and ask the question why?
 What hand of fate or cultural maze could lead to our demise?
 We look to the east in unbelief and right before our very eyes,
 The designs are drawn and the plan is laid out as clear as it could be,
 Trestle board adorned with Wisdom, Strength and Beauty for everyone to see.
 The three great lights and the all-seeing eye, who could ask for more,
 Found in the plainest Lodge room in the land up over Simpkins' store.

The Master seeks to know the hour and request the Senior Warden tell,
 The craft is called from refreshment where they have rest a spell.
 It's time to work, a labor of love, to build while we have the Light,
 Let's use our trowel to spread cement and work with all our might.
 The square of our work and brotherly love is stronger than any glue,
 Men need to know what blessings wait the faithful and the true.
 We rough ashlar are made smooth, when we choose what's right,
 God forms us spiritually by His hand, for His pleasure and delight.
 So let us work and proclaim our rite and seek to do a little more,
 To continue the history of what was done up over Simpkins' store.

With our humble hearts a simple start, let us begin again,
 Orphans, widows and brothers distressed, to aid is not a sin.
 When we are asked to go and help those called the least of these,
 With loving hearts we do our part and pray our God is pleased.
 To Love your God and your neighbor is the high command,
 To live a life that's worthy of His love is the lodge demand.
 We Masons do the work and provide for the need,
 It is the call we hear and the creed to which we heed,
 Like brothers from the past, we go and bless as none have done before,
 A faithful heritage is what we learned up over Simpkins' store.

So say a prayer to our God, that He will heal our Masonic land,
 And seek His face in this place for deliverance is by His hand.
 Our aprons spotless white, plain and pure an ever present reminding,
 Of the path we walk and holy life all Masons should be finding.
 We are Masons one and Masons all, let the world believe and see,
 That unashamed we boldly proclaim, the lessons of the third degree,
 Which make men better men and whose families know that it is true,
 Acting by the plumb on level ground is the only thing that will due.
 And well done good and faithful servant is heard from God once more,
 In the plainest lodge room in the land, up over Simpkins' store.

—Written November 19, 2008, by Rev. Steven E. Schroeder 32°, Past Master 1982 Perfection Lodge 193, Member Centennial Lodge 84 and Denver Scottish Rite Consistory, Mason since 1975

Spotlight

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